THE ARMAND H. GRIFFITH RECORDS 1883-1913 (1890-1913) 21 linear feet

*GRI 1-42 Accessioned in 1978 Completed in June 1984 By Marilyn Ghausi

The records of Armand H. Griffith were recovered from the South Loft of the main building in 1978. Additional papers were transferred from the F.W. Robinson papers in 1980 and the Clyde H. Burroughs Records in 1983 and 1984.

HISTORY

Armand H. Griffith (1860-1930) directed the Detroit Museum of Art from 1891 to 1913. He was the second director of the museum. Born in Kingston, Indiana, Griffith received his education in Ohio and studied painting in Dusseldorf, Germany. Before coming to Detroit, he worked at a variety of occupations including acting, photography and sign painting. His association with the museum began in 1890 when he served as secretary to the Board of Trustees. He became Acting Director in 1891 and Director in 1893.

As director, Griffith excelled in popularizing the museum among the citizens and political leadership in Detroit thereby establishing an environment in which museum funding could be stabilized. He achieved this partly through active involvement in civic projects, by cultivating the press and by initiating an immensely popular free lecture series on Sunday afternoons at the museum. His efforts were rewarded in 1893 when the City of Detroit began an unprecedented series of appropriations to the museum. The legal questions raised by the use of public funds for the privately incorporated museum became an issue in 1904 when a city bond issue of \$50,000 was tested in the courts and decided in favor of the museum. Under Griffith's direction, The Picture Fund, a popular subscription fund for the acquisition of works of art by American artists was initiated and major additions and galleries were completed. At the same time, the museum's art school was closed in 1899 due to insufficient funding.

Griffith was active in variety of local associations including the Masons, the Detroit Salmagundi Club and local bicycle clubs. In 1913, amid controversy and disagreements with the Board of Trustees, he resigned. He lived the remainder of his life in semi-retirement in Santa Barbara, California.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

These records are primarily administrative, correspondence and curatorial files of the director Armand H. Griffith.

In addition to correspondence, the files contain minutes, typescripts of lectures, drafts, receipts, clippings, printed matter and other materials reflecting the broad range of professional and public activities in which he engaged over twenty-two years. The records document virtually every aspect of the museum's daily operation; ranging from the organization of exhibitions to building maintenance.

Earlier records found with Griffiths' relate to the Art Loan exhibition of 1883, the incorporation of the museum and its early operation by the Board of Trustees; the brief tenure of the first director, John Ward Dunsmore.

An extensive series of exhibition records dating from the late 19c, records of the Art School which was discontinued in 1899 and records relating to the design and construction of the original museum building, are of particular value to researchers.

Important subjects:

Art education in Detroit
Art patronage in Detroit
City of Detroit memorials
Detroit art clubs
Detroit and Michigan artists exhibitions
World's fairs and festivals

An index to additional subjects will be found at the end of this guide,

Important correspondents:

Freer, Charles L. (collector)
Hassam, Childe (artist)
Sage, Cornelia (art museum director)
Scripps, James E. (newspaper publisher
Stearns, Frederick J. (collector)

An index to key correspondents will be found at the end of this guide.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I, Founding and Early History of the Detroit Museum of Art, 1882-1891. Box *GRI 1-4

Subseries A, Detroit Art Loan Exhibition, 1882-1885: Minutes of the Detroit Art Loan Association. Correspondence dealing with seminal exhibition which led to the founding of the museum.

Subseries B, Incorporation and Organization, 1883-1891 (1883-1887): Material generated by the museum's founders and trustees relating to incorporation, early fundraising, the Art School and other subjects. Some material from the first director John W. Dunsmore.

Subseries C, Design and Construction of the Detroit Museum of Art, 1886-1889: Extensive correspondence regarding the acquisition of property and selection of James Balfour as architect of the first museum building. Includes critiques of designs for the museum building.

Series II. Administrative Records, 1890-1913. Box *GRI 5-29

Subseries A, Correspondence, 1890-1913: Incoming and Outgoing correspondence with individuals, associations and other museums. Also correspondence relating to general museum operations, special projects and events.

