

Herbert Heron Collection

Collection Summary:

<u>Collection Title:</u>	Herbert Heron Collection
<u>Collection Number:</u>	H47
<u>Creator:</u>	Herbert Heron
<u>Extent:</u>	56 Boxes, 1 CP Folder (Box X)
<u>Span Dates:</u>	1890's – 1960's
<u>Repository:</u>	Henry Meade Williams Local History Room
<u>Physical Location:</u>	Vault: CP, MS, PH, ER, SB
<u>Donor:</u>	
<u>Related Collections:</u>	F67 – Forest Theater Collection

Biographical Description:

Herbert Heron came to Carmel in 1908. He had worked extensively on the stage in Los Angeles and came from a background of writers and dramatists. On a visit from Los Angeles, Heron fell in love with the village by the sea. He soon settled in Carmel, bringing with him his young bride Opal Heron, the daughter of a Polish Count.

Twice the mayor of Carmel, Heron is probably best known for founding the Forest Theater. In 1910, the Herons found a concave hillside looking out, surrounded by oaks and pines, and thought it would be an ideal space for an outdoor theater. Heron's idea was to stage plays by Carmel authors starring local residents – a true community theater. He approached Frank Devendorf, co-founder of the Carmel Development Company, and asked about purchasing the plot for such a purpose. Devendorf, wanting to attract artistic spirits and "brain workers" to the nascent village, i.e. teachers, librarians, etc., agreed and let Heron have the space rent-free.

By February 1910, construction began on the theater. It was a simple plan: a wooden proscenium stage with a scrim of pines and plain wooden benches. Meanwhile, Heron was busy organizing the first production with the help of the newly-minted Forest Theater Society.

The first theatrical production, *David*, a biblical drama by Constance Lindsay Skinner, inaugurated the Forest Theater on July 9, 1910. Reviewed in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, it was reported that over 1,000 theatergoers attended the production^[5] There was no electricity at the theater – calcium floodlights were brought by covered wagon from Monterey to light the stage.^[6] Two bonfires were also lit

on opposite ends of the proscenium, a tradition which continues today. By all accounts, the performance was considered a success and the packed house helped to solidify the role of theater in Carmel. Heron opened the city's first book store in 1918 and maintained lifelong friendships with Carmel's literary luminaries, such as George Sterling, Mary Austin, and Jack London.

In 1960, Herbert Heron finished his 50th year with the Forest Theater with his own play, *Pharaoh*. By 1963 the theater had shown over 140 plays, including 64 premieres and dramatizations by California authors. Numbered among these productions were those by Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, Greek tragedies, local history, children's plays, light operas and musical comedies. One production even featured real horses on stage! Following a brief illness Herbert Heron died on January 8, 1968, at the age of 84.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains

Administrative Information:

Access: Materials are open for research.

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Preferred Citation: Herbert Heron Collection, Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel, CA

Inventory:

Manuscripts

- MS Box #1: Folders 1-2: Eunice Gray: "Cross Trails and Chaparral"
Folder 3: Jack London: Manuscript
Folder 4: Jack London: Articles, other writings about him
Folder 5: George Sterling: Manuscripts
Folder 6: George Sterling: Poems, other writings about him
- MS Box #2: "Rem" Remson: "Inchling"
- MS Box #3 (All works by Herbert Heron):
Folder 1: Non-fiction: "Who Wrote Peter Pan?"
Folder 2-3: Short Stories
Folder 4: Poetry
- MS Box #4 (All works by Herbert Heron)
Folder 1: "Falstaff"
Folder 2: "Farewell Concert"
Folder 3: "Immortal Fame"
Folder 4: "The Lady of Gray Gables"
Folder 5: with Constance Skinner: "Love-Liars"
Folders 6-7: "Montezuma"
- MS Box #5 (All works by Herbert Heron)

