

GUIDE TO THE  
VICTOR HIGGINS PAPERS  
(Part of Joan Higgins Reed Collection)

New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

**Extent:** 5.83 linear feet

**Dates:** 1907 - 1976

**Language:** English

**Related Materials**

The New Mexico Museum of Art has an artist biographical file on Victor Higgins in the museum's Library.

The library also has a copy of the book, *Victor Higgins : An American Master* by Dean A. Porter, which reproduced several photographs from this collection.

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## Biographical Note

Victor Higgins [hereafter VH], baptized William Victor Higgins - he chose to drop his first name except in formal documents - was born on June 28, 1884 in Shelbyville, Indiana, the fifth of nine children of Irish Catholic farmers Rose Ellen Dolan and John Tilson Higgins.

From his earliest childhood he evinced an interest in art, so much so that at age 15 his parents sent him to Chicago where he spent the next ten years studying and painting at the Art Institute of Chicago and elsewhere. He was 26 years of age when in 1910 the mayor of Chicago, Carter H. Harrison, sponsored VH's trip to Europe where he spent four years studying with Renf Menard and Lucien Simon in Paris, Hans Van Heyck in Munich, and other prominent artists elsewhere on the continent. His career really began in 1914 when he won his first gold medal.

A year later, he became a resident of Taos, New Mexico, and two years thereafter he became an invited member of the Taos Society of Artists, which existed as a loosely assembled organization from 1915 until 1927. He never was fully absorbed into the society. His associates labeled him a 'loner', but in spite of himself, he did meet and draw from some of the greatest artists of the day: Henri, Bellows, Sloan, Davis, Harper, Hopper; although only a few of them became representatives of the art of the Southwest. To VH, however, the region became a life-long love and is reflected in most of his vast works.

D.H. Lawrence dubbed him 'a lost soul'; his first wife considered him to be a 'mystic'; while others strongly - perhaps mischievously - called him antisocial. Alexander Hogue, painter and critic, described him as 'an apothegmatic artist', meaning that his works were terse, pithy statements in art form. Perhaps the best description of VH is to be found in a Publisher's Note appearing as a prefatory comment in a biography written by Laura M. Bickerstaff entitled *Pioneer Artists of Taos* six years after his death.\* He is said there to have been "an imaginative, idiosyncratic and \*\*\* enigmatic artist."

The New Mexico Museum of Art has 134 pieces of his works. He died in his 65th year on August 23, 1949.

In 1919 he married Sara Parsons, the daughter of Caroline Reed Parsons and Sheldon Parsons, the latter an artist of considerable renown. A daughter, Joan Higgins (later Joan Higgins Reed and hereafter referred to as JHR) was born to the couple in 1922. Sarah Higgins was divorced from Victor Higgins in 1924; and in 1931, married Lawrence Gamme. This second marriage ended in 1934. The divorce decree is to be found in the Library vertical file [Sarah Parsons Higgins Mack]. Thereafter, she was married once more, this time to Robert S. Mack.

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\*Old West Publishing Company, Denver, Colorado. 1955. Publisher's Note, p.2

In the course of time, JHR married Allan W. Reed (his given name was frequently misspelled) and a son, Christopher, was born to them. The boy suffered from birth from cerebral palsy, and never fully developed. It took several years for the parents and grandparents to recognize and accept his condition. This collection contains a vast quantity of letters written by Sara Parsons Mack to her daughter JHR - almost a diurnal record - in which Sara offered countless suggestions for the treatment and "cure" of her beloved grandson, whom she was wont to refer to variously as "Kiss" or "Kiss-Koos" or "Christy." The boy died during his teen years.

JHR was killed in an auto accident in 1983. It is to her estate representative and next of kin that this library is indebted for the *VH Papers* and manuscript material relating primarily to her and her family which is separately boxed under the label *Joan Higgins Reed Collection*.

Featuring prominently in VH's life were his brothers John T. Higgins (hereafter JTH), Frank W. Higgins, and Fred D. Higgins. JTH, an attorney, survived VH and played a prominent role in the disposition of the assets of VH's estate and those of their parents.

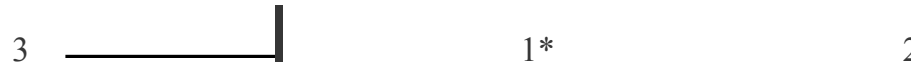
For a comprehensive review of the life and works of VH see *Victor Higgins, An American Master*, by Dean A. Porter. Gibbs Smith Publisher, Layton, Utah, 1991 - published in cooperation with the Snite Art Museum, University of Notre Dame. The book is heavily illustrated with VH paintings both in color and in black and white. Many of the photos of family members and VH's works in the collection, not here identified, are identified in the pages of the book. The museum library has a copy of the book.

A genealogical table follows these Comments. It is essentially accurate, but the absence of corroborative detail makes it likely that some errors may have crept into the chart.

# Genealogical Chart

## Victor Higgins

Sheldon Parsons - Caroline Reed Parsons



Robert S. - Sara Parsons Mack - Victor Higgins - Marion Koogler McNay Higgins  
 Mack

b.1884, d.1949

Mary Reed - ?

Allan W Reed - Joan Higgins Reed (b. 1922.d.1983)

Christopher Reed

b. 1953

John Tilson Higgins - Rose Ellen Dolan Higgins

d.1935

Marie      Michael      Fred      Victor      John T.      Frank      [Others]

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\* Sara Parsons married Lawrence Gomme (second husband) on January 30, 1931, and divorced him on December 19, 1934.

See divorce decree in Library vertical file [Sarah Parsons Higgins Mack].

## Section I : Personal History - Victor Higgins

### A. Biographical and Personal Material

# Box 16

Chronology and "collections" data relating to VH. Prepared by Sara Parsons Mack.

1. December 3, 1970.  

Preliminary listing of sources of chronological information and "collections" data. Viz. magazine articles and Phoenix Art Museum catalog (1966), including article by Mabel Dodge Luhan and thesis by Ellen W. Bradbury for M.A. Art History at UNM. Some rough notes and draft material in same Folder.
2. Family tree. No identification on data. Pencil. Incomplete.  

Mostly tracing family to John Tilson Higgins, married to Rose Ellen Dolan Higgins, parents of Victor Higgins. [See Part II, infra.]
3. Autobiographical sketches by VH (2)  

Longhand draft and rewrite.
4. Who's Who in America. A.N. Marquis Co. - Vol 25 (1948-1949).  

Paper leaflet listing individuals in books by state. VH listed under Taos, N.M. at p.34.
5. Marquis Who's Who in the West, Vol. I. Printer's proof, 1948.  

Biographical material on VH.
6. Marquis Who's Who in America. Printer's proof; n.d.  

Sample for VH preference in color of paper stock.
7. Coat of Arms. VH. In color. From O Huiginn.  