Subseries B, Art School, 1890-1898: Materials relating to the operation of the art school, faculty and students. Reports of notes of meetings and other materials relating to the closing of the Art School in 1899.

Subseries C, Board of Trustees and Incorporators Meetings 1889-1913: Reports of officers, drafts of minutes and other back-up materials for meetings.

Subseries D, Building Additions and Renovations, 1893-1906: Extensive correspondence with architects and building contractors regarding major additions to the building and refurbishing of galleries. Material on the dedication of the auditorium, repair and maintenance.

Subseries E, City of Detroit, 1892-1909: Primarily material relating to city appropriations and funding of capital projects.

Subseries F, Finances, 1894-1910: Miscellaneous financial documents including payroll, expense accounts, cancelled checks and vouchers.

Subseries G, Lectures, 1892-1913: Typescripts of lectures by director Armand H. Griffith on general art topics. Also correspondence with outside lecturers. Some programs.

Subseries H, Loans, 1892-1914: Correspondence with artists, collectors and others regarding loans. Includes inventories of loaned items, receipts and routine shipping instructions.

SERIES DESCRIPTION (CON'T)

Series III, Exhibitions, 1886-1913. Box *GRI 30-42

Subseries A, General and Special Exhibitions, 1886-1913: Extensive correspondence both incoming and outgoing. Working notes, printed matter and other materials regarding development of exhibitions both proposed and actual. Some catalogues.

Subseries B, Annual Exhibitions, 1897-1913: Materials similar to the above, regarding annual exhibitions of Western Artists, American Artists, Michigan Artists (Hopkin Club) and others.

DESCRIPTION OF AUDIO-VISUAL AND SPECIAL RECORDS

Photographs were accessioned as follows:

AVP 263.01-.55 AVP 263.56 (photo album) AVP 266.01

Memorabilia was accessioned as follows:

AVX 59:7.01-.05

CONTAINER LISTING

Series I: Founding and Early History of the Detroit Museum of Art, 1882-1891

Subseries A: Detroit Art Loan Exhibition, 1882-1885

GRI 1

- 1. Detroit Art Loan Association; minutes, Apr-May 1883
- 2. Detroit Art Loan Association; minutes, Aug 1883
- 3. Detroit Art Loan Association; miscellaneous letters of resignation, 1883
- 4. Detroit Art Loan Association, 1885
- 5. Detroit Art Loan Building, 1883-1884
- 6. Detroit Art Loan Exhibition; correspondence, 1882
- 7. Detroit Art Loan Exhibition; correspondence, June-Aug 1883
- 8. Detroit Art Loan Exhibition; correspondence, Sep-Nov 1883
- 9. Detroit Art Loan Exhibition; correspondence, 1884
- 10. Detroit Art Loan Exhibition; miscellaneous receipts and vouchers, 1883-1884
- 11. Detroit Art Loan Exhibition; printed matter (catalogue), 1883

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Subseries B: Incorporation and Organization, 1883-1891 (1883-1887)

- 1-7. Annual Meetings, May 1886-May 1889
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 - 9. Art School; finances, 1889-1890
 - 10. Avery, Clara; correspondence, 1888-1890
- 11. Board of Trustees; miscellaneous letters of resignation, 1885
- 12. Board of Trustees; resolutions, 1885
- 13. Board of Trustees, 1886
- 14. Board of Trustees, Jun 1, 1889
- 15. Board of Trustees, Jul 20, 1889
- 16. Board of Trustees, Nov 25, 1889
- 17. Brearley, William H.; correspondence, 1885-1886
- 18. By-laws; drafts, 1885
- 19. Committee on Exhibitions and Collections; report on Opening Exhibition, 1885
- 20. Committee on Exhibition and Collections, Oct 16, 1889

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1. Dunsmore, John Ward; correspondence, Feb 1890

- 2. Dunsmore, John Ward; letter of resignation, Mar 1890
- 3. Dunsmore, John Ward; report to corporators, May 1890

4. Endowment fund proposal, 1887

5-6. \$40,000 Fund; letters of subscription, 1883-1884

7. \$100,000 Fund: circular letters, 1885

8. \$100,000 Fund; lists of subscribers, N.D.

