

2-23-2018

## Guide to the Blumenstiel Collection

Linfield College Archives

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**Helen Blumenstiel**  
**Guide to the Helen Blumenstiel Collection**  
**1948-1995**

**Creator:** Helen Blumenstiel  
**Title:** Helen Blumenstiel Collection  
**Dates:** 1948-1995  
**Quantity:** 3

**Summary:** This collection comprises many documents of Blumenstiel's life and her many years at Linfield. Helen played a large role in building the art program at Linfield and this collection shows some of her influence. This collection includes her class notes, sketches, portraits and farm photos to her will and some small personal belongings. Her contributions made a lasting impact on the art department at Linfield, and she paved the way for the department to expand from a single class to a full-fledged course of study.

**Repository**

Jereld R. Nicholson Library  
Linfield University  
900 SE Baker Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
Reference Number: 503-883-2734  
Reference Email: [archives@linfield.edu](mailto:archives@linfield.edu)

**Language:** English

**Biographical Note**

Helen Blumenstiel was an artist and teacher throughout her life. She taught at Linfield College from 1946 to 1947, and then returned in 1952 to accept a full-time position teaching art. From that time until 1965, she led the expansion of the department and became the chairwoman of the Fine Arts department. Blumenstiel championed the awareness of the department by giving faculty lectures, and upon her retirement, the department was offering a dual degree in Art and Education. Outside of the Linfield

College arena, Blumenstiel exhibited her work in New York, Seattle, Portland, and Salem, among other locations. Her later life involved a lot of moving back and forth from the east coast to west but she eventually found her home in Salem, Oregon.

### **Content Description**

This collection contains materials related to Helen's life at Linfield as well as many other institutions and also her personal affairs. From letters and journals to class notes and assignment sketches, this collection is composed of many documents that tell her life's story. This collection also contains many photos of both Helen's work and also herself and her farm. Along with small personal belongings and articles this collection gives you a good idea about what kind of presence Helen held in her later years, a truly impactful one at that.

### **Restrictions on Access**

Access is by appointment only. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment.

### **Preferred Citation**

Helen Blumenstiel Collection. Jereld R. Nicholson Library. Linfield University, McMinnville, Oregon. Gift of Peggy Reuler and Donna Jean McDaniel.

### **Provenance**

Donna Jean McDaniel donated to the Helen Blumenstiel collection for the Linfield University Archives in 2017, and Peggy Reuler donated additional materials in January, 2020.

### **Location of Originals**

Jereld R. Nicholson Library, Linfield University.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by archives technicians Anna Vanderschaegen and Sofia Zielinski, with the assistance of archivist Rich Schmidt.

## **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into seven boxes:

**Box 1:** Helen's sketchbooks including pencil, charcoal, ink, and watercolor sketches

### **Box 2**

**Folder 1:** Notes from art fundamentals course

**Folder 2:** Notes, Christmas song lyrics and block prints

**Folder 3:** Notes from spring 1948

**Folder 4:** Class and test notes from Helen's education

### **Box 3**

**Folder 1:** Woodcuts

**Folder 2:** Pencil sketches (loose paper)

**Folder 3:** Notes and sketch assignments

**Folder 4:** Pencil sketches and collages

**Folder 5:** Newspapers and block prints

**Folder 6:** Old prints and cutouts

### **Box 4**

**Folder 1:** Helen's work at Linfield 1995

**Folder 2:** Large black and white portraits and farm photos

**Folder 3:** Black and white farm photos

**Folder 4:** Envelope full of slides: art pieces from Linfield gallery

### **Box 5**

**Folder 1:** Eulogies

**Folder 2:** Newspapers about Helen

**Folder 3:** Property sales documents and news clippings

**Folder 4:** Articles about Helen written by Emmerson

**Folder 5:** Letters from Helen to Stella D and Peggy R

**Folder 6:** Story and history of Helen's early employment

**Folder 7:** Radio interview

**Folder 8:** Helen's will

**Folder 9:** Retrospective 1995

### **Box 6: Oversized items**

-Farm journal

-Scrapbook full of photos

-Unbound copy of farm journal

-Rolled up canvas art of some sort

**Box 7: Yellow photo box**

- Leather trifold key holder
- Miniature book of Psalms 1903 edition
- Old case of fountain style ink pens
- 2 cds containing photo copies

**Additional materials**

The archives has five oversized pieces of Helen's artwork, photos of which are here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6roof0w5mz5uaqy/AACdXHuyNCMz9n15V6MuJ8x4a?dl=0>

One is located in the archivist's office, and four are stored in the archives.

A digital collection of Helen Blumenstiel's art is available here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/155417544@N05/sets/72157687432539734/with/23527973118/>