Heraldic emblem.
8. American Art Annual, Who's Who in Art; printer's proof. 1923.  

Biographical material on VH.
9. Biographies (2) of VH. Typewritten 2 pp.  

One from *Taos and its Artists*, by Mabel Dodge Luhan, Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, NY: 1947,  
One from *When Old Trails Were New*, by Blanch Grant.
10. Bibliography. Books of VH [?]. N.d. 6 pgs.  

Longhand lists by categories.  
Viz. American  
English  
Some by author

Irish  
Russian  
Austrian  
Norwegian  
Hungarian  
Italian  
French  
German  
Greek

11. Safe Passage Scroll. U.S. Dept of State. For VH with red seal of Dept. August 5, 1911.  
Physical description of VH.
12. 6-10-36: Letter. The National Cyclopedia of American Biography.  
Planning to send him a draft of biographical sketch.
13. 8-5-39: Letter. VH to Marquis.  
Complaining at reduction of his listing in 1937 edition of Who's Who in America.
14. 2-19-40: Letter. Louis C. Wurzer to David H. Crowley.  
Outlining VH artistic credits.
15. Quitclaim Deed. Sierra Vista Cemetery Association to VH.  
For cemetery lot.
16. Obituaries and condolences.  
[VH died on August 23, 1949.]
- 16A Biographical notes by VH. Longhand, ink. N.d.



## B. Articles About VH

17. Worksheets (3), pencil draft. By VH.  
Difficult to read. Partly autobiographical.  
Comments about art, ambitions, his work.
18. Brochure. Stopping At the Stevens [Hotel], Chicago, Ill. Vol. 9, No. 194. May 7, 1931. Stevens Hotel Co.  
Article: *Along Quality Street*. By Llewellan Jones. About VH and his works.  
Photo of VH, p.6.
19. *El Palacio*. Vol. 64, Nos. 3-4. March, April, 1957. Santa Fe, N.M. School of American Research. Pgs. 119-122.  
  
The *Victor Higgins Memorial Exhibition*. By Hester Jones. Includes group photo of VH and Taos Artists, p. 120. Cover signed by JHR.
20. Article: *Victor Higgins, 1884-1949*. Unsigned, n.d. Typewritten, 12 pp. Traces life and career.

### **C. Address Books and Calling Cards**

21. Address books, telephone numbers (3).  
Containing names, addresses and telephone numbers of VH family and friends.  
Many in VH's handwriting.
22. Calling cards (23). Professional, commercial, personal.
23. Professional calling cards (2). Of VH and Harry L. Engle. Mural decorations, interior designs, restorations.  
Left hand comer personalized: Victor Higgins.
24. Personal calling card, VH. Box of engraved cards with plate.

## D. Financial Matters and Taxes

VH tax returns, federal, state, and county are presented in the Folders noted below. Included are tabulations and work sheets. None of this material is complete. Gaps in years reflect missing records. Most of the returns are handwritten copies.

\* \* \*

25. Form 1040A, U.S. Tax Return Work Sheet. 1919. VH Penciled draft.  
Ditto. 1920. Penciled draft.  
Ditto. 1921. Ink draft.
26. 1932. Form 1040, U.S. Internal Revenue, with instruction sheet. Reports gross income before deductions of \$2,516.67 from work as artist.
27. 1932. 6-25-32: Letter. IRS to VH.  
Noting that no returns were filed for 1929, 1930 and 1931. Enclosing work sheets for missing years, which were filled out by VH.
28. 1934. 1-10-34: Tabulation. Price list for permanent oil paint pigments purchased by VH. \$6.50. Copy.
29. 1937. Notice of Valuation and Real Estate Tax Assessment. Copy. Also tabulations for income tax (no returns).  
8 1/4 acres: \$619.  
Furniture: \$125.  
Signed by VH.
30. 1942. Tabulations of expenses, 4 pgs. No tax returns.
31. 1943. Beginning of EST. Taxes (pay-as-you-go).  
Form 1040, signed by VH. Tabulations, 1 pg. Total receipts: \$500.  
Form 1040 - ES with instructions.
32. 1944. Form 1040. Signed by VH.  
Total receipts: \$268.37.  
Tabulations of expenses, 2 pgs.
33. 1945. Form 1040. Signed by VH.  
Total receipts: \$4,283.  
Tabulations of expenses, 1 pg.

34. 1946. Form 1040. Signed by VH. With instructions. Form W-2, shows \$100 wages, \$9.50 withheld.  
Total receipts: \$6, 167.50. Tabulations of expenses, 2 pgs.  
Also: New Mexico return, signed by VH.
35. 1947. Form 1040. Signed by VH.  
Tabulations, 8 pgs. Includes meticulous list of income items.  
Total receipts: \$3,704.  
Also: Real Property Tax Schedule.  
Residence: \$3,000.  
Also: New Mexico return, signed by VH.
36. 1948. Form 1040. Signed by VH. Also instructions.  
Tabulations of expenses, 1 pg.  
Total receipts: \$1,600.
37. Tax Rolls and Tax Receipts, Taos County. 1922-1949  
The land and building owned by VH in Taos, NM were assessed each year which became the predicate for a variety of local taxes. The records in this Folder record assessments appearing on the tax rolls from 1922 to 1949, the year of VH's demise. They increased from \$18.21 in the first year to \$93.48 in the last. Letter dated 6-9-33 from Taos Taxpayers Association suggests sending claim to attorneys engaged by association.
38. Delinquency Notice, 1955. Treasurer, Taos Co.  
\$123.61, based on value of land, improvements, and personal property at \$5,225.  
Delinquency Notice, 1957. Treasurer, Taos Co.  
Shows payment of \$137.81 on Jan. 31, 1958, based on total valuation of \$5,225 for house, horses, cattle, hogs, and personal property.
39. Motor Vehicle Property Tax Receipts, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929.  
Covers 1924 Packard.  
Also: Miscellaneous papers.
40. Check. Oscar E. Berninghaus to VH. 7-24-29  
Done as an artistic jest, by hand, in a variety of colors and flourishes for \$2.20.  
Drawn on The First State Bank, Taos.

## E. Banking Records

These Folders contain bank statements, check registers, canceled checks, and other banking records of VH, and of JHR as the legal representative of the Estate of VH, deceased. Note that accounts were maintained in Taos, N.M. and in Falls Church, Virginia. Records are fragmentary.

\* \* \*

41. Estate of VH; JHR, Special Administrator. Account at First State Bank of Taos.  
Statements with canceled checks for -  
October - November, 1956.  
December, 1958.  
January, 1959.  
February, 1959.  
March - September 1959.  
January - March, 1963, with single entries for December 1, 1963 and  
December 6, 1963. No withdrawals.  
Last balance at December 31, 1963: \$919.50.
42. Demand note. \$800 of VH and Sara Higgins to First National Bank of Taos. Jan. 24, 1921.  
  
