

**Finding aid to the
Clara Mason Fox botanical illustrations,
1893-2017, undated**

**California Botanic Garden
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Clara Mason Fox botanical illustrations

Dates: 1893-2017, undated

Collection Identifier: P.3

Creator: Fox, Clara Mason, 1873-1959

Extent: 0.79 linear feet (2 boxes)

Abstract: The collection contains 147 watercolor illustrations of California native plants by schoolteacher and artist Clara Mason Fox that were made in the Silverado Canyon area of Orange County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The collection also includes a small biographical file and publications by or about Fox.

Finding aid author: Rachel Poutasse

Languages: Collection material is in English.

Repository: California Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711; 909-625-8767; <https://www.calbg.org>.

Administrative Information

Access restrictions: The collection is open to research. Contact the repository for access.

Acquisition Information: The Clara Mason Fox botanical illustrations were acquired by the California Botanic Garden Herbarium (RSA-POM) at an unknown date and accessioned and filed as herbarium specimens. In 2010, the illustrations were rediscovered and transferred to the archives. Additional illustrations may still be located within the herbarium and so further accruals are possible.

Preferred Citation: Clara Mason Fox botanical illustrations, 1893-2017, P.3, California Botanic Garden, Claremont, California, 91711.

Publication rights: Copyright of the materials in this collection is held by California Botanic Garden. Consult the Librarian for details.

Processing Information: The collection was partially processed by Terry Givens in 2010 and continued by Irene Holiman and Eli Feldman in 2019. The finding aid was written by Rachel Poutasse in 2021.

Indexing Terms

Contributors

Fox, Clara Mason, 1873-1959

Subjects – Topics

Endemic plants--California

Santa Ana Mountains (Calif.)

Genres and Forms of Materials

Botanical illustrations

Watercolors (paintings)

Biographical Note

Clara Mason was born in 1873 in Jackson Township, Ohio. In 1887, she moved with her family to Orange County, California and settled in Silverado Canyon, where she worked as a schoolteacher. During this time, she created watercolor drawings of the flora of Silverado Canyon, as well as drawing landscapes, animals, and people.

She married George Fox in 1905 and eventually moved to El Toro (Lake Forest). In addition to her artwork, she published poetry and produced a history of El Toro. She died in Orange, California in 1959.

Sources:

Passero, Lorraine. *Clara Mason Fox: Pioneer, Painter, and Poet of Orange County, California*. Minneapolis: Mill City Press, 2013.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection contains 147 watercolor botanical illustrations of plants of Silverado Canyon and the surrounding area by Clara Mason Fox that were made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The illustrations were acquired by the California Botanic Garden Herbarium (RSA-POM) at an unknown date and each contains a RSA accession number. Most illustrations are undated. Some illustrations include detailed notes by Fox describing the identifying characteristics of the species, the common name, and a brief description of the locality. A small number of illustrations contain species annotations by other individuals.

The collection also includes two books by Fox, three publications about Fox by Lorraine Passero, and a file of correspondence and other biographical information on Fox that was compiled by California Botanic Garden staff.

Series I contains watercolor botanical illustrations by Fox of the flora of Silverado Canyon and other parts of Orange County.

Series II contains publications by or about Fox, as well as a file of biographical information and correspondence on Fox that was assembled after the rediscovery of her work in 2010.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series.

Series I. Botanical illustrations, 1893-1903, undated

Series II. Publications and biographical file, 1929-2017, undated

Container List

Series I. Botanical illustrations, 1893-1903, undated

Arrangement: The series is arranged by herbarium accession number.

