



Top and right images
Hans and Maria in his studio in Genoa, NV, c. 1950
Black and white photograph
H. William Brooks Collection

Hans and Maria, c. 1950
Black and white photograph
H. William Brooks Collection

Hans Meyer-Kassel

Internationally renowned artist Hans Meyer-Kassel and his beloved wife Maria settled in Genoa, Nevada in 1945 by way of Germany, New York, Reno, and Carson City. Meyer-Kassel's love of Nevada, its landscapes, and people is evident in this exhibition of select pieces from the H. William Brooks Collection. This selection spans Meyer-Kassel's career and represent several different artistic genres and styles.

The Hans Meyer-Kassel collection donated by H. William Brooks, Meyer-Kassel's nephew, not only contains stunning artworks; it includes family and business correspondence, photos, albums, stationary and personal items.

This complete archive preserves Hans Meyer-Kassel's life, artistic processes, and generous spirit. The Nevada Historical Society is honored to share and preserve these collections for the enrichment of all generations.



“IN GERMANY - 1914, ORIGINAL – COPPER - ETCHING, (PRINTED BY MYSELF WHEN I WAS PROFESSOR AT THE ROYAL ART-ACADEMY IN KASSEL”

Annotated album page

Hans Meyer-Kassel

Etching on paper

Gift of H. William Brooks

Hans Meyer was born in Kassel, Germany on March 5, 1872. His father August Meyer encouraged him to study law, yet Hans knew his calling was to be a painter. In 1892 Hans had a brief stint at the University of Leipzig to study law; he soon enrolled in the University of Munich to study art.

The earliest known use of Meyer-Kassel’s surname with the hyphenated Kassel, for the German town of his birth, is 1893.



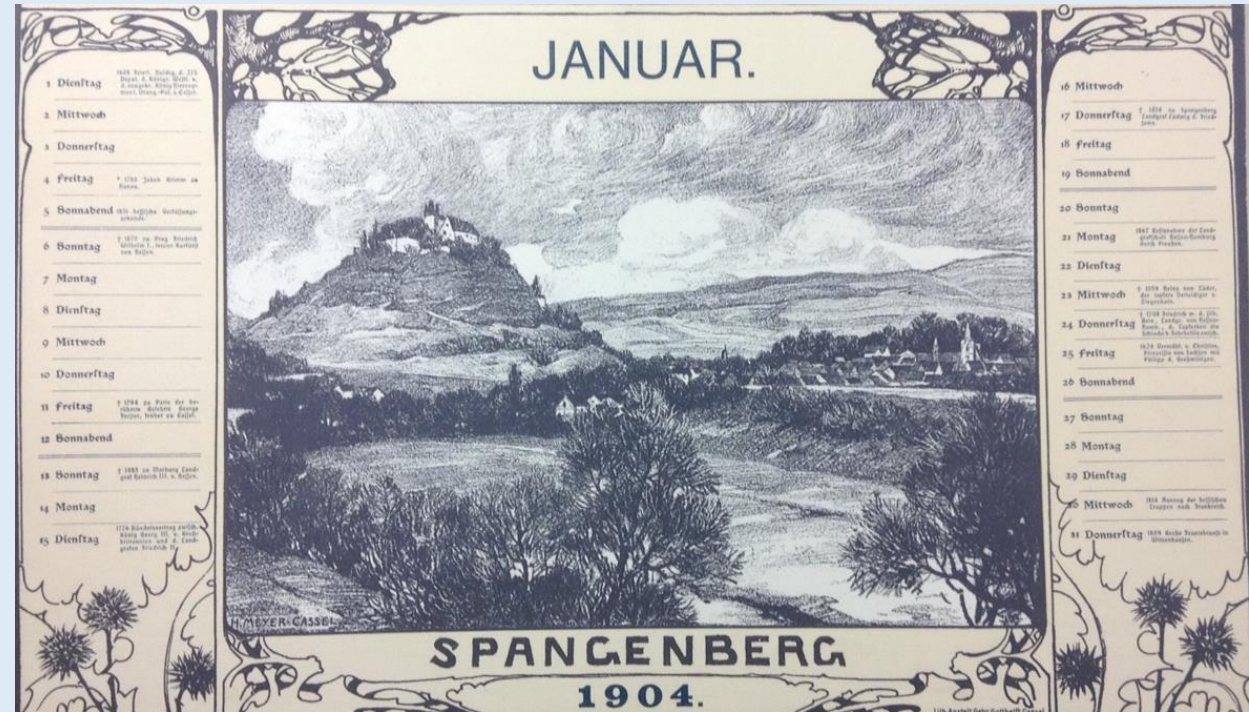
Untitled, 1890
Signed H Meyer
Watercolor on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks

