

# Ruth Penington photograph collection and artwork, approximately 1880-1936, 1985

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Artist</b>	Penington, Ruth, 1905-1998
<b>Title</b>	Ruth Penington photograph collection and artwork
<b>Dates</b>	approximately 1880-1936, 1985 (inclusive) 1875 1985 approximately 1880-1889 (bulk) 1875 1885
<b>Quantity</b>	18 photographic prints 3 pencil sketches 2 woodcuts
<b>Collection Number</b>	PH0681
<b>Summary</b>	Portrait photographs of various people, most unidentified; also included are three pencil sketches and two woodcuts
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections</a> Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 <a href="mailto:speccoll@uw.edu">speccoll@uw.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Collection is open to the public.
<b>Additional Reference Guides</b>	
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Biographical Note

Ruth Esther Penington (1905-1998) was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado; her family moved to Seattle in 1907. After graduating high school, she went on to study art at the University of Washington, receiving a B.F.A. in 1927 and an M.F.A. in 1929. Penington continued her studies in summer sessions at Columbia University Teachers College, Carnegie Summer School at the University of Oregon, and at the California College of Arts and Crafts. A faculty member of the University of Washington School of Art, Penington also served as director of the University's Henry Gallery and created her own summer art program, the Fidalgo Summer School of the Allied Arts (located in La Conner, Washington).

Although Penington worked in a variety of media, including painting and printmaking, she was best known for her metalwork and jewelry. She was involved with organizations such as Lambda Rho, Northwest Printmakers, and Friends of the Crafts. These groups worked to promote the arts and

to organize exhibitions and sales featuring artists and craftspeople from the Pacific Northwest and beyond. She also was active as craftsman-trustee of American Crafts Council, New York.

## Content Description

The collection consists of seventeen black and white portrait photographs, as well as one color photograph, three pencil sketches of Seattle scenes, and two woodcuts. Only a few of the portraits, made circa 1880, are identified; also included is a modern photograph of Ruth Penington. The pencil sketches depict scenes on Denny Hill in Seattle and appear to have been made circa 1928; the prints date from 1929 and 1936.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

Restrictions may exist on reproduction, quotation, or publication. Contact Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries for details.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series: Photographs, Pencil Sketches, and Woodcuts.

### Custodial History

Ruth Penington donated materials to the University of Washington College of Architecture and Urban Planning in April 1992; the items in this collection were subsequently given to the Plestcheeff Institute for the Decorative Arts.

### Acquisition Information

Donor: Robert Dishmond, Plestcheeff Institute, June 1992.

### Processing Note

Processed by Shannon B. Lynch, 2005.

Photographs were relocated from the Ruth Penington Papers, Manuscripts Accession No. 2837-002 in the repository in 2005.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Photographs, circa 1880, 1985

Ruth Penington photograph collection and artwork, approximately 1880-1936, 1985  
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv48989>

Container(s)		Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box/ Folder</a>	<a href="#">Item</a>		
1/1	1	Ruth Penington <a href="#">[view]</a>	1985
1/2	2	Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Edith Corin	circa 1880
1/2	3	Clara and Norman (ages five and three)	circa 1880
1/2	4	Woman with infant and two young girls Caption lists the names Mrs. Pennington [sic], Manning, Virginia, Mary, and Florence. The short-haired middle child is probably Mary; the infant may be Manning. Presumably, Virginia or Florence is the first name of the woman.	circa 1880
1/2	5	Man and woman One caption reads "Laura and John," but another insists that the woman is " <u>not</u> Laura."	circa 1880
1/2	6	Maggie (Gilliland) Counts	circa 1880
1/2	7	Infant (possibly Manning)	circa 1880
1/3	8-9	Young couples	circa 1880
1/3	10	Woman with infant	circa 1880
1/3	11	Infant in carriage	circa 1880
1/3	12-19	Girls and women	circa 1880

## Pencil sketches

Container(s)		Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box- folder:Oversize</a>	<a href="#">Item</a>		
2/1	20-22	Scenes on Denny Hill, Seattle <a href="#">[view]</a> Item 22 depicts Sacred Heart Church on Denny Hill.	circa 1928

## Woodcuts, 1929, 1936

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box- folder:Oversize	Item		
2/2	23	<i>Composition</i> <a href="#">[view]</a> Three nude women among trees.	1929
2/3	24	<i>Black and White Composition</i> <a href="#">[view]</a> Abstracted figure.	1936

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Girls--Washington (State)--Seattle--Portraits  
 Infants--Washington (State)--Seattle--Portraits  
 Visual Materials Collections (University of Washington)  
 Women--Washington (State)--Seattle--Portraits

### Personal Names :

Penington, Ruth, 1905-1998--Photographs

### Geographical Names :

Denny Hill (Wash.)--Drawings

2008 (Last modified: 1/31/2020)



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