Herbert Heron Collection

Collection Summary:

Collection Title: Herbert Heron Collection
Collection Number: H47
Creator: Herbert Heron
Extent: 56 Boxes, 1 CP Folder (Box X)
Span Dates: 1890’s – 1960’s
Repository: Henry Meade Williams Local History Room
Physical Location: Vault: CP, MS, PH, ER, SB
Donor:
Related Collections: F67 – Forest Theater Collection

Biographical Description:

Herbert Heron came to Carmel in 1908. He had worked extensively on the stage in Los Angeles and came from a background of writers and dramatists. On a visit from Los Angeles, Heron fell in love with the village by the sea. He soon settled in Carmel, bringing with him his young bride Opal Heron, the daughter of a Polish Count.

Twice the mayor of Carmel, Heron is probably best known founding the Forest Theater. In 1910, the Herons found a concave hillside looking out, surrounded by oaks and pines, and thought it would be an ideal space for an outdoor theater. Heron’s idea was to stage plays by Carmel authors starring local residents – a true community theater. He approached Frank Devendorf, co-founder of the Carmel Development Company, and asked about purchasing the plot for such a purpose. Devendorf, wanting to attract artistic spirits and "brain workers" to the nascent village, i.e. teachers, librarians, etc., agreed and let Heron have the space rent-free.

By February 1910, construction began on the theater. It was a simple plan: a wooden proscenium stage with a scrim of pines and plain wooden benches. Meanwhile, Heron was busying organizing the first production with the help of the newly-minted Forest Theater Society. The first theatrical production, David, a biblical drama by Constance Lindsay Skinner, inaugurated the Forest Theater on July 9, 1910. Reviewed in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, it was reported that over 1,000 theatergoers attended the production[5] There was no electricity at the theater – calcium floodlights were brought by covered wagon from Monterey to light the stage.[6] Two bonfires were also lit on opposite ends of the proscenium, a tradition which continues today. By all accounts, the performance was considered a success and the packed house helped to solidify the role of theater in Carmel. Heron opened the city’s first book store in 1918 and maintained lifelong friendships with Carmel’s literary luminaries, such as George Sterling, Mary Austin, and Jack London.
In 1960, Herbert Heron finished his 50th year with the Forest Theater with his own play, *Pharaoh*. By 1963 the theater had shown over 140 plays, including 64 premieres and dramatizations by California authors. Numbered among these productions were those by Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, Greek tragedies, local history, children's plays, light operas and musical comedies. One production even featured real horses on stage! Following a brief illness Herbert Heron died on January 8, 1968, at the age of 84.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains

**Administrative Information:**

Access: Materials are open for research.

Publication Rights: The Henry Meade Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library does not hold copyright to these items. Permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder by the user.

Preferred Citation: Herbert Heron Collection, Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel, CA

**Inventory:**

**Manuscripts**

- MS Box #1: Folders 1-2: Eunice Gray: “Cross Trails and Chaparral”
  Folder 3: Jack London: Manuscript
  Folder 4: Jack London: Articles, other writings about him
  Folder 5: George Sterling: Manuscripts
  Folder 6: George Sterling: Poems, other writings about him

- MS Box #2: “Rem” Remson: “Inchling”

- MS Box #3 (All works by Herbert Heron):
  Folder 1: Non-fiction: “Who Wrote Peter Pan?”
  Folder 2-3: Short Stories
  Folder 4: Poetry

- MS Box #4 (All works by Herbert Heron)
  Folder 1: “Falstaff”
  Folder 2: “Farewell Concert”
  Folder 3: “Immortal Fame”
  Folder 4: “The Lady of Gray Gables”
  Folder 5: with Constance Skinner: “Love-Liars”
  Folders 6-7: “Montezuma”

- MS Box #5 (All works by Herbert Heron)
  Folder 1: “Montezuma”
  Folder 2: “Pharoah”
  Folder 3: “The Pyramid”
  Folder 4: “The Spotlight”
  Folders 5-6: “Tusitala”
Folder 7: Untitled Play
- MS Box #6 (All works by Constance Skinner)
  Folder 1: “The Anointed”
  Folder 2: “Birthright”
  Folders 3-4: “David”
  Folders 5: “The Death Penalty”
  Folder 6: “His Handicap”
  Folder 7: “Ibsen’s Plays”
  Folder 8: “The Right to Live”
  Folder 9: “Chapters from the Captain’s Story”
- MS Box #7
  Folder 1: Various manuscripts, various unknown authors
  Folder 2: Anonymous: “Burning”
  Folder 3: Anonymous: “Evind”
  Folder 4: Unknown authors
  Folder 5: Original manuscripts by named authors
  Folder 6: Anonymous: “Night”
  Folder 7: Anonymous: “Prunella”
  Folder 8: Anonymous: “Suiya” or “The God of the Gods”
  Folders 9-10: Anonymous: Untitled plays
- MS Box #8 (Works by Herbert Heron and others)
  Folder 1: Herbert Heron: “Farewell Concert”
  Folder 2: Herbert Heron: “The French Maid”
  Folder 3: Herbert Heron: “Malvolio”
  Folder 4: Herbert Heron: Movie Scripts
  Folder 5: Herbert Heron and Constance Skinner: “Over the Border”
  Folder 6: Henry Wordsworth Longfellow (possible author)
  Folders 7-10: Anonymous authors

