

Constance Mills Herreshoff Collection

Collection ID: MS.023

Collection Information

Inclusive dates: 1914-1985

Size: 4 boxes, 4 linear ft.

Processed: 10/2019, by Matthew Nye

Scope and Content

The Constance Mills Herreshoff Collection contains materials related to the musical compositions and the published writings of the San Diego *Union's* music and drama critic Constance Mills Herreshoff. According to her obituary, she was born Constance Mills in St. Louis, Mo. in 1881. She moved to San Diego at the age of 15 in 1896.

In 1900, Constance Mills was awarded a scholarship to New York City's Columbia University where she studied under famed composer Edward MacDowell, one of the first seven Americans honored by membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. While studying in New York she composed and published music and was a piano accompanist to some of the top artist in the early 1900s. During this time Constance Mills also tutored other students and worked in the Columbia Musical Library. After graduation, she became a teacher at the Institute of Musical Arts in New York. Constance Mills (Herreshoff) would go on to write more than 40 compositions, including such well known songs as "Come Be My Love" and "On a Singing Girl."

On January 11, 1906, Constance Mills married James Brown Herreshoff, scion of the prominent family of racing yacht designers. The couple had six children; three girls and three boys.

Constance Herreshoff began her 33-year career as a critic when she joined the staff of the San Diego *Sun* in 1930 as their musical editor. In 1942 she became the *San Diego Union's* music and drama critic. Constance was lauded as "the dean of Southern California critics" and a dominant figure in the cultural life of San Diego, becoming somewhat of a celebrity herself. In 1955 she was given the Musical Merit Foundation award for furthering young musical talent. Two years later she was recognized as the unsung hero behind the scenes of San Diego's cultural world at the Atlas Awards dinner.

Container List

Box	File	Contents	Dates
1	1	Newspaper clippings (not all dated or credited to Herreshoff)	1932-1961
	2	Programs to musical performances (some not dated)	1887-1954
	3	Program notes (only one item dated)	1924
	4	Correspondence	1936-1954
	5	Biographical notes on various musicians	n/ds
	6	"Musical Scrap-book" compiled by C. Mills	1895-1898

Box	File	Contents	Dates
1	7	Music composition notebooks, (8) with hand-scribed scores, no titles, from classes at Columbia University	1892-1902
	8	One small note pad with handwritten notes from lectures given by Edward MacDowell at Columbia University	1901-1902
	9	Published sheet music autographed to Constance Herreshoff	1936-1952
	10	Two books of musical Scores: " <i>Clavierstucke Fur Gustav Baumgarten</i> " (the other untitled), possibly hand-scribed	1848
	11	Two books of musical scores: "Panpiper" and "Songs of the Glenwood Mission Inn"	1883 and 1913
	12	Misc. published sheet music; not attributed to Constance Mills Herreshoff. (some not dated)	1897-1949
	13	Lyrics to songs; not attributed to Constance Mills Herreshoff	n/ds
	14	Two "Repertoire" periodicals; a Juilliard School of Music catalog; a Metropolitan Opera House season program	1906-1952
	15	Photographs: many untitled or dated; some musical personalities; 3 photos of Constance Mills Herreshoff in her youth and one from c1950's	n/ds
	16	Awards of recognition	1955-1960
	17	Two LPs: "EGLE" (Respighi) 1945 and "Grace H. Mills in Taming of Shrew (Finale) Shakespeare" n/d	1945
2	1	Published sheet music by Constance Mills Herreshoff	1903-1929
	2	Hand-scribed sheet music, primarily by Constance Mills Herreshoff	1900-1907
	3	Hand-scribed sheet music, primarily by Constance Mills Herreshoff	1914-1919
	4	Hand-scribed sheet music, primarily by Constance Mills Herreshoff	1921-1940
	5	Hand-scribed sheet music, primarily by Constance Mills Herreshoff	n/ds
3		Scrap-books: collection of newspaper clippings of Herreshoff's reviews and editorial articles	1934-1948
4		Scrap-books: collection of newspaper clippings of Herreshoff's reviews and editorial articles	1949-1963