

Guide to the Lilian Bridgman Papers, 1881-1977

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Note

Arts and Humanities --ArchitectureHistory --History, California --History, Bay AreaSocial Sciences --Area and Interdisciplinary Studies --Women's Studies

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Collection number: BANC MSS 85/102 c

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Completed by:

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Date Completed:

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Date Revised:

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Lilian Bridgman Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1881-1977

Collection Number: BANC MSS 85/102 c

Creator: Bridgman, Lilian

Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes, 3 oversize folders (size A and B), 5 oversize flat boxes Linear feet: ca. 1.25

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: Includes a small amount of personal correspondence, manuscripts of Bridgman's short stories and poetry, clippings, and miscellaneous personalia, including diplomas, teaching credentials, and letters of recommendation. The bulk of the collection spans the years from 1881 to the 1940s, and focuses on Bridgman's career as an architect in Berkeley, Calif., including drawings and sketches of much of her work, as well as 2 watercolor paintings.

Languages Represented: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lilian Bridgman papers, BANC MSS 85/102 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Photographs have been transferred to Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Commencement Issue, 1910 of *The Tiger* (vol.vii, no.iv) has been transferred to the book collection of The Bancroft Library for separate cataloging.

One map has been transferred to the Map Collection of The Bancroft Library.

Case of drawing instruments has been transferred to the Objects Collection of The Bancroft Library.

Acquisition Information

The Lilian Bridgman papers were given to The Bancroft Library in July 1985 by Elton Davies.

Biography

Lilian Bridgman was born in eastern Kansas in 1866 to Israel Noble Bridgman and Sarah Ezilda. She attended the Kansas State Agricultural College, graduating in 1888 with a degree in science, although her transcripts also reveal an interest in drawing, literature, and music. In 1891, she came to the University of California, Berkeley where she studied under Professor Joseph Le Conte. Her thesis, titled *The Origin of Sex in Fresh-water Algae*, earned her a master's degree in science in 1893.

From 1893 to 1912, Bridgman taught physics and chemistry at various high schools and junior colleges in California, including the California School of Mechanical Arts in San Francisco. During this time she also wrote short stories and poetry which were published in magazines such as *Overland Monthly*, *Harper's*, and *Century Magazine*. In 1899, drawing upon her natural artistic abilities, she designed her first home, her own, near Blackberry Canyon in Berkeley.

In 1912 Bridgman again enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, this time to study drawing and architecture. In 1915 she was licensed as an architect by the State of California. While not as well-known as architects like Julia Morgan, Bridgman worked steadily, designing more than fifteen homes during her career. After the Berkeley fire of 1923, which devastated much of North Berkeley, she, along with other local architects, was instrumental in rebuilding the area. Her work was influenced by the writings of the English philosophers John Ruskin and William Morris, embracing a simplicity which they felt had been interrupted by the Industrial Revolution.

Lilian Bridgman died at her Berkeley home in 1948 at the age of eighty-two.

Scope and Content

This collection of Papers of Lilian B. Bridgman includes a small amount of personal correspondence, manuscripts of short stories and poetry by Bridgman, and clippings and tearsheets of interest to Bridgman and which may have had some influence on her architectural work. The bulk of the collection spans the years from 1881 to the 1940s and focuses on Bridgman's career as an architect in Berkeley, with architectural drawings and sketches of much of her work, as well as two watercolor paintings.

Series 1: Correspondence and Personalia, 1881-1977.

