



City of Arts & Innovation

Metropolitan Museum Board Memorandum

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: AUGUST 28, 2019**

FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: ACCESSION OF EIGHT (8) HISTORIC POSTCARDS INTO THE MUSEUM'S PERMANENT COLLECTION

ISSUE:

Recommend that the City Council approve the accession of eight (8) historic postcards into the Museum's permanent collection.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Metropolitan Museum Board recommend that the City Council approve the accession of eight (8) historic postcards into the Museum's permanent collection.

BACKGROUND:

Eight (8) historic postcards were mailed to City Hall as an anonymous donation. Scott Watson, the City's Historic Preservation Officer, determined the Museum of Riverside to be the appropriate recipient of this donation.

On July 10, 2019, the Museum's Collections Committee, with seven (7) members supporting and one (1) member opposing, recommended that the Metropolitan Museum Board approve the accession of the postcards into the Museum's permanent collection.

DISCUSSION:

The postcards belonged to Riverside resident Ruby Wallerstedt during her involvement in the U.S. Navy during World War II, most likely as part of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVE). She sent at least one of the postcards to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wallerstadt, who lived on Walnut Street in Riverside in 1944. The postcards appear to have been removed from a scrapbook. Five (5) of the postcards depict the grounds of the U.S. Naval Hospital in Corona (Norco), California. The site of the hospital was originally a popular, lavish resort called the Lake Norconian Club. After losing money during the Depression and then experiencing a short-lived revival in the late 1930s, the resort was purchased by the U.S. Navy and used for a naval hospital during the war. According to a June 26, 1945 article in the

Riverside Daily Press, Ruby Wallerstedt was stationed at this hospital as an assistant mail clerk. The article also notes that Ms. Wallerstedt had previously served in the naval postal department at Camp Elliot in San Diego, California, which is likely why the remaining three postcards are from San Diego.

Excerpt from June 26, 1945 *Riverside Daily Press* column, "Women in Wartime" referencing Ruby Wallerstedt:

Ruby Wallerstedt, ma.m. 3-c,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. L.
Wallerstedt of 4043 Walnut street,
has been transferred to the Corona
Naval hospital for duty as an as-
sistant mail clerk. She formerly
was stationed at Camp Elliott, San
Diego, where she served for over
a year in the naval postal depart-
ment.

These items fill a gap in the Museum's historic holdings relating to prominent area institutions and present a glimpse into local participation in the World War II home front. Additionally, they present no burden to the present storage capacities of the Museum.

Attachment 1 contains photographs of the eight (8) historic postcards.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by:	Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Photographs of historic postcards