Demand note. \$1,500 of VH to First State Bank of Taos. Jan. 5, 1946.  
  
Debit (payment) sheet. \$1,500, plus \$22 interest. April 4, 1946.  
U.S. Thrift card. Stamps (Thrift Stamps), 9 stamps at 25 cents each, attached  
but not canceled.

## F. Insurance Matters VH

Classified below are various types of insurance held by VH during the indicated periods. These records are incomplete.

\* \* \*

43. Life insurance, VH. \$300 with annual increments. c.1920. New York Life Insurance Company; New Mexico Branch Office. Pol. No. 7 007 162.
- (a) Premium payments due/received, @ \$54.56 per year.  
Notices for years: 1920-1922; 1924-1933, 1935-1936; 1940-1946.
  - (b) Correspondence. 1920-1943.  
Includes loan papers against policy (missing); letter dated July 6, 1920 from carrier enclosing form affidavit changing beneficiary from "William V. Higgins" to "Victor Higgins".
44. (a) Dwelling insurance, VH. \$5,000. Fireman's Fund. 1944. Pol. No. 945446.  
Dwelling and contents.  
Ditto. 1946-1949, \$17,500.  
Also: Premium bill. Brandenhurg and Beuther.
- (b) Fine arts, VH. No amount specified. Floater within US. 1943. Pol. No. 34317.  
American Central Insurance Co. San Francisco Dept.
45. (a) Personal liability, VH. \$10,500. Pol. No. 9763. 1949. New Amsterdam Casualty. Taos.
- (b) Premium notices. Vernon Council, North American Union. Chicago. Coverage not shown. 1920 - .
- (c) Personal liability. \$30,000 VH. Pol. No. 1036179. 1943, 1948. American Employers' Ins. Co. Boston, Mass.

## Box 17

### G. Medical Bills - VH

46. 1948 - 1949
- Pond Clinic, May 26, 1948. \$48.70
  - Dr. Reo J. Benson, June 28, 1948. \$16.32
  - 9-2-48: Letter. VH to Howard Brandenburg.  
Complaining about Pond billing and other billing practices. Notes that customary charge for office visit is \$2.00; Hospital visit is \$3.00. [Brandenburg evidently collection man.]
  - Holy Cross Hospital, May 26, 1949. \$155.20  
In hospital 12-6 to 12-25, 1948. Note attached: bill paid. 12-25-48.
  - Pond Clinic, May 31, 1949. \$121.80  
May 26, 1949. \$121.80  
Bills detail charges indicating that daily room charge increased to \$4.00,
  - 9-27-49: Letter. Univ. Of Chicago to JHR.  
Enclosing statements dated 9-2 and 9-27. Reflects VH admission on 12- 27-48, discharge on 1-31-49 @ \$10 daily for room and board.

## H. Real Estate Matters - VH

This section contains records of two transactions. VH's acquisition of a tract of land in Taos, N.M. that had its exegesis in a Patent Grant by President Lincoln dated November 1, 1864 to the Taos Pueblo. It eventuated in a Private Claim No. 328, Parcel 1, of the Joy Survey of the Taos Pueblo Grant, described as follows:

"Grants Survey No. 8, containing 17,360.55 acres, in Township 25 \* \* \* [and] lies within the outboundaries of the Taos Pueblo Grant."

A somewhat friendly dispute developed between VH and Mabel Lujan [also Luhan] Dodge, resolved as reflected in papers contained in these Folders.

A second (minor) transaction relates to a lease to part of a building in Taos.

The attorney for VH in these matters was R. Howard Brandenburg, Esq., who years later emerged as a collection attorney for Taos medical facilities in claims against VH. [See Part G of Section I, supra.]

\* \* \*

47. Agreement between Flavio and Josefita Martinez, as grantors, and VH, as grantee. October 18, 1919. 2pp., longhand.  
Conveying a 200-yard strip of land (metes and bounds description) to VH for \$1,600.
48. 7-5-28: Letter. HJH to Pueblo Lands Board.  
Relates to claim of VH to a small triangular piece of land adjacement to his tract which wasn't, but should have been, awarded to him.  
7-18-28: Letter. VH to H.J. Hagerman [for Secretary of the Interior]  
Advising that he presented his claim to Mabel Lujan, but that she would try to "get away with it."  
7-18-28: Letter. H.J. Hagerman to Mabel Lujan. 2cc.  
Pointing out "error" by Lands Board in awarding that 1/10 acre to her instead of to VH. Asks whether she would give VH a quitclaim deed.  
3-6-29: Letter. Hagerman [Dept. of Interior] to Mabel Lujan. 2cc.  
Refers to last letter. Renews inquiry [really request] about giving VH quitclaim to small sliver of land.  
1-20-34: Letter. VH to Dept. of Interior.  
Renews request for award.  
11-30-36: Letter. Dept of Interior to VH and Mabel Lujan  
Enclosing Affidavit of Contest of VH, claiming ownership over Mabel Lujan. States that Dept will award strip to VH.



- 1-18-37: Decision. Dept. Of Interior, General Land Office  
Decision in favor of VH by default. Case closed.
- 1-14-38: Letter. E.R. Wright, Esq. to VH.  
Status report.
- 1-20-38: Letter. E.R. Wright, Esq. to VH.  
Enclosed final certificate; patent to issue.
- 7-15-38: Letter. Dept. Of Interior, Office of Indian Affairs to E.R. Wright.  
Requesting withdrawal by VH of his protest against Indians [who  
apparently had asserted some claim against the sliver of land].

\* \* \*

49. Abstracts of title addressed to Mabel Luhan by the Valley Abstract & Title Co., Inc.; 4 sections, namely:  
Section 1, pp. 1-21, containing Entries 1-13 up to September 8, 1937;  
Section 2, pp. 22-25, containing Entries 14-15, up to April 18, 1941;  
Section 3, pp. 26-44, containing Entries 16-20, up to May 15, 1941; and  
Section 4, pp. 45-51, containing Entries 21 and 22, up to January 6, 1942.

The subject real property covered by Private Claim No. 328, Parcel No. 1, of the Joy Survey of the Taos Pueblo Grant, is described at the outset of this Section. The initial document in the Abstracts is a description of the Patent Grant by President Lincoln on Nov. 1, 1864 to the Taos pueblo; the latest document [entry 22 at pg. 50] reflects that taxes are current at Jan. 6, 1942 on P.C. 328 of the Taos Pueblo Land Grant "now owned by Mabel [Dodge] Luhan."

The tract is described in Section 4 above [Entry 21 at pp. 47-49, incl., being a mortgage deed dated Dec. 8, 1941 from Mabel Luhan and Antonio Lujan, her husband, to International State Bank, Raton, N.M. as security for a loan of \$5,000.] as bounded on the south by lands formerly owned by Luis Wenger [sic], "Now of Victor Higgins and Mary Ufer; \*\*\* and west by lands formerly of Luis Wengert [sic] and now of Victor Higgins."

