Mary Gleason Art Collection

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Mary Easton Gleason was born in Pasadena, California on August 30, 1907. The youngest Louis B. and Honor H. Easton’s 6 children, Mary grew up in Pasadena and Anaheim where she attended Anaheim schools before graduating from UC Berkeley in 1930, later attending the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles. In 1936, Mary took a position in the Scripps College art department where she taught costume design and weaving until 1943. Mary Gleason married John Howes Gleason, a professor of history at Pomona College, in 1940. She was an active member of the community, teaching Sunday School at the Claremont Church and was superintendent of fifth and sixth grade classes. She was also a troop leader for the local Girl Scouts, chairman of volunteers in the American Red Cross, a trustee at Mt. San Antonio Gardens, and assisted with art programs in the Pomona public schools. In the early 1960s Mary Gleason became interested in the American Field Service and served as the Claremont Chapter chairman for two years and as a host mother to Emil Von Maltitz from South Africa in 1962 -1963. This involvement with AFS led to an exchange year spent in Durban, South Africa. Mrs. Gleason’s other travels outside of Claremont came during World War II when she accompanied her husband to Middletown, Connecticut and Washington DC for his US Navy duties and for sabbatical leaves to Arlington, Massachusetts and Oxford England. Marion “Hoppy” Stewart was a student of Gleason’s at Scripps College, later succeeding her as a faculty member and remaining a close friend throughout their lives. Stewart mentions, “It should be noted that Mary did all of the floral arrangements for all of the teas and events at Scripps and was extremely talented at that. When I first came here and over the years, she was generous and kind with her time. She agreed to give a summer course in weaving that started me on my career. I was greatly benefited by her presence at Scripps.” Mary Gleason passed away in 1992. Richard Gleason still lives in Claremont as of 2001.
Craft
Drawing
Painting
Scripps College
Textiles

Mary Gleason Item List
Mary Gleason Finding Aid