

Guide to the Camille Solon Drawings Collection, 1900-1952



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Camille Solon Drawings Collection, 1900-1952 (bulk 1910-1913; 1950-1952)
Processed by Denise Fourie and Catherine Trujillo, 2008; encoded by Byte Managers,
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Descriptive Summary

Title:

Camille Solon Drawings Collection, 1900-1952 (bulk 1910-1913 and 1950-1952)

Collection Number:

MS 106

Creator:

Solon, Camille Antoine Arnoux, 1877-1960

Abstract:

This collection contains approximately 225 landscape sketches by English muralist and ceramist Camille Solon. Items in the collection include re-worked pencil sketches of rural locations and landscapes in Britain and northern California, where he lived most of his adult years. Despite his extensive work at San Simeon, this collection contains only one pencil sketch from the Hearst estate. A few watercolors and some conté crayon sketches with ink are also included in the collection. Donated in 2001.

Extent:

6 boxes.

Language:

English

Repository:

Special Collections, Robert E. Kennedy Library
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Administrative Information

Provenance:

Donated in 2001.

Access:

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Preferred Citation:

[Identification of Item]. Camille Solon Drawings Collection, Special Collections, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Abbreviations Used:

c.: circa
Calif.: California
w/: with
n.p.: no page

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects:

Artisans – California – San Simeon

Hearst, William Randolph, 1863-1951 – Homes and haunts – California - Drawings

San Simeon Ranch (Calif.) – History – Drawings

Solon, Camille Antoine Arnoux, 1877-1960

England – Drawings

Wales – Drawings

Marin County (California) – Drawings

Landscape painting

Genres and Forms of Material:

Pencil sketches

Watercolors

Conté crayon sketches with ink

Related Materials

Related Collections:

Special Collections, Cal Poly:

Julia Morgan Papers (MS 10)

Julia Morgan–Sara Holmes Boutelle Collection, 1877–1958 (MS 27)

Sara Holmes Boutelle Papers, 1972–1999 (MS 141)

Edward G. Trinkkeller Papers, 1896-1999 (MS 97)

Biographical Note

Muralist and ceramist Camille Solon was born March 27, 1877, in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England, a region known for its potteries. A descendant of the Arnoux family, master ceramists in France, Camille was one of nine children born to Louis Marc Solon and Laure Arnoux Solon. Solon's father was an award-winning potter famous for the "pâte-sur-pâte" technique. Many of Camille Solon's siblings became respected artisans as well. Camille studied under his father and in London at the Slade School and University College.

In 1914, at the age of 37, Camille emigrated to California to work with his brother, Albert, on a ceramic therapy program for tuberculosis patients at the Arequipa Sanatorium in Fairfax, California. Under Albert Solon's supervision and with financial support from Phoebe Apperson Hearst, the pottery gained a reputation for producing a wide variety of successful styles and designs.

In 1915, at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, the Arequipa Tuberculosis Sanatorium exhibited their ceramic works in the fair's Palace of Education. The Arequipa pottery ceased operation in 1918.

By 1920, Albert Solon and his partner Frank Schemmel formed Solon and Schemmel in San Jose, California, to manufacture wall and floor tiles. Tiles from Solon and Schemmel can be found at William Randolph Hearst's San Simeon estate. It is likely that Camille Solon worked for his brother's tile company during its early years of operation.

Camille Solon was retained by San Simeon's architect, Julia Morgan, to design the mosaics of blue-and-gold Venetian glass tile used in the Roman Pool. During his decade or more in Hearst's employment, Solon also designed and painted the murals in the Gothic Study of Casa Grande, as well as other decorative detail work on the estate.

In the early 1940s, Solon worked with Julia Morgan again to design murals and ceiling decorative details for the Chapel of the Chimes crematorium in Oakland. Other notable Bay Area work of Solon's includes "The Creation," an interior mural in the Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace building at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco.

Solon married Sylvia Wallace, a fellow British immigrant, in 1920. In his later years, Solon suffered from failing eyesight and used a German shepherd guide dog to aid him. Camille Solon passed away in Marin County on Jan. 8, 1960.

