

## Gift of Rollin Pickford watercolors & journals

In September the Madden Library announced a gift to its Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) from the Rollin Pickford family of his paintings, notebooks, diaries, and ephemera still in family hands. The gift has been appraised at a value of \$2,200,000 and will be delivered in increments over 20 years, beginning with the first gift received in December 2013. "The donation of the Rollin Pickford paintings from his family is a truly significant gift not only as a body of art from a well-known artist, but as a record of regional landscapes and buildings of the past," said Tammy Lau, Head of the SCRC.



Largely a watercolorist, Rollin Pickford was one of the seminal 20th century Central Valley painters with a national reputation. He helped to develop a regional variation of the California watercolor style dubbed "the San Joaquin Valley School of Watercolor." The Madden Library will provide worldwide access to this magnificent collection in its online digital repository.

The gift is celebrated in an exhibition of the artist's work where, for the first time, the paintings will be accompanied by the artist's notebooks, dairies, and other contemporary gallery, press release, and media ephemera. Titled "Rollin Pickford: An Artist and His Collectors," the exhibition is on view in the Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery through January 16, 2015.

The exhibition showcases watercolors by Pickford from the private collections of 20 different families and companies. Visitors have a rare opportunity to see these never-before-exhibited works and to learn more about Rollin Pickford as a man and as an artist. They may also learn about the individual collectors, why they appreciate Pickford's work, and how they came to acquire their

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## Fresno Assembly Center collection donated

An extremely rare collection of original documents about the Fresno Assembly Center used to house Japanese Americans detained during World War II has been donated to the Madden Library's Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) by the family of Walter E. Pollock, head of the service division of the hastily-built assembly center. Pollock's three sons, Walter, Warren, and Weston, carefully preserved this collection for decades after their father's passing. They decided it was time to let it go, with the assurance it would be valued, protected, and used by researchers. Among the most unique items in this unprecedented collection is a full set of the Fresno Assembly Center bulletins; a list of events held at the Center; camp regulations read to the internees; a Center directory; Pollock's own impressions of the camp and internees; a draft of a book Pollock was writing about the Center; and an amazing set of very elaborate, detailed architectural drawings for the planned Center (made despite the fact it was temporary and

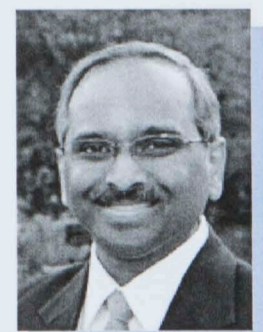


Painting of the Fresno Assembly Center by artist Henry Sugimoto.

(See **Assembly Center** on page 3)

## Meet our new Board member

We welcome Dr. Ramakrishna "Ram" Nunna, dean of Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering, as our newest Board member. Nunna earned his B.S. in Electronics and Communications from Bangalore University in India and master's and doctoral degrees in computer engineering from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Nunna is a member of President Castro's Commission on the Future of Agriculture, the DISCOVERe tablet initiative, and the university's Task Force on Internationalization.



## FriendScript

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watercolors. Also on display are some of Pickford's journals in which he wrote daily, often describing the watercolors as he was in the process of painting them.

An opening reception for the exhibition on Friday, October 17, also served to honor the Pickford Family as the Henry Madden Library's 2014 Donors of the Year for this important planned gift.

## The Pickford Family's gift of art

by Joel Pickford

The Pickford family is excited to announce a new partnership with the Henry Madden Library, beginning with a gift of our entire Rollin Pickford watercolor collection. In addition to some 2,000 original artworks, we are donating Rollin's daily journals covering more than 50 years; a large collection of articles, magazine stories, and other print ephemera; sketchbooks; hand-painted rice paper calendars; and digitized photos chronicling his life and several generations of his family history from the 1870s to his death in 2010.

The long-term goal of our collaboration is to create a content-rich, multifaceted archive that will combine online resources with original art and print matter. Eventually, everything in the collection will be searchable online. An ongoing series of exhibitions at the Library is planned and the work also will be available for loan to qualified institutions for exhibitions. As a research collection, the Pickford archive will offer opportunities for scholars to study land-use issues, development, and the history of the San Joaquin Valley. Many of Rollin's watercolors document an agrarian landscape that has since been paved over to make way for sprawling, low-density subdivisions and strip malls. Others depict the growing cities of the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast during the decades from 1940 to 2000. Rollin's journals provide insights into his creative process over the span of his sixty-year career.

In making our decision about where to place this collection, we chose the Henry Madden Library for its location in the heart of Rollin's beloved San Joaquin Valley, for its state-of-the-art archival facilities and exhibition space, and for its enthusiastic and dedicated Special Collections staff. Our inaugural exhibition, titled "Rollin Pickford: An Artist and His Collectors" (on view in the Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery through January 16, 2015), focuses on the community of collectors who have supported Rollin Pickford and his work for many decades. Each family, business, organization, or individual collector was represented by a single watercolor that had never been exhibited before. The resulting, highly eclectic group of paintings showcased the artist's broad range of subject matter, technique, and style, from pure abstraction to detailed realism.

We look forward to a long and productive partnership with the Madden Library.



Virginia Eaton and her  
Pickford painting, "King's  
Canyon Foothill Granite"

