Descriptive Summary

Title: Henry B. Brown drawings

Dates: 1851-1852

Collection Number: mssHM 62464 (1-43)

Creator: Brown, Henry, active 1850-1859

Extent: 43 items in 3 boxes

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This collection contains forty-two pencil drawings primarily of California Native Americans, California landscapes, Mexico, and Central America, drawn in 1851 and 1852 by American artist, and later United States Consul to Bermuda, Henry B. Brown.

Language of Material: The records are in English.

Access
The entire collection is open for qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to following web site.

Publication Rights
The Huntington Library does not require that researchers request permission to quote from or publish images of this material, nor does it charge fees for such activities. The responsibility for identifying the copyright holder, if there is one, and obtaining necessary permissions rests with the researcher.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Henry B. Brown drawings, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information
The collection was purchased from Catherine C. Abbott, December 13, 2000.

Biographical Note
Henry B. Brown was probably born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in January 1816. In the 1840s, he worked as a portrait artist and engraver, and in 1851 he traveled to San Francisco with his friend Jacob Bailey Moore. Brown worked for Moore for the next several months, gathering specimens and making drawings in the California countryside. In March of 1852, he was commissioned by John Russell Bartlett, head of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary Commission and a friend of Moore, to draw views of landscapes and Indians in Northern California, assist with collecting Indian vocabularies, and make maps of the area, with a view towards contributing to Bartlett's book "Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua" (1854). Brown traveled to New York in the late summer of 1852, and presumably drew his coastal scenes of Mexico and Central America during the trip. From 1856 to 1859, he served as US Consul for Bermuda. Little is known of his life after that date; his health was poor at the time of his resignation in 1859, and he may have died in late 1860 or soon after. He should not be confused with the Maine artist Harrison Bird Brown (1831-1915) or with the escaped slave Henry "Box" Brown (b. 1816).

Scope and Content
This collection contains pencil drawings drawn in 1851 and 1852 by American artist, and later United States Consul to Bermuda, Henry B. Brown. The forty-two drawings are arranged according to their five general subjects: California Native Americans (7), California landscapes (24), Mexico (4), Central America (6), and Other (1). Although the exact Indian tribes in Brown's drawings are not known, it is believed that they are the Maidu, Nomlaki, Patwin, Wintun, and/or the Shasta Indians because those tribes lived in the areas in California where Brown was traveling. These drawings include portraits of Indians and scenes of daily life in Indian villages. Five of these drawings have been published in Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, and Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua by John Russell Bartlett. The twenty-four drawings of California landscapes include views of mining camps, a quartz mill, San Francisco, Marysville, Mount Shasta, Grass Valley, the Sacramento River, and Nevada City. The ten drawings of Mexico and Central America include views of Acapulco, the Gulf of California, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Also included in the collection is...
an undated drawing of the Susquehanna river in Port Deposit, Maryland, and a blank sheet of paper that was probably used as a mount for one of the drawings. The titles used are the titles supplied by the artist. Several of the drawings have sketches or inscriptions on the verso. A number of the Brown drawings have also been published in An Artist's Portfolio: the California Sketches of Henry B. Brown by Thomas C. Blackburn.

Alternative Form of Materials Available
Visit the Huntington Digital Library to view digitized items from this collection.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Brown, Henry B., active 1850-1859.
Artists -- California -- 19th century.
Drawing, American -- 19th century.
Indians of North America -- California -- Portraits.
Maidu Indians -- Portraits.
Mines and mineral resources -- California -- Pictorial works.
Mining camps -- California -- Pictorial works.
Nomlaki Indians -- Portraits.
Patwin Indians -- Portraits.
Shasta Indians -- Portraits.
Wintun Indians -- Portraits.
California -- Pictorial works.
Central America -- Pictorial works.
Grass Valley (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.
Mexico -- Pictorial works.
Mount Shasta (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.
Nevada City (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.
Ometepe Island (Nicaragua) -- Pictorial works.
Port Deposit (Md.) -- Pictorial works.
Sacramento River (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.
Sacramento Valley (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.
San Juan del Sur Bay (Nicaragua) -- Pictorial works.
Susquehanna River -- Pictorial works.
Tehama County (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.

