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Finding aid for the
Reginald Heron archive, circa 1920s-2013
AG 252

Reginald Heron archive, circa 1920s-2013

AG 252

Creator

Heron, Reginald (1932-2012)

Abstract

Papers and photographic materials, dates, of Reginald Heron (1932-2012), photographer and educator. Includes correspondence, writings, appointment calendars, exhibition announcements, clippings, publications, photographic materials, audiovisual materials, and memorabilia.

Quantity/ Extent

22 linear feet; 8.75 cubic feet; 35 boxes

Language of Materials

English, French

Biographical Note

Reginald Heron was a photographer, an experimenter, and an enthusiast. But most of all, he was an educator, known (and loved) by his students at Indiana University at Bloomington and by his peers worldwide.

Reginald Heron was born in France in 1932 to British parents, Reginald and Kathleen Heron. During World War II, the family lived for a time in Portugal, returning to England and France after the war ended. His parents divorced at some point; Heron and his mother had a close and loving relationship. In 1952, at age 19, he moved to the U.S. where he lived in New York City and Cincinnati and, finally, Chicago. He worked at Marshall Fields, did some technical writing for the American Technical Society, was a lab tech for the Baldwin Piano Company. When he became ill (possibly mononucleosis) in 1954, he returned to his mother's home in Lavandou, France to recover. When he was healthy again, Reg attended college and worked for Ilford in England. Around 1956, he returned to the United States, moving to Chicago where he earned Bachelor's (1963) and Master's (1966) degrees in photography from the Institute of Design of the Illinois Institute of Technology. His Master's thesis examined the formation of groups and the choreography of crowds in photography. Much of his early work chronicles crowds of people in city scenes, an observer's view of mid-century America.

After graduation, Heron moved to Rochester, New York, to become Assistant Curator for the Equipment Archives at the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House. In 1970, Heron's mentor Henry Holmes Smith, hired him to teach photography in the School of Fine Arts at Indiana University in Bloomington. The two

men became fast friends. Smith groomed Heron to succeed himself as head of the photography department at Indiana when Smith retired. When Heron's advancement was questioned, Smith wrote letters and made phone calls promoting Heron's candidacy and eventual appointment. Heron remained at the school until his retirement 26 years later.

Heron married and divorced three times during his 20s and 30s. In 1977, he married Karen Donne Vitelli, an anthropologist. This marriage stuck; the two were together the rest of Heron's life. Vitelli's work took them to Greece numerous times during their years together. While there, Heron photographed the environment; some of his most notable images are Greek streetscapes, usually at night.

Heron retired in 1996 and was named professor emeritus at Indiana University. He and Vitelli moved to a small town in western Maine where Heron continued to photograph and began working with digital photography. During this time, he was fighting cancer; Heron died in 2012.

Chronology

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1932 | Reginald Heron born to British parents Reginald Forde Heron and Kathleen Mary in Marseilles, France on September 24. |
| 1940 | Family left France for Portugal during WWII |
| 1952 | Heron arrived in New York from London on November 28. Spent some time in NY City then moved to Cincinnati where he worked as a lab tech for The Baldwin Piano Company, which he described in a letter to his mother as: "building and wiring electronic models, making routine electrical tests, etc." |
| 1953 | Moved to Chicago to go to school. Worked briefly at Marshall Fields. Worked at American Technical Society, publisher of vocational training materials |
| March 1954 | Returned to Lavandou, France to recover after becoming ill in the U.S. |
| 1954-1956 | Lived in England; attended Tonbridge and Guilford schools in England and London University. Also attended La Sorbonne in Paris |
| ca. 1956 | Reg returned to United States; married Joanne Schmidt |
| 1957-1958 | Served in U.S. Army, stationed in Ludwigsburg, Germany in 1957; Mannheim, Germany in 1958. Received U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal in 1958; divorced from Joanne Schmidt Heron |
| 1958 | Moved to Chicago where he returned to job as a technical editor for American Technical Society |

- 1959 Reg's father died
- 1958-1966 Heron lived in Chicago, attending school and working; married Jayne Saltzman in 1961; divorced in 1966
- 1963 BS degree in photography from the Institute of Design of the Illinois Institute of Technology
- 1965-1966 Taught at the New Bauhaus/School of Design in Chicago
- 1966 MS degree in photography from the Institute of Design of the Illinois Institute of Technology
- 1966-ca. 1970 Assistant Curator for the Equipment Archives at the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House in Rochester; married Ninette Rawas in 1967; later divorced
- 1970-1996 Hired by his mentor Henry Holmes Smith, taught in the School of Fine Arts at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, for the next 26 years
- 1977 Married Karen Donne Vitelli
- 1996 Retired at age 63, named professor emeritus at Indiana University
- 2003 Moved to Dresden in western Maine, population approx. 1,500
- 2012 Died on December 15 in Dresden, Maine

Scope and Content Note

The Reginald Heron Archive contains the personal papers and photographic materials of the photographer and educator Reginald Heron (1932-2012). The materials in the archive date from the 1920s to 2013. The archive consists of correspondence files, biographical materials, manuscripts, exhibition materials, teaching files, publications, audiovisual materials, and photographic materials.