The drawing above is the earliest known work by Hans Meyer-Kassel and depicts his hometown Kassel, Germany.



Untitled, 1903
Signed H. Meyer
Pencil on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks

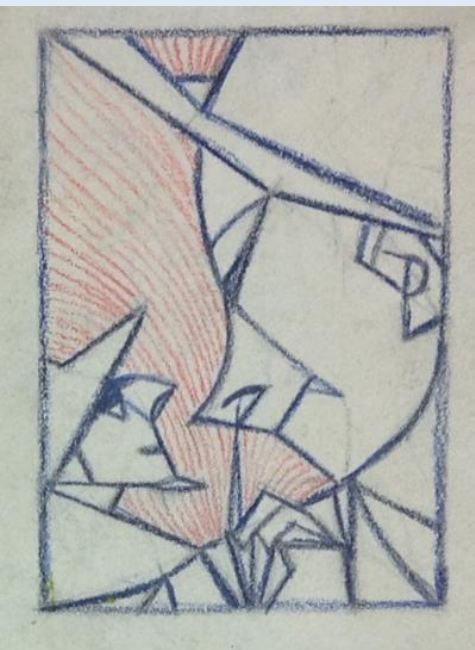
The drawing above depicts a village in Germany.



Januar., Spangenberg, 1904
Illustration for a calendar
Signed H. Meyer-Cassel
Lithograph
Gift of H. William Brooks

A well know artist, Meyer-Kassel worked in many mediums, including lithography. Note the different spelling of Meyer-Kassel’s surname – “Meyer-Cassel”.

Meyer-Kassel experimented with many different artistic styles and genres throughout his career. Here we see a group of Cubist drawings of allegorical figures.



A group of four
Modernist drawings

Untitled, no date
Hans Meyer-Kassel
Pencil on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks

Meyer-Kassel was ordered to join the German army as artist in 1915 at the age of 43. He capture images of the war inside and behind the trenches and for military intelligence. Injured in a military truck accident in 1917 – a hip injury that plagued him the rest of his life – he was discharged and continued to paint portraits of German political and military elite.

Post WWI, Germany in 1919 was in political and economic distress, even for a renowned artist. In 1921, he was called to paint portraits of a general’s family, and met Maria Hesse, the children’s nurse. For both, it was love at first sight. Maria and Hans immigrated to the U.S. via Ellis Island in 1922.

