



## Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

GOGA 19200



**Golden Gate National Recreation Area**  
ATTN: Park Archives and Records Center  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
[Mailing Address]

**Park Archives and Records Center**  
Presidio of San Francisco  
Building 667 McDowell Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
[Physical Address]

[www.go.nps.gov/gogacollections](http://www.go.nps.gov/gogacollections)

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# **Introduction**

## **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

### **Park Description**

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), a unit of the National Park Service, was established by an Act of Congress on October 27, 1972. The 80,000-acre park encompasses a great diversity of cultural and natural resources in and around the Bay Area of San Francisco, California. It includes Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site.

The park holds almost five million three-dimensional and documentary artifacts dating from the time before European contact to the present. They are preserved and maintained for the public by the Division of Cultural Resources and Museum Management, which includes the Park Archives and Records Center (PARC).

### **Park Archives and Records Center (PARC)**

#### **Historical Note**

GGNRA and the sites within it have been collecting records since their inception. The PARC was established in 1994 to receive records and archival collections from the U.S. Army and the Presidio Army Museum after the closure of the Presidio of San Francisco as an Army base. The collections continue to grow through the donation of materials by private individuals, transfer of inactive park records by staff, and acquisition of relevant documentary materials.

#### **Scope of Collections**

The archival collections in the custody of the GGNRA document the history and activity of the various sites and groups associated with the park, described in the park's Scope of Collection Statement (2009).

The PARC contains U.S. Army and National Park Service facility records for the Presidio of San Francisco, forts and coast defense sites in the area, and various GGNRA sites. Subjects and sites documented include the United States Army (Bear Flag Revolt, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican War, World War I, Army Air Service, Coast Artillery, Army medical facilities and issues, World War II, Army support during natural disasters, Viet Nam War, and Operation Desert Storm); Alcatraz Island (Army fortress, Army Disciplinary Barracks, U.S. Penitentiary, and Indian Occupation); the natural resources conservation movement resulting in the establishment of Muir Woods National Monument; agriculture in the Marin Headlands; Point Reyes Peninsula and Bolinas Lagoon areas; U.S. Lifesaving/Coast Guard Services; San

Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906; Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915; natural resources and environmental issues; and preservation of open space in the Bay Area. Also included in the PARC are many of the GGNRA administrative records that document the development and expansion of this park.

### **Visiting the PARC for Research**

The PARC is located in an historic brick building, formerly a cavalry stable, on the Presidio of San Francisco. Collections and archives support services are available for walk-in research during open hours or by appointment. Please contact the PARC (see below) for the current schedule of reference hours.

### **Copy Services**

Black and white photocopy services for standard and oversize materials are available on-site. Color photocopying, photographic duplication, and duplication of other media are available by special arrangement. Researchers are charged for all duplicates on a cost-recovery basis.

### **Rights and Publications**

Copies are provided under the Fair Use provisions of the Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Researchers must complete a Permission to Publish Contract form with the Park Archivist for any other intended use of these materials (such as publication or exhibit). Researchers should consult with staff regarding their needs for commercial or public use of materials.

### **Legal Status of Holdings**

Many holdings of the PARC were acquired/transferred prior to the establishment of the archives program, and have little documentation on their provenance (source/chain of custody). All materials received after 1994 have been accessioned and documented. If provenance cannot be determined, the PARC assumes that it owns the property rights, but does not own the copyright. Staff will provide assistance, but it is the responsibility of the researcher to acquire permission from the copyright holder to cite, quote, or reproduce collection materials.

Collections developed by or for government organizations or operations are in the public domain and may be used, cited, and quoted without restriction, provided they are properly credited to the PARC. The archives contain no national security classified materials.

### **Donations to the Collections**

The PARC welcomes donations of a variety of historic materials that meet the criteria in the Scope of Collections Statement and do not duplicate existing holdings. Collections are maintained for research use in perpetuity; there is no guarantee that items will be exhibited. If

you own materials that may be relevant to the themes of GGNRA and would like to deposit them in the PARC, please consult with an archivist.