Forms/Genres
Drawings California 19th century.
Drawings Central America 19th century.
Drawings Mexico 19th century.
Sketches California 19th century.
Sketches Central America 19th century.
Sketches Mexico 19th century.

Bibliography


**Box 1**

**Items 1-14**

**Item 1**

**California Indian Boy, Wyalacker Tribe near Shasta - from Life 1852: drawing (1852).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (1)

**Physical Description:** 38 x 26 cm. Pencil with watercolor and gouache.

**Scope and Content Note**

On verso: “Reddings, near Shasta.” Published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, on cover and page 193.

**Item 2**

**No-e-nne boy: drawing (1852).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (2)

**Physical Description:** 21 x 19 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.

**Scope and Content Note**

**Item 3**

**California Indians - Women, Upper Sacramento Valley: drawing (1852).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (3)

**Physical Description:** 26 x 20 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.

**Scope and Content Note**


**Item 4**

**Interior Indian House near Colvin, California 1852: drawing (1852).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (4)

**Physical Description:** 26 x 38 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.

**Scope and Content Note**

Item 5  **Calif[ornia] Indians Sacrificing [sic] to their Dead Friends: drawing [1852].**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (5)

**Physical Description:** 26 x 38 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.

**Scope and Content Note**


**Item 6**  **Chinoh Council House, near Munroe’s, Sac[ramento] R[iver]: drawing [1852].**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (6)

**Physical Description:** 26 x 38 cm. Pencil on paper.

**Scope and Content Note**

On verso: Two faint sketches of figures; the complete sketch of one is published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, page 269.

**Item 7**  **Summer Lodges California Indians near Shasta 1852: drawing (1852).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (7)

**Physical Description:** 26 x 38 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.

**Scope and Content Note**


**Item 8**  **Near Grass Valley Calif[ornia]: drawing [1852].**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (8)

**Physical Description:** 20 x 26 cm. Pencil on paper.

**Scope and Content Note**

**Item 9**  **On the Sacramento near Shasta Head of Great Sacramento Plain April 1852: drawing (1852).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (9)

**Physical Description:** 27 x 42 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.

**Scope and Content Note**
Item 10  Head of Sacramento Valley looking down from above Shasta City: drawing (1852).
Call Number: HM 62464 (10)
  Physical Description: 26 x 39 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note
  On verso: Four sketches of figures and illegible word.
  Recto:
  Verso:

Item 11  Shasta Peak from Tehama about 100 miles distant: drawing (1852).
Call Number: HM 62464 (11)
  Physical Description: 19 x 30 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note
  On verso: “Tehama, Sacramento River, Cala. 1852.”

Item 12  Nevada City, California: drawing (1852).
Call Number: HM 62464 (12)
  Physical Description: 18 x 26 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor.
Scope and Content Note

Item 13  At Nevada City, California: drawing (1852).
Call Number: HM 62464 (13)
  Physical Description: 18 x 25 cm. Pencil on paper.
Scope and Content Note

Item 14  At Nevada City 1852: drawing (1852).
Call Number: HM 62464 (14)
  Physical Description: 19 x 25 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor.
Scope and Content Note

Box 2

Items 15-28

Item 15  Nevada City, California: drawing (1852).
Call Number: HM 62464 (15)
  Physical Description: 18 x 25 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor.
Scope and Content Note

Item 16  Quartz Mills near Nevada City: drawing (1852).
Call Number: HM 62464 (16)
  Physical Description: 20 x 25 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor and gouache.
Scope and Content Note
Item 17  Groups of Oaks near Munroes and Coast Range from Munroes: drawings [1852].
Call Number: HM 62464 (17)
Physical Description: 13 x 40 cm. Two drawings. Pencil on paper.
Scope and Content Note

Item 18  Lawsons Peaks, Sierra Nevada from Reddings Ranch Sacramento River: drawing [1852].
Call Number: HM 62464 (18)
Physical Description: 26 x 40 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note
On verso: “View on the Sacramento River Shasta.”

