Guide to the Irene Robinson Drawings

Collection number: D1968.1

Ella Strong Denison Library
Libraries of The Claremont Colleges
Claremont, California

Processed by:
Elizabeth Gallager
Date Completed:
2007 Spring
Encoded by:
Kelley Wolfe Bachli

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Irene Robinson drawings
Dates: 1931-1964
Collection number: D1968.1
Creator: Robinson, Irene B. (Irene Bowen), b. 1891
Collection Size: 4 oversize boxes and 3 oversize flat drawers
Claremont, California 91711
Abstract: The Irene Robinson Collection of Artwork contains artwork relating to Irene Robinson's professional work. The collection contains illustrations from sixteen texts, all authored by W.W. Robinson. These texts, published largely between 1931 and 1966, include both children's picture books and perspectives on Southern California history. The collection also includes a number of sketches for potential new books and miscellaneous artwork by Irene Robinson. The collection contains charcoal, pastel, and pencil drawings, oil paintings, watercolors, and textual materials.
Physical location: Please consult repository.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection open for research.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish must be submitted in writing to Denison Library.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Irene Robinson drawings. Ella Strong Denison Library, Libraries of The Claremont Colleges.
Acquisition Information
Gift of W.W. and Irene Robinson in 1968.
Processing Information
Processed by Elizabeth Gallagher, Scripps College, Spring 2007.
Biography / Administrative History
Irene Margaret Bowen Robinson (1891 - 1973) was born in Washington state, but she grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Pasadena, California. In 1915, she attended Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, and later studied at the University of Chicago, the Broadmoor Art Academy with John Carlson in Colorado Springs, and in Los Angeles at the Chouinard and Otis Art Institutes. In the early 1920s, she taught art in Los Angeles and then married W. W. (William Wilcox) Robinson, a businessman and writer.

Irene Robinson and her husband Will began to publish collaboratively in approximately 1931. Under the authorship of Will, with Irene as illustrator, their published works include more than fifteen illustrated works for children and adults. Will was an avid collector of Southern California ephemera and knowledge, and published books on the subject include The Story of Pershing Square, The Malibu, and The Island of Santa Catalina. The couple also published many children's books, including
some of the first children's books on the subject of prehistoric animals (Ancient Animals and The Beasts of the Tar Pits). Irene and Will Robinson were in their late 70s when they began to search for a home for their collaborative work. At the suggestion of Lawrence Clark Powell, the majority of Irene's artwork (valued at approximately $5000 in 1968 by Glen Dawson) found its home at Denison Library, Scripps College, in 1968.

Irene died in January 1973, less than a year after her husband.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Irene Robinson Collection of Artwork contains artwork relating to Irene Robinson's professional work. The collection contains illustrations from sixteen texts, all authored by W.W. Robinson. These texts, published largely between 1931 and 1966, include both children's picture books and perspectives on Southern California history. The collection also includes a number of sketches for potential new books and miscellaneous artwork by Irene Robinson. The collection contains charcoal, pastel, and pencil drawings, oil paintings, watercolors, and textual materials.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into 16 series:

- **Series 1: At the Seashore**
- **Series 2: On the Farm**
- **Series 3: Lions**
- **Series 4: The Book of Bible Animals**
- **Series 5: At the Zoo**
- **Series 6: Beasts of the Tar Pits**
- **Series 7: Animals in the Sun**
- **Series 8: Ancient Animals of America**
- **Series 9: The Story of Pershing Square**
- **Series 10: The Island of Santa Catalina**
- **Series 11: The Book of Elephants**
- **Series 12: Big Boy**
- **Series 13: Animal Babies**
- **Series 14: The Forest and the People: The Story of the Angeles National Forest**
- **Series 15: Ranchos Become Cities**
- **Series 16: Miscellaneous artwork**

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

- Children's literature -- Illustrations
- Illustration of books -- 20th century
- Picture books for children

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**At the Seashore**

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains illustrations from both published editions of At the Seashore (1942, MacMillan; 1964, Ward Ritchie), a story for children of a day at the beach and the sea life encountered there. It also contains one or two tentative illustrations that were not published. The illustrations are primarily charcoal and pastel drawings.