**Collected Papers**
- CP Box #1:
  Folder 1a: The Genealogy of the Peet-Heron family
  Folder 1-6: Herbert Heron’s Diary (1884-1916)
  Folder 7: Family history, miscellaneous clippings
- CP Box #2: Herbert Heron’s Diary (1916-1921, 1926-1931, 1938-1939)
- CP Box #3:
  Folders 1-4a: Herbert Heron’s Diary (1939-1943)
  Folder 5: Autobiographical information
  Folder 6: School Days – Los Angeles Military Academy
  Folder 7: School Days – Harvard School
- CP Box #4: Jeanie Peet
  Folder 1: Estate of her mother-in-law, Margaret Peet
  Folder 1A: Spring, Edward (Jeanie’s father) – correspondence
  Folder 2: Poetry by Jeanie Peet
  Folder 3: Letters, diary pages about Jeanie Peet’s marriage to James McKay
  Folder 4: Correspondence to/from her to/from various people
  Folder 5: Letters to her granddaughter, Constance Heron
- CP Box #5: Herbert Heron Family Papers
  Folder 1: His telephone and address books, etc.
  Folder 2: Beatrice Borchardt (cousin) – correspondence

Revised 5/2017 by Katie O’Connell
Folder 3: Herbert Heron – correspondence to/from Henry and Beatrice Borchardt
Folder 4: Louise Frye (cousin) – correspondence with Herbert Heron
Folder 5: Constance Heron (but not the daughter) – correspondence
Folder 6: Herbert Heron – correspondence

- CP Box #6: Family
  Folder 1: Herbert Heron – correspondence to Cludeseley Johns 1899-1902
  Folder 2: Herbert Heron – correspondence to Cludeseley Johns 1903-1954
  Folder 3: Cludeseley Johns – correspondence to Herbert Heron
  Folder 4: Cludeseley Johns – Letters to/from various people
  Folder 5: Herbert Heron – correspondence to/from/about the Mackayes
  Folder 6: Herbert Heron – correspondence with Percy MacKaye
  Folder 7: Herbert Heron – correspondence with various family members
  Folder 8: Valerie ("Mary") Heron – correspondence

- CP Box #7: Bill and Constance Heron
  Folder 1: Papers from their childhood
  Folder 2: Bill Heron – correspondence
  Folder 3: Bill Heron – Letters to other people to/from/about his family
  Folder 4: Constance Heron Robinson – Letters to Herbert Heron
  Folder 5: Herbert Heron – Letters to Constance Heron Robinson
  Folder 6: Constance Heron Robinson – Letters to/from Henry and Beatrice Borchardt
  Folder 7: Henry Cowell – communication to Constance Heron
  Folder 8: Constance Heron Robinson – correspondence
  Folder 9: Constance Heron Robinson – clippings and programs
  Folder 10: Constance Heron Robinson – Poetry and other creative writing

- CP Box #8: Opal Heron Search
  Folder 1: Opal Von Piontkowski – Papers from/about her father
  Folder 2: Frederick Preston Search – Letter to Herbert Heron
  Folder 3: Opal Heron Search – correspondence with Frederick Preston Search
  Folder 4: Frederick Preston Search – correspondence with various people
  Folder 5: Opal Heron Search – Her last years

- CP Box #9:
  Folder 1: George Sterling – correspondence to Herbert Heron
  Folder 2: Herbert Heron – correspondence to George Sterling
  Folder 3: George Sterling – correspondence from miscellaneous
  Folder 4: Envelopes from/to George Sterling
  Folder 5: Ambrose Bierce – correspondence with various people about his criticism of Sterling's “Wine of Wizardry”