\* \* \*

No documents have been found tracing the title of the Higgins real estate into VH. But a letter dated April 9, 1964 from R. Howard Brandenburg, Esq., VH's attorney, to VH [Yide Folder 50, this Section] states it to be the latter's obligation to clear title "on his house" from Taos Pueblo officials to avoid subsequent challenges.

50. Letter. 4-9-64: H. Howard Brandenburg Esq. to JHR.  
Refers to plans of JHR to acquire "Luhan property." Urges her to secure

approval of Taos Pueblo to avoid legal problems. [No indication whether advice taken.]

51. In or about April 1975, JHR sold the Taos home and land described in the Abstracts of Title found in Folder 49, supra to Michael and Joanne Fagan. Contract documents and deed are missing.

This Folder contains escrow documents executed on the contract closing date, to be held by First National Bank until the deferred portion [\$43,500] of the sales price is paid.

Included is a line Survey dated January 19, 1943 by J.A. Bums, Licensed Surveyor, showing the triangular strip involved in the VH - Luhan dispute [Folder 48, supra.]

52. Memorandum. Carolina Weingert and Louis Weingert, lessors, with Victor Higgins, lessee. July 17, 1930.

Receipt for \$170, rent on building in Taos, N.M. up to Oct. 16, 1930, and storeroom until April 16, 1931. No exact location set forth.

Also: Lease [unsigned]. Louis Weingert to Victor Higgins. December 23, 1933.

Taos house - portion described in plan [left blank], from Dec. 23, 1933 to Dec. 23, 1936 for rent fixed at \$300. [total] 2 cc. Location not specified but evidently in Taos.

## I. Chicago Period

VH spent his young years at the beginning of the 20th Century studying and painting in Chicago. The following sparse material was accumulated by him.

\* \* \*

53. Scrapbook.  
Contains a variety of newspaper clippings, letters, articles, and miscellaneous items pasted and enfolded in the pages. Among them are -
- a. Specification of Peltz & Carsen, makers of theatrical scenery, Chicago, listing scenery and fixtures for The New American Theater on Madison Street and Ashland Blvd. 3pgs.
  - b. Clipping. August 23, 1913. Announcing that Harry L. Engle and VH are painting murals in the new Englewood Theater.
  - c. Article. *An Artist in Bruges*. By VH.
  - d. Color print. Article. *St. Ives - Victor Higgins*, by A.H.M. With photo of VH. Pencil correction in article [by VH?].
- Scrap book in poor condition; pasting badly done.
54. Palette and Chisel Club invitation. October 1915.  
To VH, member, sent c/o Barkers Hotel, Taos, NM. Celebration of 20th Anniversary in banquet hall of the Railroad Club or Michigan Club.
55. Leaflet. Printed, n.d.  
Describes entertainment with "best talent in Chicago" in ballroom of Irving Park Club.
56. 12-5-07. Letter: Arms Palace Horse Car Company, Chicago to Victor [VH]  
Mast lists its various operating cars, including Theatrical and Circus Cars; Horse and Carriage Cars; etc. Invitation to dinner on Sunday.
57. Tear Sheet, printed. Reports of Committees [Chicago]. Nov. 9, 1914. Pgs. 1953-1954  
Section 1 [Ordinance] of City Council appropriates \$2,500 for use by Commission of the Encouragement of Local Art, established by same Ordinance.  
Also: 11-19-14. Letter: Carter H. Harrison, Mayor Chicago to VH, at Palette and Chisel Club, Chicago.  
Announcing appointment of VH to membership on Commission, and enclosing above resolution. Sets forth names of other members.
58. 12-5-14. Letter: Carter H. Harrison, Mayor, City of Chicago to Commission for the

Encouragement of Local Art; attention of VH, Secy., at Palette & Chisel Club.

Encloses clippings (3) reporting that Mayor was invited to act as "lay inspector" in selection of art for City, an offer he was rejecting.

59. 12-7-17. Letter: Wm. Hale Thompson, Mayor, Chicago to VH.  
Suggesting meeting of Commission on December 11 to organize Commission.
60. 6-26-20. Letter: Chicago Bearing Metal Club, Chicago [Will C. Martin] to VH, Taos.  
"Ran across" VH painting in [Chicago] Art Institute.  
5-1-22. Letter: The Chicago Tribune [E.S. Beck, Managing Editor] to VH.  
Asking for updated photo.  
1-3-36. Letter. The Cliff Dwellers [Jimmy K. Rand (name unclear), Pres.] to VH, Taos.  
Chicago Club cancels back dues.
61. The Cow Bell. Vol. 2, No. 12. Chicago. December 1, 1913. Printed, 2 pgs. folded to 4 sides printed. Palette & Chisel Club.  
Amusing letters and articles.
62. Promissory Note. Frank H. Atkinson [Atkinson's Sign Layouts, Chicago] to VH. Feb. 25, 1907. \$50.  
Ditto. Aug. 31, 1907 \$40; subtended, same date; same parties \$50.  
Ditto. Feb. 28, 1907. \$10. Same parties. Stylistically drawn.  
Meant to cover understatement of 2-25 note.

## **J. Marion Koogler McNay Higgins - Marriage/Divorce VH**

### **Preliminary Comments**

This ill-fated second marriage of VB was consummated on July 27, 1937, 13 years after his divorce from his first wife, Sara Parsons Mack. Some writers opine that it nearly destroyed his career, but no records thus far uncovered support this supposition. The couple was divorced by a decree dated March 29, 1940.

The incomplete records in this Part are divided as follows:

- (i) Last Will and Testament of, and premarital communications, mostly telegrams, from, Marion Koogler McNay Higgins [MKH], to VH.
- (ii) Communications of VH to MKH immediately before and following their physical separation, most of them patient efforts by VH to explicate the genesis of the emotional problems that developed between them. Both parties repeatedly alluded to surgical procedures they underwent; both evidently hypochondriacs.
- (iii) Judicial proceedings and correspondence pertaining thereto.
- (iv) Settlement agreement and papers relating to property divisions.
- (v) Miscellaneous records.

\* \* \*

## Box 18

### (i) Premarital Communications: MKH - VH

63. Last Will and Testament. MKH. Oct. 8, 1937. Unsigned copy.  
Extensive charitable bequests; residuary estate "to my dearly beloved husband," including all real estate.
64. Telegrams, Western Union (24). 1936-1937. Mostly from MKH to VH  
Most of them subtle allusions to her strong feelings and concern for VH.