Sources

"Artist Solon Dies at 82 After Illness." *Marin Independent Journal* 9 Jan. 1960: n. p.

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California Death Index, 1940-1997, Ancestry.com

"Camille Antoine Solon (1878 1960)," Ask ART: The Artists' Bluebook.
<http://www.askart.com/askart/s/camille_antoine_solon/camille_antoine_solon.aspx>

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Sec 1, pg. 10.

Commanday, Mary Floris. Camille Antoine (Arnoux) Solon. Piedmont, CA.:
Commanday, 1989. [self-published]

Hunter, Stanley Armstrong. *Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace at the 1939
Golden Gate International Exposition*. San Francisco: Temple of Religion and Tower
of Peace, Inc., 1940.

"M. V. Artist—Solon Decorates Larkspur Altar". *Mill Valley Record* 10 Jan 1940: n. p.

Official Guide Book, 1940: Golden Gate International Exposition on San Francisco
Bay. San Francisco: The Crocker Company, 1940.

"Pacific Coast News." [column] *The Clay-Worker* Feb. 1929: 181.

Pavlik, Robert C. "The Tile Art of San Simeon." *Tile Heritage* IV.2 (Winter
1997/1998): 3-11.

U. S. Census of Population, 1920, 1930, Ancestry.com

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains approximately 225 sketches by artist Camille Solon, whose work appears throughout the Hearst estate at San Simeon, California. This collection consists primarily of re-worked pencil sketches of rural locations and landscapes in Britain and northern California including his native Stoke-on-Trent, England; Northern Wales; and Marin and Sonoma Counties north of San Francisco (where he lived his adult years). There is one pencil sketch of the Hearst estate at San Simeon, California. There are also a few watercolors and some conté crayon sketches with ink. The earliest piece in the collection is dated 1900.

The sketches were originally housed in three-ring binders. They have been removed from the binders and rehoused in their original order in acid-free folders.

The original binder names have been retained as headings for Subseries B. Mill Valley [Calif.] Sketches and Subseries D. Sketches, 1952. The binder for Subseries A entitled Sonoma/Conway has been renamed British Sketches and the binder for Subseries C Belvedere Sketches has been renamed California Sketches to more accurately reflect their contents.

Many sketches have handwritten titles and these are noted in the guide. Sketches that are untitled have descriptions in brackets which were added for ease of identification. The majority of the works are pencil sketches; the few watercolor and conté crayon pieces have been noted in the folder level descriptions.

Where possible, the provenance, or original organization, of the papers has been preserved. The collection is housed in six boxes and arranged in one series:

Series 1. Sketches, 1900-1952

The series is divided into four subseries:

- A. British Sketches
- B. Mill Valley [Calif.] Sketches
- C. California Sketches
- D. Sketches and Inventory, 1952.

Series Description/Folder List

Series 1. Sketches and Paintings, 1900-1952

Contains four subseries: A. British Sketches, B. Mill Valley [Calif.] Sketches, C. California Sketches, and D. Sketches and Inventory, 1952.

A. British Sketches, 1900-1952

Contains primarily sketches from England and Wales arranged in original order. Many folders contain as many as five small sketches, which were glued to both sides of a scrapbook sheet. 2 boxes.

Box 1 Folder 1

Croxden Abbey, 1909

Croxden Abbey, 1907

Alton Convent

Box 1 Folder 2

Alton

Untitled [bridge, convent]

Untitled [bridge, pine trees]

Box 1 Folder 3

Draycott Cross in Distance

Untitled, 1910 [child, trees]

Box 1 Folder 4

Alton

Wooton Lodge, 1905

Untitled [woodscape]

Old Wych Elms. Leigh, 1910

Box 1 Folder 5

Alton, The Bridge

Alton, 1910

Chadwick's Farm, Alton. 41- per day

Box 1 Folder 6

Hollington, Staffordshire

Conway, 1913

Conway [w/cows], 1913

Box 1 Folder 7

Conway River, 1913

Conway Valley, 1913

Box 1 Folder 8

Untitled [landscape, bare trees w/figures]