- CP Box #10: Friends
  Folder 1: Mary Austin – Letters to Herbert Heron
  Folder 2: Herbert Heron – Letters to Mary Austin
  Folder 3: Ina Coolbrith – Letters to Herbert Heron
  Folder 4: Charmian and Jack London – Letters to Herbert and Opal Heron
  Folder 5: Jack London – Letters to various people
  Folder 6: Herbert Heron – Letters to Jack London
  Folder 7: Jack London – Letter to him from various people
- CP Box #11: Correspondence with Friends
  Folder 1: George Arlis
  Folder 2: W.K. Bassett
  Folder 3: William Cooper
  Folder 4: Margery Critchlow and her parents
  Folder 5: Vincent Duffey
  Folders 6-7: Hugh Gibson
- CP Box #12: Correspondence with friends
  Folder 1: L. (identity unknown) letters to Herbert Heron
  Folder 2: Perry Newberry
  Folder 3: Richard Palmer
  Folder 4: Upton Sinclair
  Folders 5-13: Constance Skinner
  Folder 13A: Constance Skinner – clippings, letters about her and her work
  Folders 14-15: Esther Tuthill
- CP Box #13: Correspondence, other writings
  Folder 1: Mike Williams – correspondence
  Folder 2: Harry Leon Wilson – correspondence
  Folder 3: Ella Winter – correspondence
  Folder 4: Herbert Heron – correspondence regarding poetry
  Folder 5: Herbert Heron – correspondence from various people
  Folder 6: Herbert Heron – on Jack London’s death
  Folder 7: Herbert Heron – on George Sterling’s death
  Folder 8: Correspondence to/from various
  Folder 9: Authors, artists, etc. who lived in Carmel
  Folder 10: Herbert Heron – creative writing submission (lists)
  Folder 11: Herbert Heron – correspondence about his creative works
  Folder 12: Correspondence to publishers about his creative works
  Folder 13: Herbert Heron – Lists of books he read, or will read, other lists
  Folder 14: Herbert Heron – published works
- CP Box #14:
  Folder 1A: Various legal papers
  Folder 1: Published works by various
  Folder 2: Musical works by various
  Folder 3: Articles about George Sterling
  Folder 4: Herbert Heron – research materials
  Folder 5: Correspondence as Mayor
  Folder 6: City Council materials
  Folder 7: Forest Theater – Published works about its history
  Folder 8: Forest Theater – Published works about “The Toad”
  Folder 9: Forest Theater – Historical pageant
- CP Box #15: Forest Theater
  Folder 1: History of the Forest Theater
  Folder 2: History of the Forest Theater
  Folder 3: History of the Forest Theater
  Folder 4: Dissertation and correspondence with Richard Palmer
  Folder 5: History (incomplete) by Fred Bechdolt and John Hilliard
- CP Box #16: Forest Theater
  Folder 1: Herbert Heron-Constance Skinner – correspondence about Forest Theater
Folder 2: Forest Theater Guild
Folder 3: Legal papers and minutes
Folder 4: Supplies needed, budgets, other information on various plays
Folder 5: Bills, receipts
Folder 6: Tickets, Membership Card, handouts
Folder 7: Press clippings
Folder 8: Herbert Heron – Forest Theater correspondence
Folder 9: Scripts
Folder 10: Scripts

- CP Box #17: Theater
  Folders 1-6: Scripts
- CP Box #18: Theater other than Forest Theater
  Folder 1: Club of Arts and Crafts
  Folder 2: Western Drama Society
- CP Box #19: Forest Theater Programs
  Folder 1-4: A-R
- CP Box #20:
  Folder 1: Forest Theater Programs, S-Z
  Folder 2: Shakespeare Festivals Programs
- CP Box #21: Forest Theater Programs – DUPLICATES (PG STORAGE)
- CP Box #22: Forest Theater Programs – DUPLICATES (PG STORAGE)
- CP Box #23: Forest Theater Programs – DUPLICATES
- CP Box #24: Theater of the Golden Bough Programs
- CP Box #25:
  Folder 1: Arts and Craft Theater Programs
  Folder 2: Carmel Sir-Cus or Circus Programs
  Folder 3: Carmel Chamber Music Society Programs
  Folder 4: Carmel Playhouse Programs
  Folder 5: Carmel Theaters – Various Programs
  Folder 6: Del Monte Theater Programs
  Folder 7: Manzanita Theater Programs
  Folder 8: Historical Pageant (a.k.a. Serra pageant) Programs
- CP Box #26:
  Folder 1: Monterey County Symphony Association Programs
  Folder 2: Monterey Peninsula Concert Association Programs
  Folder 3: Monterey Theaters – Programs
  Folder 4: Pacific Grove Theaters – Programs
  Folder 5: San Francisco Theaters – Programs
  Folder 6: The Studio Theater Programs
  Folder 7: Sunset School Auditorium Programs
  Folder 8: Various Theaters outside the Monterey Peninsula – Programs
  Folder 9: Concerts and Ballets in unknown locations
- CP Box #27: Carmel
  Folder 1: Carmel’s History – Printed Material, 1910’s
  Folder 2: Carmel’s History – Printed Material, 1920’s
  Folder 3: Carmel’s History – Printed Material, 1930’s
  Folder 4: Carmel’s History – Printed Material, 1940’s – 1970’s
  Folder 5: Carmel’s history Printed Material, undated
  Folder 6: Herbert Heron – History of Carmel
  Folder 7: Carmel – guidebooks, pamphlets
Folder 8: Monterey Peninsula – guidebooks and pamphlets
Folder 9: Various booklets and pamphlets