9. \$100,000 Fund; resolutions, 1885

- 10. Legislative act: A Bill for the Formation of Corporations for the Cultivation of Art; drafts, May 8, 1884
- 11. Legislative act; correspondence and miscellaneous, 1885

12. Nast, Thomas; correspondence, 1884-1885

- 13. Nast, Thomas; notes regarding performance, n.d.
- 14. Seal of Detroit Museum of Art; correspondence and sketches, 1885, 1891
- 15. Special Committee [Temporary Executive Committee]; report, Jul 3, 1885
- 16. Special Committee on Permanent Organization; resolution establishing committee, Jun 8, 1884
- 17. Special Committee on Permanent Organization; minutes, Nov 9, 1884

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Subseries C: Design and Construction of the Detroit Museum of Art, 1886-1889

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 - 9. Building Sites; Cass Park, May 15, 1886
- 10-11. Building Sites; miscellaneous correspondence, 1884-1887
- 12-14. Dawson and Anderson; correspondence, 1887-1889
 - 15. Dawson and Anderson; financial statements, 1889
 - 16. Design Competition; notices, 1886
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- 19-20. Design Competition; evaluations, 1886-1887

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- 11. Stokes, Mrs. A.P., 1895, 1900
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- 13. Twarock, H.A., 1900; 1902
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- 20. Wetzstein, M., 1905-1909
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- 2. Opening Exhibition, 1888
- 3-4. Columbus' First Sight of Land by Herman Bruecke, 1891
 - 5. Paintings by Henry Mosler, Feb 1899
 - 6. Ceramics exhibition by Detroit Keramics Club, Rookwood & Biloxi potteries, Apr 1899
- 7-8. Paintings in Oil & Watercolor by Sidney K. Hartman, May 1899
 - 9. Landscapes by Alexis J. Fournier, May-Jun 1899
- 10. Drawings by Willism H. Low, Aug 1899
- 11. 100 Paintings & Sketches by Charles C. Svendsen, Oct 1899
- 12-13. Paintings by F.W. Stokes, artist member of the Preary & Greenland Expeditions, Oct-Nov 1899
 - 14. Watercolor Paintings and Sketches by Japanese Artists, Hiroshi Yashida & Hachiro Nakagawa, Nov 1899

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 30 (continued)

- 15. Portraits in Oil & Pastels, Paintings & Drawings by Julius Rolshoven, Nov 1899
- 16. Seventeen Paintings by Joseph Jefferson, Nov 1899
- 17. Eighteen Paintings by Jules Guerin, Dec 1899
- 18. Newspaper Drawings by Frederick Richardson (Lawton Collection), Dec 1899
- 19-20. Statuary & Casts from the Omaha Exposition (proposed exhibition), 1899

Series III: (continued)

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 31

- 1. Fournier collection (St. Louis Museum of Art, Cincinnati Museum), 1900
- 2. Hugo Wagner (proposed exhibition), 1900
- 3-4. Twenty-five Paintings by G. Glenn Newell, Jan-Feb 1900
- 5-6. Oil Paintings, Watercolor & Sketches by Addison T. Millar, Feb 1900
 - 7. Original Pastel Drawings by Howard Chandler Christy, Feb 1900
- 8-11. Oils, Watercolors & Pastels by Eric Pape, Feb-Apr 1900
- 12-13. First Annual Exhibition of Detroit Architectural Club, Apr-May 1900
 - 14. Paintings & Drawings by Albert Fleury, Nov 1900
- 15-16. Paintings of Country Children by A.E. Albright, Dec 1900
- 17-18. Paintings, Monotypes & Etchings by Augustus Kooperman, Dec 1900
 - 19. Indian Portraits by J.H. Sharp, Dec-Jan 1901
 - 20. Baron von Spanje (proposed exhibition), 1901
 - 21. Paintings by Verestchagen, (proposed exhibition), 1901

Series III: (continued)

