Bertha Corson Day Bates Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Acquisition Information
Gift of Mrs. J. Marshall Cole (Bertha Bates Cole), April 1983

Extent
10 linear feet

Abstract
The collection includes correspondence, notebooks, books, photographs, photocopy of journal, catalogs, cards, programs, etc.

Access Restrictions
Unrestricted

Contact Information
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives
Delaware Art Museum
2301 Kentmere Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 571-9590
hfslibrary@delart.org

Preferred Citation
Bertha Corson Day Bates Papers, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials
Students of Howard Pyle Files
Biography of Bertha Corson Day Bates

American painter and illustrator, 1875-1968

Bertha Corson Day was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Germantown. Her cousin was married to the popular artist Thomas Hovenden, and Bertha Day posed for his painting "Bringing Home the Bride." She enrolled in the Drexel Institute art department in 1892; her teachers included sculptor Charles Grafly and watercolorist Lydia Austin. She became a friend of Lydia Austin and her husband Maxfield Parrish.

Bertha Day studied in Howard Pyle's illustration class that began at Drexel in the fall of 1894. After completing the four-year course at Drexel in 1896, she decided to continue as an advanced student in Pyle's illustration class from 1897 through 1899. Having made plans to go to Europe for the summer of 1898, she was unable to attend Pyle's first summer school at Chadds Ford. However, she did attend the next year along with her friends Anna Whelan Betts, Ellen Bernard Thompson, and seven other Drexel students.

Three of her decorative designs were published in the "little magazine" Chap-Book in 1896 and 1897, and her poster design advertising Cashmere Bouquet products won second prize in a contest sponsored by Colgate and Company in 1897. In 1899 she was commissioned to design a billboard announcing the National Export Exposition in Philadelphia. Her historical illustrations appeared in several novels, including Bulwer Lytton's Last Days of Pompeii in 1898 and Paul Leicester Ford's Janice Meredith in 1899. Her most important work was a series of twenty-two illustrations for the book Where the Wind Blows, a collection of fairy tales from different countries, written by Howard Pyle's younger sister, Katharine, and published in 1902.

After her marriage in 1902 to Daniel Moore Bates of the Bancroft textile firm, she did very little commercial illustration. When they moved to Wilmington, she turned instead to designing bookplates and program covers for the Greenroom Club, a local theatrical group.

In 1912 the Bates family moved to Lewiston, Maine, and maintained a summer home on MacMahon Island. From 1920 to 1929 they lived in the Philadelphia area. During those years Bertha Day Bates occasionally painted landscapes, but most of her time was devoted to raising her three children. In 1919, when they moved back to Wilmington, she became active in social and cultural activities and was a member of many organizations, including the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts (now called the Delaware Art Museum), the Historical Society of Delaware, the Women's Committee of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Cosmopolitan Club in Philadelphia. She died at her home "Selborne" in 1968 and age of ninety-three.

Organization of the Collection

Series I: Personal and Biographical
   Subseries A: Miscellaneous Biographical Material
   Subseries B: Journals and Notebooks
   Subseries C: Calendars

Series II: Correspondence
   Subseries A: Personal
   Subseries B: Business

Series III: Artwork
   Subseries A: Materials Designed by Bertha Corson Day Bates
   Subseries B: Illustrations and Tear Sheets

Series IV: Printed Matter
   Subseries A: Exhibition Catalogs
   Subseries B: Miscellaneous
   Subseries C: Books and Periodicals

Series V: Photographs

Note on abbreviations used in the finding aid:
   BCD refers to Bertha Corson Day prior to marriage in 1902
   BCDB refers to Bertha Corson Day Bates after marriage
   DMB refers to Daniel Moore Bates
   BBC refers to Bertha Bates Cole (Mrs. J. Marshall Cole, daughter of BCDB)
**Description of the Collection**

