
Henry Box Brown Drawings 1851-1852

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Henry Box Brown drawings,

Date (inclusive): 1851-1852

Collection number: HM 62464 (1-43)

Creator: Brown, Henry B., 1816-ca. 1860

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Language: English

Access

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Preferred Citation

Henry Box Brown Drawings, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information

This collection was purchased from Catherine C. Abbott, December 13, 2000. It consists of forty-three items dated from 1851 and 1852. They are single-item cataloged and arranged by subject.

Acquisition number: 2094

Call Numbers: HM 62464 (1-43)

Biographical Note

Henry B. Brown was probably born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in January 1816. In the 1840s, he worked as a portrait artist and engraver, and in 1851 he traveled to San Francisco with his friend Jacob Bailey Moore. Brown worked for Moore for the next several months, gathering specimens and making drawings in the California countryside. In March of 1852, he was commissioned by John Russell Bartlett, head of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary Commission and a friend of Moore, to draw views of landscapes and Indians in Northern California, assist with collecting Indian vocabularies, and make maps of the area, with a view towards contributing to Bartlett's book "Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua" (1854). Brown traveled to New York in the late summer of 1852, and presumably drew his coastal scenes of Mexico and Central America during the trip. From 1856 to 1859, he served as US Consul for Bermuda. Little is known of his life after that date; his health was poor at the time of his resignation in 1859, and he may have died in late 1860 or soon after. He should not be confused with the Maine artist Harrison Bird Brown (1831-1915) or with the escaped slave Henry "Box" Brown (b. 1816).

Scope and Content Note

The forty-two drawings are arranged according to their five general subjects: California Native Americans (7), California landscapes (24), Mexico (4), Central America (6), and Other (1). Although the exact Indian tribes in Brown's drawings are not known, it is believed that they are the Maidu, Nomlaki, Patwin, Wintun, and/or the Shasta Indians because those tribes lived in the areas in California where Brown was traveling. These drawings include portraits of Indians and scenes of daily life in Indian villages. Five of these drawings have been published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, and *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua* by John Russell Bartlett. The twenty-four drawings of California landscapes include views of mining camps, a quartz mill, San Francisco, Marysville, Mount Shasta, Grass Valley, the Sacramento River, and Nevada City. The ten drawings of Mexico and Central America include views of Acapulco, the Gulf of California, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Also included in the collection is an undated drawing of the Susquehanna river in Port Deposit, Maryland, and a blank sheet of paper that was probably used as a mount for one of the drawings. The titles used are the titles supplied by the artist. Several of the drawings have sketches or inscriptions on the verso.

Bibliography

Bartlett, John Russell. *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua*. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1854.

Emanuels, George. *California Indians: An Illustrated Guide*. Walnut Creek, California: Diablo Books, 1991.

Heizer, Robert F., ed. *A Collection of Ethnographical Articles on the California Indians*. Ramona, California: Ballena Press, 1976.

Hine, Robert V. *An Artist Draws the Line*. *American Heritage*, February 1968, Volume XIX, Number 2: 28.

Hine, Robert V. *Bartlett's West: Drawing the Mexican Boundary*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1968.

Kroeber, Theodora, Albert B. Elsasser, Robert F. Heizer. *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush*. Socorro, New Mexico: Ballena Press, 1977.

Merriam, C. Hart. *Studies of California Indians*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1955.

Powers, Stephen. *Tribes of California*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1877.

Cal[ifornia] Indian Boy, Wylacker Tribe near Shasta from Life 1852: drawing (1852). HM 62464 (1).

Physical Description: 38 x 26 cm. Pencil with watercolor and gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Reddings, near Shasta. Published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, on cover and page 193.

No-e-nne boy: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (2).

Physical Description: 21 x 19 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

California Indians Women, Upper Sacramento Valley: drawing[1852].

Physical Description: 26 x 20 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Doubtless Chino village near

Munroe's Ranch Upper Sac[ramento] River. HM 62464 (3).

Scope and Content Note

Published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, page 194.

Interior Indian House near Colvin, Cal[ifornia] 1852: drawing(1852). HM 62464 (4).

Physical Description: 26 x 38 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On front: House, title is on verso. A very similar drawing is published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, page 176, and in *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua* by John Russell Bartlett, p. 30 and on the cover of *A Collection of Ethnographical Articles on the California Indians*, edited by Robert F. Heizer.

Cal[ifornia] Indians Sacreficing [sic] to their Dead Friends: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (5).

Physical Description: 26 x 38 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Ceremony called Hapi[?] by Uba River Tribes. Published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, page 192.

Chinoh Council House, near Munroe's, Sac[ramento] R[iver]: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (6).

Physical Description: 26 x 38 cm.Pencil on paper.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Two faint sketches of figures; the complete sketch of one is published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, page 269.

