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Guide to the Edith Harvey Heron Collection

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Guide to the Edith Harvey Heron Collection

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Collection number: MSS-2005-01

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
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San Jose, California

Processed by:

Lynne Vieth

Date Completed:

August, 2005

Encoded by:

Bernard Yeh

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Edith Harvey Heron collection

Dates: 1895-1980

Collection number: MSS-2005-01

Creator: Heron, Edith Harvey, 1895-1980

Collection Size: 3 linear feet1 archive box and 1 flat drawer

Repository: San Jose State University Library

San Jose, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Edith Harvey Heron Collection (1895-1980) documents this California artist's professional work and history. The collection includes watercolors, drawings, etchings, miscellaneous art, prints, newspaper articles, pamphlets, photographs, and professional records. The materials provide background information on Heron's artistic interests and development, as well as on her educational and employment history.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Processing History

Processing completed by Lynne Vieth, 2005. EAD encoding by Bernard Yeh, 2005.

Biographical Overview

Edith Harvey Heron, the daughter of William S. and Ada Heron, was born January 2, 1895, in San Jose, California, After graduating from San Jose High School in 1914, she attended San Jose Normal School and graduated in 1918. Following a short-term teaching career in art therapy, she attended the California School of Arts and Crafts for two years (1920-22) and in 1929 earned a B. A. degree in art at San Jose State College. Heron spent most of her life in the Bay Area working as an artist.

Heron began her early career as an occupational art therapist and teacher. She first taught pottery and basketry at the Stockton State Hospital from 1918 to 1920. From 1920 to 1922, she taught weaving and furniture design at the Livermore Sanatorium. In the summer of 1926, Heron returned to San Jose State College and in 1929 earned her degree in art. In 1942, the same year that the term "art therapy" was

officially coined by British artist Adrian Hill, Heron taught arts and crafts to Japanese-Americans in the Poston, Arizona, internment camp.

Heron became a well-known watercolorist. Her early work focused on the Monterey Peninsula, but travel abroad inspired her to complete some of her most important paintings, including *Old Tom, Monterey* and *Gloucester Fish Wharf*, which garnered first-place awards from the National League of American Pen Women in 1937 and 1939, respectively; the latter work received the Logan Medal for Watercolor from the National Society for Sanity in Art that same year. Heron's work also appeared in several shows and exhibitions, such as those mounted by Seven Arts Gallery, Carmel, 1932; Los Angeles Art Museum, 1932; Bond Street Gallery, London, 1933; Stanford University, 1934; Oakland Art Museum, 1934; Morton Gallery, New York City, 1935; National Association of Women Artists, New York City, 1936; Montalvo Gallery, Saratoga, 1941; Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, 1940; Treasure Island World's Fair, San Francisco, 1940; and Southside Art Association, Chicago, 1942.

In 1974, Heron donated twelve paintings to the San Jose Public Library and an additional six to San Jose State University, including *Old Tom, Monterey*. Heron is listed in *Artists of the American West* (1981), *Dictionary of Women Artists* (1985), and *An Encyclopedia of Women Artists of the American West* (1998). She was a life member of the National Association of Women Artists, New York City, and an artist member of the National League of Pen Women, Berkeley branch. She died March 6, 1980.

Scope and Content

The Edith Harvey Heron Collection (1895-1980) documents the California artist's professional work and history. The collection includes watercolors, drawings, etchings, miscellaneous art, prints, newspaper articles, pamphlets, photographs, and professional records. The materials provide background information on Heron's artistic interests and development, as well as on her educational and employment history. The collection is divided into Series I, Images and Documents, and Series II, Artwork.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Heron, Edith Harvey, 1895-1980--Sources.

Women artists--California--Sources.

Index Terms Related to this Collection

San Jose State University Library Special Collections & Archives

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Box 1 Series I: **Images and Documents 1890-1985**

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content

The contents of this series document Edith Harvey Heron's professional history and range of artistic work. Heron is best known for her watercolors depicting scenes of Northern California, which are represented here by color-pencil sketches of forest and seashore settings on the Monterey Peninsula. Of particular note are the nine black-and-white intaglio etchings of San Francisco and elsewhere. The newspaper articles, pamphlets, photographs, and professional records provide background information for researchers interested in Heron's educational and employment, as well as in the various exhibits in which her paintings were shown.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by format.

	Drawings
Folder 1	**Color-pencil sketches**
Folder 2	**Miscellaneous sketches**
Folder 3	**Etchings**
Folder 3a	**Duplicate Etchings**
Folder 4	**Hart Papers**
Folder 5	**Miscellaneous Art**
Folder 6	**Newspaper Articles**
Folder 7	**Pamphlets**
Folder 8	**Photographs**
Folder 9	**Prints**
Folder 9a	**Duplicate Prints**
	Professional Records

Folder 10	**Certificates**
Folder 11	**Correspondence**
Folder 12	**Educational transcripts**
Box 1, Folder 13	**Screen-printed plate**

Series II: **Artwork 1890-1985**

Physical Description: 1 flat file drawer

Series Scope and Content Summary

The contents of this series consist of two framed watercolors and an unframed watercolor painted by Heron. The framed, untitled watercolor in Office 524 depicts a lake with boats in the foreground, trees in the background, and a cabin to the right. The framed watercolor in the Special Collections Reading Room, *Fisherman's Hut*, depicts the last dwelling in Monterey's Old Chinatown; it was painted in 1936 and donated to San Jose State University in 1973. The unframed watercolor shows the Golden Gate Bridge with the Marin headlands in the background.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by format.

Drawer: Heron and Freimark Art Pieces	**Unframed watercolor**