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 32

1. Paintings in oil by Jeanette Guysi, Feb 1901

2-3. Original Drawings loaned by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, Mar-Apr 1901

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 32 (continued)

- 4. Paintings by Marie Gredier, Mar-Apr 1901
- 5. Paintings by Mary Dunlap, Mar-Apr 1901
- 6. Paintings by Robert Hopkins, May 1901
- 7-8. Reproductions from Berlin Photographic Co., Aug 1901
- 9-10. Sketches & Paintings by Al Humphreys, Oct-Nov 1901
 - 11. Watercolors & Monotypes by Maurice B. Prendergast, Oct-Nov 1901
 - 12. Oil Paintings of Children By A.E. Albright, Dec 1901
 - 13. Paintings in Oil & Watercolors by Matthias Alten, Dec 1901
 - 14. Japanese Prints, Freer & Shirayamadani collection, Dec 1901
 - 15. Oil Paintings & Watercolors by Charles Walter Stetson, Jan 1902
 - 16. One hundred Original Drawings by Scribners Magazine, 1901-1902
 - 17. Paintings by Myron G. Barlow, Jan 1902
 - 18. Marie M. Solari collection, Jun 1902
 - 19. First Summer Loan, Frederick K. Stearns Collection of Oils & Watercolors, Aug 1902
 - 20. Paintings by Alexis J. Fournier, Nov 1902
 - 21. Paintings by Bradford Johnson, Nov 1902

Series III: (continued)

Subseries A: (continued)

- 1. Pictures & Original Designs for Mural Paintings by Will H. Low, Dec 1902
- 2. Paintings by Francis P. Paulus, Dec 1902-Jan 1903
- 3. Jean Emile van Cauwelaert (proposed exhibition), 1902
- 4. Nahl Collection (proposed exhibition), 1902
- 5. Jessie A. Schley (proposed exhibition), 1902
- 6. Henry B. Snell (proposed exhibition), 1902
- 7. Oil Paintings & Watercolors by John A. Fraser, Jan 1903
- 8. Oils, Watercolors & Pencil Sketches by Al Humphreys,
- 9-11. Paintings by Hendrik W. Mesdag, Jan-Feb 1903
 - 12. Oil Paintings by Charles Chamberlain, Jan-Feb 1903
 - 13. Hypatia Club, Feb 1903
 - 14. Paintings by F.H. Richardson, Feb 1903
 - 15. Drawings by E.T. Hurley, Feb-Mar 1903

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 33 (continued)

- 16. Second Annual Exhibition of the Society of American Illustrators, Mar-Apr 1903
- 17. Oil Paintings by W. Townley Benson, Apr 1903
- Japanese Prints & Paintings, Kobayashi Collection, Apr-May 1903
- 19. Second Winter Exhibition of Landscapes by Birge Harrison,
 Dec 1903
- 20. Japanese Watercolors by Hachiro Nakagawa, Nov-Dec 1903
- 21-22. International Society of Sculptors, Painters & Gravers (proposed exhibition), 1903

Series III: (continued)

Subseries A: (continued)

- 1. Paintings by A.E. Albright, Jan 1904
- 2. Watercolor Paintings by Frank Edward Johnson, Feb 1904
- 3. Paintings of Venice by Oliver Dennett Grover, Feb 1904
- 4. Watercolor Paintings by H. Nakagawa, Nov-Dec 1904
- 5-8. Arts & Crafts, Dec 1904
 - 9. Society of Illustrators (proposed exhibition), 1904
- 10. Seventy-five Paintings by Ten American Artists, Dec 1904-Jan 1905
- 11-12. Six Medal Paintings from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, Ambrose Petry Collection, Jan-Apr 1905
 - 13. Dutch Master Paintings from the Ralph H. Booth Collection, Mar 1905
- 14-15. Paintings from the E. Chandler Walker Collection, Mar 1905
 - 16. Second Annual Exhibition of Applied Arts, Nov-Dec 1905
 - 17. Jessie A. Schley (proposed exhibition), 1905
 - 18. Paintings by Frank W. Stokes, Feb-Mar 1906
 - 19. The Conception of Christ by Ten American Artists, Nov 1906
- 20-21. Ten American Painters, Dec 1906