- Folder 1: "Montezuma"
- Folder 2: "Pharoah"
- Folder 3: "The Pyramid"
- Folder 4: "The Spotlight"
- Folders 5-6: "Tusitala"
- Folder 7: Untitled Play
- MS Box #6 (All works by Constance Skinner)
 - Folder 1: "The Anointed"
 - Folder 2: "Birthright"
 - Folders 3-4: "David"
 - Folders 5: "The Death Penalty"
 - Folder 6: "His Handicap"
 - Folder 7: "Ibsen's Plays"
 - Folder 8: "The Right to Live"
 - Folder 9: "Chapters from the Captain's Story"
- MS Box #7
 - Folder 1: Various manuscripts, various unknown authors
 - Folder 2: Anonymous: "Burning"
 - Folder 3: Anonymous: "Evind"
 - Folder 4: Unknown authors
 - Folder 5: Original manuscripts by named authors
 - Folder 6: Anonymous: "Night"
 - Folder 7: Anonymous: "Prunella"
 - Folder 8: Anonymous: "Suiya" or "The God of the Gods"
 - Folders 9-10: Anonymous: Untitled plays
- MS Box #8 (Works by Herbert Heron and others)
 - Folder 1: Herbert Heron: "Farewell Concert"
 - Folder 2: Herbert Heron: "The French Maid"
 - Folder 3: Herbert Heron: "Malvolio"
 - Folder 4: Herbert Heron: Movie Scripts
 - Folder 5: Herbert Heron and Constance Skinner: "Over the Border"
 - Folder 6: Henry Wordsworth Longfellow (possible author)
 - Folders 7-10: Anonymous authors

Collected Papers

- CP Box #1:
 - Folder 1a: The Genealogy of the Peet-Heron family
 - Folders 1-6: Herbert Heron's Diary (1884-1916)
 - Folder 7: Family history, miscellaneous clippings
- CP Box #2: Herbert Heron's Diary (1916-1921, 1926-1931, 1938-1939)
- CP Box #3:
 - Folders 1-4a: Herbert Heron's Diary (1939-1943)
 - Folder 5: Autobiographical information
 - Folder 6: School Days – Los Angeles Military Academy
 - Folder 7: School Days – Harvard School
- CP Box #4: Jeanie Peet
 - Folder 1: Estate of her mother-in-law, Margaret Peet
 - Folder 1A: Spring, Edward (Jeanie's father) – correspondence

- Folder 2: Poetry by Jeanie Peet
- Folder 3: Letters, diary pages about Jeanie Peet's marriage to James McKaye
- Folder 4: Correspondence to/from her to/from various people
- Folder 5: Letters to her granddaughter, Constance Heron
- CP Box #5: Herbert Heron Family Papers
 - Folder 1: His telephone and address books, etc.
 - Folder 2: Beatrice Borchardt (cousin) – correspondence
 - Folder 3: Herbert Heron – correspondence to/from Henry and Beatrice Borchardt
 - Folder 4: Louise Frye (cousin) – correspondence with Herbert Heron
 - Folder 5: Constance Heron (but not the daughter) – correspondence
 - Folder 6: Herbert Heron – correspondence
- CP Box #6: Family
 - Folder 1: Herbert Heron – correspondence to Cludeseley Johns 1899-1902
 - Folder 2: Herbert Heron – correspondence to Cludeseley Johns 1903-1954
 - Folder 3: Cludeseley Johns – correspondence to Herbert Heron
 - Folder 4: Cludeseley Johns – Letters to/from various people
 - Folder 5: Herbert Heron – correspondence to/from/about the Mackayes
 - Folder 6: Herbert Heron – correspondence with Percy MacKaye
 - Folder 7: Herbert Heron – correspondence with various family members
 - Folder 8: Valerie (“Mary”) Heron – correspondence
- CP Box #7: Bill and Constance Heron
 - Folder 1: Papers from their childhood
 - Folder 2: Bill Heron – correspondence
 - Folder 3: Bill Heron – Letters to other people to/from/about his family
 - Folder 4: Constance Heron Robinson – Letters to Herbert Heron
 - Folder 5: Herbert Heron – Letters to Constance Heron Robinson
 - Folder 6: Constance Heron Robinson – Letters to/from Henry and Beatrice Borchardt
 - Folder 7: Henry Cowell – communication to Constance Heron
 - Folder 8: Constance Heron Robinson – correspondence
 - Folder 9: Constance Heron Robinson – clippings and programs
 - Folder 10: Constance Heron Robinson – Poetry and other creative writing
- CP Box #8: Opal Heron Search
 - Folder 1: Opal Von Piontkowski – Papers from/about her father
 - Folder 1A: Opal's Cookbook
 - Folder 2: Frederick Preston Search – Letter to Herbert Heron
 - Folders 3-7: Opal Heron Search – correspondence with Frederick Preston Search (1919-1926)
 - Folder 8: Frederick Preston Search – correspondence with various people
 - Folder 9: Opal Heron Search – Her last years
- CP Box #9:
 - Folders 1-3: George Sterling – correspondence to Herbert Heron (1917-1926)
 - Folder 4: Envelopes from/to George Sterling
 - Folder 5: Herbert Heron – correspondence to George Sterling (1907-1921)