- Box 1, Folder 1: **RSA35552, *Linanthus pharnaceoides*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 2: **RSA35553, *Pluchea sericea?*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 3: **RSA35554, *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* var. *crassifolia?*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 4: **RSA35555, *Rhamnus californica*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 5: **RSA35556, *Dicentra chrysantha*, 1893 October 29**
Box 1, Folder 6: **RSA35557, *Rhamnus crocea*, 1902 March 10**
Box 1, Folder 7: **RSA35558, *Ceanothus macrocarpus*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 8: **RSA35559, *Malacothamnus fasciculatus*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 9: **RSA35560, *Nemophila* sp., undated**
Box 1, Folder 10: **RSA35561, *Orthocarpus purpurascens* var. *pallidus*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 11: **RSA35563, *Clematis ligusticifolia*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 12: **RSA35564, *Cardamine californica*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 13: **RSA35565, *Lupinus truncatus*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 14: **RSA35566, *Lupinus densiflorus*, 1902 March 10**
Box 1, Folder 15: **RSA35567, *Lupinus succulentus*, 1902 March 10**
Box 1, Folder 16: **RSA35568, *Eschscholzia californica*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 17: **RSA35569, *Rosa californica*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 18: **RSA35571, *Rhus diversiloba*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 19: **RSA35572, *Paeonia californica*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 20: **RSA35573, *Ribes americanum*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 21: **RSA35575, *Orobanche bulbosa*, 1899 June 8**
Box 1, Folder 22: **RSA35576, *Orobanche fasciculata*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 23: **RSA35577, *Sarcodes sanguinea*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 24: **RSA35578, *Arenaria douglasii*, 1899 June 12**
Box 1, Folder 25: **RSA35579, *Allophyllum gilioides*, undated**
Scope and contents note: Species determination by Verne and Alva Grant, 1954.
Box 1, Folder 26: **RSA35580, *Godetia quadrivulnera*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 27: **RSA35581, *Gilia lutescens*, 1899 May 14**
Box 1, Folder 28: **RSA35582, *Allophyllum gilioides*, undated**
Scope and contents note: Species determination by Verne and Alva Grant, 1954.
Box 1, Folder 29: **RSA35583, *Gilia capitata* ssp. *abrontanifolia*, 1899 June 12**
Scope and contents note: Species determination by Verne and Alva Grant, 1958.
Box 1, Folder 30: **RSA35584, *Oenothera bistorta*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 31: **RSA35585, *Oenothera cheiranthifolia* var. *suffruticosa*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 32: **RSA35586, *Calochortus splendens*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 33: **RSA35587, *Mimulus longiflorus*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 34: **RSA35589, *Mimulus cardinalis*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 35: **RSA35590, *Mimulus brevipes*, 1899 June 5**
Box 1, Folder 36: **RSA35591, *Mimulus aurantiacus*, undated**
Box 1, Folder 37: **RSA35592, *Holodiscus discolor*, 1899 June 11**