### **How to Use This Finding Aid**

This document contains information on the contents and significance of an archival collection. It includes descriptive information; repository information; collection history; biographical or historical information on creators of the collection; and a container or folder list of everything in the collection. After reviewing the finding aid, please discuss your specific needs with the archivist who will locate and retrieve the relevant materials.

### **How to Use the Collections**

Please follow all rules and regulations regarding research, the use of the research facility, and the handling of collection materials. This will protect the collections so they continue to be available and usable for generations to come. If anything appears to be out of order or damaged, please notify a staff member.

### **Contacts**

For additional information on the use of archival collections at GGNRA, please contact the Park Archives and Records Center:

#### Mailing Address:

National Park Service  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attn: Park Archives and Records Center  
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

#### Physical Address:

Park Archives and Records Center  
Presidio of San Francisco  
Building 667 McDowell Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
Phone: (415) 561-2807  
Fax: (415) 441-1618

# Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

## Title

Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

## Dates

Inclusive: 1928-1960

Bulk: 1938 to mid-1950s

## Collection Number

Catalog Number GOGA 19200 (Accession Number GOGA-3050, GOGA-585, GOGA-1625, GOGA-1730)

## Provenance

The collection was donated by Betty Wallar, daughter of Earl Wallar, an Alcatraz employee from 1936 through the mid-1950s.

## Volume

Three (3) document boxes, 1.5 linear feet, two (2) 16x20 oversize boxes, .6 linear feet, two (2) oversize folders, .2 linear feet, two (2) books, .2 linear feet

## Description

This collection is comprised of Earl Wallar's personal papers, notes, scrapbooks, photographs, and manuals/instructions that depict his work and time spent as a locksmith on Alcatraz. There is an extensive collection of drawings, sketches, poems, art notes, and instructional art books that was created by and belonged to inmates on Alcatraz. The included artists are John Paul Chase, Bernard Paul Coy, Earl Eagar, and James Widmer. The collection is organized in three series:

**Series I: Earl Wallar Alcatraz Materials**

**Series II: Alcatraz Inmate Artwork**

**Series III: Alcatraz Images**

## History

Earl Wallar was a locksmith and then tower guard for Alcatraz from 1936 through the mid-1950s. His family moved with him to live on the island in 1938. Earl was a photographer and was requested by the United States Government to take various photographs for government record. It is reported that he enjoyed photography so greatly; he continued to take photographs of prison daily life, of the island and its change over

time and, indirectly of historic views of San Francisco.<sup>1</sup>

### **Preferred Citation**

“Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection, GOGA 19200”

### **Index**

Negatives  
Paper  
Photographs  
Safety Film  
Chase, John Paul  
Coy, Bernard Paul  
Eagar, Earl  
Wallar, Betty  
Wallar, Earl E.  
Widmer, James

### **Formats**

Books  
Booklets  
Correspondence  
Drawings  
Images  
Manuals  
Newspaper  
Notes  
Scrapbooks  
Sketches  
Telegram

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Horton  
Completed in 2000  
Recataloged by Terryn Liljedahl  
Completed April 2016

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<sup>1</sup> Information on Earl Wallar was taken from the Catalog Folder, GOGA 19200, from the appraisal of the collection by Melissa Shanley.