- Folder 6: George Sterling – correspondence from miscellaneous (1909-1913)
- Folder 7: George Sterling – correspondence to miscellaneous (1910-1926)
- Folder 8: Ambrose Bierce – correspondence from various people about his criticism of Sterling’s “Wine of Wizardry” (1907)
- CP Box #10: Friends
 - Folder 1: Mary Austin – Letters to Herbert Heron
 - Folder 2: Herbert Heron – Letters to Mary Austin
 - Folder 3: Ina Coolbrith – Letters to Herbert Heron
 - Folder 4: Charmian and Jack London – Letters to Herbert and Opal Heron
 - Folder 5: Jack London – Letters to various people
 - Folder 6: Herbert Heron – Letters to Jack London
 - Folder 7: Jack London – Letter from various people
- CP Box #11: Correspondence with Friends
 - Folder 1: George Arlis
 - Folder 2: W.K. Bassett
 - Folder 3: William Cooper
 - Folder 4: Margery Critchlow and her parents
 - Folder 5: Vincent Duffey
 - Folders 6-7: Hugh Gibson (1899-1907)
- CP Box #12: Correspondence with friends
 - Folder 1: L. (identity unknown) letters to Herbert Heron
 - Folder 2: Perry Newberry
 - Folder 3: Richard Palmer
 - Folder 4: Upton Sinclair
 - Folders 5-13: Constance Skinner (1908-1921)
 - Folder 13A: Constance Skinner – clippings, letters about her and her work
 - Folders 14-15: Esther Tuthill
- CP Box #13: Correspondence, other writings
 - Folder 1: Mike Williams – correspondence
 - Folder 2: Harry Leon Wilson – correspondence
 - Folder 3: Ella Winter – correspondence
 - Folder 4: Herbert Heron – correspondence regarding poetry
 - Folder 5: Herbert Heron – correspondence from various people
 - Folder 6: Herbert Heron – on Jack London’s death
 - Folder 7: Herbert Heron – on George Sterling’s death
 - Folder 8: Correspondence to/from various
 - Folder 9: Authors, artists, etc. who lived in Carmel
 - Folder 10: Herbert Heron – creative writing submission (lists)
 - Folder 11: Herbert Heron – correspondence about his creative works
 - Folder 12: Correspondence to publishers about his creative works
 - Folder 13: Herbert Heron – Lists of books he read, or will read, other lists
 - Folder 14: Herbert Heron – published works
- CP Box #14:
 - Folder 1A: Various legal papers
 - Folder 1: Published works by various
 - Folder 2: Musical works by various
 - Folder 3: Articles about George Sterling
 - Folder 4: Herbert Heron – research materials