- Box 1, Folder 38: **RSA35593, *Ribes roezlii*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 39: **RSA35594, *Ribes menziesii*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 40: **RSA35595, *Abronia umbellata*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 41: **RSA35596, *Prunus ilicifolia*, 1899 June 1**
- Box 1, Folder 42: **RSA35597, *Rubus ursinus*, 1899 May 24**
- Box 1, Folder 43: **RSA35598, *Fragaria californica*, 1899 June 12**
- Box 1, Folder 44: **RSA35599, *Meconopsis heterophylla*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 45: **RSA35600, *Platystemon californicus*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 46: **RSA35601, *Argemone munita ssp. munita*, undated**
 Scope and contents note: Species determination by Gerald B. Ownbey, 1956.
- Box 1, Folder 47: **RSA35602, *Platystigma denticulatum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 48: **RSA35603, *Ribes glutinosum*, 1902 March 8**
- Box 1, Folder 49: **RSA35604, *Lupinus sp.*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 50: **RSA35605, *Lupinus hirsutissimus*, 1894 March 11**
- Box 1, Folder 51: **RSA35606, *Dalea californica*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 52: **RSA35608, *Melilotus officinalis*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 53: **RSA35609, *Lotus maritimus*, 1899 May 30**
- Box 1, Folder 54: **RSA35610, *Vicia exigua*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 55: **RSA35611, *Lathyrus vestitus*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 56: **RSA35612, *Trifolium variegatum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 57: **RSA35613, *Trifolium tridentatum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 58: **RSA35614, *Amorpha californica*, 1899 May 31**
- Box 1, Folder 59: **RSA35615, *Trifolium albopurpureum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 60: **RSA35616, *Cirsium californicum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 61: **RSA35617, *Salvia apiana*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 62: **RSA35618, *Trichostema lanceolatum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 63: **RSA35619, *Trichostema lanatum*, 1899 May 26**
- Box 1, Folder 64: **RSA35620, *Salvia columbariae*, 1902 March 10**
- Box 1, Folder 65: **RSA35621, *Phacelia parryi*, 1899 May 30**
- Box 1, Folder 66: **RSA35622, *Phacelia sp.*, 1899 June 12**
- Box 1, Folder 67: **RSA35623, *Emmenanthe penduliflora*, 1899 June 13**
- Box 1, Folder 68: **RSA35624, *Phacelia circinata*, 1899 June 12**
- Box 1, Folder 69: **RSA35625, *Amsinckia sp.*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 70: **RSA35626, *Eriodictyon tomentosum*, 1899 June 7**
- Box 1, Folder 71: **RSA35627, *Phacelia brachyloba*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 72: **RSA35628, *Phacelia distans*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 73: **RSA35629, *Phacelia hispida*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 74: **RSA35630, *Dendromecon rigidum*, 1899 June 12**
- Box 1, Folder 75: **RSA35631, *Lupinus micranthus?*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 76: **RSA35632, *Lupinus succulentus*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 77: **RSA35633, *Isomeris arborea*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 78: **RSA35634, *Brassica campestris*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 79: **RSA35635, *Camissonia confusa*, undated**
 Scope and contents note: Species determination by Peter Raven, 1965-1966.
- Box 1, Folder 80: **RSA35636, *Fritillaria biflora*, 1895 March 17**
- Box 1, Folder 81: **RSA35637, *Bloomeria aurea*, 1899 May 23**

Box 1, Folder 82: **RSA35638, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 83: **RSA35639, *Dichelostemma capitatum ssp. capitatum*, undated**
 Scope and contents note: Species determination by J. Chris Pires, 2005

Box 1, Folder 84: **RSA35640, *Calochortus albus*, 1899 May 31**

Box 1, Folder 85: **RSA35641, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 86: **RSA35642, *Symphoricarpos mollis*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 87: **RSA35643, *Sonchus oleraceus*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 88: **RSA35644, *Chenopodium murale*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 89: **RSA35645, *Convolvulus occidentalis*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 90: **RSA35646, *Umbellularia californica*, 1902 March 6**

Box 1, Folder 91: **RSA35647, *Phoradendron macrophyllum*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 92: **RSA35648, *Nicotiana glauca*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 93: **RSA35649, *Xanthium sp.*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 94: **RSA35650, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 95: **RSA35651, *Chorizanthe staticoides*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 96: **RSA35652, *Eriogonum gracile*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 97: **RSA35653, *Eriogonum elongatum*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 98: **RSA35654, *Solanum nigrum*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 99: **RSA35656, *Sisyrinchium bellum*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 100: **RSA35657, *Dodecatheon clevelandii*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 101: **RSA35658, *Pterostegia drymarioides*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 102: **RSA35659, *Erodium cicutarium*, 1899 May 27**

Box 1, Folder 103: **RSA35660, *Erodium moschatum*, 1899 May 27**

Box 1, Folder 104: **RSA35661, *Geranium carolinianum*, 1899 May 28**

Box 1, Folder 105: **RSA35662, *Castilleja foliolosa*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 106: **RSA35663, *Castilleja foliolosa*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 107: **RSA35664, *Castilleja stenantha*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 108: **RSA35665, *Jepsonia parryi*, 1901 November 18**

Box 1, Folder 109: **RSA35666, *Silene gallica*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 110: **RSA35667, *Lithophragma affinis*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 111: **RSA35668, *Nemophila aurita*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 112: **RSA35669, *Stachys ajugoides*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 113: **RSA35670, *Chaenactis sp.*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 114: **RSA35672, *Verbena lastiostachys ssp. lasiostachys*, undated**
 Scope and contents note: Species determination by Susan C. Barber, 1980.