## Box and Folder List

**Collection Title:** Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

**Collection Number:** GOGA 19200

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			<b>Series I: Earl Wallar Alcatraz Materials</b>
1	1		Earl Waller papers
1	2		Alcatraz war work signs
1	3		Basic instruction manual
1	4		Manual of safes
1	5		Key-codes for master pad locks
1	6		Locksmith information
1	7		Boat schedule and telephone directory
1	8		Menus
1	9		Administrative correspondence and statements
1	10		Correspondence re: 1923 press leak; timeline, 1936-1938
1	11		Correspondence to and from inmates
1	12		Notebooks on inmates
1	13		Theodore Cole and Ralph Rowe “Wanted” posters
1	14		Speeches and articles
1	15		Alcatraz-related magazine articles
1	16		Newspaper and magazine articles
1	17		Newspaper clippings
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1	19		“The Mole” prisoner poetry
1	20		Coy house plans and notes
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			ca.1935-1960
3	1	.212	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.213	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.214	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.215	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.216	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.217	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.218	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.219	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.220	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.221	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.222	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.223	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.224	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.225	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.226	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.227	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.228	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	1	.229	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960 (Wallar, E.E.)
3	1	.230	Alcatraz—Prison building, view of cafeteria and kitchen, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.231	Alcatraz—Model industries building, paint shop, exhaust system



			to right, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.232	Alcatraz—Model industries building, wood shop with unidentified inmates, guard and official, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.233	Alcatraz—Model industries building, wood shop with unidentified inmates, guard and official, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.234	Alcatraz—New industries building, brush/broom shop, inmates at work, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.235	Alcatraz—New industries building, brush/broom shop, inmates at work, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.236	Alcatraz—New industries building, brush/broom shop, inmates at work, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.237	Alcatraz—Model industries building, wood shop, preparing blocks for brushes, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.238	Alcatraz—New industries building, in model shop, machinery and inmates, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.239	Alcatraz—New industries building, in model shop, machinery and inmates, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.240	Alcatraz—New industries building, in model shop, machinery and inmates, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.241	Alcatraz—New industries building, in model shop, machinery and inmates, ca.1935-1960
3	2	.242	Alcatraz—Model industries building, machine shop (blacksmith), unidentified inmate (#734), ca.1935-1960 (Wallar, E.E.)
3	2	.243	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, unidentified inmate in blacksmith shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.244	Alcatraz—New industries buildings in clothing shop, inmates sewing gloves, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.245	Alcatraz—New industries buildings in clothing shop, inmates sewing gloves, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.246	Alcatraz—New industries buildings in clothing shop, inmates sewing gloves, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.247	Alcatraz—New industries buildings in clothing shop, inmates sewing gloves, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.248	Alcatraz—New industries buildings in clothing shop, inmates sewing gloves, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.249	Alcatraz—New industries buildings in clothing shop, inmates sewing gloves, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.250	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, various activities in the tailor shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.251	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, various activities in the

			tailor shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.252	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, various activities in the tailor shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.253	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, various activities in the tailor shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.254	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, various activities in the tailor shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.255	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, various activities in the tailor shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.256	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, laundry shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.257	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, laundry shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.258	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, rubber mat shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.259	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, rubber mat shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.260	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, rubber mat shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.261	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, rubber mat shop, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.262	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, making cargo nets, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.263	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, making cargo nets, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.264	Alcatraz—New industries buildings, making cargo nets, ca.1935-1960
3	3	.265	Alcatraz—Model industries buildings, shoe shop, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.266	Alcatraz—Prison building, Catholic priest in chapel, view of altar, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.267	Alcatraz—Prison building, Catholic priest in chapel, view of altar, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.268	Alcatraz—Prison building, Catholic priest in chapel, view of altar, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.269	Alcatraz—Wharf, unidentified inmate painting buoys on the dock, ca.1935-1960 (Wallar, E.E.)
3	4	.270	Alcatraz—Wharf, unidentified guards, inmates, and dockmen unloading food, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.271	Alcatraz—Metal detector check station, inmates going through detectors, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.272	Alcatraz—Metal detector check station, inmates going through detectors, ca.1935-1960

