

William Donald Hesselton Papers (1914 - 1962)

Accession Number 2018.46

Worcester Historical Museum

## **William Donald Hesselton Papers (1914 - 1962)**

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### **Creators**

William Donald Hesselton

### **Related Materials**

Adams Square School Collection - Stanley Hesselton's (William's older brother) report card was removed from the collection and placed into the Adams Square School Collection.

### **Sizes**

1 1/2 Boxes

1 Oversize

### **Forms of Materials**

Artistic Works (Sketches, Charcoal, Pastels, Ink, Watercolors, and Acrylic), Year Book, Photographs, Cards, Clippings, Newspapers

### **Language**

English

### **Processed by**

Denice Catania, April 18, 2018, with assistance of Archive Director Wendy Essery.

Alexi Nix, September 27, 2019 - November 1, 2019, with assistance of Archive Director Wendy Essery.

### **Scope and Content**

William Donald Hesselton Collection contains the artistic works of the local Worcester artist; including early education works (1914-1925), High School works (1926-1928), contributions to the High School newspaper (*Mercury*, 1926-1928), the School of the Worcester Art Museum works (1929-1931), works in the creation of wedding invitations and announcements (1927-1938), contributions to *The Eagle Trial* newspaper (1931-1938), contributions to *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (1947-1958), submission to the Fitzhenry Traffic Congestion Relief Contest, creation of Book Plates and Sho-Cards (1962), and other personal and professional artwork and photographs.

### **Provenance**

This collection was donated to the Worcester Historical Museum without limiting conditions by William Donald Emery on April 18, 2018.

### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in chronological order and by professional and unprofessional work. Photographs may be included with topical series. Items are arranged in folders with respect des fonds.

## **Biographical Note**

William Donald Hesselton was born in Worcester Massachusetts in 1907. He went to the Adams Square School on 28 Adams Street in Worcester, MA, between 1914-1918, which closed in 2004. There he showcased an interest in art; including coloring, sketching, and painting. He started high school in 1926 at the Worcester High School of Commerce while his brother, Stanley Hesselton, was graduating as a senior. While at high school he continued to work on his skills in art, where he did some work in his blossoming interest in creating cards. He joined the Orchestra, his position was second violin. His skill can be seen most clearly in his amateur contributions to the school newspaper, *Mercury*, as a cartoonist. William graduated in 1928.

After graduation William went to the Worcester Art Museum Art School from 1928-1930, which was held in the Salisbury House on 24 Highland St, Worcester MA. It was during this time, from 1929-1933, that William started his business in creating wedding invitations and announcements. In 1931 William contributed to an exhibit with his pieces *The Black Jug* and the *Silver Chain Amethyst Pendant Necklace*, both pieces were purchased by the Worcester Art Museum. He graduated the school in 1930 with a certificate in Design, Drawing, Painting, and Metal Work.

Most of William's professional work involved contributing to newspapers. With his first work being the creation of the *Mercury's* header in 1926 while he was in high school, he continued to create for the school newspaper until he graduated and his work can be seen throughout his involvement. In 1931 he contributed to *The Eagle Trial*, the boy-scouts local newspaper, where he created the front cover for their Winter paper as well as some other contributions in 1933. Eventually in 1947 William was hired by the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*. There he made contributions to many to the papers specific series; *Listen Here*, *Brass Jacks*, *Retail Ad-Viser*, and *The Gossiper*. In 1958 the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* opened an Art Department where he was hired. The final chapter in Hesselton's career involves is work in Sho-Cards and BookPlates, which seemed to have been his career until he died in 1964.

## **Names**

Hesselton, Doris Evelyn, née Beauregard  
Hesselton, Stanley  
Hesselton, William Donald  
Howe, Letitia Alice Willis, née Smith  
Howe, Roger Burton  
Merkel, Walter  
Mosher, Earle Benjamin  
Spears, Ruth Irene, née Marsolais  
Spears, Dorman Allen

## **Subjects**

Adams Square School (Ma) — Elementary schools.  
Acrylic painting.  
Advertising cards.  
American newspapers.  
Charcoal drawing.  
College students' art.

Pastel drawing.  
Drawing.  
Pen drawing.  
Bookplates.  
Boy Scouts.  
    “The Eagle Trial”  
Christmas cards.  
Fitzhenry Traffic Relief — Competitions.  
Illumination of books and manuscripts.  
Libraries — Special collections — Art works.  
The Mercury (Worcester) — Student newspapers and periodicals.  
Pamphlets — Design.  
School of the Worcester Art Museum (Ma) — College art museums.  
School Yearbooks.  
Watercolor painting.  
Weddings — Equipment and supplies.  
Wedding cards.  
Wedding stationery.  
Worcester Art Museum (Ma) — Art museums.  
Worcester High School of Commerce (Ma) — High schools.  
Worcester Metropolitan Area (Ma).  
Worcester Telegram and Gazette (Worcester) — American newspapers.  
    “Listen Here”  
    “Brass Jacks”  
    “Retail Ad-Visor”  
    “The Gossiper”  
    “WTAG”  
Youths' art.

### **Series List and Descriptions**

Series I: Education

Dates: 1914, 1918-1922, 1926-1931, Undated.

Extent: 5 folders and 1 yearbook.

Descriptions:

Folder 1: Early Education

Many illustrations done in crayon, chalk, and pencil from official art classes. 6 pencil drawings, 8 watercolor, 1 acrylic, 5 *Home Furnishing Studies* in acrylic, as well as a report card (September, 1914).