- CP Box #28: Seven Arts
  Folder 1: Correspondence
  Folder 2: Works published by Seven Arts Press
  Folder 3: Village Book shop and Seven Arts Books and Bookshop Carmel
  Folder 4: Business papers
  Folder 5: Magazine subscriptions
  Folder 6: Magazine subscriptions

- CP Box #29: Works published by Seven Arts Press – DUPLICATES
- CP Box #30:
  Folder 1: Local Presses
  Folder 2: Carmel Cymbal – Correspondence of W.K. Bassett
  Folder 3: Carmel Cymbal – Business Papers
  Folder 4: The Carmelite – Business Papers
  Folder 5: Newsletters
  Folder 6: Herbert Heron’s Death
- CP Box #31:
  Folder 1: Postmasters position
  Folder 2: Sterling – his work in publications
  Folder 3: Sterling – remembrances
  Folder 4: Sterling – writings about him; bookplates; genealogy
  Folder 5: Nora Mae French

- CP Box #32: Miscellaneous documents – programs, tickets, brochures, publications, etc.
  Folder 1: Argonaut, 1924
  Folder 2: Newspaper clippings
  Folder 3: Programs for various productions, symphonies, etc.
  Folder 4: Publications and prints
  Folder 5: Carmel Memorabilia – brochures, directories etc.
  Folder 6: Herbert Heron – Miscellaneous – war ration stamp folder, letters, envelopes, Christmas card, etc.

- CP 1 Folder Box X (Oversized items): Seating Chart for the Twelfth Night, Sign “New Years Cards,” two newspaper articles on four Socialist women placed in jail, print of the “Cool Grey City,” by George Sterling.

**Photographs**

- PH Box #1:
  Folder 1: Herbert Heron (1870-c.1910)
  Folder 2: Herbert Heron (1920s-1960s)
  Folder 3: Opal Heron Search
  Folder 4: Frederick Preston Search
  Folder 5: Constance Heron
  Folder 6: Bill Heron and family
  Folder 7: Gillet Family and Roland Kibbon
  Folder 8: Jack Herron and Family
  Folder 9: Jack London
  Folder 10: George and Catherine Seidneick
  Folder 11: Constance Skinner
  Folder 12: George Sterling
Folder 13: Frances and Esther Tuthill

- PH Box #2:
  Folder 1: People A-Z
  Folder 2: People – unidentified
  Folder 3: People – unidentified (Cont.)
  Folder 4: Carmel: Businesses, Residences, Mission
  Folder 5: Seven Arts Building & Seven Arts Court
  Folder 6: Carmel Bay Coastline: Pebble Beach, Point Lobos
  Folder 7: Monterey Bay Area: Monterey, Fort Ord
  Folder 8: Residences – unidentified
  Folder 9: Landscapes & Scenery – unidentified
  Folder 10: Animals – unidentified
  Folder 11: Miscellaneous

- PH Box #3: Forest Theater Productions
  Folder 1: Alice in Wonderland (1912)
  Folder 2: Arms and the Man (1919)
  Folder 3: Arms and the Man (1926)
  Folder 4: The Arrow Maker (1914)
  Folder 5: As You Like It (1911)
  Folder 6: As You Like It (1954)
  Folder 8: Caesar and Cleopatra (1922)
  Folder 9: Cathleen ni Houlihan (1922)
  Folder 10: Claudia (1949)
  Folder 10a: Confounding the Witch (1921)
  Folder 11: The Countess Cathleen (1921)
  Folder 12: The Cradle (1923)
  Folder 13: The Dark Lady (1922)
  Folder 14: The Dark Lady (1954)
  Folder 15: David (1910)
  Folder 16: Distant Drums (1947)