3	4	.273	Alcatraz—Metal detector check station, inmates going through detectors, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.274	Alcatraz—Metal detector check station, inmates going through detectors, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.275	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
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3	4	.277	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.278	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.279	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.280	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.281	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.282	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.283	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.284	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.285	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	4	.286	Alcatraz—Recreation yard, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.287	Alcatraz—Inmate musicians, ca.1935-1960
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3	5	.289	Alcatraz—Inmate musicians, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.290	Alcatraz—Inmate musicians, ca.1935-1960
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3	5	.292	Alcatraz—Inmate musicians, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.293	Alcatraz—Prison building, kitchen worker with Christmas tree and baked goods, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.294	Alcatraz—Prison building, kitchen worker with Christmas tree and baked goods, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.295	Alcatraz—Prison building, dignitaries in front of administration building, Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi, Dr. Emad Ashtiany, W.B. Loomis, and Warden J. Johnston, 1947
3	5	.296	Alcatraz—Prison building, dignitaries in front of administration building, Major Stewart, Major Slack, and Captain Smith, October 1933
3	5	.297	Alcatraz—Prison building, dignitaries in front of administration building, Senator Homer E. Capehart (R. Indiana), Senator Charles Tobey (R. New Hampshire), U.S.P.A.C. Warden J.A. Johnston, Senator James O. Eastland (D. Mississippi), and J.A.G.D. Captain Ray S. Donaldson, 9 <sup>th</sup> Service Command, May 5, 1945
3	5	.298	Alcatraz—Prison building, dignitaries in front of administration

			building, Warden Johnston in center with unidentified group, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.299	Alcatraz—Prison building, dignitaries in front of administration building, unidentified group shot, ca.1930-1960
3	5	.300	Alcatraz—Prison building, dignitaries in front of administration building, Warden Johnston in center, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.301	Alcatraz, “Gearing Federal Prisons to the War Effort,” ca.1940
3	5	.302	Alcatraz, unidentified employee at desk, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.303	Alcatraz, unidentified employee at desk, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.304	Ryehner, Lieutenant, Alcatraz, at desk, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.305	Alcatraz, unidentified employee at desk, ca. 1935-1960
3	5	.306	Alcatraz, two unidentified employees at desk, ca. 1935-1960
3	5	.307	Madigan, Associate Warden at Alcatraz, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.308	Alcatraz, unidentified employees, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.309	Alcatraz, unidentified employees, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.310	Alcatraz, unidentified employees, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.311	Alcatraz, unidentified employees, ca.1935-1960
3	5	.312	Alcatraz, unidentified employees, ca.1935-1960
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3	6	.314	Alcatraz, views of meeting, Colin Lewis, F.L. Heaney, H.P. Robbins, H.G. Washington, R.S. Yocum, S.J. Sorenson, and Associate Warden Paul J. Madigan, ca.1935-1960
3	6	.315	Alcatraz, practicing first aid, carrying a man, Dr. Ritchie checking face bandage, Warden Johnston in arm sling, Scanlon Faulk giving artificial respiration, Mr. Roberts as the victim, ca. 1935-1960 (Wallar, E.E.)
3	6	.316	Alcatraz, practicing first aid, carrying a man, Dr. Ritchie checking face bandage, Warden Johnston in arm sling, Scanlon Faulk giving artificial respiration, Mr. Roberts as the victim, ca. 1935-1960 (Wallar, E.E.)
3	6	.317	Alcatraz, self-protection training, ca.1935-1960
3	6	.318	Alcatraz, self-protection training, ca.1935-1960
3	6	.319	Alcatraz, self-protection training, ca.1935-1960
3	6	.320	Alcatraz—Prison building, administration, in memory of Mr. Stites killed in riot, Mrs. Stites with Lt. Simpson and Warden Johnston, 1946
3	6	.321	Alcatraz—Prison building, administration, in memory of Mr. Stites killed in riot, Mrs. Stites with Lt. Simpson and Warden

