

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), 8 oversized paper boxes (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

Gift, 1970 with subsequent additions.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Mary Motz Wills collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

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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 Twachtman, 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

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Correspondence
1	2	Photograph, Mary Motz Wills
1	3	Printed: Cards and Post cards
1	4	Printed: Clippings
1	5	Printed: Georgia Wild Flower Show, "A Report of the 1941 Georgia Wild Flower Show" [with Wills illustration oncover)

Wildflower paintings

OP1	No. 1-40
OP2	No. 41-89
OP3	No. 90-140
OP4	No. 141-190
OP5	No. 192-260
OP6	No. 261-338
OP 7	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
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