Item 19  Head of Sacramento Valley and Shasta Peak: drawing [1852].
Call Number: HM 62464 (19)
Physical Description: 19 x 40 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note

Item 20  At Munroeville Looking West: drawing [1852].
Call Number: HM 62464 (20)
Physical Description: 13 x 40 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note

Item 21  Coast Range from Tehama: drawing [1852].
Call Number: HM 62464 (21)
Physical Description: 13 x 39 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note
On verso: Sketch of a man sitting.
Recto:
Verso:

Item 22  The Buttes from foothills near Marysville, Cal[jifornia]: drawing [1852].
Call Number: HM 62464 (22)
Physical Description: 16 x 26 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note

Item 23  Roses Bar, Uba River 1851: drawing (1851).
Call Number: HM 62464 (23)
Physical Description: 18 x 26 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note
Item 24  
**At Gold Hill, California: drawing [1852].**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (24)  
Physical Description: 18 x 26 cm. Pencil on paper.
Scope and Content Note

Item 25  
**On Deer Creek near Nevada City: drawing [1852].**  
**Call Number:** HM 62464 (25)  
Physical Description: 19 x 26 cm. Pencil on paper.
Scope and Content Note

Item 26  
**Above Reddings Ranch on the Sacramento: drawing [1852].**  
**Call Number:** HM 62464 (26)  
Physical Description: 20 x 37 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note

Item 27  
**Mouth of Cañon, Shasta road, California with Trinity Mountains 1852: drawing (1852).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (27)  
Physical Description: 21 x 27 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.
Scope and Content Note

Item 28  
**Lassons Peak, Sierra Nevada: drawing [1852].**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (28)  
Physical Description: 26 x 41 cm. Pencil on paper.
Scope and Content Note

Box 3

**Items 30-43**

Item 29  
**Fire at San Francisco Sketched from P. O. May 1851: drawing (1851).**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (29)  
Physical Description: 22 x 30 cm. Pencil on paper.
Scope and Content Note

Item 30  
**Untitled [drawing shows Goat Island and the San Francisco Bay]: drawing [1851].**

**Call Number:** HM 62464 (30)  
Physical Description: 19 x 28 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor.
Scope and Content Note
On verso: various sketches.
Recto:  
Verso:
Item 31  Goat Island and Contra Costa, San Francisco Bay: drawing [1851].  
Call Number: HM 62464 (31)  
Physical Description: 15 x 27 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor.  
Scope and Content Note

Item 32  Coast of Mexico Pacific: drawing [1852].  
Call Number: HM 62464 (32)  
Physical Description: 19 x 44 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor and gouache.  
Scope and Content Note

Item 33  Mexican Coast, 150 miles NW Acapulco: drawing [1852].  
Call Number: HM 62464 (33)  
Physical Description: 15 x 43 cm. Pencil on paper.  
Scope and Content Note

Item 34  Near Cape Corrientes Gulf California: drawing [1852].  
Call Number: HM 62464 (34)  
Physical Description: 15 x 44 cm. Pencil on paper.  
Scope and Content Note

Item 35  White Islands Above Acapulco: drawing [1852].  
Call Number: HM 62464 (35)  
Physical Description: 15 x 44 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor.  
Scope and Content Note

Item 36  Harbour of San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua from the Town 1852: drawing (1852).  
Call Number: HM 62464 (36)  
Physical Description: 20 x 40 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.  
Scope and Content Note

Item 37  Nicaragua: drawing [1852].  
Call Number: HM 62464 (37)  
Physical Description: 16 x 43 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.  
Scope and Content Note

Item 38  Guatamala [sic] from the Pacific: drawing [1852].  
Call Number: HM 62464 (38)  
Physical Description: 13 x 44 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.  
Scope and Content Note
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
<th>Scope and Content Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Near San Salvador Central America: drawing [1852].</td>
<td>HM 62464 (39)</td>
<td>17 x 43 cm. Pencil on paper with watercolor and gouache.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Nicaragua: drawing [1852].</td>
<td>HM 62464 (40)</td>
<td>11 x 43 cm. Pencil on paper.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Omotepee [sic] from Virgin Bay Lake Nicaragua sketched in 1852: drawing (1852).</td>
<td>HM 62464 (41)</td>
<td>13 x 42 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Port Deposit Susquehanna: drawing [n.d.].</td>
<td>HM 62464 (42)</td>
<td>13 x 20 cm. Pencil on paper with gouache.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Blank sheet of Paper - probably once used as a mount for one of the drawings.</td>
<td>HM 62464 (43)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>