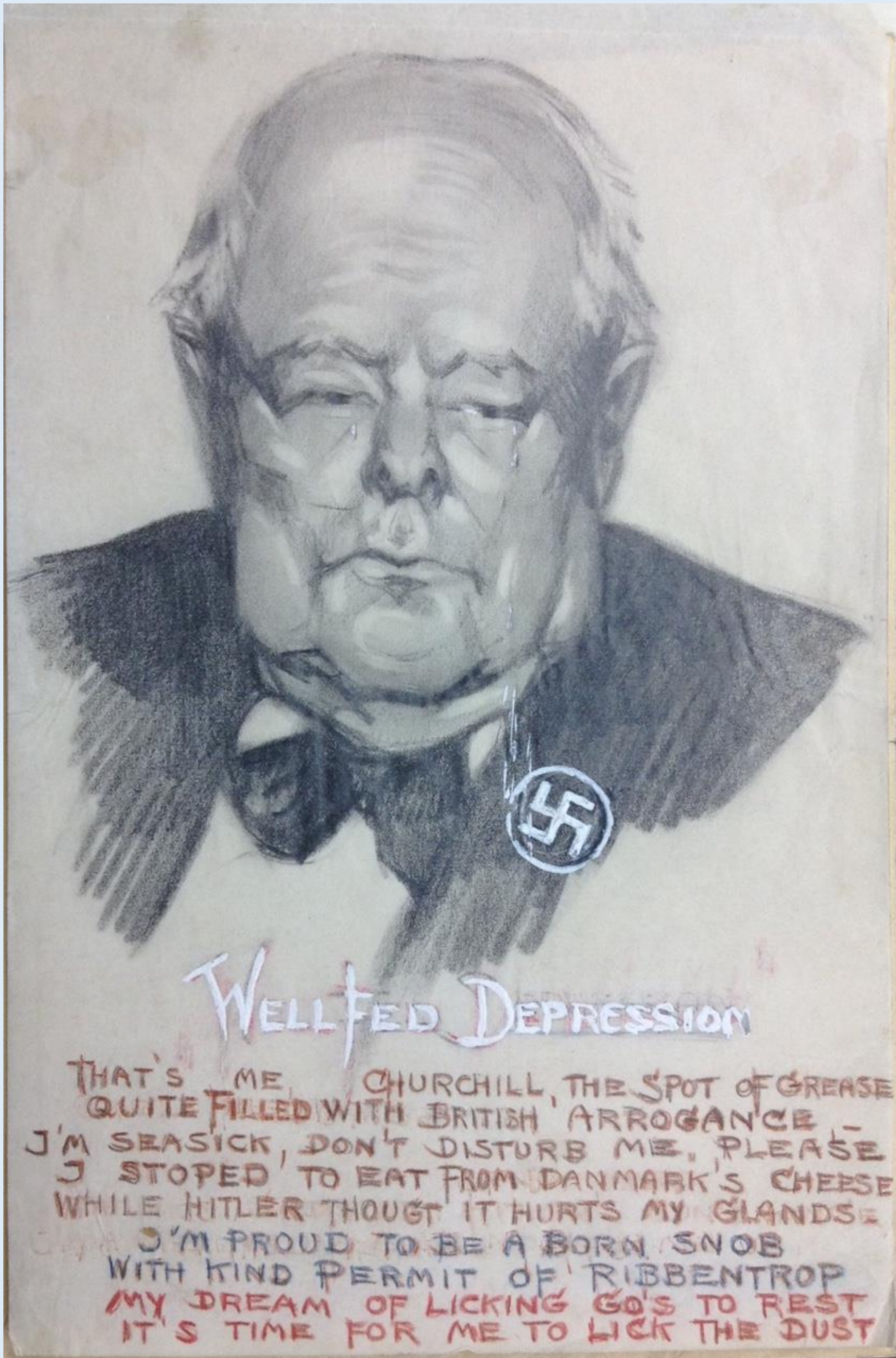


Hans and Maria, c. 1920
Black and white photograph
Gift of H. William Brooks

Maria Meyer-Kassel (facing left), is sewing with her two sisters.

Sewing Circle New York, 1930
Pencil and tempera on paper
Signed Hans Meyer-Kassel
Gift of H. William Brooks





This piece includes a poem by Meyer-Kassel reacting to Churchill's meeting with Nazi Germany Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop where they discussed an alliance between Germany and Britain prior to WWII.

Well Fed Depression, c. 1937

Hans Meyer-Kassel

Pencil and tempera on paper

Gift of H. William Brooks

In 1935 Hans and Maria moved to Reno, Nevada. In a short span of time they had an extensive group of friends: artists, ex-patriot Europeans, professors, and local business leaders. It was clear Nevada was their home, and in 1939 Hans and Maria became U.S. citizens.

Meyer-Kassel’s time in Reno saw a wealth of work from WPA sponsored pieces of Paiute tribal members and Washoe County Courthouse murals, portraits of dignitaries and local families, sweeping Nevada landscapes, to intimate sketches. Meyer-Kassel continued his art instruction, including in his soon to be home of Genoa, Nevada.



