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# Guide to the Henry Duncan Grant Watercolor Sketchbooks and Scrapbooks

GEN MSS 611



by Matthew D. Mason

September 2009

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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(203) 432-2977  
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**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 611

**CREATOR:** Grant, Henry Duncan, 1834-1896

**TITLE:** Henry Duncan Grant watercolor sketchbooks and scrapbooks

**DATES:** 1866-1900

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.67 linear feet (19 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Watercolor sketchbooks created and scrapbooks chiefly compiled by Henry Duncan Grant that document his world travel as an officer in the Royal Navy, 1866-1896 and his family until 1900.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.grant>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.grant>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from the William Reese Company on the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection Fund, 2008.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Henry Duncan Grant Watercolor Sketchbooks and Scrapbooks is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Henry Duncan Grant Watercolor Sketchbooks and Scrapbooks. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Henry Duncan Grant (1834-1896)

Henry Duncan Grant served in the Royal Navy from 1847 until his death. Grant rose through the ranks and served on several ships to become an admiral by 1892.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of watercolor sketchbooks and scrapbooks created and compiled by Henry Duncan Grant while he traveled in Europe, North America, South America, and Asia as an officer in the Royal Navy, 1866-1896, and with his family. Grant travelled extensively throughout his career. The geographic focus of his work seems to follow a few broad patterns. Most of his images made before 1889 depict European scenes, a trip to India in 1871-1873, and Greece and the Near East. His work from 1889 through 1891 includes extensive images of the Americas, including the Canadian and United States West. Much of his work after 1891 concerns England, Egypt, and the Caribbean. Duncan painted seashores, harbors, buildings, cemeteries, landscapes, animals, plants, and copies of other artwork. The scrapbooks contain watercolors as well as family photographs and clippings from *The Naval and Military Record* and from London newspapers about naval vessels and military topics.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Watercolor Sketchbooks, 1866-1896. II. Scrapbooks, 1871-1900.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Watercolor Sketchbooks, 1866-1900

(15 sketchbooks)

Arranged by incremental size and chronologically within each size group

#### 3.5 x 5 inch volumes

b. 1	Sketchbook Images of a sugar mill in Barbados and Chinese men smoking opium aboard a steamship of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.	1867-1888
b. 2	Sketchbook Images of locations and people in South America, and several images of North American subjects, including a American Indian gravesite near Yale, British Columbia, and the Statue of Liberty.	1888-1890
b. 3	Sketchbook Images of locations and people in South America, as well as England, Ukrainian Russia, and Egypt	1890-1892
b. 4	Sketchbook Images of Egypt and England.	1892-1895

#### 5 x 7 inch volumes

b. 5	Sketchbook Views of British warships and the Nordic region.	1866-1868
b. 6	Sketchbook Detailed drawings of fish and views of Estonia and the British Isles.	1867-1881
b. 7	Sketchbook Images of European colonies in southeast Asia, as well as views of France and Spain.	1881-1883
b. 8	Sketchbook Images of sardine processing and views of England, Spain, France, and Newfoundland.	1883-1886
b. 9	Sketchbook Images of a picnic and game of lawn tennis in Devon, England, and views of Greece, Turkey, and Syria.	1886-1888

#### 5.5 x 9 inch volumes

b. 10	Sketchbook Images of Europe, South America, and North America, including a journey on the Canadian Pacific Railway from the Great Lakes to British Columbia and his continuing travel through Oregon, Utah, and Colorado in 1889.	1889-1891
b. 11	Sketchbook Images of England, the Caribbean Area, and Egypt.	1891-1893

## 5.5 x 9 inch volumes (continued)

b. 12	Sketchbook Images of England and the Caribbean region, including views of buildings in Jamaica.	1893-1896
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## 7 by 10 inch volumes

b. 13	Sketchbook Images of England and harbors of European countries, as well as plants in pots.	1884-1889
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b. 14	Sketchbook Images of Canada and the United States, as well as images of Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, and Turkey	1889-1894
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b. 15	Sketchbook Images of England and the Caribbean region.	1894-1896
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**Series II: Scrapbooks, 1871-1900***(4 scrapbooks)*

Arranged chronologically.

b. 16	Scrapbook, "Sketches in India, 1871-1873" Scrapbook Grant created while Captain of the <i>HMS Serapis</i> . It chiefly includes images en route from the Red Sea to India and documents Elephanta Island and the railway between Bhore Ghat and Mumbai. The volume also includes an ink drawing of a British social club drawn by O. F. Mulloy.	1871-1873
b. 17	Scrapbook Images of England, Egypt, and the Caribbean.	1893-1896
b. 18	Scrapbook Consists mostly of clippings from London newspapers and from <i>The Naval and Military Record</i> discussing naval vessels or military topics. It includes an invitation to an afternoon party with Queen Victoria in July 1896.	1894-1896
b. 19	Scrapbook Probably compiled by Agnes Harriet Elizabeth Grant (born circa 1835), the wife of Grant. The scrapbook includes paintings and drawings by several amateur artists, pressed plant leaves, and about seventy photographic prints. Images include portraits of the Grant family; views of Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy, France; and several photographs by an acquaintance, Sybil Williams, that show scenes in Scotland, October 1895.	1894-1900

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Harbors -- Pictorial works  
Navies -- Officers  
Seashore -- Pictorial works

### **Geographic Names**

Africa -- Pictorial works  
Asia -- Pictorial works  
Canada, Western -- Pictorial works  
Europe -- Pictorial works  
North America -- Pictorial works  
South America -- Pictorial works  
West (U.S.) -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Botanical illustrations  
Scrapbooks  
Watercolors (paintings)

### **Names**

Grant, Agnes Harriet Elizabeth  
Grant, Henry Duncan, 1834-1896  
Mulloy, O. F.  
Williams, Sybil

### **Corporate Body**

England and Wales. Royal Navy -- Officers