Box 1, Folder 115: **RSA35673, *Calycadenia tenella*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 116: **RSA35674, *Zauschneria californica*, 1901 November**

Box 1, Folder 117: **RSA35675, *Scrophularia californica*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 118: **RSA35676, *Collinsia heterophylla*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 119: **RSA35677, *Collinsia heterophylla*, 1903 May 6**

Box 1, Folder 120: **RSA35678, *Polygala cornuta var. fishiae*, 1899 June 1**

Box 1, Folder 121: **RSA35679, *Solidago californica*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 122: **RSA35680, *Hemizonia pungens*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 123: **RSA35681, *Erigeron foliosus*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 124: **RSA35682, *Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. trifidum*, undated**

Box 1, Folder 125: **RSA35683, *Ericameria parishii*, undated**

- Box 1, Folder 126: **RSA35684, *Helianthus sp.*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 127: **RSA35685, *Croton californicus*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 128: **RSA35686, *Ceanothus spinosus*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 129: **RSA35687, *Nicotiana attenuata*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 130: **RSA35688, *Dudleya blochmaniae*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 131: **RSA35689, *Piperia unalascensis*, 1899 June 12**
- Box 1, Folder 132: **RSA35690, *Silene laciniata*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 133: **RSA35691, *Antirrhinum kelloggii*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 134: **RSA35692, *Delphinium parryi*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 135: **RSA35693, *Penstemon antirrhinoides ssp. antirrhinoides*, undated**
 Scope and contents note: Species determination by F. S. Crosswhite, 1969.
- Box 1, Folder 136: **RSA35694, *Penstemon heterophyllus ssp. australis*, 1899 May 23**
 Scope and contents note: Species determination by F. S. Crosswhite, 1969.
- Box 1, Folder 137: **RSA35695, *Antirrhinum coulterianum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 138: **RSA35696, *Antirrhinum nuttallianum*, 1899 June 5**
- Box 1, Folder 139: **RSA35697, *Collinsia sparsiflora*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 140: **RSA35698, *Godetia viminea?*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 141: **RSA35699, *Anagallis arvensis*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 142: **RSA35700, *Calochortus sp.*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 143: **RSA35701, *Alnus rhombifolia*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 144: **RSA35702, *Marah macrocarpa*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 145: **RSA35703, *Leptodactylon californicum*, undated**
- Box 1, Folder 146: **RSA35704, *Penstemon cordifolius*, undated**
 Scope and contents note: Species determination by F. S. Crosswhite, 1969.
- Box 1, Folder 147: **RSA35705, *Lonicera subspicata var. johnstonii*, undated**

Series II. Publications and biographical file, 1929-2017, undated

- Box 2, Folder 1: **Biographical file, 2011, undated**
 Scope and contents note: contains correspondence between garden staff and Lorraine Passero, a timeline of Fox's life, and photocopies of Fox's poetry.
- Box 2: ***In Pleasant Places, Clara Mason Fox, 1929***
- Box 2: ***A History of El Toro, Clara Mason Fox, 1939***
- Box 2: ***Clara Mason Fox: Pioneer, Painter, and Poet of Orange County, California: Coloring Book*, edited by Lorraine Passero, 2013**
- Box 2: ***Clara Mason Fox: Laguna Beach Artist of the 1890s: A Coloring Book for Kids & Adults*, Lorraine Passero, 2016**
 Scope and contents note: Two copies.
- Box 2: ***Distant Indigo: Clara Mason Fox: Pioneer, Painter, and Poet of Orange County, California*, Lorraine Passero, 2017**