Maria and Hans Meyer-Kassel in Reno, 1940
Black and white photograph
Gift of H. William Brooks



Stork Going From Carson City to Genoa,
1943
Signed Hans Meyer-Kassel
Colored pencil and gouache on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks

This portrait of a Chief, was likely sketched during Meyer-Kassel’s time in Nixon, Nevada. Meyer-Kassel referred to his sketches and photographs as references for his works.



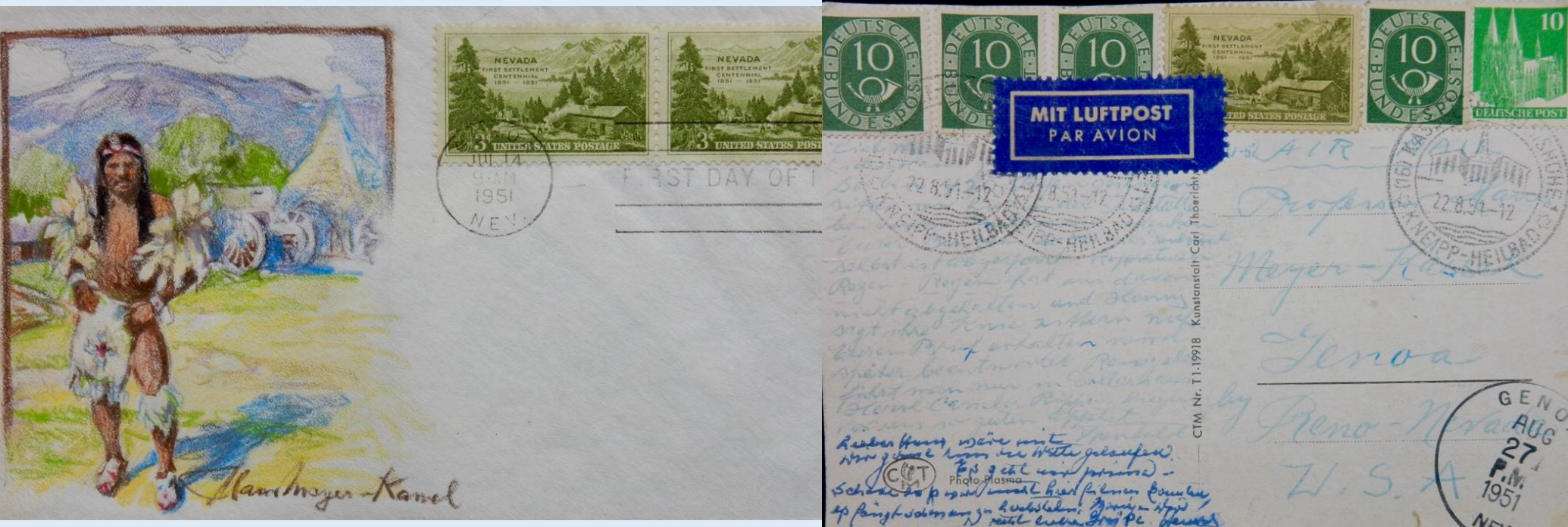
Untitled, no date
Hans Meyer-Kassel
Pencil on blue-lined paper
Gift of H. William Brooks

After three years living in Carson City, the Meyer-Kassels moved to their permanent home in Genoa, Nevada in 1945. The Meyer-Kassels’ warmth spread into the small Genoa community, where they continued to welcome family and friends into their home.



Meyer-Kassel family and friends in Genoa, Nevada, 1951
Black and white photograph
Gift of H. William Brooks

In 1950, Meyer-Kassel’s painting of his home town Genoa was selected as the image for the centennial stamp commemorating the first permanent Euro-American settlement in Nevada.



