WILLS, MARY MOTZ.
Mary Motz Wills collection, circa 1925-1961

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wills, Mary Motz.
Title: Mary Motz Wills collection, circa 1925-1961
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1283
Extent: .25 linear feet (1 box), 7 oversized papers boxes and 1 oversized papers folder (OP), 1 extra-oversized paper (XOP) and 1 bound volume (BV)
Abstract: Collection mainly consists of watercolor paintings of Georgia wildflowers by artist Mary Motz Wills.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories
Texas wild flower paintings located at the Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, Texas and in the Texas Memorial Museum Texas History Collections, at the Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

Source

Custodial History
Amelie Harrington was a cousin of Mary Motz Wills. Wills' father gave the paintings to Harrington following Wills' death.
Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Mary Motz Wills collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Appraisal Note
W. B. Baker, Director of the Emory University Museum, acquired this collection as part of the Rose Library’s holdings in Georgia history.

Processing
Processed by Susan Potts McDonald, 2014.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Mary Motz Wills (1875-1961), wild flower artist, was born on June 6, 1875, in Wytheville, Virginia, the daughter of Charles Motz. The Motzes soon moved to Waco, Texas, where Mary and her younger sister, Elsie, grew up. Mary influenced Elsie's artistic development, as Elsie herself became a well-known miniaturist. Mary acquired her art education at the Art Students League in New York, where she studied with William Merritt Chase, Frank Vincent DuMond, and John Henry Twachtmann, and may have attended the Pennsylvania School of Industrial Arts and art schools in Boston and Philadelphia. Following her formal art education she married Lt. Col. Will Dunbar Wills of the United States Army. While with him on his tours of South and Central America, Wills first began to paint watercolors of exotic wild flowers. Several years later, following her husband's death in 1925 in Maryland, Wills moved to Abilene, Texas, where she lived for the rest of her life. However, she claimed Georgia as her adopted state because of long visits with the Amelie (Col. Will's cousin) and W. Eugene Harrington in Atlanta and with old Army fields in Columbus. By 1943, Wills had painted hundreds of Georgia's wild flowers.

Scope and Content Note
The collection mainly consists of approximately 338 watercolor paintings of Georgia wildflowers by artist Mary Motz Wills. Nearly each painting is signed by the artist and includes the common and botanical name of the subject. A photograph of Mary Wills, printed material about her, and a scrapbook of pressed flowers created by Amelie Harrington containing "Wild Flowers of Laurelwood" complete the collection.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type.
### Container List

**General**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Photograph, Mary Motz Wills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Printed: Cards and Post cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Printed: Clippings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Printed: Georgia Wild Flower Show, &quot;A Report of the 1941 Georgia Wild Flower Show&quot; (with Wills illustration on cover)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wildflower paintings**

| OP1 | 1 | No. 1-40 |
| OP2 | 1 | No. 41-89 |
| OP3 | 1 | No. 90-140 |
| OP4 | 1 | No. 141-190 |
| OP5 | 1 | No. 192-260 |
| OP6 | 1 | No. 261-338 |
| OP7 | 1 | No. 63, 84, 91, 94, 106, 124, 204, 223, 247, 263, 281 |
| OP8 | - | No. 95, 108, 147, 205, 269 |
| XOP1 | | Unnumbered painting, magnolia flower and butterfly |

**Scrapbook**

| BV1 | Wild Flowers of Laurelwood (pressed flowers), Amelie Harrington |