



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to MS 2011-19 William Henry Holmes watercolors of Italian daily life, circa 1880

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 2011-19 William Henry Holmes watercolors of Italian daily life
Date:	circa 1880
Identifier:	NAA.MS2011-19
Creator:	Holmes, William Henry, 1846-1933
Extent:	3 Paintings (visual works) (watercolor)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): MS 2011-19 William Henry Holmes watercolors of Italian daily life
Container:	Box 2011-19

Administrative Information

Provenance

The paintings were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Lola Vearl Ferdon in July 2011. They were acquired by her husband, Edwin Ferdon, from Edgar Lee Hewett.

Related Materials

Correspondence by Holmes can be found throughout the National Anthropological Archives in MS 7206, the records of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and the records of the Department of Anthropology.

Manuscripts, notes, and artwork by Holmes can be found throughout the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4698, MS 2125, MS 7112, MS 7570, MS 87825 and others.

The Smithsonian Institution Archives holds the William Henry Holmes Papers, 1870-1931 (SIA RU007084).

Preferred Citation

MS 2011-19 William Henry Holmes watercolors of Italian daily life, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use

Biographical Note

William Henry Holmes (1846-1933) was an artist, geologist, and archaeologist who spent most of his career with the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, United States Geological Survey, Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE), and Department of Anthropology of the Smithsonian. From 1894-1897, he was the head of anthropology at the Field Columbian Museum (Field Museum of Natural History) and on the staff of the University of Chicago. He later served as head curator for the US National Museum Department of Anthropology from 1897-1902 and head of the BAE from 1902-1909.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of three (3) small watercolor paintings by William Henry Holmes depicting women sewing and a man mending sails. All three paintings were signed to "Clara Saunders" with holiday greetings from Holmes.

Item 2011-19.1 depicts two women sewing on the banks of the Tiber River.

Item 2011-19.2 ("Bead stringer, Venice") shows a woman sitting in a chair beading.

Item 2011-19.3 ("Venice - mending sails") shows a man mending sails.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 2011-19

Exhibition Note

Two of the paintings were exhibited in *Sargent, Whistler, and Venetian Glass: American Artists and the Magic of Murano* at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, October 8, 2021 – May 8, 2022.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Types of Materials:

- Paintings
- Watercolors
- Works of art

Places:

- Europe
- Italy