Sychnant Pass

Box 1 Folder 9

Conway, 1913
Untitled, 1912 [figure w/dog]
Conway [boat], 1913
Conway, 1914 [Aber Conway, built A.D. 1300]

Box 1 Folder 10
From top of Snowdon (13), 1913
Untitled [mountain path]
Sychnant Pass, 1913
Glan Conway, 1913
Conway, 1913 [landscape, low tide, very small]

Box 1 Folder 11
Conway, 1913 [fishermen w/boat and nets]

Box 1 Folder 12
Conway, 1913 [2 trees]
Conway, 1913 [boats]
Old Conway Road, 1913
Untitled [bayscape, very small]
Conway Valley, 1913

Box 1 Folder 13
Amlwch

Box 1 Folder 14
Milwich, The pond and rustic bridge, 1907
Milwich, 1913
Milwich Hall, 1907
Untitled, [subject unknown]
Milwich Hall, The greenhouse, 1907

Box 1 Folder 15
Untitled [house], 1907
Untitled [window], 1907
Milwich, 1913 [lane, fence, buildings]

Box 1 Folder 16
Nell of Milwich Hall [mending cloth]

Box 1 Folder 17
Nell Knight, 1912
First sketch of Milwich Hall, home of Sir John Knight and Mr. and Mr. Coupe from Smithy Hill

Box 1 Folder 18
Swithanly, 1910
Milwich, 1907

Box 1 Folder 19
Garden. Milwich Hall, 1913 [also at top: Milwich Hall, 1907, 1912-1913]
Milwich Hall, 1907 [chimney]
Milwich Hall, 1907 [side of house, roof]

Untitled, 1907 [side of house, grounds]

Box 1 Folder 20

Milwich Hall (north)

Untitled [hall, woman picking flowers; watercolor], 1912

Nell of Milwich, 1912

Milwich, window seat, 1912 [potted flower]

Untitled [hall, cart w/horse; corner torn]

Box 1 Folder 21

Head of Shakespeare, in garden at Milwich Hall, 1913

Untitled [girl sketching]

Box 2 Folder 1

Glossary of place names used in sketches and a map of Staffordshire, England

Box 2 Folder 2

Church, Roseville

Box 2 Folder 3

Lakeside

Box 2 Folder 4

Norbury Church, Ellaston in distance, 1905

Box 2 Folder 5

Gardening, Oct. 9, 1952

Box 2 Folder 6

Untitled [shrouded figures on steps]

Box 2 Folder 7

From Homestead Blvd., M.V. [Mill Valley], Sept. 17, 1951

Box 2 Folder 8

S. San Rafael

Untitled [landscape]

Cotton College, 1909

Box 2 Folder 9

Untitled [vase with blooming bulb flowers], Jan. 30, 1925

Untitled [distant house in landscape]

Untitled [barn]

Box 2 Folder 10

Sonoma

Untitled [landscape w/animals, grid lines]

Untitled [landscape w/animals]

Untitled [landscape]

Box 2 Folder 11

Untitled [landscape w/animals]

Untitled [landscape w/boy]

Untitled [rocks]
Untitled [animal crossing river]

Box 2 Folder 12
Afternoon
Near Bye
Untitled [figure in field]
Untitled [horses]

Box 2 Folder 13
Evening Light on the Hills, July 31, 1951
Untitled [mountain]

Box 2 Folder 14
Sonoma
Untitled [tree w/figures]
Untitled [hills]

Box 2 Folder 15
Sonoma Creek, evening
Sonoma, oaks
Untitled [swimming hole]
Sonoma
Untitled [landscape w/animal]

Box 2 Folder 16
Swynnerton
Weaver Hills
Swynnerton

Box 2 Folder 17
Untitled, 1910
Hilderstone, May, 1910.