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<th>Box</th>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Folder 1</th>
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<td></td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Seagulls; Sandpipers; Frontispiece 1942, 1964</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper</td>
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<th>Box</th>
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<td>3 illustrations from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Tidepool; Driftwood Trio; Dog and Hermit Crabs 1942, 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Sea Lion; Pelicans; Speedboat</td>
<td>1942, 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Big Sealion; Picnic; Sailboats</td>
<td>1942, 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Girl/baby sealion; Children in Waves; Campfire</td>
<td>1942, 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>2 illustrations from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Closing page sunset; Turtle (possible illustrations)</td>
<td>1942, 1964</td>
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<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 1</td>
<td>Illustration from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Seagulls</td>
<td>1942, 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 2</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;At the Seashore&quot;: Seahorses; Shells and feathers; Firewood</td>
<td>1942, 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 3</td>
<td>5 illustrations from &quot;On the Farm&quot;: Small chickens; Sow and piglets; Cow and calf; Sow and 2 piglets; Plough horses</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 4</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;On the Farm&quot;: Title page; Hens and chicks; 2 cows</td>
<td>1939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 5</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;On the Farm&quot;: Sheep; Horse and foal (2 versions)</td>
<td>1939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 6</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;On the Farm&quot;: Barn and cows; Kittens; Horses and plough</td>
<td>1939</td>
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<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 7</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;On the Farm&quot;: Horses and plough study; Pigs; Horses and plough large version</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 11, Folder 7</td>
<td>2 illustrations from &quot;On the Farm&quot;: Small sketches</td>
<td>1939</td>
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</table>

**On the Farm**

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains illustrations from On the Farm, a children's book recounting the story of animal life on the farm. In addition to the book illustrations, it contains multiple copies of a study of plough horse, completed in different mediums. These illustrations are primarily charcoal and pastel drawings, with one oil painting.
Lions

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains both illustrations and textual material from Lions, a chronicle for children of lions' place in human culture. Artwork is primarily charcoal drawings.

3 illustrations from "Lions": The king of beasts; Of the god in the sky; Hyenas 1936
   Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

Text of "Lions" 1936
   Physical Description: Printed material

2 illustrations from "Lions": Cover layout; Ancient arena 1936
   Physical Description: Ink and charcoal on paper

The Book of Bible Animals

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains illustrations from both editions of the children's book The Book of Bible Animals, including frontispiece material. Artwork is primarily charcoal drawings.

3 illustrations from "The Book of Bible Animals": Frontispiece/cover; Doves; Noah's Ark 1938, 1966
   Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

2 illustrations from "The Book of Bible Animals": Donkey; Angel/donkey 1938, 1966
   Physical Description: Pencil and charcoal on paper

At the Zoo

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains illustrations and textual material from At the Zoo, the story of children's visit to the zoo. It includes final illustrations and sketches as well as the complete text. Illustrations include both pastel and charcoal drawings.

3 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Bear family (title page); Monkey; Gorilla 1940
   Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

3 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Children on steps; Bear family asleep; Birds 1940
   Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

3 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Swan; Camel; Deer/elk 1940
   Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

3 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Ostrich; Kangaroos; Cheetahs 1940
   Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

2 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Polar Bears; Swimming bear. Text for "At the Zoo." Sketches for "At the Zoo." 1940
   Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper; printed material

3 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Cover layout; Girl and boy; Penguin pool 1940
   Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper
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Box Case 5, Drawer 12, Folder 3
3 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Polar bears; Elephants; Cover sketch 1940
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper; Pastels on tissue paper

Box Case 5, Drawer 12, Folder 4
3 illustrations from "At the Zoo": Elephant rides (2 copies); Lion 1940
Physical Description: Pastels on paper

Beasts of the Tar Pits
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains illustrations from and printed material related to both editions of Beasts of the Tar Pits, a children’s book on the animals found around the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles. Textual material includes both complete proofs and advertisements. Illustrations include ink and charcoal drawings.