### (ii) Communications, VH to MKH

65. Letter. VH to MKH. N.d, but 1939. Typewritten, 5 pgs, 2 cc. Unaddressed, unsigned.  
Thoughts and reflections on foundering marriage.
66. Letter. VH to Marion Higgins. Dec. 7, 1939. Typewritten, unsigned, 4 pgs, 3cc. Re-typewritten copy, different typewriter, 3 pgs. Unsigned.  
Disclaiming her charges of disloyalty, infidelity, etc.
67. Letter. c. 1939: VH to Marion Higgins. Handwritten, ink; unsigned. 9 pgs. Discussing art projects, and reminiscences of times spent together. On letterhead of The Wardel Hotel, Detroit, Michigan.  
Also: Letter. c. 1939: VH to MKH. Handwritten, ink; signed. 1 pg.  
Discussing common experiences. On letterhead of The St. Anthony, San Antonio, TX.
68. Letter. 12-26-39: VH to MKH  
Disclosing his illness and offering her a deed to Texas house. 2nd page missing.

### (iii) Judicial Proceedings and Correspondence

69. Telegrams, Western Union (15). Sept. 22 - Dec. 14, 1930. Among VH, counsel, court officers.  
Discussing institution of divorce suit; handling of defamation claim of VH vs. MKH. Jockeying for suit priority: VH in Texas vs. MKH in Nevada. Discussion of retraction notice from wife re slanderous remarks.
70. Retraction Affidavit (2). MKH.

Before Notary in Washoe Co., Nevada.

Also: List of persons to whom defamatory utterances were made.

71. June 24, 1939 - March 29, 1940: Letters (15). Among VH, counsel both parties.  
Discussions of court tactics and progress of proceedings.
72. - Complaint, Marion K Higgins vs. Victor Higgins, Nevada. 1939.  
Yet untiled. Certified as accurate copy by Wm. P. Moloney, attorney for plaintiff.  
Suit based on cruelty.  
- Appearance and answer. 1939. Unsigned.  
- Complaint, Victor Higgins vs. Marion K Higgins. TX.  
- Judgement, Higgins v. Higgins, Bexar Co., TX March 29, 1940  
Judgement awarded to VH.
73. Settlement Agreement. September 30, 1940.  
- Marion to pay VH \$10,000.  
- Marion to retain all real and personal property now her separate property.  
- Deeds to be delivered to Marion for real property in Florida, Kansas, and Ohio.  
- VH to retain all property now his separate property.  
- Personal property in Taos to be divided per letter dated July 15, 1939 from Marion to VH; other property in residence of Marion in Bexar. (as described) to be delivered to VH.  
Also: Earlier drafts of above agreement.
74. Deeds (3), Florida, Kansas, Ohio real property. To Hazel K. Clapsaddle. September 30, 1939.  
Also: Deed (1), Bexar Co., TX real property. From VH to Marion.
75. Deeds (2). From Marion to VH [viz. her community interest].  
- Lands [claims 198 and 272, Joy Survey, as previously conveyed to VH by Louis Wengert], Taos, NM.  
- Ditto. Lands in Shelby Co., Indiana, 115 acres to VH.
76. Letter. 7-15-39: Listing personally to be sent to Marion  
Handwritten note at top: "Original list sent by Mrs. H."  
Also: N.d. From Marion [unsigned] to VH. List  
of items that VH may keep.  
Also: Drafts.  
Also: 10-6-39: VH to Moloney and Alamo Nat'l Bank (2).  
Residual instructions.
77. 8-21-38: Letter. JH [?] to MKH  
Written at about 1st anniversary of her marriage [on July 27, 1937],  
extending renewed "felicitations" and expressing views about VH  
painting. Mentions plans to marry "Estelle" that Fall.

## Section II : John Tilson Higgins and Rose Ellen Dolan Higgins

### A. Real Estate Matters

The parents of VH and his eight siblings both died on unknown dates sometime between 1931 and 1933. The following letters and records pertain to their last affairs and to the winding up of their estates.

John T. Higgins, VH's brother and an attorney, handled these affairs. He had become a partner in the law firm of Worzer & Higgins in Detroit, Michigan. His partner's full name was Louis C. Worrer, the son of F. Henry Worzer, who died in April, 1932 while head of the firm.

\* \* \*

1.

5-23-33: Letter. John T. Higgins to VH. 3 pgs.

Discussing property and farm of parents, and urging him to write to their father.

2. 6-30-33: Letter. John T. Higgins to VH. 1 pg.

Enclosing "compilation" of affairs of parents, Feb. 15, 1931 to July 1, 1933 (sic). Copies said to have been sent to all family members.

Enclosure: Accounting. Typewritten, 15 pgs. And copies of promissory note dated April 29, 1931 from parents to John T. Higgins Jr. for \$1,100 and of property lease dated Aug. 26, 1932 from father to son John of Shelby County, Indiana.

Accounting details each and every transaction for period Feb 15, 1931 to July 1, 1933. Frequent references to transactions between M.A. Higgins [sister-in-law of J. Tilson Higgins?] and J. Tilson Higgins [e.g. -Schedule 23, p.11], Mr. and Mrs. M.A. Higgins [e.g. -Schedule 23,p.11, and liabilities, p.12], and Marie Higgins Fisher.

Rose Higgins, upon hospitalization, turned over management of the financial affairs to Marie Fisher. From which it may be inferred that Rose survived her husband.



## B. Estate Matters

3. Real estate of John Tilson Higgins, deceased. Indiana Probate Proceedings.
  - (a) 11-12-35: Letter. John T. Higgins [Worzer & Higgins, attorney for estate] to Higgins' [Frank, Fred, VH].

Instructions for execution of enclosed personal surety bond in lieu of corporate surety bond.
  - (b) Newspaper clipping. N.d. Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property, estate of J. Tilson Higgins, deceased on Monday April 27, 1936.

By M. [Michael] Ambrose Higgins and Marie [Higgins] Fischer, Executors. Personally described.
  - (c) 6-5-36: Letter. Walter R. Myers [Attorney for estate] to VH, Frank, Fred, John Higgins.

Enclosing for signatures waiver of notice of proposed sale of decedent's farm.
  - (d) 10-22-37: Letter. John T. Higgins to VH.

Reports the bidding in of the farm [115 acres] by Frank, Fred and John for \$10,350. Offers VH opportunity to share equally with them in its ownership, and ownership by Michael of "Herschover farm" [60 acres]. Detailed accounting figures.
  - (e) 3-31-38: Letter. Walter R. Myers to VH, Frank, Fred, and John T. Higgins.

Enclosing receipt for final distribution. Figures set forth in letter.
4. c.12-35 [Source unknown.] Statement of expenses of last illness of J. Tilson Higgins, March 1931 - October 30, 1935: \$4,866.

5-27-36: Letter. Michael Higgins to VH [brother].

Discusses disposition of personal items of father; complains about sister Marie's "dirty" actions.