Series 1, Correspondence, includes personal and professional letters, postcards, and greeting cards written to and by Reginald Heron. The bulk of the personal correspondence is letters written by Reginald Heron to his mother Katherine who he addressed as "KM". Their letters include discussions of magazine subscriptions, the price of stamps, Heron's back trouble, Esperanto, a man named Gaston Valenciennes, socks KM was knitting for Heron, a cat named Sacha, and typewriters. In one such letter to his mother, dated 4/13/1957, Heron wrote: *"When I am rich ha bloody ha, I will buy you one of these extra special American ones. Maybe an IBM Electronic one, they are a veritable dream. Have you ever handled one, it's quite an experience. Something everyone should do before they die."*

Series 2, Biographical Materials, contains materials relating to Heron's relationships, education, career, exhibitions, and working relationship with Henry Holmes Smith. Exhibition materials include announcements, catalogs, correspondence, press releases, installation views, and other materials that document exhibitions of works by Heron and others. In a 1962 letter to his mother, Heron wrote "...just got back from seeing one of my sort of academic idols—Henry Holmes Smith—who runs the photo department down at the University of Illinois in Bloomington, almost down at the bottom of Indiana... What a man. We got on extraordinarily well, I am glad to say and we were sort of awed that such a not too loosely used "great man" should with such generosity spend so much of his time with us; and appear to enjoy it." The two became great friends and colleagues.

Series 3, Activity Files, includes Heron's research files, teaching files, writings, and journals. Research files include patents, blue prints, and other miscellaneous research conducted by Heron. Teaching files include correspondence, memoranda, course and seminar outlines, lecture notes, research notes, announcements, administrative records, photographs, and other materials relating to courses taught by Heron. There is also a collection of Heron's writings, notes, and journals, including *Lofty's Log*, which were journals kept by Heron during his travels.

Series 4, Publications, includes monographs, periodicals, tearsheets, and clippings written by Heron or about his activities.

Series 5, Photographic Materials, includes negatives, slides, contact sheets, prints, equipment, and digital materials. Digital Materials includes floppy disks and CDs. Contact sheets includes variety of sizes and content. Digital Prints includes notes from the artist regarding the location and date on many of these prints, however the bulk of prints is untitled. In addition, Digital Prints includes print orders from AGFA, CVS, and Kodak. While largely unmounted 8 by 10 prints, there are cyanotypes and a plated silver gelatin print present in the collection as well. In addition, there are a wide variety of negative formats, including 16 mm, 35 mm, 4x5, and glass plate negatives. Equipment contains several manuals and informational guides, including brochures on paper fiber, photographic chemistry, and publications about preservation.

Arrangement

[Series 1: Correspondence](#)

[Series 2: Biographical Materials](#)

[Series 3: Activity Files](#)

[Series 4: Publications](#)

[Series 5: Photographic Materials](#)

Subseries 1: Digital Materials

Subseries 2: Contact Sheets

Subseries 3: Digital Prints
Subseries 4: Negatives
Subseries 5: Prints
Subseries 6: Slides
Subseries 7: Equipment and Technical Literature

Names and Subject Terms

Heron, Reginald

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright held by the estate of Reginald Heron and Karen Donne Vitelli.

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner (which could be the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates or literary executors) prior to any copyright-protected uses of the collection.

The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers, employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

Provenance

The collection was a gift in 2014 from Karen Donne Vitelli, the photographer's widow.

Preferred Citation

Reginald Heron archive, circa 1920s-2013. AG 252. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Collection arranged and described by Dena McDuffie, 2017.

Finding aid updated by Paige Hilman, 2018.

Container List

Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-2009, n.d.

Note: arranged alphabetically and chronologically. Materials include personal and professional letters, postcards, and greeting cards written to and by Reginald Heron. The bulk of the personal correspondence is letters written by Reginald Heron to his mother Katherine who he addressed as "KM". Quantity: 4 boxes.