- Folder 5: Correspondence as Mayor
- Folder 6: City Council materials
- Folder 7: Forest Theater – Published works about its history
- Folder 8: Forest Theater – Published works about “The Toad”
- Folder 9: Forest Theater – Historical pageant
- CP Box #15: Forest Theater
 - Folder 1: History of the Forest Theater
 - Folder 2: History of the Forest Theater
 - Folder 3: History of the Forest Theater
 - Folder 4: Dissertation and correspondence with Richard Palmer
 - Folder 5: History (incomplete) by Fred Bechdolt and John Northern Hilliard
- CP Box #16: Forest Theater
 - Folder 1: Herbert Heron-Constance Skinner – correspondence about Forest Theater
 - Folder 2: Forest Theater Guild
 - Folder 3: Legal papers and minutes
 - Folder 4: Supplies needed, budgets, other information on various plays
 - Folder 5: Bills, receipts
 - Folder 6: Tickets, Membership Card, handouts
 - Folder 7: Press clippings
 - Folder 8: Herbert Heron – Forest Theater correspondence
 - Folders 9-10: Scripts
- CP Box #17: Forest Theater
 - Folders 1-6: Scripts
- CP Box #18: Theaters other than Forest Theater
 - Folder 1: Club of Arts and Crafts
 - Folder 2: Western Drama Society
- CP Box #19: Forest Theater Programs
 - Folder 1-5: A-Z
 - Folder 6: Shakespeare Festival
- CP Box #20: Programs - Various Theaters (A-C)
 - Folder 1: Artists and Performers
 - Folder 2: Arts and Craft Theater
 - Folder 3: Carmel Bach Festival
 - Folder 4: Carmel Sir-Cus or Circus
 - Folder 5: Carmel Chamber Music Society
 - Folder 6: Carmel Music Society
 - Folder 7: Carmel Playhouse
 - Folder 8: Carmel Theaters – Various
- CP Box #21: Programs - Various Theaters (D-Ma)
 - Folder 1: Del Monte Theater
 - Folder 2-3: Golden Bough Theater
 - Folder 4: Historical Pageant (a.k.a. Serra Pageant)
 - Folder 5: Manzanita Theater Programs
- CP Box #22: Programs - Various Theaters (Mo-S)
 - Folder 1: Monterey County Symphony Association Programs
 - Folder 2: Monterey Peninsula Concert Association Programs
 - Folder 3: Monterey Theaters – Programs

Folder 4: Pacific Grove Theaters – Programs
Folder 5: San Francisco Theaters – Programs
Folder 6: The Studio Theater Programs
Folder 7: Sunset School Auditorium Programs
Folder 8: Various Theaters outside the Monterey Peninsula – Programs
Folder 9: Concerts and Ballets in unknown locations

[No boxes #23-26 due to rearrangement. All materials present. KO 2020/02/06.]

- CP Box #27: Carmel
 - Folder 1: Carmel's History – Printed Material, 1910's
 - Folder 2: Carmel's History – Printed Material, 1920's
 - Folder 3: Carmel's History – Printed Material, 1930's
 - Folder 4: Carmel's History – Printed Material, 1940's – 1970's
 - Folder 5: Carmel's history Printed Material, undated
 - Folder 6: Herbert Heron – History of Carmel
 - Folder 7: Carmel – guidebooks, pamphlets
 - Folder 8: Monterey Peninsula – guidebooks and pamphlets
 - Folder 9: Various booklets and pamphlets
- CP Box #28: Seven Arts
 - Folder 1: Correspondence
 - Folder 2: Works published by Seven Arts Press
 - Folder 3: Village Bookshop and Seven Arts Books and Bookshop Carmel
 - Folder 4: Business papers
 - Folder 5: Magazine subscriptions
 - Folder 6: Magazine subscriptions

[No box #29 due to rearrangement. All materials present. KO 2020/02/06.]