Section III : Galleries, Catalogs, Inventories and Gallery Correspondence

Box 19

A. Galleries and Catalogs

1. Art Institute of Chicago. Twenty-Second Annual. May 10 - June 8, 1910.

Item 119 (VH): *Near Santa Barbara.*

Palette & Chisel Club. Chicago. May 22, 1913

Announces exhibition of paintings and drawings made during VH' s  
sojourn in Belgium, England, France and Germany.

Art Institute of Chicago. Twenty-Sixth Annual .  
November 14 - December 25, 1913 (2)

Items 174-176 (VH): *Pont des Augustins.*

*Reflection in a Bruges Canal.*

*Fish Market*

Slipped into one is miniature photo, 1 3/4 x 2 1/2, of waterfront scene.

Art Institute of Chicago. Artists of Chicago, etc. Eighteenth  
Annual. February 3 - March 1, 1914 (2).

Items 146 - 147 (VH): *Afternoon, Beguinage.*

*A Comish Garden.*

Art Association of Terra Haute, Indiana.

Fifth Annual Spring Exhibition. April 14 - 27, 1914.

Item 25 (WS): *Afternoon, Beguinage*

*Bruges*

Art Institute of Chicago. Twenty-Seventh Annual. November 3 - December 6, 1914.

Items 152 - 153 (WS): *Courtyard Bruges.*

*Moorland Piper.*

2. Art Institute of Chicago. Artists of Chicago, etc.  
Nineteenth Annual. March 2 - 31, 1915 (2).

Items 130 - 132 (VH): *Moorland Gorse and Bracken.*

*Saturday Market, Bruges.*

*Bruges Canal.*

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA February 8 - March 28, 1920.  
Cover missing.

Item 178 (VH): *White Life.*

Art Institute of Chicago. Thirty-Fourth Annual - American Paintings and Sculpture. November 3  
- December 11, 1921.

Items 93- 94 (VH): *Reflected Light.*  
*Taos Mountains.*

The Society of Independent Artists. New York, NY.

Lists of officers, directors, members. VH not listed.

Taos Society of Artists. Howard Young Galleries, New York, NY. November 4 - 18, 1922.

List of members (14) including VH.

Items 23 - 25 (VH): *A New Mexico Cavalry.*

*Winter Sunlight.*

*Taos From A Hilltop.*

Hathaway Galleries, Los Angeles, CA 1923

Brochure promoting interest in gallery.

Montrose Gallery, NY, NY. October 1923. Brochure 4 3/4 x 6 1/4.

Entitled New Mexico Painters. Stylized covers front and back. Lists; black and white pictures; works mostly of Taos artists.

3 VH pictures with prices, viz.:

*A Ceremony in the Mountains:* \$1,500.

*The White Cloud:* 600.

*Randall's Mill:* 600.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. April 1 - 22, 1924.

Lists 25 VH paintings, prices on request

Pettis Gallery, Indianapolis, Indiana (4). May 5 - 21, 1924 [?], direct from Corcoran Gallery.

VH paintings (22), duplicating Corcoran items.

3. The Dubuque Art Association. Public Library Art Room. Iowa. January 13, 1925.

Reception for VH

Separate leaflet announces exhibition, January 14 - 24, 1925. 20 titled (VH) works.

Also: Envelope addressed to VH, c/o Cliff Dwellers, Chicago, IL

Public Art Gallery, Richmond, Indiana. Twenty-Eighth Annual. January 18-  
February 15, 1925. Indiana painters.

Auspices of Art Association of Richmond, Indiana. Lists officers, directors,  
prizewinners . VH paintings (20) listed with brief bio-sketch.

The Wichita Art Association. Kansas, February 8 - 23, 1925. VH paintings (22) by name. Photo  
of VH on cover. Bio-sketch, memberships, awards on pg. opposite lists.

The Art Institute of Chicago 1925. Permanent Collection.

Item 474 (VH):

*Spring Rains.*

The Society of Independent Artists. 1927. New York, NY.

Lists of officers, directors, members. VH not listed.

Grand Central Art Galleries, New York, NY. January 24 - February 4, 1928. Recent paintings by VH.

27 titles; bio-sketch on back pg.

Schools of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Philadelphia, PA 1929-1930.

Calendar, curriculum, illustrations of art and artists.

Chester H. Johnson Galleries, Chicago, IL. Recent Water Colors, Taos, New Mexico by VH. April 17, 1931.

19 titles; bio-sketch. Handwritten list of women, with addresses, on back cover. Other pencil notes on covers of copies.

4. Ferargil, New York, NY. (7). Victor Higgins, December 16 - 30, 1940.

24 titles listed; description by VH of this "first water color exhibit." [But see Childs Gallery, infra, where VH describes that show as "first water color exhibit."]

The American Federation Of Arts, Washington, D.C. Exhibition of Forty Contemporary American Oil Paintings. May 1939.

Selected by Forbes Watson from 16th Biennial Exhibition of Corcoran Gallery, and circulated by AF of A VH (I) entitled *Maria Ignacita* (\$1,200); Eugene Higgins (I) entitled *Descent From the Cross* (sold).

Carnegie Institute Pittsburgh. Thirtieth International. October 15 - December 6, 1931.

No mention of VH

Pictures on Exhibit. A review of the art shows. Duveen Brothers, Inc. New York, NY.

October 1942. 32 pgs.

Gallery ads, articles.

5. The National Academy of Design, New York, NY. The 2nd Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Drawings. January 3 - 23, 1946. 15 pg.; photos.

Lists Council members with photograph. Pictures with prices. Mention of VH and Eugene Higgins (2 paintings), the latter an "ash can painter \*\*\* of slums."

The Art Club, New Mexico State. Teachers College. Silver City, New Mexico. Twelve representative New Mexico Artists. June 2 - 27, 1946. 3 cc.

Lists 12 paintings, one [*Sleeping Figure*] by VH, others by Cinco Pintores [q.v. Will Shuster Collection] and Taos artists.

Guadalupe Gallery, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Taos and Its Artists. November 30 - December 20, 1947.

Lists 22 artists, including VH [*Pueblo Road*] , O'Keeffe, Taos painters.

Museum of New Mexico, Carlsbad Library Museum, New Mexico. New Mexico Masters, 12 artists. March 7 - 24, 1948.

4 pg. Leaflet, includes VH [*Juantets Tree*] and 11 other masters.

The National Academy of Design . 123rd Annual Exhibition[], First Half/Section, Paintings in Oil and Sculpture. March 10 - 23, 1949.

Juries, awards, mentions VH and Eugene Higgins, New York City.

Ibid. Second Half/Section, Graphic Arts and Water Colors. March 31 - April 13, 1949.

Same kind of contents as First Half

Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Texas. Private Dallas Collections. June 12 - 26, 1949

1 VH [*Spring In Taos*] owned by Hattie Louise Browning .

Harwood Gallery, Taos, New Mexico. Available Paintings of Victor Higgins. August 20 - September 8, 1956. Reception August 26.