			Johnston, 1946
3	6	.322	Plaque dedication associated press photo, Alcatraz—Prison building, administration, in memory of Mr. Stites killed in riot, Mrs. Stites with Lt. Simpson, Warden Johnston, and Attorney General Tom Clark, 1946
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3	6	.325	Alcatraz—New industries building officials checking washer in laundry shop, ca. 1935-1960 (Wallar, E.E.)
3	6	.326	Alcatraz—New industries building, officials checking rubber mats for shipping, ca. 1935-1960
3	6	.327	Alcatraz—Model industries building, unidentified inmates sewing in tailor shop, ca. 1935-1960
3	6	.328	Alcatraz—Wharf, ca.1935-1960
3	6	.329	Alcatraz—Wharf, ca.1935-1960
3	6	.330	Alcatraz—Warden Johnston, unidentified guards and families at group dinner, 1935-1960
3	6	.331	Alcatraz—Warden Johnston, unidentified guards and families at group dinner, 1935-1960
3	6	.332	Alcatraz—Warden Johnston, unidentified guards and families at group dinner, 1935-1960
3	6	.333	Alcatraz—4 unidentified couples at Christmas dance for guards, ca.1935-1960
3	7	.334-352	Additional images of Alcatraz, no descriptions
3	8		Photographic copies of safety negatives
O.S. 16x20			
			<b>Series I</b>
1	1		<u>The National Weekly</u> , July 29, 1939, “Why Alcatraz is a Success,” by Homer Cummings
			<b>Series II</b>
1	2		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen, ink and pencil drawing, showing a prison inmate inside his cell, sitting on his bunk, with his head on his hands, 1934-1963
1	3		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen and ink drawing of industrial machine shop at Alcatraz, shows inmate working at the machine with pipes stacked to the left and animal prints in the center, 1944

1	4		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen and ink drawing of blacksmith shop at Alcatraz, shows four inmates working at various jobs in the the work process for double picked mattocks, 1944
1	5		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen and ink drawing of industrial model shop at Alcatraz showing 2 inmates #238 and #_39, working at the wood planning machine with stacks of cut lumber to the sides (cellophane tape on the corners), 1944
1	6		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, John Paul Chase—Pena nd ink drawing of industrial belt-sanding work shop at Alcatraz. Shows 4 prison inmates working at various jobs, belt sander is in foreground with stacks of wooden drawers. Tape at lower right and upper left corners, 1944
1	7		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, John Paul Chase, #238—Pen and ink drawing of the industrial band-saw and split-ripping machine shop at Alcatraz. Shows prison inmate (#238) working at the machine. Fold mark at the top of paper and tape on the lower right corner, 1944
1	8		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, Earl Eagan, #266 —Pen and ink on off-white tagboard stapled to cardboard, caricature Alcatraz con working at laundry pressing machine, WWII-era “Buy War Bonds” sign and WWII propaganda style Japanese being pressed, September 18, 1944
1	9		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, Bernard Paul Coy—Architectural drawing of a 3 bedroom house, front of finished home with landscaping is top half of drawing, bottom half shows 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> level floor plans. Signed by Coy at lower right, 1934-1963
1	10		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Incomplete drawing of a young woman in hat and scarf, holding out her purse. Depicting top of woman from just below her shoulders, darkened purse and hair area has slightly smeared, 1934-1963
			<b>Series III</b>
1	11	.354-.358	Oversize photographic prints (copies)
O.S. 16x20			
			<b>Series I</b>
2			Two scrapbooks with newspaper clippings on various Alcatraz stories, created by Earl Wallar
O.S.	SC		

Map Folder	Range		
			<b>Series II</b>
	1/2		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, James Widmer—Pen and ink drawing with 6 separate sections showing the clothing made by Alcatraz inmates, includes army twill trousers, khaki trousers, filed jackets, prison inmates work clothing and discharge clothing, C 1944
	2/2		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, John Paul Chase—Pen and ink drawing of model shop on Alcatraz, shows inmates working at cutting, sanding, painting, planning, cleaning and using a lathe machine on wood. Center oval shows end products of boxes, drawers, and fids, 1944
Rare book Cab			
			<b>Series II</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hardbound book, “Loomis Figure Drawing,” 1943, drawing of female in yellow on front cover, confiscated from Alcatraz prisoner, signed by Bernard Paul Coy on inside cover</li> <li>• Hardbound book, “Color” by Herbert E. Martini, 1928, from Alcatraz Library, signed by Bernard Paul Coy on inside cover</li> </ul>