- CP Box #30:
 - Folder 1: Local Presses
 - Folder 2: Carmel Cymbal – Correspondence of W.K. Bassett
 - Folder 3: Carmel Cymbal – Business Papers
 - Folder 4: The Carmelite – Business Papers
 - Folder 5: Newsletters
 - Folder 6: Herbert Heron's Death
- CP Box #31:
 - Folder 1: Postmasters position
 - Folder 2: Sterling – his work in publications
 - Folder 3: Sterling – remembrances
 - Folder 4: Sterling – writings about him; bookplates; genealogy
 - Folder 5: Nora Mae French
- CP Box #32: Miscellaneous documents – programs, tickets, brochures, publications, etc.
 - Folder 1: Argonaut, 1924
 - Folder 2: Newspaper clippings
 - Folder 3: Programs for various productions, symphonies, etc.
 - Folder 4: Publications and prints
 - Folder 5: Carmel Memorabilia – brochures, directories etc.
 - Folder 6: Herbert Heron – Miscellaneous – war ration stamp folder, letters, envelopes, Christmas card, etc.
- CP 1 Folder Box X (Oversized items): Seating Chart for the Twelfth Night, Sign

“New Years Cards,” two newspaper articles on four Socialist women placed in jail, print of the “Cool Grey City,” by George Sterling.

- **CP Duplicates (PG STORAGE)**

- o Multiple boxes of duplicate programs for Forest Theater and other theaters/organizations.
- o Works published by Seven Arts Press – DUPLICATES
- o Correspondence Sterling to Heron, 1917-1926 COPIES
- o Miscellaneous correspondence COPIES

Photographs

- PH Box #1:
 - Folder 1: Herbert Heron (1870-c.1910)
 - Folder 2: Herbert Heron (1920s-1960s)
 - Folder 3: Opal Heron Search
 - Folder 4: Frederick Preston Search
 - Folder 5: Constance Heron
 - Folder 6: Bill Heron and family
 - Folder 7: Gillet Family and Roland Kibbon
 - Folder 8: Jack Herron and Family
 - Folder 9: Jack London
 - Folder 10: George and Catherine Seidneick
 - Folder 11: Constance Skinner
 - Folder 12: George Sterling
 - Folder 13: Frances and Esther Tuthill
- PH Box #2:
 - Folder 1: People A-Z
 - Folder 2: People – unidentified
 - Folder 3: People – unidentified (Cont.)
 - Folder 4: Carmel: Businesses, Residences, Mission
 - Folder 5: Seven Arts Building & Seven Arts Court
 - Folder 6: Carmel Bay Coastline: Pebble Beach, Point Lobos
 - Folder 7: Monterey Bay Area: Monterey, Fort Ord
 - Folder 8: Residences – unidentified
 - Folder 9: Landscapes & Scenery – unidentified
 - Folder 10: Animals – unidentified
 - Folder 11: Miscellaneous
- PH Box #3: Forest Theater Productions
 - Folder 1: Alice in Wonderland (1912)
 - Folder 2: Arms and the Man (1919)
 - Folder 3: Arms and the Man (1926)
 - Folder 4: The Arrow Maker (1914)
 - Folder 5: As You Like It (1911)
 - Folder 6: As You Like It (1954)
 - Folder 7: The Black Arrow: Tusitala, The 2nd Episode (1916)
 - Folder 8: Caesar and Cleopatra (1922)
 - Folder 9: Cathleen ni Houlihan (1922)
 - Folder 10: Claudia (1949)
 - Folder 10a: Confounding the Witch (1921)
 - Folder 11: The Countess Cathleen (1921)
 - Folder 12: The Cradle (1923)
 - Folder 13: The Dark Lady (1922)
 - Folder 14: The Dark Lady (1954)
 - Folder 15: David (1910)
 - Folder 16: Distant Drums (1947)
 - Folder 17: The Ebb Tide: Tusitala, The 5th Episode (1916)
- PH Box #4: Forest Theater Productions
 - Folder 1: Fire (1913)