[Removed William's older brother's (Stanley Hesselton) report card and placed into the Adams Square School Collection.]

Folder 2: High School

High School Art projects and educational works. 11 studies of plants in water color, 6 sketches and charcoals of nature, 13 pencil drawings of still lives, 5 posters, and 4 cards including the process of creating print cards. Also included is William D. Hesselton's Boy Scouts Certificate of completion (December 15, 1926), and senior band photo.

Folder 3: School of the Worcester Art Museum

*School of the Worcester Art Museum Bulletins* (1928-1931) which cover the aims and mission of the school, from expectations of the students, along with the instructors and their classes they teach, and what students can expect to learn (Hesselton mentioned in 1929-1930 Bulletin p. 34 and the 1930-1931 Bulletin p. 34-37). There are also clippings about the museum buying Mr. Hesselton's exhibition, *The Black Jug* and *Silver Chain Amethyst Pendent Necklace*, and his graduation on May 29, 1930 with a certificate in Design, Drawing, Painting, and Metal Work.

Folder 4: School Photos

Senior portraits (1926-1928) and Adams Square School class photos (1914-1918). (Names: Raymond C. Lewis, Earl B. Mosher, John Sanders, Gene J. Dilpapa, Roy, Herbert, Ralph E. Newell, Dorothy S. Bailey, Bertha Boinnert)

Folder 5: Art School Photos

Photos of friends and classmate from the School of the Worcester Art Museum and trips in the woods. Includes some photos done as studies for silhouettes, interiors, exteriors, gestures, and nature.

Year Book (1928)

Series II: Works

Dates: 1927, 1929-1933, 1944, 1948-1949, 1962, Undated.

Extent: 6 folders.

Descriptions:

Folder 1: Mercury

Works involving William Donald Hesselton's contributions to the Worcester High School of Commerce's newspaper, *The Mercury*; including his design for the header of the newspaper, cartoons and illustrations, announcements and illuminations, and a decorative design template.

Folder 2: Invitations and Announcements

Works involving wedding invitations and announcements. (1929-1933)

(Names: Eloise Eldridge Ross and Martien van Stappen, Sylvia Evelyn Ranson and Louis Edward Mengert, Florence Inez Olcott and Herman Frederick Roelling, Alice Elizabeth McQuirk and Ralph Brown Wood, Esther May Kelley and Thomas Smith, Dorothy Bassett and David Ringquist, Gertrude Elizabeth Fulton and Earle Benjamin Mosher, Frances M. Dodd and William G. Hesselton, Bernice Mary Thompson and Walter Gill Richardson, Charlotte Ailene Barlow and Daniel Haskins Hesselton, Alice Louise Hesselton and Clifton Ellison Hastings, Doris Evelyn Beauregard and William Donald Hesselton, William Daniel Hesselton and Nellie Adams Wiswall, Letitia Alice Willis Smith and Roger Burton Howe, Ruth Irene Marsolais and Dorman Allen Spears, William C. Radcliffe)

Folder 3: Worcester Telegram and Gazette

Works involving Mr. Hesselton's contributions to the *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*, including ads, illuminations, cards, and invitations. Also includes the invitation and brochure to the *First Annual Arts and Crafts Exhibit* held by the *Worcester Telegram and Gazette* (January 2, 1944), *The Story of the Worcester Telegram-Gazette* brochure (July 1, 1927), and the

works of Mr. Hesselton's friend Walter Merkel a writer for the *Worcester Telegram and Gazette* (1947, 1949).

Folder 4: Sho-Cards and Bookplates

Works involving Mr. Hesselton's work in Sho-Cards and Bookplates.

Folder 5: Fitzhenry Traffic Contest

Works for the Fitzhenry Traffic Relief Contest; included are the contest pamphlet, the submittal from William Donald Hesselton, and a photograph of receiving the award.

Folder 6: Personal

Miscellaneous artistic works, most undated. Included are cards, inks, watercolors, acrylics, and silhouettes.

Series III: Oversized

Dates: 1927-1928, 1931-1938, 1946-1947, 1953-1958, Undated.

Extent: 6 folders.

Folder 1: Diploma

High School Diploma (June 29, 1928)

Folder 2: Art

Oversized Art, Ink Print

Folder 3: The Telegram and Gazette

Includes the collected works of William D. Hesselton's professional work within the newspaper (January 1947 - December 1958). Including his contributions to Newspapers issues of *Listen Here*, *Brass Jacks*, *Retail Ad-Viser*, and *The Gossiper*. Also Includes a clipping about the opening of the Art Department in 1958.

Folder 4: The Eagle Trial

Includes his works in the Boy Scouts Newspaper, *The Eagle Trial*. His works are the creation of the header of the Newspaper, as well as some and end note of the front page of December 1933 and the winter front pages of December 1931 and December 1938.

Folder 5: The Mercury

Includes his work for the Worcester High School of Commerce newspaper, *The Mercury*. His works include the creation of the high school newspaper's header on June 23, 1926. His works can also be found in the June 29, 1927 paper (p. 7, 9, 15-16, 19, 21, & 23), the December 23, 1927 paper (Front page, p 3, 8-10, 12, 14, 18, & 20), the January 13, 1928 paper (p. 6), the April 27, 1928 paper (p. 8), and the June 27, 1928 paper (p. 4, 10, 17, & 20)

**Container List**

Box 1	Folders 1-5	Series I: Education
Box 1	Year Book	Series I: Education
Box 2	Folders 1-6	Series II: Works
Box 3	Folders 1-4	Series III: Oversized