

Collection #  
P 0535  
OM 0544

## **FLOYD D. HOPPER COLLECTION, 1967-1986**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 half-size manuscript box, 1 OM folder, 2 boxes slides, 1 OVA Graphics folder, 2 Flat File folders, 1 painting in Painting Storage

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1967-1986

**PROVENANCE:** Society of Indiana Pioneers  
Corona M. [Ronie] Lewis

**RESTRICTIONS:** Slides and negatives must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff.

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**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1980.1120; 2006.0061; 2011.0146; 2011.0255

**NOTES:**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Floyd D. Hopper (November 1, 1909–July 2, 1984) was born in Martin County, Indiana. The son of Edward L. Hopper, a blacksmith, and Sarah Archer, he graduated from West Baden High School in 1929. He earned a scholarship to complete a four-year certificate from the John Herron Art School in 1933 and returned to the school for two more years to complete his B.F.A. in 1940. He was also awarded the Mary Milliken Travel Scholarship while at Herron. He studied commercial art during his first year, but switched to fine arts later. While in school, he waited tables at the Colonial Tea Room on 14th and Pennsylvania, earning \$15 a week in tips and meals. He also briefly studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

During his education Hopper studied under William Forsyth, Clifton Wheeler, Paul Hadley, Roy C. Nuse, George Harding, Francis Speight, Donald M. Mattison, Henrik M. Mayer, Eliot O'Hara, Francis Chapin, and Max Kahn.

While at Herron, he was influenced by the American Scene paintings that were popular during the depression years of the 1930s, which featured people at work and play in glazed gray tones. By 1970, he preferred to paint landscapes, buildings, and street scenes in watercolor.

In the late 1930s, Hopper set up a studio in the old Union Trust Building on Market Street in Indianapolis, but abandoned it when World War II broke out. He was too old for combat, but contributed to the war effort by running a wood pattern shop for Hetherington & Burnet, an Indianapolis steel fabricator. After the war, he founded the Noblesville Casting Iron Co. with two partners in 1945. He stayed there until 1958, when he began spending most of his time painting and teaching. He taught at the Indianapolis Art League from 1963 to 1983. While teaching at the Art League, he was honored with over 115 awards in 187 exhibitions.

Hopper's Cherry Tree Hill Studio, was located at 7780 E. 126th Street. He worked mainly from photographic slides of places he visited with his wife Hazel, including scenes from Indiana, Michigan, Door County, Wisconsin, the Eastern Seaboard, and the Mediterranean. He rendered these scenes in soft, clear colors. Although he had an affinity for watercolor, he also experimented with oils, charcoal, pastels, lithography, and silkscreen. He provided the inspiration and leadership for a series of calendars by the Hamilton County Historical Society, now valuable collector's items.

Hopper was a past president of the Indiana Artists Club and board member of the Indianapolis Art League, Society of Indiana Pioneers, and Connor Prairie Pioneer Settlement. He was a member of the Hoosier Salon, Indiana Federation of Art Clubs, Philadelphia Water Color Club, I.U. Alumni Association of Herron School of Art, Hamilton County Artists Association, and Brown County Art Guild. He was elected to the Indiana Academy in 1979.

He exhibited work in every Hoosier Salon show from 1935 to 1967, except during the war years. His works are held in the collections of Indiana University, Ball State University, DePauw University, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Oklahoma City Museum, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Floyd Hopper was known as Indiana's premier watercolorist at the time of his death, and was given the title of "Father of Indiana Watercolor" by the Indiana legislature soon after.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

Calder, J. Kent. "Floyd D. Hopper: Dean of Indiana Watercolorists." *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*, III, Winter, 1991: pg. 34-39.

"Floyd D. Hopper: Blue Monday." Indianapolis Museum of Art.

<http://www.imamuseum.org/collections/artwork/blue-monday-floyd-d-hopper-0>, accessed 04-29-2014.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

**Series 1** contains paintings and prints by Floyd Hopper, including a poster for his 1986 retrospective exhibition.

**Series 2** contains 172 slides featuring Floyd Hopper's paintings and photographs from which he worked. Some slides show his paintings installed and on display. Slides of the same paintings are arranged together. All slides are undated.

**Series 3** contains an oversized manuscript folder and a half-sized manuscript box of calendars that feature Hopper's work, greeting cards with images of his paintings, promotional brochures, invitations and mailers for his exhibits, and clippings regarding his life and death.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Paintings and Prints**

#### CONTENTS

9" x 12" Prints, n.d.

Floyd Hopper Retrospective Exhibition Poster  
["Blue Monday"], 1986

"Orange County Courthouse, Paoli, Indiana" 1980

"Threatening Weather" [watercolor of the Noblesville  
Casting Company, formerly the Union Sanitary  
Manufacturing Company], n.d.

#### CONTAINER

OVA Graphics:  
Folder 1

Flat File Storage:  
FF 3-o, Folder 1

Flat File Storage:  
FF 3-o, Folder 2

Painting Storage:  
3: 13A, section 5

### **Series 2: Slides**

#### CONTENTS

Paintings: Women, n.d.

Paintings: Men, n.d.

Paintings: Children, n.d.

Paintings: Children, n.d.

Paintings: Animals, n.d.

Paintings: Landscapes, n.d.

Paintings: Architecture, n.d.

Paintings: Architecture, Monument Circle, n.d.

#### CONTAINER

Slides:  
Box 1, Slides 1-60

Slides:  
Box 1, Slides 61-82

Slides:  
Box 1, Slides 83-95

Slides:  
Box 2, Slides 96-117

Slides:  
Box 2, Slides 118-119

Slides:  
Box 2, Slides 120-136

Slides:  
Box 2, Slides 137-138

Slides:  
Box 2, Slides 139-141

Paintings: Religious, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slides 142-147
Paintings: Maps, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slide 148
Photographs: Women, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slides 149-156
Photographs: Men, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slides 157-158
Photographs: Children, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slides 159-165
Photographs: Animals. n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slides 166-167
Photographs: Landscapes, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slides 168-169
Photographs: Architecture, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slides 170-171
Photographs: Cars, n.d.	Slides: Box 2, Slide 172

### **Series 3: Manuscript and Printed Materials**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Hamilton County Historical Calendars, 1981-82	Box 1, Folder 1
The Love of Life and People Calendar, 1985	OM 0544, Folder 1
Greeting Cards, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 2
Floyd D. Hopper Brochures, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 3
Retrospective Exhibition Catalog, 1986-87	Box 1, Folder 4
Exhibit Invitations and Mailers, 1986	Box 1, Folder 5
Notes by Corona M. [Ronie] Lewis, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Clippings, 1967-1986	Box 1, Folder 7

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0535).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.