- Folder 2: The First Poet (1915)
- Folder 3: The Golden Doom (1920)
- Folder 4: Hamlet (1926)
- Folder 5: Hamlet (1941)
- Folder 6: Helena's Husband (1954)
- Folder 7: High Justice (1923)
- Folder 8: If I Were King (1927)
- Folder 9: In the Shadow of the Glen (1927)
- Folder 10: In the Shadow of the Glen, nd
- Folder 11: Inchling (1922)
- Folder 12: The Intruder
- PH Box #5: Forest Theater Productions
 - Folder 1: Iphigenia in Taurus (1925)
 - Folder 2: The Ivory Door (1933)
 - Folder 3: Julius Caesar (1930)
 - Folder 4: Julius Caesar (1940)
 - Folder 5: Julius Caesar (1942)
 - Folder 6: King Henry IV (1922)
 - Folder 7: Kismet (1923)
 - Folder 8: The Land of Heart's Desire (1911)
 - Folder 9: A Lodging for the Night (1916)
 - Folder 10: Love Liars (1931)
 - Folder 11: Lysistrata (1951)
 - Folder 12: Macaire (1914)
 - Folder 13: Macbeth (1940)
 - Folder 14: The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife (1924)
 - Folder 15: The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife (1934)
- PH Box #6: Forest Theater Productions
 - Folder 1: Medea (19149)
 - Folder 2: The Merchant of Venice (1912)
 - Folder 3: The Merchant of Venice (1933)
 - Folder 4: The Merry Wives of Windsor (1941)
 - Folder 5: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1915)
 - Folder 6: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1931)
 - Folder 7: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1948)
 - Folder 8: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1957)
 - Folder 9: Montezuma (1914)
 - Folder 10: Mr. Bunt (1924)
 - Folder 11: A Night at an Inn (1922)
 - Folder 12: Op 'O Me Thumb (1925)
 - Folder 13: Over the Fairy Line (1949)
- PH Box #7: Forest Theater Productions
 - Folder 1: Pharaoh (1959)
 - Folder 2: Pinocchio (1929)
 - Folder 3: The Piper (1916)
 - Folder 4: The Playboy of the Western World (1955)
 - Folder 5: Pomander Walk (1921)
 - Folder 6: Prunella (1924)

- Folder 7: Pygmalion and Galatea (1918)
- Folder 8: Quality Street (1924)
- Folder 9: The Romancers (1929)
- Folder 10: Romeo and Juliet (1912)
- Folder 11: Romeo and Juliet (1927)
- Folder 12: Romeo and Juliet (1948)
- Folder 13: Saint Ives (1916)
- Folder 14: Salome (1932)
- Folder 15: Shore Acres (1924)
- Folder 16: Snow White (1920)
- Folder 17: The Talisman (1913)
- Folder 18: Tents of the Arabs (1920)
- PH Box #8: Forest Theater Productions
 - Folder 1: A Thousand Years Ago (1917)
 - Folder 2: The Toad (1912)
 - Folder 3: Treasure Island: Tusitala, The 1st Episode (1916)
 - Folder 4: The Treasure of Frauchard: Tusitala, The 4th Episode (1916)
 - Folder 5: Tusitala: The Prologue (1916)
 - Folder 6: Twelfth Night (1911)
 - Folder 7: Twelfth Night (1923)
 - Folder 8: Twelfth Night (1940)
 - Folder 9: Twelfth Night (1942)
 - Folder 10: Twelfth Night (1956)
 - Folder 11: Two Gentlemen of Soho (1954)
 - Folder 12: Wier of Hermiston: Tusitala, The 6th Episode (1916)
 - Folder 13: Winterset (1950)
 - Folder 14: Workhorse (1922)
 - Folder 15: The Yellow Jacket (1920)
 - Folder 16: Yes, Doctor (1931)
 - Folder 17: Yolanda of Cyprus (1916)
 - Folder 18: Plays – Unidentified
 - Folder 19: Forest Theater Stage

Scrapbooks

- SB Box #1: Clippings, programs

Ephemera/Realia (PG Storage)

- ER Box #1: (PG STORAGE)
- ER Box #2: Costume he wore in a Forest Theater production and a wooden dagger
- ER Box #3: Seven Arts Bookstore, painted wooden sign
- ER Box #4: Adding machine
- ER Box #5: Two wooden prop daggers
- ER Box #6: Painted cloth banner for “Romeo and Juliet at the Forest Theater”
- ER Box #7: Woodblock printing plate for the poster of “Tents of the Arabs and Golden Doom”
- ER Box #8: Lamp