- PH Box #4: Forest Theater Productions
  Folder 1: Fire (1913)
  Folder 2: The First Poet (1915)
  Folder 3: The Golden Doom (1920)
  Folder 4: Hamlet (1926)
  Folder 5: Hamlet (1941)
  Folder 6: Helena’s Husband (1954)
  Folder 7: High Justice (1923)
  Folder 8: If I Were King (1927)
  Folder 9: In the Shadow of the Glen (1927)
  Folder 10: In the Shadow of the Glen, nd
  Folder 11: Inchling (1922)
  Folder 12: The Intruder

- PH Box #5: Forest Theater Productions
  Folder 1: Iphigenia in Taurus (1925)
  Folder 2: The Ivory Door (1933)
  Folder 3: Julius Caesar (1930)
  Folder 4: Julius Caesar (1940)
Folder 5: Julius Caesar (1942)
Folder 6: King Henry IV (1922)
Folder 7: Kismet (1923)
Folder 8: The Land of Heart's Desire (1911)
Folder 9: A Lodging for the Night (1916)
Folder 10: Love Liars (1931)
Folder 11: Lysistrata (1951)
Folder 12: Macaire (1914)
Folder 13: Macbeth (1940)
Folder 14: The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife (1924)
Folder 15: The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife (1934)

- PH Box #6: Forest Theater Productions
  Folder 1: Medea (19149)
  Folder 2: The Merchant of Venice (1912)
  Folder 3: The Merchant of Venice (1933)
  Folder 4: The Merry Wives of Windsor (1941)
  Folder 5: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1915)
  Folder 6: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1931)
  Folder 7: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1948)
  Folder 8: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1957)
  Folder 9: Montezuma (1914)
  Folder 10: Mr. Bunt (1924)
  Folder 11: A Night at an Inn (1922)
  Folder 12: Op 'O Me Thumb (1925)
  Folder 13: Over the Fairy Line (1949)

- PH Box #7: Forest Theater Productions
  Folder 1: Pharaoh (1959)
  Folder 2: Pinocchio (1929)
  Folder 3: The Piper (1916)
  Folder 4: The Playboy of the Western World (1955)
  Folder 5: Pomander Walk (1921)
  Folder 6: Prunella (1924)
  Folder 7: Pygmalion and Galatea (1918)
  Folder 8: Quality Street (1924)
  Folder 9: The Romancers (1929)
  Folder 10: Romeo and Juliet (1912)
  Folder 11: Romeo and Juliet (1927)
  Folder 12: Romeo and Juliet (1948)
  Folder 13: Saint Ives (1916)
  Folder 14: Salome (1932)
  Folder 15: Shore Acres (1924)
  Folder 16: Snow White (1920)
  Folder 17: The Talisman (1913)
  Folder 18: Tents of the Arabs (1920)

- PH Box #8: Forest Theater Productions
  Folder 1: A Thousand Years Ago (1917)
  Folder 2: The Toad (1912)
  Folder 3: Treasure Island: Tusitala, The 1st Episode (1916)
  Folder 5: Tusitala: The Prologue (1916)
Folder 6: Twelfth Night (1911)
Folder 7: Twelfth Night (1923)
Folder 8: Twelfth Night (1940)
Folder 9: Twelfth Night (1942)
Folder 10: Twelfth Night (1956)
Folder 11: Two Gentlemen of Soho (1954)
Folder 13: Winterset (1940)
Folder 14: Workhorse (1922)
Folder 15: The Yellow Jacket (1920)
Folder 16: Yes, Doctor (1931)
Folder 17: Yolanda of Cyprus (1916)
Folder 18: Plays – Unidentified
Folder 19: Forest Theater Stage

**Scrapbooks**
- SB Box #1: Clippings, programs

**Ephemera/Realia**
- ER Box #1: (PG STORAGE)
- ER Box #2: Realia
  - The costume he wore in a Forest Theater production and a wooden dagger
- ER Box #3: Realia
  - Seven Arts Bookstore, painted wooden sign
- ER Box #4: Realia
  - Adding machine
- ER Box #5: Realia
  - Two wooden prop daggers

**Collected Papers cont.**
- CP Box X:
  - Folder 1: Correspondence Sterling to Heron, 1919-1926 COPIES
  - Folder 2: Correspondence Sterling to Heron, 1917-1918 COPIES
  - Folder 3: Miscellaneous correspondence
- CP Box Y:
  - Folder 1: Arts and Crafts – Programs
  - Folder 2: Artists and Performers – Programs
  - Folder 3: Carmel Bach Festival – Programs
  - Folder 4: Carmel Music Society – Programs
  - Folder 5: Carmel Chamber Music Society – Programs
  - Folder 6: Carmel Pageant - Programs