Box Box 2, Folder 6
"Beasts of the Tar Pits": Proof (art and text), Proof (text), Flyer/order form, Possible illustration 1932, 1949
Physical Description: Printed material, ink and charcoal on paper

Box Box 2, Folder 7
3 illustrations from "Beasts of the Tar Pits": Frontispiece; Teratornis skull; Imperial mammoth bone 1932, 1949
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

Box Box 2, Folder 8
3 illustrations from "Beasts of the Tar Pits": Dire wolf skull; Prehistoric camel skull; Short-faced bear skull 1932, 1949
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

Box Box 2, Folder 9
3 illustrations from "Beasts of the Tar Pits": Giant ground sloth skull; Bison skull; Lion skull 1932, 1949
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

Animals in the Sun
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains illustrations from Animals in the Sun, a children's book on animals of desert and southern environments. Illustrations include charcoal and pastel drawings.

Box Box 2, Folder 10
3 illustrations from "Animals in the Sun": Snakes; Gila monster; Horned lizards 1934
Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

Box Box 2, Folder 11
3 illustrations from "Animals in the Sun": Alligator snapping turtle; Turtles; Galapagos penguins and giant tortoises 1934
Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

Box Box 2, Folder 12
Unused sketches from "Animals in the Sun": Horned lizards; Iguanas 1934
Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

Box Case 5, Drawer 12, Folder 5
"Animals in the Sun" cover layout 1934
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

Ancient Animals of America
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains illustrations from both editions of Ancient Animals of America, one of the first children's books on prehistoric animals. It includes illustrations of dinosaurs, thunder beasts, giant sloths, and skeletons. All illustrations are charcoal drawings.

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The Story of Pershing Square

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains small illustrations from The Story of Pershing Square, a historical recount of the growth of this Los Angeles landmark. Illustrations are ink or ink and watercolor.

The Island of Santa Catalina

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains illustrations from The Island of Santa Catalina, a historical look at both human and natural life on the island. It includes a map of the island as well as drawings of porpoises and other wildlife. Illustrations include ink and watercolor drawings.
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<th>Box/Case/Drawer/Folder</th>
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<th>Physical Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 7</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;The Island of Santa Catalina&quot;: Cover (Bay); Porpoises; Sea elephant</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Ink on paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 8</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;The Island of Santa Catalina&quot;: Bald eagle; Broadbill swordfish; Wild goat</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Ink on paper</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 9</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;The Island of Santa Catalina&quot;: Pelican; Marine garden; Wild boar</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Ink on paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 13, Folder 7</td>
<td>Miscellaneous illustrations, including Map of Santa Catalina</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Ink, watercolor on paper; Woodcut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 10</td>
<td>3 covers from &quot;The Book of Elephants&quot;</td>
<td>1935, 1962</td>
<td>Printed material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 11</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;The Book of Elephants&quot;: Circus elephants; Baby elephant bath; Elephant in crate</td>
<td>1935, 1962</td>
<td>Charcoal on paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 13, Folder 3</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;The Book of Elephants&quot;: Title layout; Royal elephants (2 copies)</td>
<td>1935, 1962</td>
<td>Printed material; Charcoal on paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case 5, Drawer 13, Folder 4</td>
<td>Illustrations from &quot;The Book of Elephants&quot;: Circus elephants (2 copies)</td>
<td>1935, 1962</td>
<td>Printed material; Charcoal on paper</td>
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<td>Case 5, Drawer 13, Folder 5</td>
<td>&quot;The Book of Elephants&quot;: Ward Ritchie edition layout/proofs</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Printed material</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 12</td>
<td>3 illustrations from &quot;Big Boy&quot;: Big Boy in truck; Big Boy on wall; Big boy with POW</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Charcoal on paper</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 13</td>
<td>2 illustrations from &quot;Big Boy&quot;: Big Boy in battle; Big Boy in jungle</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Charcoal on paper</td>
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</table>

The Island of Santa Catalina

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Illustration from "Big Boy": Big Boy on the beach 1944
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

Animal Babies
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains illustrations from Animal Babies, a children’s book on animal babies ranging from kittens to donkey foals. Illustrations are charcoal and pastel drawings.

