Finding Aid to the Henry Chapman Ford Papers MS.737

Finding aid prepared by Holly Rose Larson
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2012 November 16
Title: Henry Chapman Ford Papers
Identifier/Call Number: MS.737
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.1 linear feet(1 folder)
Date: circa 1890

Abstract: Henry Chapman Ford was born 1828 August 6 in Livonia, New York and died 1894 February 27 in Santa Barbara, California. During the 1860s, Ford served in the American Civil War, became Chicago's first landscape painter, and helped found the Chicago Academy of Design. He became most famous for his series of etchings featuring all of the twenty-one mission sites in California. In 1883 he published *Etchings of the Franciscan Missions of California* and, in 1893, exhibited these etchings at the Chicago World's Fair. The *Henry Chapman Ford Papers* contain a notebook, loose pages of notes, and pencil sketches - all of which were created circa 1890. The materials relate to California missions and their surrounding areas, landmarks, and flora.

creator: Ford, Henry Chapman, 1828-1894

Custodial History
After the death of Henry Chapman Ford in 1894, his wife Helen Ford became the custodian of these materials. She later married F.H. Sloan. Helen Ford died in 1911 March 2. F.H. Sloan sold these materials along with other works by H.C. Ford to Dawson's Bookshop in 1911 July 28. They were purchased by Judge Grant Jackson on 1918 May 10. Jackson donated the items to the Southwest Museum Library in 1925 April.

Publication note

Scope and Contents
This collection contains a notebook, loose pages of notes, and pencil sketches made by Henry Chapman Ford circa 1890. The notebook consists of hand-written essays from 1888-1889.

The notebook essays, notes and pencil sketches relate to California missions, specifically Mission San Juan Capistrano, Santa Barbara Mission, San Fernando, Rey de España, San Diego Mission, and Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. The notebook also includes notes about the Missions' surrounding areas, landmarks, and flora.

Preferred citation

Processing history
Processed by Library staff before 1981. Finding aid completed by Holly Rose Larson, NHPRC Processing Archivist, 2012 November 16, made possible through grant funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commissions (NHPRC).

Acquisition
Bequest by Judge Grant Jackson, 1925 April.

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.

Biographical note
Henry Chapman Ford was born 1828 August 6 in Livonia, New York and died 1894 February 27 in Santa Barbara, California. Santa Barbara, California. Ford served in the American Civil War, became Chicago's first landscape painter, and helped found the Chicago Academy of Design. He became most famous for his series of etchings featuring all of the twenty-one mission sites in California. In 1883 he published *Etchings of the Franciscan Missions of California* and, in 1893, exhibited these etchings at the Chicago World's Fair.
Ford studied art in Paris, France and Florence, Italy from 1857 to 1860. He returned to New York in 1861 and shortly thereafter enlisted in the United States military and was attached to a brigade stationed in New Mexico during the American Civil War. He served for one year and was discharged due to a physical disability. After his discharge from the military, Ford moved to Chicago, Illinois where he became the city's first professional landscape painter. He met his wife Helen Webster Sackett in 1865 and they married that same year on October 18.

In 1867, Ford helped found the Chicago Academy of Design, which was formally incorporated in 1869. Ford served first as vice-president and then president for the Academy from 1869-1873. Most of his early work was destroyed when the Academy burned in 1871.

Health problems prompted Ford and his wife to move to milder climates. He settled in Santa Barbara, California in 1875. A year later he became one of the founders of the Santa Barbara Society of Natural History. Ford taught and painted at his studio in Santa Barbara until his death.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
California, Southern -- Description and travel
Manuscripts
Mission San Juan Capistrano
Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa (San Luis Obispo, Calif.)
Missions -- California
Notebooks
Pencil sketches
Plants -- California, Southern
San Diego Mission
San Fernando, Rey de España (Mission : San Fernando, Calif.)
Santa Barbara Mission

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Notebook 1888-1889
Pencil sketches of missions undated
Scope and contents
  Pencil sketches of Santa Barbara, San Juan Capistrano, San Luis Obispo, San Jose, San Miguel, Santa Inez, and San Buenaventura missions are drawn on one page. Sketches also includes hand-written captions for each mission.

"Six Mission Bells" manuscript page after 1890
A.J. Haile correspondence undated
Scope and contents
  Haile writes about Cota Creek and how "ridge to ridge of the valley" in that area was given to the Santa Inez Mission Indians by the Spanish government.