Summer Lodges California Indians near Shasta 1852: drawing(1852).

Physical Description: 26 x 38 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Summer Lodges. Original of Woodcut in Bartlett, *Personal Narrative*, Vol. II, p. 31, 1854. Published in *Drawn from Life: California Indians in Pen and Brush* by Theodora Kroeber, Albert B. Elsasser, and Robert F. Heizer, page 189 and 190, and in *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua* by John Russell Bartlett, p. 31.

Near Grass Valley California: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (8).

Physical Description: 20 x 26 cm.Pencil on paper.

On the Sacramento near Shasta Head of Great Sacramento Plain April1852: drawing (1852). HM 62464 (9).

Physical Description: 27 x 42 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Head of Sacramento Valley looking down from above Shasta City: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (10).

Physical Description: 26 x 39 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Four sketches of figures and illegible word.

Shasta Peak from Tehama about 100 miles distant: drawing(1852). HM 62464 (11).

Physical Description: 19 x 30 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Tehama, Sacramento River, Cala. 1852.

Nevada City, California: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (12).

Physical Description: 18 x 26 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor.

At Nevada City, California: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (13).

Physical Description: 18 x 25 cm.Pencil on paper.

At Nevada City 1852: drawing (1852). HM 62464 (14).

Physical Description: 19 x 25 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor.

Nevada City, California: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (15).

Physical Description: 18 x 25 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor.

Quartz Mills near Nevada City: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (16).

Physical Description: 20 x 25 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor and gouache.

Groups of Oaks near Munroes and Coast Range from Munroes: drawings[1852]. HM 62464 (17).

Physical Description: 13 x 40 cm.Two drawings. Pencil on paper.

Lawsons Peaks, Sierra Nevada from Reddings Ranch Sacramento River: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (18).

Physical Description: 26 x 40 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: View on the Sacramento River Shasta.

Head of Sacramento Valley and Shasta Peak: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (19).

Physical Description: 19 x 40 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

At Munroeville Looking West: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (20).

Physical Description: 13 x 40 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Coast Range from Tehama: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (21).

Physical Description: 13 x 39 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: Sketch of a man sitting.

The Buttes from foothills near Marysville, Cal[ifornia]: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (22).

Physical Description: 16 x 26 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Roses Bar, Uba River 1851: drawing (1851). HM 62464 (23).

Physical Description: 18 x 26 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

At Gold Hill, California: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (24).

Physical Description: 18 x 26 cm.Pencil on paper.

On Deer Creek near Nev[ada] City: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (25).

Physical Description: 19 x 26 cm.Pencil on paper.

Above Reddings Ranch on the Sacramento: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (26).

Physical Description: 20 x 37 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Mouth of Caon, Shasta road, California with Trinity Mountains 1852: drawing (1852). HM 62464 (27).

Physical Description: 21 x 27 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Lassons Peak, Sierra Nevada: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (28).

Physical Description: 26 x 41 cm.Pencil on paper.

Fire at San Francisco Sketched from P. O. May 1851: drawing(1851). HM 62464 (29).

Physical Description: 22 x 30 cm.Pencil on paper.

Untitled [drawing shows Goat Island and the San Francisco Bay]: drawing [1851]. HM 62464 (30).

Physical Description: 19 x 28 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor.

Scope and Content Note

On verso: various sketches.

Goat Island and Contra Costa, San Francisco Bay: drawing[1851]. HM 62464 (31).

Physical Description: 15 x 27 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor.

Coast of Mexico Pacific: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (32).

Physical Description: 19 x 44 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor and gouache.

Mexican Coast, 150 miles NW Acapulco: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (33).

Physical Description: 15 x 43 cm.Pencil on paper.

Near Cape Corrientes Gulf California: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (34).

Physical Description: 15 x 44 cm.Pencil on paper.

White Islands Above Acapulco: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (35).

Physical Description: 15 x 44 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor.

Harbour of San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua from the Town 1852: drawing(1852). HM 62464 (36).

Physical Description: 20 x 40 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Nicaragua: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (37).

Physical Description: 16 x 43 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Guatamala [sic] from the Pacific: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (38).

Physical Description: 13 x 44 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Near San Salvador Central America: drawing[1852]. HM 62464 (39).

Physical Description: 17 x 43 cm.Pencil on paper with watercolor and gouache.

Nicaragua: drawing [1852]. HM 62464 (40).

Physical Description: 11 x 43 cm.Pencil on paper.

Omotepee [sic] from Virgin Bay Lake Nicaragua sketched in 1852: drawing (1852). HM 62464 (41).

Physical Description: 13 x 42 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Port Deposit Susquehanna: drawing [n.d.]. HM 62464 (42).

Physical Description: 13 x 20 cm.Pencil on paper with gouache.

Blank sheet of Paper - probably once used as a mount for one of the drawings. HM 62464 (43).