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 35

1. Paintings by Charles Caryl Coleman, May 1907

- 2-5. Paintings & Sculpture by Six American Artists, Oct 19076. Loan Collection of Paintings by Robert Hopkin, Nov 1907
 - 7. Watercolor Illustrations of the Old Testament by J. James Tissot, Apr 1908
 - 8. Aquarelles by Maurice Boutet de Monvel on Life of Jeanne D'Arc, June-Jul 1908
 - 9. Paintings by Oliver N. Chaffee, Jr., Nov-Dec 1908
 - 10. Paintings by Eight American Artists, Dec 1908
 - 11. Modern Dutch Painting (proposed exhibition), 1908
- 12-15. Marine Painting of The Great Lakes (Permanent Loan), 1909
 - 16. Illustrations & Drawings by J.H. Gardner % Mar-Apr 1909
 - 17. Thumb Box Studies & Other Paintings by L.C. Earle, Apr 1909
 - 18. Architectural Exhibition, Detroit Architectural Club & Society of Arts & Crafts, May 1909
 - Catalog of the D.M. Ferry Collection of Paintings, May 1909
 - 20. Paintings by Edward W. Redfield, Jul-Aug 1909
 - 21. Paintings by Frank Reaugh & Charles Peter Bock "Texas Group", Sep 1909
 - 22. Arthur Studd (proposed exhibition), 1909

Series III: (continued)

Subseries A: (continued)

- 1. Paintings & Sketches in Oil by Irving R. Bacon, Oct 1909
- 2-3. Paintings by Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts and the Chicago Watercolor Club, Nov-Dec 1909
- 4-5. Paintings by Henry Golden Dearth, Jan-Feb 1910
 - 6. Paintings by Herbert W. Faulkner, Feb 1910
 - 7. Wood Engraving by Henry Wolf, Mar-Apr 1910
 - 8. Paintings by H.H. Gallison, Apr-May 1910
- 9-13. Opening Exhibition, Memorail Hall, Ann Arbor, May 1910
 - 14. Paintings by Samantha L. Huntley, Oct-Nov 1910
- 15-20. Paintings by M.J. IWill, Nov 1910
 - 21. Paintings by Birge Harrison, Nov 1910

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 37

- 1. Paintings in Oil & Pastel by Francis P. Paulus, Dec 1910
- 2. Paintings by Jules Guerin, Dec 1910
- 3-4. Etchings by the Chicago Society of Illustrators, Dec 1910
 - 5. Original Etchings & Drawings by Lester G. Hornby, Jan-Feb 1911
 - 6. Paintings by Alexis Jean Fournier, Jan-Feb 1911

7. Seventh Annual Photographic Salon, Feb 1911

- 8-10. Circuit Exhibition of Contemporary Art of the National Arts Club, Feb-Mar 1911
 - 11. Paintings by Hermann Dudley Murphy, Vincent Tack and William Baxter Closson, Feb-Mar 1911
- 12-14. Paintings by Childe Hassam, Apr 1911

15. Detroit Architectural Club, Apr 1911

- 16-17. Paintings by L.E. Van Gorder & Thomas Shrewsbury Parkhurst, Apr-May 1911
- 18-19. Paintings by Willard L. Metcalf, may 1911
 - 20. Paintings by A.T. Millar and Ashe, Bronzes by S.H. Borglum, 1911
 - 21. Seventh Annual Exhibition of Paintings by the Detroit Society of Women Painters, May 1911

Series III: (continued)

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 38

- 1-2. Paintings by Charles P. Gruppe, Jul 1911
- 3-4. Paintings by Alexander Robinson, Oct 1911
- 5-6. Decorative Works by Will H. Low, Nov-Dec 1911

