



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Adelia Gates Collection, 1879-1898 and undated

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	1
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Adelia Gates Collection
Identifier:	Record Unit 7312
Date:	1879-1898 and undated
Extent:	3.07 cu. ft. (2 document boxes) (3 16x20 boxes)
Creator::	Gates, Adelia
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7312, Adelia Gates Collection

Historical Note

Adelia Gates (circa 1820-1912) was born in the Susquehanna Valley of New York State. At age sixteen she taught in a country school, and later worked in the cotton mills at Lowell, Massachusetts. Gates attended Antioch College when she was in her thirties, but had to leave after two years because of poor health. At the age of fifty, Gates was taught how to paint flowers by Madame Vouga in Geneva, Switzerland.

Descriptive Entry

This collection consists of 327 watercolors of flowers painted by Adelia Gates. It represents a fragment of a collection of 502 Gates watercolors donated to the Smithsonian by Eleanor Lewis in 1913. Approximately 175 watercolors are missing. The paintings cover a wide range of native and exotic plants and a majority of the studies were made in California, Algeria, and Italy. Also included is an alphabetic index to the paintings, arranged by genus. Some of the watercolors include annotations by Sara Allen Plummer Lemmon, a California botanist who received art lessons from Gates.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Botany
Flowers
Watercolor painting

Types of Materials:

Art objects
Manuscripts

Names:

Antioch College
Gates, Adelia
Lemmon, Sara Allen Plummer, 1836-1923
Lewis, Eleanor
Vouga, Mme

Container Listing

	Box 1
Box 1 of 5	Folio I, #4179.1 - #4179.23
	Box 2
Box 2 of 5	Folio II, #4180.1 - #4180.1; #4180.180
	Box 3
Box 3 of 5	Folio II cont'd, #4180.1 - #4180.180
	Box 4
Box 4 of 5	Folio III, #4181.1 - #4181.124
	Box 5
Box 5 of 5	Index arranged by genus.