**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** University of California, Berkeley. College of Environmental Design. Environmental Design Archives

**Title:** Marian Osgood Hooker Collection

**creator:** Hooker, Marian Osgood, Dr.

**Identifier/Call Number:** 2010-06

**Physical Description:** 4 Cubic Feet: 8 boxes

**Date (inclusive):** 1896-1926

**Abstract:** The Hooker Collection consists primarily of 23 photograph albums recording Hooker’s travels in Europe and her home state of California. Other documentation includes a folder of publisher’s proof prints from her book Farmhouses and Small Provincial Buildings in Southern Italy, an index of her travel photos, an album of portraits, three albums of negatives (some of travel), and a scrapbook. The bulk of the collection documents the architecture, people, and landscape of the places Hooker and her mother, Katharine Putnam Hooker, travelled during their five trips abroad between 1896 and 1923.

**Access Statement**
Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**
All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the Curator.

**Preferred Citation**
[Identification of Item], Marian Osgood Hooker Collection, Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley.

**Biographical Note**
Marian Osgood Hooker, (1875-1968)

Marian Osgood Hooker was born in San Francisco in 1875 to parents with impressive lineage. Her mother, Katharine Putnam Hooker, was the niece of famous geologist Josiah Dwight Whitney, and her father, John Daggett Hooker, was a direct descendent of Connecticut’s founder Thomas Hooker. The family, which also included Marian’s older brother Laurence Whitney Hooker (1873-1894), moved to Los Angeles in 1886 in search of economic opportunity. In Los Angeles, which experienced boom times during the later half of the 19th century, John Hooker established a successful steel pipe manufacturer. They moved to a mansion on Adams Street, where they entertained scientists, poets, and authors. During this time, John Muir frequented the house and became a close friend of Katharine Hooker.

Marian, surrounded by intellectuals in her childhood home, developed a love of art and science. At the prestigious Marlborough School in Los Angeles, she studied art history under school founder Mary Caswell, who likely inspired Marian to travel abroad. In 1896, two years after graduation, Marian and her mother embarked on their first of five trips abroad. She meticulously documented her travels in Gibraltar, Spain, Tangier, Italy, Greece, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Amsterdam, and England in a scrapbook. In 1899 and 1903, she and Katharine returned to Italy. In 1913-1914, they travelled to Constantinople, England, Ireland, Egypt, and Italy. In 1922, they made their final trip abroad to the southern Italian province of Apulia.

Marian’s photographs from these adventures demonstrate her particular fascination with remote destinations. She and her mother sought to capture in image and writing the daily lives of the people they encountered. Marian’s prints and illustrations were published in her mother’s travel books Byways in Southern Tuscany, Wayfarers in Italy, and Through the Heel of Italy, which were unique for veering away from typical tourist locations. In 1925, Marian published her own book of images called Farmhouses and Small Provincial Buildings in Southern Italy, which included introductions by Katharine and architect Myron Hunt. Hunt credited Farmhouses for inspiring some of his Mediterranean-style architecture.

In 1910, Marian earned a degree in medicine from the University of California, Berkeley. She co-authored several scientific papers with Dr. Martin Fischer during her stay at the University of Cincinnati and in later years. In 1912, she returned to the west coast to become Assistant Medical Examiner at the University of California.

After her father’s death in 1911, Marian and her mother moved to a house designed by Willis Polk and Bruce Porter in San Francisco. They moved again in 1924 to Santa Barbara, where Katharine died in 1935. In addition to their adventures abroad, Katharine and Marian visited Death Valley and travelled throughout California and Canada.

Marian was a member of the San Francisco Women’s Club, the San Francisco Women’s Athletic Club, the Women’s Club of Santa Barbara, the Sierra Club, the California Historical Society, and others. She died in 1968.