Box 2 Folder 18
Swynnerton
Ellaston
Untitled [rooftop of barn]

Box 2 Folder 19
Alton, Aug. 31, 1900
Alton- Convent, 1900
Alton, 1908
Alton, 1910

Box 2 Folder 20
On Croxden, 1910
Cotton College (1887- 1893), 1909
Alton, 1910
Alton, 1910

Box 2 Folder 21
Wrekin Hills, 1906

Alton, 1910
Alton

B. Mill Valley Sketches, 1940-1952

Contains sketches of places in and around Solon's neighborhood of Mill Valley, California, in Marin Co., arranged in original order. 2 boxes.

Box 3 Folder 1
Mill Valley Sketches [cover sheet]

Box 3 Folder 2
S.F. From Alto [Marin County]

Box 3 Folder 3
Untitled [landscape and houses; conté crayon]

Box 3 Folder 4
A Glimpse of the Bay

Box 3 Folder 5
Untitled [child fishing; conté crayon]

Box 3 Folder 6
Untitled [farm]

Box 3 Folder 7
Untitled [landscape]

Box 3 Folder 8
Untitled [landscape; conté crayon]

Box 3 Folder 9
Untitled [people on woodland path; conté crayon]

Box 3 Folder 10
Untitled [child on tree stump; conté crayon]

Box 3 Folder 11
Untitled [squirrel in foreground; conté crayon]

Box 3 Folder 12
Untitled [figure on fallen log; conté crayon]

Box 3 Folder 13
Untitled [children and squirrel by tree stump]

Box 4 Folder 1
Bay Tree [2 sketches]

Box 4 Folder 2
At Corte Madera, Oct., 1940

Box 4 Folder 3
Mt. Diablo [sic] from Ethel Ave., Sept. 11, 1951

Box 4 Folder 4
Untitled [girl feeding ducks]

Box 4 Folder 5
From Corte Madera Road, June 12, 1951

Box 4 Folder 6
Sun Setting on the Quarry--Near Calif. City, June 14, 1951

Box 4 Folder 7
S.F. From Tiburon

Box 4 Folder 8
Tamalpais

Box 4 Folder 9
Untitled [girl on tree stump]

Box 4 Folder 10
Blythedale Grove, M.V. [Mill Valley], Aug. 1, 1951

Box 4 Folder 11
Tamalpais from Belvedere

Box 4 Folder 12
At the Beach, Dec., 1952

Box 4 Folder 13
Untitled [valley view]

Box 4 Folder 14
Watering the Cows, Dec., 1952

Box 4 Folder 15
Under the Old Oak Tree, Dec., 1952

Box 4 Folder 16
Tiburon Road, Jan. 17, 1952

Box 4 Folder 17
Belvedere, Oct. 28, 1951

Box 4 Folder 18
Untitled [figures at lakeshore; conté crayon]

Box 4 Folder 19
Tiburon, May 1950

Box 4 Folder 20
Yachting-Tiburon

Box 4 Folder 21
Belvedere [pencil and ink]
Untitled [figures on shore] [on verso]

Box 4 Folder 22
Walking

Box 4 Folder 23
Boating, Dec., 1952

Box 4 Folder 24
Going to Church, Nov., 1952

Box 4 Folder 25
Road Through the Hills

Box 4 Folder 26
Shoeing the Old Mare, Oct., 1952

C. California Sketches, 1949-1952

Contains many sketches of places in Marin Co.; also includes sketches of Isle of Man (England) and one sketch of Hearst's San Simeon estate, arranged in original order.
1 box.

Box 5 Folder 1
Belvedere Sketches by Camille Solon [cover sheet]

Box 5 Folder 2
Untitled [mountainscape; watercolor]

Box 5 Folder 3
Untitled [village w/oxen; watercolor]

Box 5 Folder 4
Tiburon, Apr. 3, 1949
Tiburon, Apr. 17, 1949
Untitled [tree]

Box 5 Folder 5
The Sleepy Hills, June 25

Box 5 Folder 6
Untitled [Golden Gate Bridge from Marin Co.] Apr. 12, 1949

Box 5 Folder 7
Untitled [hills, tree, house]