Box 1, folder 1	Letters by Lilian Bridgman 1910-1947
folder 2	Letters to Lilian Bridgman 1894-1947
folder 3	Letters of recommendation, testimonials 1887-1910
folder 4	Letters from Miss Millicent Shinn 1916
folder 5	Letters from magazine editors 1892-1907
folder 6	Letters to Mrs. Davies (her niece) certifying education of LLB 1976-1977
folder 7	Letters to Mrs. Davies re Dr. Will's house 1977
folder 8	Letter to Elton Davies from his wife July 3, 1948
folder 9	Stuart Hogg's obituary March 3[31?], 1947

folder 10	Notebook
folder 11	Transcript, other papers re college education 1881-1924
folder 12	Teaching credentials and other information 1893-1941
oversize Oversize, folder 1 B	Diplomas Kansas State Agricultural College, B.S. 1886 University of California, M.S. 1893 State of California High School, Life Diploma for High Honors in Teaching 1904 State of California Certificate of Architecture 1915
oversize Oversize, folder 2 A	
oversize Oversize, folder 3 A	Manuscript musical score of <i>Autumn</i>, words by Bliss Carmen, dedicated to LLB n.d.
Box 1, folder 13	<i>The Tiger</i>, California School of Mechanical Arts 1909
folder 14	Obituary 1948
folder 15	<i>Art in House Building in Relation to the Community and to Purposes of a Home</i> (outline and text of talk) n.d.
folder 16	Research on architecture, history of art n.d.
folder 17	Lilian Bridgman's drawing instruments (photocopy) n.d.
	Clippings and tearsheets
folder 18	Drawings of figures
folder 19	Leaded glass mosaics
folder 20	A Little Nonsense
folder 21	Old missions
folder 22	Painters and paintings
Box 2, folder 1	Portraits
folder 2	Stage settings
folder 3-4	Unclassified
folder 5	Books of interest n.d.

Series 2: Writings, 1892-1928 & n.d.

Box 2, folder 6	List of stories by L. Bridgman appearing in magazines n.d.
folder 7	<i>Between the Lines of Henry Maclin's Diary</i>, manuscript n.d.
folder 8	<i>A Charcoal Sketch</i>, carbon and tearsheet 1894
folder 9	<i>The Eliminated Factors</i>, typescript n.d.
folder 10	<i>Elvira's Chance</i>, tearsheet 1895
folder 11	<i>Fidelity</i>, carbon typescript n.d.
folder 12	<i>A Fool's Ladder</i>, typescript n.d.
folder 13	<i>A Garland of Laurel</i>, manuscript n.d.
folder 14	<i>How the Government Selects Its Foresters</i>, carbon 1896-1897
folder 15	<i>Janey, the Jester</i>, typescript with revisions n.d.
folder 16	<i>A Look-out for Victory</i>, typescript n.d.
folder 17	<i>The Lost Islands</i>, carbon n.d.
folder 18	<i>The Marital Victories of Sir Thomas More</i>, carbon and typescript n.d.
folder 19	<i>My Dream</i>, carbon n.d.
folder 20	<i>The Relapses of Pap</i>, tearsheet 1895
folder 21	<i>The Road to Arcady</i>, carbon n.d.
folder 22	<i>The Seventh Daughter</i>, tearsheet 1898
folder 23	<i>The Undoing of David Lemwell</i>, tearsheet 1892
folder 24	<i>A Wayside Harvest</i>, tearsheet 1896
folder 25	<i>A Whetstone to Mirth</i>, typescript 1928
folder 26	Unidentified manuscript n.d.
folder 27	Poetry n.d.

Series 3: Architectural Plans and Sketches, 1915-ca. 1931.

