

January 9, 2006
REVISED

WESTERN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION KANSAS CITY

KC Mary Rockwell Hook (1877-1978) Papers
0010 1878 – 1994
five folders, 15 sheets

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from the University of Missouri-Kansas City General Library as accession 0016kc on June 26, 1980 and 1152kc on September 20, 2001 from Mrs. Allan F. Blackman. An additional accession, 1428kc was received from Esther Rudnick on January 9, 2006.

BIOGRAPHY:

Mary Rockwell Hook (Mrs. Inghram D.) was born September 8, 1877, in Junction City, Kansas, the daughter of Bertrand Rockwell, a successful grain merchant and banker. The family moved to Kansas City in 1906.

Hook graduated from Wellesley College in 1900, and decided on a career in architecture studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Hook was one of the country's first women architects. Her work in Kansas City dates from as early as 1908 with her most noted designs done in the Sunset Hills area during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1923, Hook had formed an architectural partnership with Eric Douglas Macwilliam Remington (1893-1975).

Hook had done work throughout the United States. In 1935, she purchased a sandy key off the coast of Sarasota, Florida, and developed it with residences of her design. Not all of her designs echoed the grand residences she admired during her tours of Italy, France, and Spain. She may have been the first architect in the Kansas City area to use cast-in-place concrete walls, and as early as 1937 installed a solar system to provide hot water for a resort hotel on the Siesta Key, an island near Sarasota.

Mary Rockwell Hook died on her 101st birthday in 1978, in her home in Siesta Key.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

This collection consists of six photographs of three residences near Sarasota, Florida, which were designed by Mary Rockwell Hook. These are: the Boring residence; the Betty Strawbridge residence at 172 Sandy Hook Road, Whispering Sands, Sarasota; and the Florence R. DeWalt residence at 679 Avenida N., Sarasota. It also contains photographs of Mary Rockwell Hook as a child and young adult. The informal autobiography, This and That, and clippings of news articles about Mrs. Hook as well as an obituary were added to the collection in 1990. A later addition includes photocopies of correspondence, photographs, printed material, and clippings, ca. 1878-1994, and eight linen drawings of a residence at 50th and Summit designed by Hook. An additional set of 7 drawings of a residence at 51st and Summit (5030 Summit) was added in 2006.

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INVENTORY:

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| Folder 1. | Photographs |
| | 1. Boring residence, main house |
| | 2. Boring residence, pool |
| | 3. Boring residence, rear |
| | 4. Boring residence, main house |
| | 5. Betty Strawbridge residence, 172 Sandy Hook Road |
| | 6. Florence R. DeWalt residence, 679 Avenida N. |
| | 7. Mary Rockwell 1878 |
| | 8. Mary Rockwell 1879 |
| | 9. Mary Rockwell 1884 |
| | 10. Mary Rockwell Oct. 10, 1899 |
| | 11. Mary Rockwell Oct. 3, 1899 |
| | 12. Mary Rockwell May 5, 1900 |
| | 13. Mary Rockwell in Assisi, Italy about 1902 |
| | 14. Mary Rockwell off for France 1919 |
| | 15. Mary Rockwell as a young child – no date |
| | 16. Mary Rockwell as an adult – no date |
| | 17. Julia M. Snyder (Mrs. Bertrand Rockwell)
47 years old Jan. 17, 1897 |
| Folder 2. | Booklet |
| | <u>This and That</u> , by Mary Rockwell Hook, May 1970. |

Folder 3. Clippings

Folder 4. Correspondence

Folder 5. Personal Miscellany

Architectural Drawings for residence of Mrs. Inghram D. Hook, 50th and Summit St., Sunset Hill, KCMO, 8 sheets –(location 105053)

Architectural Drawings for residence of Mr. R.A. Ostertag, 51st and Summit St., Sunset Hill, KC MO, 7 sheets, nd – (location 105053)