Guide to the Maynard Dixon Papers, [ca. 1896-1946]

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Note
Arts and Humanities --Literature --American Literature
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Collection number: BANC MSS 73/81 c

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Maynard Dixon Papers,
Date (inclusive): [ca. 1896-1946]
Collection Number: BANC MSS 73/81 c
Creator: Dixon, Maynard, 1875-1946
Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

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

Abstract: Originals and photocopies of correspondence with artists, museums and publishers; manuscripts of poems by Dixon; articles by and about him; catalog of paintings and drawings; and autobiographical material. Includes correspondence with: Arizona Highways (magazine), the California State Library, the De Young Memorial Museum, Ansel Adams, Merle Armitage, F. G. Browne, David M. Brugge, Conrad Buff, Raymond Carlson, Herald Ray Clark, Imogen Cunningham, Charles Courtney Curran, Robert H. Davis, and J. Frank Dobie.

Languages Represented: English

Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Maynard Dixon papers, BANC MSS 73/81 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Acquisition Information
The papers, which include originals and Xerox copies, were given to The Bancroft Library by his widow, Edith Hamlin, on November 28, 1972. They consist of correspondence with others artists, publishers, museums, etc.; manuscripts of Dixon's poems; autobiographical material; articles by and about him; a catalog of his artistic work; and letters of condolence addressed to his wife, 1946. The Papers are described in greater detail in the Key to Arrangement which follows.

Biography
Maynard Dixon, illustrator and artist, born in Fresno in 1875, was exposed from childhood to the great outdoors of the high Sierra and to the wilderness of Kern River Canyon. A lonely child, he started drawing from nature, guided by engravings in early periodicals such as *Scribners*, *Harpers*, and the *Century Magazine*. In 1893 he attended for a short while the San Francisco School of Design, where he met Xavier Martinez and other artists. Largely self-taught and greatly influenced by Frederic Remington, he sold his first illustration to the *San Francisco Call* in 1895, and later was employed by that newspaper. At this time he also did illustrations for the *Overland Monthly*, and held his first exhibit in San Francisco. Encouraged by Charles F. Lummis, he also attempted writing verse, an avocation he was to pursue throughout his life.

In 1900 Dixon transferred to the *San Francisco Examiner*, and took his first trip to Arizona and New Mexico, whose land and people he was to portray so vividly in his sketches, and later in his paintings and murals. He led a tumultuous life, involved in the literary and artistic worlds of the time, often on the move, travelling to Nevada and the Southwest. He decided to abandon commercial work in 1921 in favor of continuing his paintings, and was commissioned to paint murals for many public buildings in San Francisco and elsewhere. In the 1930s he became involved with the WPA Art Project. It was at this time that, stirred by the sad plight of the strikers and migrant laborers, he used them as subjects for his paintings. He attained stature as a painter of the outdoors, the Indians of the Southwest, cowboys and bronco busters. He died in 1946.

Box 1

Letters to Dixon, mainly from fellow artists, arranged alphabetically by author or organization. A partial list of correspondents may be consulted at the end of the report.

Box 2

Manuscripts of poems (originals and photocopies) by Dixon, arranged alphabetically by title, A-Z.
Articles by Dixon: manuscripts (holograph, typescript and revised typescript), mainly re art; some written for newspapers. Clippings for some of the articles also included.
Notes, mainly re art, by Dixon
Xerox copy of revised typescript of a proposed biography by Grant Wallace (a WPA project), consisting of a chronological outline of Dixon's life and reminiscences by Dixon.
Catalog of paintings, drawings, sketches and watercolors. Xerox copy of revised typescript. Articles about Maynard Dixon and his work.
Adams, Ansel Easton, 1902-
  2 letters to Edith Hamlin Dixon
Arizona Highways
  Letter to Mrs. Dixon, Nov. 22, 1946, by Raymond Carlson
Armitage, Merle, 1893-
  See Los Angeles Grand Opera Association
Browne, Francis Granger, 1868-
Brugge, David M.
Buff, Conrad, 1886-
  Letter, [Nov. 1946], to Mrs. Dixon
California. State Library, Sacramento
Letter, Nov. 30, 1946, to Mrs. Dixon by Mabel R. Gillis