**Series I: Personal and Biographical**

*Subseries A: Miscellaneous Biographical Material*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Record of work and biographical notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Clippings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lists of books read and plays attended, 1891-1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Penmanship exercise book</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clippings and medal re. National Export Exposition, 1899</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hat inscribed by Howard Pyle and summer school students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diploma from Drexel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subseries B: Journals and Notebooks

Box 3
Folder
1a    Journal, 1893-1896

1b    Photocopy of 1893-96 journal

2    Notebook, notes from Howard Pyle's illustrations class at Drexel, fall 1894; notes from James Wood's anatomy class

3    Journal, October 1896 – May 1899 (photocopy)

4    Notebook of commissions and payments, 1896-1902

5    Journal and small notebook, 1898 re. trip to Europe

6    Journal, August 1899 – March 1900 (trip to Valley Forge with Mr. Pyle; Chadd's Ford summer school); name tag or place card for “Miss Day” (made by Pyle for Valley Forge picnic?; tipped into journal at page 3)
**Subseries C: Calendars, originals (Münchener Kalender)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1899 (BCD notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1900 (BCD notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1901 (BCD notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1902 (BCD notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1905 (BCDB &amp; DMB notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1906 (BCDB &amp; DMB notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1907 (BCDB &amp; DMB notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1909 (DMB notes)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1911 (DMB notes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1912 (BCDB notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1913 (DMB notes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1914</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>1916</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>1923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series II: Correspondence

Subseries A: Correspondence, General

Box 5
Folder
1  Brincklé, Gertrude
   April 1, 1963, postcard to BCDB
   December 18, 1968 to Bertha Bates Cole (Mrs. J. Marshall Cole, daughter of BCDB),
   regarding death of BCDB

2  Day, Bertha Corson to/from cousins
   February 9, 1898 Bertha to cousins Annie and Agnes (photocopy)
   December 23, unknown year from “Cousin Fanny” to Bertha (photocopy)

3  Day, Mrs. Richard H. (Bertha’s mother) from BCDB
   July 12, 1899, regarding Chadds Ford summer school

4  Gibson, Charles Dana to BCDB
   undated

5  Gordon, Jessie and family, 1938-1943
   Jessie Gordon to BCDB (Gordon was Drexel classmate)
   December 15, 1938
   November 6, 1941
   Margaret Gordon (sister of Jessie) to BCDB
   March 3, 1943, regarding death of Jessie
   March 29, 1943
   June 8, 1943
   Sara Caldwell (friend of Jessie) to BCDB
   March 16, 1943
   May 25, 1943
   June 5, 1943

6  Green, Elizabeth Shippen to BCDB
   March 6, unknown year

7  Hovenden, Thomas to BCDB (photocopies)
   November 17, 1892
   undated
   clippings referring to Thomas Hovenden
8 Keller, Caroline Gussman (Drexel classmate) and family, 1897-1957
Caroline Gussman Keller to BCDB
  August 10, 1896 (photocopy)
  August 30, 1897, regarding Drexel
  September 3, 1897
  June 17, 1898
  July 10, 1898
  July 22, 1898
  August 15, 1898
  May 3, 1942, regarding Deane Keller's talk about Pyle in Wilmington; mentions
  Frances Day in India broadcasting over radio
  January 29, 1943 regarding the death of Jessie Gordon, Drexel classmate
Deane Keller (Caroline's son) to Mr. and Mrs. Bates
  April 22, 1942, regarding his visit to Wilmington
  December 28, 1957 regarding his father's death; mentions D.K.'s his two murals
  at Johns Hopkins University
A.G. Keller to BCDB
  September 20, 1953
  November 5, 1953
  February 9, 1953
  January 21, 1955
  September 4, 1955
  September 22, 1955
  November 12, 1955
  March 5, 1956 (postcard)
  March 10, 1956
  July 29, 1956 (includes pages written August 20 and 23, 1956)
BCDB to A.G. Keller (copy of letter), [1953], mentions her daughter Frances Bates (wife
  of Peter Muir) died August 31, 1931