Processing/Project Information

* Photographs of these projects have been transferred to Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Box 3, folder 1	Unidentified drawing by Bridgman [1910 ?]
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- folder 2
Box 4, folder 1 **Sketchbook of LBB n.d.**
 ***Bioletti House, Cragmont Avenue / 2440 Martinez Avenue, Berkeley, Calif. ca. 1923**
 Sketch of exterior
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on paper, 12 x 8 1/2
- Kitchen floor plan and elevation**
 Physical Description: Ink on paper, 12 3/4 x 9 3/4
- folder 2 **Haynes House [no address indicated] n.d.**
 East frontage
 Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 12 x 9 1/2
- folder 3 ***Hill House, Jewelry Workshop for Susan L. Hill, 3132 Eton Avenue (near Garden),**
 Berkeley, Calif. n.d.
 Sketch of exterior
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 8 x 5 1/2
- Floor plan and view**
 Physical Description: Graphite, ink and watercolor on paper, 9 3/4 x 7
- folder 4 **McFaud House [no address indicated] n.d.**
 Sketch of house with lawn
 Physical Description: Watercolor on board, 10 x 5 1/2
- folder 5 **Mrs. Robinson's House [no address indicated] n.d.**
 3 Sketches of kitchen
 Physical Description: Pencil & watercolor on paper, ca. 9 x 11
- folder 6 **Furniture and wrought iron design by LBB n.d.**
 Physical Description: 12 Sketches on paper, ca. 9 x 12:
- Carved and painted bellows**
 Physical Description: Graphite and crayon
- Carved and painted couch for Mrs. Bioletti's Sunroom**
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor
- Table for Mrs. LeRoy Stephens**
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor
- Refectory table for Mrs. Beadles**
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor
- Dining room table for Mrs. Beedles**
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor
- Iron and Enamel fixture for Mr. Stephen's House**
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor (3)
- Wrought Iron bracket with hook for Mrs. Barker's living room mantel**
 Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor
- 3 Sketches of fireplace cranes**
 Physical Description: Graphite
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- Box 5, folder 1 ***Cannon House Studio, La Vereda Avenue (at Hilgard Street), Berkeley, Calif. n.d.**
Sketch of exterior
Physical Description: Colored pencil on board, 10 1/2 x 8 1/2
- Sketch of interior, Floorplans I & II, and Elevations: west & south**
Physical Description: Ink and watercolor on board, 8 1/4 x 17 1/2
- folder 2 **Mrs. Keith Apartments, Berkeley, Calif. n.d.**
Sketch of exterior
Physical Description: Graphite on board, 10 x 17
- 2 Floorplans**
Physical Description: Ink and watercolor on paper, 9 x 12
- folder 3 **Mrs. Hazel King House [no address indicated] n.d.**
Elevations and floor plan
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 11 x 16
- folder 4 ***Millicent Shinn Orchard House, Niles, Calif. n.d.**
House and lawn sketch
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper, 11 x 16
- folder 5 ***Dr. Wills' House, Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette, Calif. ca. 1931**
Sketch of exterior
Physical Description: Ink on board, 9 x 14 1/2
- Sketch of kitchen**
Physical Description: Graphite on paper, 7 1/4 x 11 3/4
- Sketch of exterior and front elevation, by L. M. Davies ca. 1977**
Physical Description: Pencil (recto) and crayon (verso) on paper, 9 x 12
- folder 6 **Three small projects [no name or address indicated] n.d.**
Three-room cottage plot plan
Physical Description: Ink on board, 6 x 13 1/2
- Four-room house sketch**
Physical Description: Ink on board, 8 1/4 x 17
- Walnut Creek Shack elevations and plans**
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 11 1/2 x 11 3/4
- Box 6, folder 1 ***Mrs. J. H. Barker House, 3872 Cerrito Avenue, Oakland, Calif. 1931**
Floor plans: first & second floors and elevations: west, east, south, and north
Physical Description: Graphite on paper, 15 x 21
- Floor plans: first floor and attic**
Physical Description: Ink on board, 17 1/2 x 14
- folder 2 ***Lilian Bridgman, Architect's Studio, 1715 LaLoma Avenue, Berkeley, Calif. 1915**
Additional Note
Includes: Town of Berkeley tax bill for LLB property in Daley Scenic Park, 1907
- 2 Sketches of exterior**
Physical Description: Graphite and colored pencil on board, ca. 9 x 11
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- Sketch of exterior**
Physical Description: Graphite on paper, 11 1/4 x 15 1/4
- Blueprint with graphite annotations, on reverse of a drawing of a sign for the Judd residence,**
Physical Description: 17 x 36
- folder 3 ***Cañon House and Garden [no address indicated]**
[Second floor includes designation, "Own Room"] n.d.
Floor plans and elevations:
Second floor and elevation: entrance hall
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 21 x 14
- First floor and basement (service)**
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 21 x 14
- folder 4 ***F. P. Davidson House, 1404 LeRoy Avenue (at Rose) Berkeley, Calif. ca. 1920**
Sketch of exterior
Physical Description: Graphite on board, 8 x 12
- Floor plans: first & second floors and sketches: entrance front, street front, front entrance**
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 17 1/2 x 14
- Elevations: south, east, west, and north**
Physical Description: Graphite on board, 21 x 15
- folder 5 **Gunthorpe House, 2511 Hill Court, Berkeley, Calif. n.d.**
Floor plans and elevations
Physical Description: Graphite on paper, 12 x 27 1/2
- folder 6 **Professor Joseph Le Conte House, [no address indicated] n.d.**
Garage elevation
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 9 1/2 x 20
- Sketch of garage front**
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 15 1/2 x 19
- folder 7 **Railroad Addition, Block 24; Owner: C. P. Dewey, Junction City n.d.**
Playground Court: 3 Groundplans and aerial views
Physical Description: Photocopies, 9 x 4 1/4, 7 1/2 x 9 3/4, 19 1/2 x 9
- Exterior sketch, floor plan & elevations for 4 room house with basement, Lot 3, Div. B and Lot 10, Div. A**
Physical Description: Photocopy, 9 3/4 x 6 1/2
- Graphite on paper (lacking exterior sketches)**
Physical Description: 19 1/2 x 14
- 2 Exterior Sketches of Lot 3, Div. A and Lot 10, Div. B**
Physical Description: Graphite on paper, 4 1/2 x 6 1/4