Box 5 Folder 8
La Cuesta Encantada, W. R. Hearst Ranch, Dec. 2, 1952

Box 5 Folder 9

The Afterglow

Box 5 Folder 10
Pastoral

Box 5 Folder 11
Laxey, I.O.M. [Island of Man], 1911; Oct. 25, 1952

Box 5 Folder 12
Drayton Manor, Oct. 1952

Box 5 Folder 13
The Castle on the Hill

Box 5 Folder 14
North Wales, Oct. 1952

Box 5 Folder 15
Untitled [bay scene]

Box 5 Folder 16
Alto [Marin County], Apr. 1949

Box 5 Folder 17
Lagoon, Belvedere, Jul. 1950

Box 5 Folder 18
The Creek, Aug. 10, 1951

Box 5 Folder 19
Untitled [bay scene w/figures]

Box 5 Folder 20
Corinthian Island

Box 5 Folder 21
The Terrace at "Highlands", 1951

Box 5 Folder 22
Ranching, Nov. 21

Box 5 Folder 23
Hiking and Fishing, Nov. 22, 1952

Box 5 Folder 24
California Farm, Oct. 13, 1951

Box 5 Folder 25
Untitled [bayside, boats and pier]

Box 5 Folder 26
Untitled [road w/cart]

Box 5 Folder 27
Evening [landscape in grid]

Box 5 Folder 28
Convict Ship Douglas, I.O.M. [Isle of Man], Oct. 1952

Box 5 Folder 29
From Corte Madera Road, June 1951

Box 5 Folder 30
Belvedere, Dec. 5, 1951

Box 5 Folder 31
Receding Tide

Box 5 Folder 32
Untitled [clouds over bay]

Box 5 Folder 33
Old Mill Grounds, July 9, 1951

D. Sketches and Inventory, 1952

Contains a handwritten inventory for Solon's sketches from 1952, with titles of each sketch and a number listed. The contents of this inventory do not match the holdings of this subseries. Several of the listed sketches appear to have been moved by Solon to some of the other subseries. 1 box.

Box 6 Folder 1
Inventory, 1952

Box 6 Folder 2
Woodland Scene

Box 6 Folder 3
Suggestion for Frame

Box 6 Folder 4
Peaceful Evening in Wales, Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 5
Showery Weather, Oct. 10, 1952

Box 6 Folder 6
Grazing, Nov. 18, 1952

Box 6 Folder 7
The Farmer & His Cows

Box 6 Folder 8
Cottagers, Oct. 4, 1952

Box 6 Folder 9

Dreamland, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 10
Harvesting, Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 11
Muir Beach, Sept. 25 1952

Box 6 Folder 12
Clam Digging, Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 13
The Ruined Mill, Pwllheli [Wales], Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 14
The Walls. Chester, Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 15
Gypsies. Deganwy, N.W. [North Wales], Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 16
Boats on the Conway, Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 17
The Abandoned Quarry, Oct. 1952

Box 6 Folder 18
The Cottage by the Lake, Nov. 1, 1952

Box 6 Folder 19
Hot Summer Day, Nov. 10, 1952

Box 6 Folder 20
Holiday Time, Nov. 2, 1952

Box 6 Folder 21
A Breezy Day at the Beach, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 22
Conway Castle-Moonlight, Nov. 2, 1952

Box 6 Folder 23
Waterfall and Rainbow Welsh Mountains, Nov. 3, 1952

Box 6 Folder 24
Milking, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 25
The Road Across the Common, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 26
Harvesting, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 27
Hi! Clouds Lo! City, Nov. 15, 1952

Box 6 Folder 28
Sunday Worship, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 29
The Little Shepherdess, Nov. 21

Box 6 Folder 30
Swimming, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 31
Sailing, Nov. 23, 1952

Box 6 Folder 32
Chill December, Nov. 1952

Box 6 Folder 33
Evening Across the Conway, Dec. 1, 1952

Box 6 Folder 34
Little Girl in Muir Woods, Dec. 1952

Box 6 Folder 35
The Disappearing Road, Dec. 1952

Box 6 Folder 36
Fishing, Oct. 1952