9 Marceau, Mrs. Henry from BCDB
  April 2, 1934
  undated

10 Oakley, Thornton
  November 26, 1922 to Daniel Bates
  May 8, 1944 to BCDB

11 “P.” (Maxfield Parrish?) to BCDB
  November 9, 1925, regarding Howard Pyle’s copy of A Cyclopaedia of Costume or
  Dictionary of Dress by J.R. Planché (given to DAM by Mrs. John P. Spielman, Jr., in
  1973; PYLE Z997 .P9 Pl)
  Photocopy of letter from Bertha Bates Cole to “Betsy” (Elizabeth Hawkes?) at DAM
  regarding book, February 2, unknown year
12 Pyle, Ellen B. T. to Daniel Bates
March 27, unknown year, regarding portrait commission of BCDB (BBC note indicates that portrait was painted by Lydia Field Emmett in 1930)

13 Pyle, Howard to BCDB
June 1, 1896
June 23, 1896
September 17, 1896
January 7, 1897
February 11, 1897, Edward Penfield to Howard Pyle regarding a sketch by BCD (copy forwarded from Pyle to BCDB)
August 21, 1897
April 26, 1898
April 5, 1899
April 25, 1899
October 25, 1899 (with enclosure from August F. Jaccaci, October 13, 1899)

14 Pyle, Katharine to BCDB
November 13, 1904

15 Pyle, Sophie (Mrs. Walter Pyle) to BBC
undated

16 Smith, Jessie Willcox to BCDB
December 26, 1898
January 14, 1923

17 Regarding 1903 calendar

Subseries B: Correspondence, Business

18 A-D
Beck Engraving Company
Butterick Publishing Company
The Chap-Book, H. S. Stone & Company
Clark, Helen
Colgate & Company
Drexel Institute

19 H-L
Harper & Brothers
William H. Horstmann Company
Houghton, Mifflin and Company
Howson & Howson
Kalamazoo Corset Company
Ketterlinus Lithographic Manufacturing Company
*The Ladies' Home Journal*
J. B. Lippincott Company

20  M-P
S. S. McClure Company
McCormick Harvesting Machine Company
Millville Manufacturing Company
National Export Exposition (photocopy; see curatorial files)
A. Edward Newtown & Company
Philadelphia Exposition of 1899 (photocopy)
The Plastic Club
Printwell Printing Company

21  S-W
School of Industrial Art of the Pennsylvania Museum
The Union Selling Company
Water Fowl Club of America
John Wanamaker

22  E.P. Dutton & Company


24  Regarding bookplate designs

25  Regarding exhibition of BCDB’s work, 1902, 1904

26  Correspondence, clippings, and contract regarding *Where the Wind Blows*
Series III: Artwork

Subseries A: Materials designed by Bertha Corson Day Bates

Box 6
Folder
1 Christmas cards, dated
2 Christmas cards, undated
3 Programs for The Greenroom Club designed by BCDB
   The Private Secretary, December 1907
   The Importance of Being Earnest (April 1908)
   Woodbarrow Farm, December 1908
   Rosemary, May 1909
   Raffles (May 1910) (2 copies)
   Prince Karl, February 1911 (program and original sketch)
   Miss Hobbs (May 1911) (2 copies)
   Arms and the Man (December 1911) (2 copies)
   The New Lady Bantock (April 1912) (2 copies)
4 Catalogs for The Plastic Club 1898, 1899
5 Bookplates and dinner cards
6 Calendar, 1903
7 Designs for Day Brothers Smith Shop Machines

Subseries B: Illustrations and Tear Sheets

8 Book illustrations
   Last Days of Pompeii by Edward Bulwer Lytton, 1897
   The Boys of Marmiton Prairie by Gertrude Smith, 1899
   Dorothy Fox by Louisa Parr, 1901
   Where the Wind Blows by Katharine Pyle, 1902