Carlson, Raymond, 1906-
See Arizona Highways

Clark, Herlad Ray, 1890-
Letter, Nov. 21, 1946, to Mrs. Dixon

Cuddy, John
Letter, July 20, 1936. Copy of letter to Fred S. McCaxgar, re Maynard Dixon's proposed mural for the Arena wall at Salinas

Cunningham, Imogen, 1883-
Letter, Nov. 16, 1946, to Mrs. Dixon

Curran, Charles Courtney, 1861-
See National Academy of Design

Davis, Robert Hobart, 1869-1942
Letter, Feb. 21, 1923

De Young (M. H.) Memorial Museum, San Francisco
Letter, Aug. 2, 1935, by Herbert Fleishhacker and Watson Hill

Dobie, James Frank, 1888-
5 letters, 1939-1945

Fleishhacker, Herbert, 1872-1968
See De Young (M. H.) Memorial Museum, San Francisco

Garnett, Edna (Foote)
Letter, [Nov. 1946], to Mrs. Dixon

Garnett, Porter, 1871-1951
Letter, Nov. 17, 1946, to Mrs. Dixon

Gillis, Mabel Ray, 1882-
See California. State Library, Sacramento

Hall, Sharlot Mabridth, 1870-
2 letters, 1935-1939

Hanna, Phil Townsend, 1896-
Letter, Mar. 27, 1934

Hodge, Frederick Webb, 1864-
See Los Angeles, Southwest Museum

Indian Defense Association of Central and Northern California
Letter, Feb. 4, 1926

Jones, Philip Mills
See Brugge, David M.

Kurtzworth, Harry Muir, 1887-
See Los Angeles Art Association

Los Angeles Art Association
Letter, Aug. 7, 1934, by H. M. Kurtzworth

Los Angeles Grand Opera Association
Letter, Aug. 23, 1927, by Merle Armitage

Lummis, Charles Fletcher, 1859-1928
7 letters, 1916-1919. Xerox copies. Originals in Los Angeles Southwest Museum. For reference use only

Macbeth, Robert W.
2 letters, 1924, re exhibit of Dixon's paintings in New York

Millier, Arthur Henry Thomas, 1893-
Letter, June 14, 1934. See also letter, Nov. 18, 1946, to Mrs. Dixon

Mora, Joseph Jacinto, 1876-1947
Letter, June 30, 1946

Morley, Grace Louise (McCann), 1900-
Letter, Oct. 26, 1934

Nation
Letter, May 1, 1925, by Mark Van Doren
National Academy of Design
Letter, Apr. 5, 1932, by Charles C. Curran
Partridge, Roi, 1888-
   Letter, Nov. 16, 1946, to Mrs. Dixon
Piazzoni, Gottardo, 1872-
   Letter, Dec. 30, 1943
Remington, Frederic, 1861-1909
   2 letters, 1891-1895. Photocopy. Originals in National Cowboy Hall of Fame. For reference use only
Renner, Frederic Gordon, 1897-
Rhodes, Eugene Manlove, 1869-1934
   11 letters, 1927-1932. Photocopies. Originals in the Huntington Library. For reference use only
Russell, Charles Marion, 1865-1926
   2 letters, 1917, and card. Photocopy. Source of originals not known
Ryan, Beatrice Judd, ca. 1880-1966
   Letter, [Nov. 1946], to Mrs. Dixon
Sinel, Jo
   2 letters, 1946-1968, to Mrs. Dixon
Smith, Erwin Evans, 1886-1947
   2 letters, 1928-1939
Taylor, Edward De Witt
   Letter, Aug. 20, 1942. Copy of letter to Mr. George Macy. See also letter, Nov. 23, 1946, to Mrs. Dixon.
Tobin, Frank S.
   4 letters, 1927-1935
Van Doren, Mark, 1894-
   See Nation