Also: Monologue, draft, by Ward Lockwood . 4 pgs.

Penciled statement of Lockwood's conception of VH art on display at Harwood Foundation Gallery.

El Palacio. March - April 1957, Pg. 127.

Announces exhibitions at Museum of New Mexico during January - February. VH Mentioned listed.

Fine Arts Center, University Art Gallery, University of New Mexico. October 10, 1963.

Mentions VH and Will Shuster.

Art Gallery, University of New Mexico. Purchase Exhibition . September 22 - October 15, 1964.

## Box 20

6. Galley [proof] sheets (5), with pencil corrections. For *Taos and Its Artists*, New York

Mabel Dodge Luhan [so inscribed on title page]. Duell Sloan and Pearce. New York. 1947.

Panhandle - Plains Historical Museum, Taos, New Mexico. February 15 - March 30, 1960.

Exhibition of Taos Art. Includes VH work.

7. The following gallery notices have either incomplete dates or no dates.  
The Childs Gallery, Boston, MA. Watercolors by Victor Higgins. April 14 - 26, 19-.  
List of 20 watercolors; description of his art by VH, said to be "first watercolor exhibit" except one in Santa Fe. [But see Ferargil, N.Y., 1940 ' where similar claim is made.]  
Comments, "\*\*\*\* these pictures show an undercurrent of El Greco's application of Pythagorean philosophy and Euclidian geometry."

Billie Keith Art Gallery, Rockford, IL., under the auspices of Rockford Art Club. January 28 - February 7, 19-.

98 paintings listed by titles, offered for sale by Carson Pirie Scott and Company, Chicago, IL.  
Names and addresses in pencil on back pg.

The Grace Nicholson Galleries, Pasadena, CA. Paintings of the Southwest by Victor Higgins. March 3 - 20, 19-. 2cc.

Also: Flyer (2) lists 19 pictures to be offered for sale.

Taos Heptagon Art Gallery, New Mexico. Exhibition of six artists, including VH "*Throughout the Season.*"

Museum of New Mexico. Art Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico. (2). Victor Higgins "Memorial Exhibition. "Circa 1949 - 1950.

Lists 29 titles, "And Watercolors."

Fort Worth Art Association, Galeria Escondida. December 29 - January 16, 19 -, [circa 1949 - 1950]

Two works, *Petunias* and *Spanish Gold*, by "The late Victor Higgins."

Eulalia Emetaz's La Galeria Escondida, Taos, New Mexico. September 24 - October 7, 19-, but circa 1949 - 1950.

14 oils, 1 watercolor; names, by the "late Victor Higgins."

8. Magazine Covers.

(a), (b) Town & Country. May 15, 1924 (2).

Picture of VH painting of *Girl With Parrot*.  
Courtesy of Macbeth Galleries.

- (c) Garden & Home Builders. May, 1928.  
Picture of original painting by VH. Floral subject. Courtesy of Grand Central Art Galleries. New York.
  - (d) Magazine picture.  
From Arizona Highways. November 1962.  
Color picture of *At the Pueblo* by VH.
- 9.
- (a) The Illustrated Buffalo Express, Newspaper. N.D.  
Depicting *The Pumpkin Girl* by VH, in the exhibition at Albright Art Gallery.
  - (b) Chicago Newspaper; c. 1918.  
Depicting prize picture (\$500. First prize) by VH titled *To The Fiesta* [a.k.a. *Fiesta Day*], awarded at Chicago Exhibition of Chicago Artists in February 1918. Magazine photo attached to news article.
  - (c) Map Taos, New Mexico. Compliments of Blair Galleries, Ltd.  
Showing local galleries. 1967.
  - (d) La Biennale Di Venezia. Internationale d'Art, XX Esposizione. September 1936.  
9 1/2 x 12 3/4  
Invitation to VH.

## B. Inventories

- 10 (a) Appraisals of inventoried paintings (91). 4 pp. on yellow sheets, pencil. By VH [?].  
Lists titles, appraisal values, remarks.
- (b) Inventory, by VH. 4 pp. on yellow sheets, typewritten with some additional notes in ink. One carbon copy and 2 photocopies.  
Lists titles [100], sizes, prices and original remarks.
- (c) Inventory. Source unknown. pp. on ruled sheets, in green ink. Photocopy of original. Lists titles; dimensions; some designations of media; some marked with "F" in red ink. Copy includes additional sheet [original] in red ink describing additional works.
- (d) Works. Source unknown [JHR?]. pp., photocopies. Titles, locations of works, galleries, private homes. Pg. 1 - "Works", Pg. 2 - "Exhibited", Pg. 3 - "Collections of "
- (e) Inventory. Source unknown. 1 pg., typewritten with handwritten notes, names of purchasers'].  
List names (34), prices.
- (f) Lists two works. Letterhead of La Fonda Art Gallery, Jane Hiatt, Director.  
#69 *Arroyo Hondo* \$450.  
#43 *Geraniums* \$650.
- (g) Loose leaf & book, 4 x 5 1/4. 1st 10 - 12 pgs. Heading: "pictures painted during 1922 - 23, \*\*\*"; with titles, sizes, pieces.
- (h) S.M. Reference. Source. Re VH.  
List of magazines, catalogs. Pencil.
- (i) 25 titles for VH Exhibition. Partly typed list of titles and sizes.
- (j) 1-6-75: Letter. Gerald Peters, Santa Fe, to Robert Mack.  
Lists 10 paintings valued between \$3,000. and \$30,000.



### C. Gallery Correspondence

#### 11

10-20-11 to 10-18-12: Letters and shipping documents between VH, American Express Co., and others.

Reviews customs requirements, shipping charges, etc. from London, to Bruges, Belgium, etc.

#### 12.

2-22-12 Letter. Chicago Academy of Fine Arts to VH, St. Ives, England . Introducing VH to Messrs. Ritman and Winter, also traveling in Europe.

11-12-13: Letter. The Inland Printer to VH, Palette and Chisel Club, Chicago. Enclosing printer's proof of colored engraving of painting, *St. Ives*, to appear in January issue of The Inland Printer. Also enclosed is a proof of *Street Scene Broges*, endorsed in pencil, June, 1914.

3-7-14: Letter. Terre Haute Art Association, Indiana to VH.

Soliciting a VH painting to show at its April exhibit. Pencil note on back by VH: "I could hardly take less than one hundred seventy five for the pict[ure]." [VH 29 years old.]

8-20-20: Letter. The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company to VH.

Seeking a VH painting to show at exhibition at University of Illinois when Better Community Movement meets in Champaign, IL on October 1-3.

3-5-21: Letter. The Mohr Art Galleries, Toledo, OH to Walter Ufer, Taos. Great interest shown in his works.

3-5-21: Endorsement to letter of 3-5-21. Walter Ufer to VH. Perhaps members of Taos Society might wish to send works to Mohr.