- Plaza Group of Play Ground Court: Groundplan and exterior fronts, garden fronts, and plaza fronts**
Physical Description: Photocopy, 8 1/2 x 20
- folder 8 **Steep Narrow Lot with Terraced Garden, [no address indicated] n.d.**
Elevations and sketch
Physical Description: Graphite on board, 10 3/4 x 14 1/4
- Sketch of garden front east, entrance front north, floor plan, and entire view**
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 9 1/2 x 18
- folder 9 ***LeRoy Stephens Ranch House, Los Altos, California ca. 1925**
Sketch of exterior
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 12 1/4 x 8
- Sketch of patio & wall fountain, flags on concrete**
Physical Description: Graphite and colored pencil on board, 17 1/2 x 12 1/2
- Floor plan**
Physical Description: Ink on board with typing, 17 1/2 x 14
- 3 Sketches of oak bench, side and end views**
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 19 x 12 1/2
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 19 x 10
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 22 x 7 1/2
- Iron rod for oak bench**
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 19 x 9 1/2
- 3 Sketches of brace for end of railing at top of north stairs**
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 14 x 7 1/2 (A), 15 x 7 3/4 (B), & 14 x 7 1/2 (C)
- folder 10 **Paintings by LBB n.d.**
"San Clemente" (church)
Physical Description: Watercolor on board, 19 x 12
- "Hounds of Assurbanipal"**
Physical Description: Watercolor on board, 17 x 24
- Box 7, folder 1 **Rediviva House, Le Conte and LeRoy, Berkeley, Calif. n.d.**
Interior and elevations: west, north, & entrance front
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 28 x 22 1/2
- folder 2 **Floor plans: first & second floors and attic**
Physical Description: Graphite and watercolor on board, 24 x 29
- folder 3 **Judd Falls n.d.**
Memorial seat sketch
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 20 x 27
- Lettering for memorial of Garwood Hall Judd**
Physical Description: Graphite on onion skin paper, 21 x 48
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