First Day of Issue cover with drawing of a Paiute Dancer, 1951
Signed Hans Meyer-Kassel
Color pencil on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks

Note the address, “Professor Meyer-Kassel, Genoa, by Reno – Nevada U.S.A.”
First Day of Issue stamped postcard , 1951
Gift of H. William Brooks

Meyer-Kassel often taught art classes in Genoa prior to making it his permanent home.



Agnes Train and Hans Meyer-Kassel in the garden of the Pink House in Genoa, 1941
Black and white photograph
Gift of H. William Brooks



Maria Meyer-Kassel reading to nephew Bill Brooks.

Untitled, no date
 Hans Meyer-Kassel
 Pencil on paper
 Gift of H. William Brooks



Untitled, no date
 Black and white photograph
 Gift of H. William Brooks

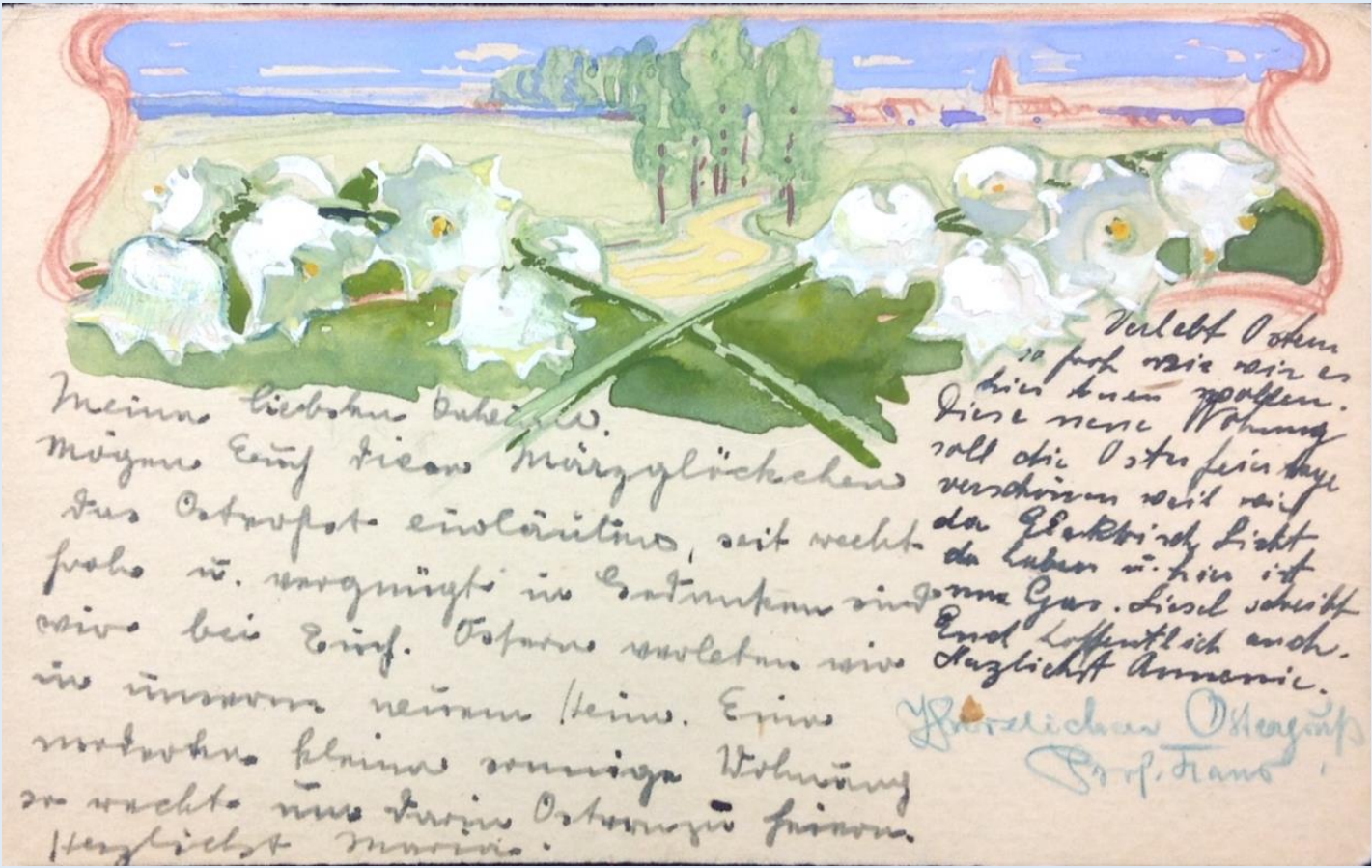
Hans Meyer-Kassel was known to create butter sculptures, above, during meals with his family.