Box Box 3, Folder 14
3 illustrations from "Animal Babies": Baby donkey; Baby birds; Baby donkey (matted) 1947
Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on paper

Box Box 3, Folder 15
Illustration from "Animal Babies": Chicks 1947
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper

Box Case 5, Drawer 13, Folder 1
"Animal Babies" illustrations: Basket of kittens 1947
Physical Description: Pastels on paper

The Forest and the People
Series Scope and Content Summary
This folder contains, among other drawings, the design for the title piece of The Forest and the People, a historical recount of the Angeles Forest and the people involved with it. The illustration is ink and paint on paper.

Box Box 4, Folder 1
Title page from "The Forest and the People: The Story of the Angeles National Forest"; Taj Mahal photograph; Monterey reproduction 1946
Physical Description: Ink and paint on paper, photo

Ranchoes become Cities
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series includes various illustrations from Ranchos Become Cities, an account of the transformation of large working ranches in the Los Angeles area into the cities that exist now. Sketches and illustrations are ink on paper and tissue paper.

Box Case 5, Drawer 13, Folder 6
2 illustrations from "Ranchos Become Cities": Cover page layout; 4 small prints 1939
Physical Description: Ink on paper

Box Box 4, Folder 2
Sketches: "Ranchos Become Cities" and Miscellaneous 1939
Physical Description: Ink and pencil on tissue paper

Miscellaneous Artwork
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains all remaining Robinson artwork. Included in the series are notebooks with illustrations and ideas for new published works (The Youngest Swan, Animal Oddities). The series also contains original artwork, including woodcuts of California locations, and price logs and exhibit information. Mediums range from woodcuts to ink, charcoal, and pastels.

Box Box 3, Folder 16
"The Youngest Swan" Notebook undated
Physical Description: Pencil on paper, printed material
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Box 3, Folder 17 | "Animal Oddities" Notebook | undated  
Physical Description: Ink on paper, printed material |
| Box 3, Folder 18 | "Picture Book of Birds and Beasts" Notebook | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper, printed material |
| Box 3, Folder 19 | Silverlake (3 copies) | undated  
Physical Description: Woodcut |
| Box 3, Folder 20 | Baldwin Hills (multiple copies) | undated  
Physical Description: Woodcut |
| Box 3, Folder 21 | Exhibit Info; Price Log | undated  
Physical Description: Printed material |
| Box 4, Folder | Notebook: Original Drawings | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal, pastels, oil paints on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | 3 drawings: Baby sketch (2); Rain dance costumes | undated  
Physical Description: Pencil on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | 3 drawings: Pueblo; Tewd rain priest; Geometric design | undated  
Physical Description: Pencil on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Miscellaneous drawings | undated  
Physical Description: Pencil on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Miscellaneous drawings: Nude among plants | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 8 | Miscellaneous drawings: Nudes | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal on tissue paper |
| Box 4, Folder 9 | Miscellaneous drawings: Model sketches | undated  
Physical Description: Pencil on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 10 | Miscellaneous drawings: sketches | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal and pastels on tissue paper |
| Box 4, Folder 11 | Miscellaneous drawings | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal, pencil, and watercolor on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 12 | Miscellaneous drawings (Laguna Coast) | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 13 | Miscellaneous drawings (Animal Book?): Roadrunner; Camel; Giant shark | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper |
| Box 4, Folder 14 | Miscellaneous drawings/transparencies | undated  
Physical Description: Ink on paper; ink on transparency |
| Box 4, Folder 15 | Miscellaneous drawings (Laguna) | undated  
Physical Description: Charcoal and ink on paper |
| Box Box 4, Folder 16 | **Miscellaneous drawings (Jebediah Smith) undated**  
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper |
| Box Box 4, Folder 17 | **Miscellaneous drawings (Jebediah Smith and landscapes) undated**  
Physical Description: Charcoal and watercolor on paper |
| Box Box 4, Folder 18 | **Malibu drawing (multiple reproductions) undated**  
Physical Description: Charcoal on paper |
| Box Box 4, Folder 6 | **Miscellaneous drawings undated**  
Physical Description: Watercolor, ink, and pencil on paper |