Finding aid to the Carl Oscar Borg Personal Papers and Newspaper Clippings MS.677

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Title: Carl Oscar Borg Personal Papers and Newspaper Clippings.

Identifier/Call Number: MS.677

Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 0.1 Linear feet (1 folder)

Date (inclusive): 1906-1948

Abstract: The collection includes correspondence, programs, newspaper articles, and drawings related to Carl Oscar Borg from 1906-1948. Carl Oscar (Oskar) Borg (born 3 March 1879, died 8 May 1947) was a Swedish born American painter who was known for his Western landscapes and depictions of the Hopi and Navajo countries and their peoples. Borg was most famous for his paintings, but also worked in other mediums such as woodcut, illustration, and monotype.

creator: Borg, Carl Oscar, 1879-1947

Processing history

Biographical note created by Maritxu de Alaiza, 2012 August 3. Finding aid completed by Anna Liza Posas, 2012 October 18. Final processing of collection and publication of finding aid made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Biographical note

Carl Oscar (Oskar) Borg (born 3 March 1879, died 8 May 1947) was a Swedish born American painter who was known for his Western landscapes and depictions of the Hopi and Navajo countries and their peoples. Borg was most famous for his paintings, but also worked in other mediums such as woodcut, illustration, and monotype.

Carl Oscar Borg was born into a poor family in Dals-Grinstad, Sweden in 1879. Borg apprenticed to a house painter at the age of 15, traveled to Paris for a short time, and then moved to London where he became an assistant to portrait and marine painter George Johansen. Borg arrived in San Francisco as a merchant seaman in 1904 and by some accounts jumped ship there. On his way to Los Angeles from San Francisco, Borg discovered Santa Barbara, where he eventually made his home.

Borg met Phoebe Hearst, who recognized his talents and became his patron. With her help, he was able to travel to France and North Africa to study art. Mrs. Hearst also furthered Borg’s education by making arrangements with the Department of the Interior for Borg to live among the Native Americans. Borg taught art at the California Art Institute in Los Angeles and at the Santa Barbara School of the Arts. He was a founding member of the California Art Club in 1909, and the art director for the first full-length motion picture ever made in color.

Borg returned to Sweden in 1934, and again in 1938 where he painted local scenes and people as well as exhibited his paintings of the American Southwest. World War II kept Borg in Sweden despite the fact that he had become an American citizen. Borg was eventually able to return to Santa Barbara. On May 8, 1947, Borg suffered a heart attack and died before he reached the hospital. In his life, Borg had a love of the beauty of the Grand Canyon and had expressed the desire to have his ashes scattered there. This request was fulfilled.

References:


Preferred citation


Use

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Access

Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org.

Scope and contents
This collections includes correspondence, programs, newspaper articles, and drawings related to Carl Oscar Borg. The collection also includes an illustrated Carl Oscar Borg bookplate. Illustration was done by Borg and is an image of a Native American man making cave paintings.

Original drawings by Borg in this collections consist of a pen drawing of a Native American man wearing a feathered headdress and sitting on top of a horse, and a pen and watercolor drawing of a Hopi woman. Both pieces of artwork are dated in 1946.

Acquisition
Donor unknown, acquired by the Southwest Museum Library after 1948. One newspaper clipping from the Elizabeth Mason Collection, bequethed to the Library in 1953.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Dawson, Ernest, 1881-1947. -- Correspondence
Hodge, Frederick Webb, 1864-1956 -- Correspondence
Strobridge, Idaho Meacham, 1855-1932
Clippings
Correspondence
Drawings
Indians in art
Indians of North America -- Portraits
Landscape paintings
Painters -- United States -- Biography
Programs

Postcards from Carl Oscar Borg to Ernest Dawson, 1915 September
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.0 postcards
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Dawson, Ernest, 1881-1947. -- Correspondence

Letter from Carl Oscar Borg to Frederick Webb Hodge, 1946 June 24
Physical Description: 1.0 letter
Scope and contents
This item is a single paged letter written on "Carl Oscar Borg A.N.A." letterhead and includes a colored pen drawing of a Hopi woman, signed by Borg in 1946.

Carl Oscar Borg illustrated bookplate, undated
Scope and contents
Illustration was done by Borg and is an image of a Native American man making cave paintings.

Pen drawing, 1946
Scope and contents
Pen drawing is of a Native American man wearing a feathered headdress and he is sitting on top of a horse, and a pen and watercolor drawing of Hopi woman. Both pieces of artwork are dated in 1946.
Carl Oscar Borg art exhibit programs, 1906-1948

- Physical Description: 3.0 booklets
- Scope and contents
  The 1906 program also includes three newspaper articles about the exhibit. The exhibit was held in "The Little Corner of Art" which was also the bindery and house of Idah Meacham Strobridge on 231 East Avenue 41 in Highland Park, California.

Newspaper articles about Carl Oscar Borg, 1906-1931