

Munn, Harriet Severance (SC-14)

Harriet Severance Munn Postcard Collection (SC-14)

1911-1928

Title Statement

Munn, Harriet Severance (SC-14) Finding Aids to Special Collections in the VMFA Archives | Harriet Severance Munn Postcard Collection SC-14

Subtitle: Special Collection 14 (SC-14)

Author: Kevin Williams, Archives Intern; Finding aid encoded by Sylvio Lynch III, Archives Intern (2020)

Publication Statement

Publisher: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

Margaret R. and Robert M. Freeman Library

200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard

Richmond, VA 23220-4007

Business Number: 804-340-1495

library@vmfa.museum

URL: <https://vmfa.museum/library/special-collections-archives/>

2014

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-15 15:31:57 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC-14

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/238

Unit Date

1911-1928

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection consists of two bound albums of postcards mostly depicting art and architecture throughout Europe and the United States. The volumes belonged to Harriet Severance Munn, and many contain correspondence between Harriet, her sister Marjorie, and other family members.

Extent

0.3 Linear Feet 2 boxes; 2 albums

Repository

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The collection is subject to all copyright laws. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright, beyond that allowed by fair use, requires the researcher to obtain permission of copyright holders.

Processing Information

The postcards were left in their original albums. There is damage to the cover of the larger volume.

Preferred Citation

Harriet Severance Munn Postcard Collection (SC-14). VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical Note

Sisters Harriet (1885-1960) and Marjorie Severance (1887-1958) were raised primarily in Los Angeles and were the granddaughters of the noted abolitionist and women's rights advocate Caroline Severance (1820-1914). Some of the postcards may have been sent during the time in which Harriet moved to England after marrying John R. Munn. According to the June 10, 1914 issue of "Princeton Alumni Weekly," Munn and Severance were married in London and spent their honeymoon traveling in Norway.

Scope and Contents

While the majority of the cards in the albums are blank, many contain correspondence between Harriet, her sister Marjorie, and other family members. Some are addressed to Harriet and her husband John Munn, while others are addressed to Marjorie and appear to have been returned to Harriet at a later date. Other cards bear no address or postmark, but contain notes by Harriet further describing the image on the postcard. They cover a period from circa 1911 to 1928, and some of the correspondence is in French.

The first smaller volume contains over 150 postcards housed in an Italian-made album designed specifically for postcard display. The cards depict the art and architecture of Europe, primarily France (Pau, Lourdes, Carcassonne, Avignon, Arles, Orange, Antibes, Grasse) and Italy (Rome, Siena). Also included is a single, loose "Graves Stereal-Graph", also known as a stereogram or stereograph. The stereogram is entitled "Making a Welsh Rabbit" and was created by C.H. Graves in Philadelphia in 1903. On the reverse is a short poem of the same name.

The second larger volume contains over 290 postcards housed in a bound leather album engraved with the words "Souvenir Postals" and "Harriet Severance". The cards depict street scenes and architecture throughout Europe (including London, Windsor, Stratford-upon-Avon, Paris, Brussels, Antwerp, Trondheim), Africa (Johannesburg, Gibraltar), the Caribbean (San Juan), and United States (Jekyll Island, GA, Norfolk, CT, Bennington, VT, Richmond, VA), works of art, and postcards with feminist themes.

Related Materials - VMFA Library: Rare Books

Scenes From Every Land: Over Five Hundred Photographic Views Designed to Take the Place of an Extended Tour of the World, 1893

Custodial History

This collection was donated by Sally Todd in 1996.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into one series.

Description of Subordinate Components

Postcard Album

Unit ID SC14.01.0.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48933

Books SC-14 Box 1 (box)

Container SC14.01.0.001 (Item)

Postcard Album

Unit ID SC14.01.0.002

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48934

Books SC-14 Box 2 (box)

Container SC14.01.0.002 (Item)