A guide to the Otis Oldfield artwork photographs, 1930-1940

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A Guide to the Otis Oldfield artwork photographs

P99-046

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

2016, National Park Service

Title: Otis Oldfield artwork photographs
Date: 1930-1940
Identifier/Call Number: P99-046 (SAFR 24433)
Creator: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (Agency : U.S.)
Oldfield, Otis, 1890-1969
Physical Description: 15 items.
Repository: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Historic Documents Department
Building E, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
Abstract: The Otis Oldfield artwork photographs, 1930-1940, bulk 1930, (SAFR 24433, P99-046) are comprised mainly of photographs of watercolor paintings by artist Otis Oldfield depicting scenes aboard DOVER (built 1891; paddle riverboat) during a 1930 trip in the Sacramento River Delta region of California. The collection has been processed to the Collection level and is open for use.
Physical Location: San Francisco Maritime NHP, Historic Documents Department
Language(s): In English.

Access
This collection is open for use unless otherwise noted.
Use of this collection is restricted and requires the permission of the copyrightholder, Jayne Blatchly (Estate of Otis Oldfield; Jayne Blatchly Trust).
Publication and Use Rights
Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the researcher’s obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.
Processing Note
The descriptions in this collection guide were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator’s annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material and subject matter experts. While every effort was made to provide accurate information, in the event that you find any errors in this guide please contact the reference staff in order for us to evaluate and make corrections to this guide.
Please cite the title and collection number in any correspondence with our staff.
Preferred Citation
[Item description], [Location within collection organization identified by Collection Number/Series Number/File Unit Number/Item Number], P99-046 (SAFR 24433), Otis Oldfield artwork photographs, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Acquisition Information
SAFR-01360

Field collection by San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park staff photographers in 1999. Original paintings and drawings by Otis Oldfield were loaned to the Park for copying by the painting’s owners, Jayne Blatchley (Oldfield’s daughter) and David Hull. As of 1999, Mrs. Blatchley owned Items 01-06 and Mr. Hull owned Items 07-15.
According to correspondence in 1999 from Jayne Blatchley in the collection file, the copy photographs were intended to be published in the book “Steamboating on the Dover” by Otis Oldfield. This is likely the manuscript “Steamer Dover and Around About,” a copy of which is located in the SFMNHP’s Otis Oldfield papers, 1899-1968 (SAFR 17114, HDC 0239). The book has not been published as of June 2015.

Historical or Biographical Note
Otis Oldfield (July 3, 1890 - May 18, 1969) was an artist whose work included maritime scenes, portraits, and landscapes. He was born in Sacramento, California, and arrived in San Francisco, California, in 1909. He left to study art in France at the Académie Julien in 1911, returning to San Francisco in 1924. He taught painting at the California College of Arts and Crafts, and, during World War II, worked as a draftsman at the shipyards in Fort Mason.

In 1930, Oldfield traveled aboard DOVER (built 1891; paddle riverboat) and produced a series of watercolor paintings and a manuscript depicting the experience. His writings and paintings produced during a voyage to Alaska aboard LOUISE (built 1892; schooner, 3m) in 1931 appear in the book "A Pictorial Journal of a Voyage Aboard the Three Masted Schooner Louise" (published by Grabhorn-Hoyem Press in 1969). His artwork can also be seen in San Francisco's Coit Tower and the former Pacific Stock Exchange Club.


Collection Scope and Content

The Otis Oldfield artwork photographs, 1930-1940, bulk 1930, (SAFR 24433, P99-046) are comprised mainly of photographs of watercolor paintings by artist Otis Oldfield depicting scenes aboard DOVER (built 1891; paddle riverboat) during a 1930 trip in the Sacramento River Delta region of California. The collection has been processed to the Collection level and is open for use.

Contains photographs of artwork by Otis Oldfield, 1930-1940, bulk 1930. Consists of (13) color negatives, 4 x 5 in., and (2) black-and-white negatives, 4 x 5 in.

Items 01-12 are photographs of watercolor paintings of crewmembers at work and leisure aboard DOVER (built 1891; paddle riverboat) during a 1930 trip in the Sacramento River Delta, California. Items 13-15 are photographs of other miscellaneous artwork.

Items 01-12, DOVER watercolor paintings, 1930:

01. Crew's Quarters, Quarter Deck. Painting no. 373.
02. Crew on Deck. Painting no. 375.
03. Officer's Quarters, Quarter Deck. Painting no. 376.
04. Fireman. Painting no. 379.
05. The Cub. Painting no. 383.
06. Fireman's Hobby. Painting no. 392.
07. Shootin' Snags. Painting no. 361.
08. Repairing Rudder. Painting no. 368.
09. Chief Engineer. Painting no. 374.

Items 13-15, other artwork:

13. Grand Stand. No date. Painting no. 124. Depicts five children along a fence with their backs to the viewer.
15. Chez Stackpole, or Stackpole's Studio. 1925 March 15. Drawing no. 60. Depicts artist Ralph Stackpole at work in his San Francisco studio.

Collection Arrangement

Arranged by owner of the original painting, then by painting number (Items 01-12), followed by artwork not originally part of the DOVER (built 1891; paddle riverboat) series of paintings (Items 13-15).

Related Materials

Related photograph and media collections: Otis Oldfield photographs, 1930-1931. SFMNHP, (SAFR 20935, P06-013). The collection consists of four negatives of illustrations from Otis Oldfield's manuscript "Steamer Dover" and one hand-made photograph album, "Louise at Sea, 1931."

Related manuscript collections: Otis Oldfield papers, 1899-1968. SFMNHP, (SAFR 17114, HHC 0239). Comprised of materials created and assembled by artist Otis Oldfield. See Series 1, File Units 14-20 and 63, for material related to DOVER, including a copy of the unpublished manuscript "Steamer Dover and Around About."

Researchers should note that there are other collections and books with materials related to Otis Oldfield in the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. They can search the Park's web catalog for more information.
This material is located at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Marine painting
Paddle steamers
ver (built 1891; paddle riverboat)
Ita Region (Calif.)
Color negatives
Black-and-white negatives