9 Periodical illustrations – The Chap-Book
   June 15, 1896 – interior illustration
   August 1, 1896 – interior illustration
   January 1, 1897 – cover illustration

10 Periodical illustrations – The Interior, August 4, 1904
11  Periodical illustrations – miscellaneous tear sheets
   Collier’s Weekly
   Harper’s Bazar
   Harper’s New Monthly Magazine
   The Ladies’ Home Journal
   McClure’s Magazine

12  Miscellaneous
    Photograph of study for “The Fairy Godmother”
    Photocopies from sketch book
Series IV: Printed Matter

Subseries A: Exhibition Catalogs

Box 7
Folder

A Catalogue of Drawings Illustrating the Life of Gen. Washington, and of Colonial Life. Together with a few other Examples of work done for the Public Prints, by Howard Pyle. Exhibited by the St. Botolph Club…Boston, [February 27, 1897]. Inscribed by Pyle to BCD.


3  An Exhibition by the Pupils of Howard Pyle. Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts, 1923.


Subseries B: Miscellaneous Printed Material

5  Bulletin for St. Andrews Church, Wilmington, DE, 1974 (includes information about Bates Chapel)

6  Theater programs for the New Century Club

7  Bookplate designs by Christopher L. Ward. Christopher Ward His Book (10 bookplates); C.E. & R. Ward Their Book (1 proof); C.L. Ward, Jr. His Book (1 proof)

8  Miscellaneous printed material – clippings and tear sheets

Subseries C: Books, Periodicals, and Catalogs

9  Frank Leslie’s Lady’s Magazine, November 1864 (owned by BCDB)
10 *The English Illustrated Magazine*, July 1885, August 1891 (owned by BCDB)

11 R. H. Russell publications
   *The Holiday List of R.H. Russell*, 1899
   *R. H. Russell’s Publications*, 1902
   *What the Critics Say of Some of R. H. Russell’s Leading Books: Comments by the Critical Press of the Country*, c. 1903

12 *Catalogue of Plaster Reproductions*, P. P. Caproni and Brother, 1913


14 Drawing School books (9)

15 Books
   *The Royalty of Friendship*, compiled by Alice L. Williams (Boston: Samuel E. Cassino, 1886)
   *Robert Browning: Old Pictures in Florence* (Florence: Giulio Giannini & Son, 1923)
   *In Memoriam: Elizabeth Lean Head, 1833-1914* (U.S.: publisher not identified, 1914)
   Book of etchings (no title or publisher given, c. 1849)

Box 8 – OV

*Artistic Japan*, June 1889-May 1890

*The Graphic* Christmas Number, 1883, illustrated by Randolph Caldecott
Series III: Photographs

Box 9
Folder
1  Bertha Corson Day Bates
   BCD in her studio, no date
   BCD, c. 1892 (copy)

2  Drexel, 1893-1894
   BCD with Caroline Gussman, Jessie Gordon, and ____ Fuller, June 2, 1893 (4 copies)
   Female students at tea, c. 1894 (2 copies)
   Gussman, Gordon, and BCD in modeling class, February 1894

3  Glass plate negative of photograph of BCD, Gussman, Gordon, and Fuller, 1893

4  Chadds Ford, 1899
   Students at door of Chadds Ford school (negative)
   BCD and other students washing brushes (cyanotype)
   Female students in front of their dormitory, the Lafayette's Headquarters building
   (cyanotype)
   Howard Pyle and students picnicking par terre at Valley Forge, August 20, 1899
   (cyanotype)
   Howard Pyle and students at picnic table, Valley Forge, August 20, 1899 (cyanotype)
   Students in costume at Chadds Ford

5  Howard Pyle
   Howard Pyle seated with students standing behind him, c. 1903
   Howard Pyle at easel

6  Artwork