Subseries 1: Personal Correspondence, 1944-1972

Box	Folder	
1	1-7	Katherine Mary Heron, 1952-1961
2	1-2	Katherine Mary Heron, 1962-1967
	3	P. Martini, 1961 [note: letters written in French]
	4	Gaston Valenciennes, 1944-1972
	5	Karen Donne Vitelli, circa 1972

Subseries 2: Professional Correspondence, 1975-2006

Box	Folder	
2	6	Steve Rifkin, 1997-2005
	7	Gretchen Romer, 2004
	8	Judy Seigel, 1991-2001
	9	Dallas Simpson, 1995
	10	Aaron Siskind, 1976
	11	Henry Holmes Smith, 1975-1976
	12	Michael Ware, 1995-2006
3	1	Valery Zakharov, 1995-1997
	2	William Ziegler, Zip-align, 1994-2004
	3-5	Listserve, Alt-photo-process, 1992-1998
4	1-3	Listserve, Alt-photo-process, 1999-2006
	4	Listserve, Color theory, 2008
	5	Listserve, Pure silver, 2004
	6-7	Miscellaneous, 1962-2009, n.d.

Series 2: Biographical Materials, 1932-2013, n.d.

Note: materials relating to Heron's relationships, education, career, exhibitions, and working relationship with Henry Holmes Smith. Exhibition materials include announcements, catalogs, correspondence, press releases, installation views, and other materials that document exhibitions of works by Heron and others. Quantity: 2 boxes.

Box	Folder	
5	1	Jane Salzman Heron, 1964-1999
	2	Joanne G. Schultz Heron, 1956-1958

3	Katherine Mary Heron, 1939-19??
4	Reginald Heron, 1932-undated
5	Sara "Ninette" Rawas Heron, 1943-1968
6	Karen Vitelli, 1977
7	Awards & Recognition, 1995-1996
8	Education, 1963-1966
9	Employment, 1962-1996
10	Exhibitions, Background, 1966-2006
11	Exhibitions, Press, 1962-1975
6	1 Exhibitions, Press, 1976-2013
	2 Henry Holmes Smith, Biographical
	3 Henry Holmes Smith/HHS Foundation
	4 Henry Holmes Smith, Press
	5 Henry Holmes Smith, Publications

Series 3: Activity Files, circa 1920s-1980s, n.d.

Note: materials include Heron's research files, teaching files, writings, and journals. Research files include patents, blue prints, and other miscellaneous research conducted by Heron. Teaching files include correspondence, memoranda, course and seminar outlines, lecture notes, research notes, announcements, administrative records, photographs, and other materials relating to courses taught by Heron. There is also a collection of Heron's writings, notes, and journals, including *Lofty's Log*, which were journals kept by Heron during his travels. Quantity: 9 boxes.

Box	Folder	
6	6-8	Research Files – Patents, 1920s-1950s
7	1-2	Research Files-Patents, 1960s-1980s
	3	Research Files-Blueprints
	4	Research Files-Gold Toning
	5	Research Files-Miscellaneous [see also Boxes 8, 9 & 10]
	6	Research Files-Pinholes
8		Research Files-Printing Tests
9		Research Files
10		Research Files
11	1	Teaching Files - Background
	2	Teaching files - Student Papers
	3	Teaching files - Student Work
	4-5	Writings, Notebooks & Notes
12		Writings, Notebooks & Notes
13		Writings, Notebooks & Notes
14	1	Diaries & Journals- <i>Lofty's Log</i> , Cincinnati, 1952-1953
	2	Diaries & Journals- <i>Lofty's Log</i> , Chicago, 1953-1954

Series 4: Publications, n.d.

Note: arranged chronologically. Includes monographs, periodicals, tearsheets, and clippings written by Heron or about his activities. Quantity: 1 box.

Box	Folder	
14	3-6	Publications and Printed Materials
	7	Publications and Printed Materials, Correspondence

Series 5: Photographic Materials, n.d.

Note: Materials include negatives, slides, contact sheets, prints, equipment, and audiovisual materials. Arranged by format, listed alphabetically. Quantity: 23 boxes.

Subseries 1: Digital Materials, n.d.