Sketches of birds.
Untitled, no date
Hans Meyer-Kassel
Colored pencil on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks



Fish at Lake Tahoe, 1946
Signed Hans Meyer-Kassel
Sepia crayon on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks



Illustrated postcard.
Untitled, no date
Signed Prof. Hans
Tempera and watercolor on paper
Gift of H. William Brooks



Maria Meyer-Kassel
standing outside the
Genoa, Nevada studio, c.
1960

Color photograph
Gift of H. William Brooks



Hans Meyer-Kassel
standing outside his
Genoa, Nevada studio,
c. 1950

Color photograph
Gift of H. William Brooks



H. William Brooks and
Jack Bacon standing
outside Hans Meyer-
Kassel's Genoa, Nevada
studio, 2016

Color photograph
Gift of Jack Bacon

This exhibit is made possible by the generous gift of H. William Brooks,
with the extraordinary assistance of Jack Bacon.

For more information about Hans and Maria Meyer-Kassel, visit the Nevada
Historical Society; read *Hans Meyer-Kassel Artist of Nevada*, Jack Bacon &
Company, 2018; or visit <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/hans-meyer-kassel>

An illustration of an artist, Hans Meyer-Kassel, standing on a wooden ladder and painting a wall with a brush. He is wearing a dark jacket, light-colored trousers, and a hat. A bucket of paint sits on the floor next to the ladder.

Important Retrospective Exhibition

OF

**WORLD
RENOWNED
NEVADA ARTIST
HANS MEYER-KASSEL**

1872 - 1952

JULY 18 THRU AUGUST 25

**Genoa Courthouse Museum
Genoa, Nevada**

Poster for exhibit of retrospective work of Hans Meyer-Kassel, 1952.

Commercial print on paper

Gift of H. William Brooks

Selected time line of Hans and Maria Meyer-Kassel

- 1872- Hans Born in Kassel, Germany
- 1892- Hans entered law school at the University of Leipzig
- 1892- Hans enrolled at the University of Munich to study art
- 1896- Hans married first wife Maria von Debschitz, divorced date unknown
- 1896- son Werner born to Hans and Maria von Debschitz
- 1912- Associate Instructor at the Royal Academy of Art, Munich
- 1915- Hans joined German army as an artists
- 1917- discharged from the German army due to injury
- 1917- Hans awarded title of Professor by German Emperor Wilhelm II, after painting a portrait of his niece
- 1919- WWI ends
- 1921- Hans meets Maria Magdalena Hess
- 1922- Hans and Maria immigrate to the U.S. via Ellis Island, NY
- 1922 to 1933- Hans and Maria live in New York City, NY
- 1926- commission from North German Lloyd Steamship Line
- 1931- one-person exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art
- 1933- moves to Amherst, NY
- 1935- Hans and Maria move to Reno, Nevada
- 1936- first exhibit of works in Reno
- 1939- Hans and Maria become U.S. citizens
- 1940- Honorable Mention, San Francisco Legion of Honor *Society for Sanity in Art*
- 1941- exhibited Works Progress Administration paintings of Native Americans in Washington, DC
- 1945- Hans and Maria settle in Genoa, Nevada
- 1951- *Genoa* selected as Nevada's commemorative stamp of the first Euro-American settlement in Nevada
- 1952- Hans dies in Genoa
- 1961- retrospective exhibit, California Legion of Honor
- 1976- Hans Meyer-Kassel week declared, November 14-20
- 1982- Maria dies in Genoa