7. Paintings by Samantha Huntley, Dec 1911

- 8. Paintings by Augustus Koopman (proposed exhibition), 1911
- 9. Paintings of Tunis, North Africa & Central Italy by Julius Rolshoven, Jan 1912
- 10. Paintings of the Grand Canyon of Arizona by American Artists, Jan-Feb 1912
- 11. Paintings by Oliver Dennett Grover, Feb-Mar 1912
- 12-13. Paintings by Charles Morris Young, Mar 1912
 - 14. Original Pen & Ink Drawings of Orsen Lowell, Apr 1912
 - 15. Paintings by Joseph Linden Smith, May 1912
 - 16. Paintings and Studies by Ferruccio Scattola and Gennaro Favai, Jun-Jul 1912

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 38:

- 17. Paintings by Philip Little, Oct 1912
- 18. Childe Hassam (propsed exhibition), 1912
- 19. Paintings by W. Elmer Schofield (proposed exhibition), 1912
- 20-21. Bronzes by Prince Paul Troubetskoy (proposed exhibition), 1912
- 22-23. Paintings by George Bellows, Jan 1913

Series III: (continued)

Subseries A: (continued)

GRI 39

- 1-2. Loan Exhibition of Pictures owned in Detroit, Feb 1913
- 3-4. Paintings by Robert Reid, Feb 1913
- 5-6. Paintings by Charles H. Woodbury, Mar 1913
 - 7. Etchings and Lithographs by Joseph Pennell, Mar 1913
- 8-10. Paintings by Frederick Carl Frieseke & Leonard Ochtman, Mar-Apr 1913
- 11-13. Summer Exhibition of Contemporary Art, 1913
 - 14. Second Annual Exhibition of the Detroit School of Design,
 June 1913
- 15-17. Memorial Exhibition of Paintings by Charles Walter Stetson, Sep-Oct 1913
- 18-20. Paintings by George Inness & A.H. Wyant from the George H. Anslie Collection, Nov 1913
 - 21. Paintings by Lois Wilcox, Nov 1913
 - 22. Woodcuts, Etchings & Lithographs by Emil Richter, (proposed exhibition), 1913

Series III: (continued)

Subseries B: Annual Exhibitions, 1897-1913: American Artists,
American Watercolor Society

- 1-9. First Annual Exhibition of paintings by American Artists, (Purchase Fund Exhibition), Jan-Feb 1906
- 10-11. Annual Exhibition of American Watercolor Society, Jun 1905
- 12-13. Selected Watercolors by American Artists, (American Watercolor Society), Dec 1906

(continued) Series III:

Subseries B: (continued)

> GRI 40: (continued)

> > Third Annual Exhibition of Watercolors by American Artists,

(American Watercolor Society), Mar 1908 Fifth Annual Exhibition of Watercolors, (American Watercolor 15-18. Society), Mar-Apr 1910

19-21. Sixth Annual Exhibition of Watercolors by American Artists, (American Watercolor Society), Mar 1911

Series III: (continued)

Subseries B: Annual Exhibitions, 1897-1913: American Watercolor Society: Hopkin Club Painters

GRI 41

1-6. Sixth Annual Exhibition of Watercolors by American Artists, (American Watercolor Society), Mar 1911

Miscellaneous Catalogues; Watercolors by American Artists exhibitions, 1911, 1912

First Annual Exhibition by the Hopkin Club Painters, (Michigan Artists), Dec 1912

Second Annual Exhibition by the Hopkin Club Painters 9-18. (Michigan Artists), Dec 1912

Third Annual Exhibition of the Hopkin Club Painters, 19-22. (Michigan Artists), 1913

Series III: (continued)

Subseries B: Annual Exhibitions, 1897-1913: Western Artists

- Second Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists. Dec 1897-Jan 1898
- Fourth Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists, 2-3. Dec 1899-1900
 - Fifth Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists, Feb 1901
- 5-7. Sixth Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists. Feb 1902
- Seventh Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists, 8-12. Apr 1903
 - Tenth Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists, 13. Jan 1906 (proposed exhibition)

Subseries B: (continued)

GRI 42 (continued)

14-19. Fourteenth Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists, May-Jun 1910

20-22. Sixteenth Annual Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists, Jan 1912

23. Miscellaneous Catalogues; Western Artists Exhibition, 1902-1903, 1909-1911

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