Box	Item	
15		Floppy Disks, 3.5x3.5
	1	"Film + Print + Utilities"
	2	"Plotter – Davis"
	3	"Authoware Pro"
	4	"Film+Print+Utilities"
	5	"Word Files #1"
	6	"Davis: Plot"
	7	"Spellswell"
	8	"Davis Reg – Perour discussion Plot 4.7"
	9	"Netscape 2.0"
	10	"Film/ Prior PC"
	11-19	The Apple Student Resources Set (Labeled 1 – 8)
	20-43	23 additional floppy disks [Untitled]; CDS, standard size
	44	IMG 1792 to 2089, Plus 242, 219, 287, 290, 308, 1510, 1709
	45	8 am Harris – Grande Manan Trip
	46	IMG 104, 2178, 2401, 2488, 2537
	47	NON I-PHOTO 2289 to 2537, Plus 1849, 1850, 1853, 1891, 1893, 2081
	48	Upper East Reid
	49	"Brahma bulls"
	50	IMG 0003 to 0576
	51	IMG 1334 to 1596
	52	IMG 1597 to 1832, Plus 0037, 0044, 0383, 0572, 0580, 0636, 0641, 0645, 1280 work files
	53	2102 to 2334
	54	IMG 0568 to 1047
	55	IMG 1047 to 1334
	56	1849 to 2100 + 100032 to 100081

57 HDR 6.25.66.4
23 Digital Images, CDs, n.d.

Subseries 2: Contact Sheets, n.d.

Box	Item
16	Early Contact Sheets, 8x10, Black and White
17	Contact Sheets [Untitled]
18	Contacts and Work Prints, 8x10 and 6x8, B&W [Untitled]
19	Contact sheets, 8x10, B&W
20	Contact sheets, 8x10, B&W Contact sheets, 6x8, B&W 12 Contact sheets, 4x5, B&W
21	Contact sheets, 8x10, B&W Contact sheets, 6x8, B&W
30	Contact Sheet [Cut into strips], 8x10, B&W

Subseries 3: Digital Prints, 2004-2008, n.d.

Note: Artist left location and date notes on some of the prints. Others are untitled.

Box	Item
22	Color Prints, 8x10, 2004-2008 Untitled, Color prints, 8x10, n.d.
23	Index Prints, 4x6, Color Color Prints, 4x6
27	Color Prints, 4x6

Subseries 4: Negatives, 1984, n.d.

Note: While listed under negatives, these boxes contain a variety of materials, including CDs, 4x5 prints, and index prints. Digital printing was used via CVS and AGFA.

Box	Item
17	1-7 Negatives, B&W, 3.5x3.5 in
18	Negatives, 4x5, B&W 35 mm Negatives, strips, B&W
20	"6-17," Negative strips, B&W "XDR 4 Test," Negative strips, B&W "6-18," Negative strips, B&W "71-6" through "71-9," Negatives, 4x5, B&W
23	35 mm Negative strips
24	35 mm Negative strips, B&W
25	16 mm Negative strips, B&W
26	35 mm Negative strips, B&W

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|----|---|
| 27 | 35 mm Negative strips, B&W
Negatives, 4x5, B&W |
| 28 | 35 mm Negative strips, B&W |
| 29 | Negatives, 4x5, B&W |
| 30 | 35 mm Negative strips, B&W
Negatives, 4x5, B&W |
| 31 | 35 mm Negative strips, B&W
Glass Plate Negatives, 2.5x4.5, B&W |

Subseries 5: Prints

Note: Materials include work prints, both black-and-white and color. Various sizes.

- | Box | Item |
|-----|--|
| 32 | Prints, 14x11, B&W
Prints, 8x10, B&W
Prints, 5x8, B&W
Prints, 4x4, B&W [Purple]
Plated Silver Gelatin Print, 4.5x9, B&W |
| 33 | Work Prints, Mounted, 20.5x16.5, B&W, n.d.
Work Prints, 8x10, B&W, n.d.
Work Prints, Mounted, 7x9.5, B&W, n.d.
Polaroid, Color, 1996
Cyanotype, Mounted, 20x16, n.d. |
| 34 | Mounted Prints, 8x10, B&W
Prints, 8x10, B&W |

Subseries 6: Slides

Note: Box is locked, refer to Volkerding Staff for assistance.

- | Box | Item |
|-----|--------|
| 35 | Slides |

Subseries 7: Equipment and Technical Literature

Note: These boxes contain various printing equipment, i.e. printing frames, lighting umbrellas, and color wheels, and technical literature, such as manuals and brochures.

- | Box | Item |
|-----|---|
| 36 | Printing equipment |
| 37 | 1 Equipment brochures
2 Equipment brochures and manuals
3 Literature on printing papers and inks
4 Photo preservation literature
5 Technical brochures related to chemicals, papers, and film |