Scope and Contents Note

The Hooker Collection consists primarily of 23 photograph albums recording Hooker’s travels in Europe and her home state of California. Other documentation includes a folder of publisher’s proof prints from her book Farmhouses and Small Provincial Buildings in Southern Italy, an index of her travel photos, an album of portraits, three albums of negatives (some of travel), and a scrapbook. The bulk of the collection documents the architecture, people, and landscape of the places Hooker and her mother, Katharine Putnam Hooker, travelled during their five trips abroad between 1896 and 1923. These photo albums, carefully labeled on the spine, contain detailed indexes that indicate the provinces or cities where Hooker took each photograph. Hooker also lists this information in her index of travel photos (Box 1). In the scrapbook of her first trip to Europe in 1896 (Box 1), Hooker supplemented photographs with postcards, ticket stubs, pressed flowers, and other memorabilia.

Hooker’s views of Italy, Egypt, Ireland, and other countries in Europe provide insight into the daily lives of the inhabitants, as well as document enduring tourist sites - Trajan’s Arch, the Tower of Pisa, the Bridge of Sighs, the Great Temple of Abu Simbel, the Hagia Sophia, and many others. Hooker’s visual record of her adventures abroad calls to mind the centuries-old tradition of the Grand Tour, a trip across Europe that privileged men (and later women) took in order to expand their cultural knowledge and improve their language skills. Although Hooker’s travels post-date this tradition, they were nonetheless in the spirit of it. Her photos offer contemporary viewers a primary account of this tour.

The Hooker Collection also includes photographs of family members and nature closer to home. Hooker devoted several albums to the stunning beauty of California, its coasts, counties, and mountains. In one such album are images that may be of family friend and famous naturalist John Muir (Monterey, Box 8).

Hooker’s meticulously labeled photo albums of her tours across continents and her trips through California provide insight into the cultures that she explored, as well as insight into the newfound freedoms afforded to women at the turn of the 20th century that allowed Hooker to take such photographs.

Custodial History

Transferred to the Environmental Design Archives from the CED Visual Resources Center (formerly the Architecture Slide Library).

Related Collections

Hooker Family Papers, Portraits, Drawings and Photographs ca. 1880-ca. 1949. BANC PIC 1977.006-.008—PIC., The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
Katharine Hooker Collection, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
John Muir Letters to Katharine Putnam Hooker, BANC MSS 70/17 c., The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
Marian O. Hooker Collection, Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Society.
Marian Osgood Hooker Collection, Special Collection and University Archives, San Diego State University.

Bibliography

Katharine Hooker, Italian Sketches, BANC MSS 71/107 c., The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
Katharine Hooker, Through the Heel of Italy. New York: Rae D. Henkle Co., Inc., 1927.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Architecture
Women Photographers
Travel
Hooker, Marian Osgood, Dr., 1875-1968
Hooker, Katharine Putnam, 1849-1935
Hunt, Myron, 1868-1952
Muir, John, 1838-1914

SERIES I. TRAVEL ABROAD 1896-1923
Physical Description: 3.5 Cubic Feet: Boxes 1-7
A. Scrapbook 1896

B. Photo Catalogue
   Scope and Content Note
   index of travel photos

C. Photograph Albums
   1. Campania / Apulia
   2. Rome / Abruzzi
   3. Apulia / Basilicata
   4. Tuscany
   5. Casentino / Lombardi / Emilia
   6. Pistoieses and Lucchese Mountains 1922
   7. Venice
   8. Marches / Umbria / Venetia
   9. North Italy 1922
   10. Tuscany
   11. Tuscany
   12. Sicily
   13. Switzerland
   14. England / Ireland 1913
   15. Egypt 1914
   16. Egypt
   17. Egypt and Constantinople
   18. Egypt and Constantinople 1913-1914
   19. Misc. Italian and other European photos

D. Duplicates
   Scope and Content Note
   Ed Alteri

E. Publisher's Proof Prints

SERIES II. CALIFORNIA N.D.
   Physical Description: .5 Cubic Feet: Box 8

A. Yosemite

B. Monterey

C. King's and Kern Counties, CA

SERIES III. OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS 1900-1926
   Physical Description: .5 Cubic Feet: Box 8
A. **Album of Portraits 1924-1926**

B. **Negatives**

1. Family Photos 1906
2. Family Photos 1900-1908
3. Photo Catalogue 1904-1905