4-20-21: Letter. [*Sender illegible*] to VH.

Indicating in sketch how he would like to reduce the skyline of oil painting.

- 3-28-23: Letter. The Fort Wayne [Indiana] Art School and Museum to VH.  
Thanking him for allowing the showing of four of his paintings.
- 7-4-23: Le Revue Moderne, Paris, France to VH. In French.  
Soliciting an advertisement of his art in Compte-Rendu.
- 9-5-23: William Macbeth, Inc., New York City, NY to VH soliciting art.
- 10-22-23: Contract. The State Capitol Decoration Commission, Missouri and VH.  
Duplicate original.  
Engagement to paint three murals in State Capitol in spaces 12 feet long and 6 feet high: \$3,000.
- 2-18-24: Letter. Lyman Brothers [Carl Lyman, V.P.], Indianapolis, IN, to VH.  
Stationery has picture of Lyman building.  
Readying for exhibition.
- 2-25-24: Letter. William H. Bush, Chicago, to VH.  
Enclosing copy of his letter to Guy Carlander, Amarillo, TX re VH painting. [Letter elliptical.]
- 2-29-24: Lyman Brothers to VH.  
Suggesting marketing approach to preparation of catalog for Pettis Gallery exhibition.
- 3-3-24: The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC to VH.  
Acknowledging receipt from Carson, Pirie & Scott of VH painting titled *Apaches* to be included in April exhibition.
- 3-11-24: The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA to VH,  
Salmagundi Club, New York.  
Discussing offer of \$1,000 for VH painting, *The Widower*, hanging at the show there.  
Attached: Notice of sale of painting for \$1,000.  
Envelope has interesting routings on face; reverse side comment by VH, ink: "Sale of *'The Widower'*" Also, descriptive comment, "Pic with Goat."
- 3-14-24: The Buffalo Fine Arts Academy [Cornelia B. Sage, Quinton, Director] to VH forwarded from Chicago to Salmagundi Club, New York.  
Asking to exhibit *The Widower* in its Eighteenth Annual Exhibition.
- 3-18-24: The Mural Painters, New York, NY. Soliciting art.

- 3-22-24: Painters and Sculptors Gallery Association, New York, NY, to VH. Letter on above letterhead written by Grand Central Art Galleries.  
If no objection, latter will ship VH painting *Still Life* to Detroit Institute of Art for its annual exhibition.
- 3-27-24: The Corcoran Gallery of Art to VH.  
Lists paintings thus far received from Artists Packing & Shipping Co. and his corrections in catalogue.
- 4-7-24 Painters and Sculptors Gallery etc. to VH at Corcoran Gallery. Seeking approval to send *Small Crucifixion* and *Taos* (sic) *Subject* to Cleveland Museum at end of Corcoran show.
- 4-10-24: Lyman Brothers to VH. Ready for show in Indianapolis starting May 5. Seeks material for catalogue.
- 6-2-24: *El Palacio*, pp. 167-169.  
Announcing opening of Pettis Gallery with works of Taos artists, including VH.
- c. 7- ? -24: Taos Society of Artist (sic), to VH.  
Seeking titles and prices for works being sent for 1924-1925 show starting November 10 in Fort Worth, TX.
- 7-24-24: Art Association of Richmond, Indiana to VH.  
Soliciting works for show, January 1-13, 1925, and one for its permanent collection.
- 10-30-24: Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Columbus, Ohio to VH.  
Acknowledges receipt of 4 paintings from Taos and 2 boxes from Carson, Pirie Scott & Co. containing 10 canvasses [names set forth].
- 11-15-24: Art Institute of Chicago to VH.  
Seeking permission to move *New Mexico Calvary* (sic) to galleries [named] in Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Lincoln, Nebraska at close of its 37th Annual Exhibition.
- 11-19-24: Wichita Art Association to VH. First page only; letter incomplete.  
Suggesting he be in touch with Mulvane Art Museum at Topeka.
- 11-28-24: Ibid. to VH.  
Arranging for show and VH visit in February.

- 12-22-24: The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts to VH.  
Discussing procedures to be followed by VH as a member of the Jury of Selection for the 120th Annual Exhibition in 1925.
- 12-26-24: Klauer Mfg. Co., Dubuque, Iowa to VH.  
Referring to plans for VH show in Dubuque in January 1925.
- 12-29-24: Eva Springer, Washington, DC to VH.  
Congratulating him on appointment to Jury of Selection (supra) and "trusting" him to look "with a kind eye upon the work of your friends in Washington."
- 12-29-24: Dubuque Art Association to VH.  
Discussing plans to meet before exhibition.
- 1-4-25: C.A. Seward. Wichita, Kansas, to VH.  
Planning for exhibition at Wichita Art Association in February.
- 13.**
- 1-5-25: Dubuque Art Association to VH.  
Further discussions of plans.
- 1-28-25: Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts to VH.  
Jury to hold final meeting, inviting him to Philadelphia.
- 2-7-25: [TWX] Seward to VH.  
Last minute arrangements.
- 2-10-25: Capitol Decoration Commission [John Pickard, Pres.], Missouri, to VH.  
Asking for descriptive material for three murals to appear in forthcoming catalog.
- 2-25-25: Art Association of Indianapolis, IN - John Herron Art Institute.  
Calling for meeting of artists participating in Eighteenth Annual Exhibition.  
Also: receipt for VH of *Spring Rain* and *The Widower* for inclusion in Annual.
- 3-18-25: Op. cit., supra.  
Seeking instructions re interest of Fort Wayne Museum in exhibiting VH work during April.
- 3-23-25: Art Institute of Chicago to VH.  
Bill covering insurance for transit: \$2.70.

- 3-26-25: Indianapolis Clearing House, [George C. Calvert, Mgr.] to VH.  
Discussing unhappiness with procedures by the jury of three at last year's show.
- 4-1-25: Los Angeles Museum [Wm. Alanson Bryan, Dir.] to VH.  
Invitation to contribute to Pan-American Exhibition of Oil Paintings, November 3, 1925 - January 1, 1926; being first international ever held in U.S. Enclosed : Brochures, Conditions and Awards.
- 4-7-25: William Preston Harrison, Los Angeles, to VH. Discussing exhibition efforts.
- 4-9-25: American Federation of Arts, Washington, DC to VH.  
Describing shows to which VH painting shown at Venice Exhibition has been sent; most recently shown at Delgado Museum in New Orleans. [Title not disclosed.]
- 4-18-25: Artists' Packing & Shipping Co. to VH. Invoice for packing and shipping charges: \$87.44.
- 4-20-25: Ibid. to VH.  
Complaining about tardy payments.
- 4-25-25: Grand Central Art Galleries to VH.  
Explaining its plans for the 1925 season.
- 5-4-25: Capitol Decoration Commission, Missouri, to VH.  
Announcing approval of VH's 3 lunettes in the capitol building.
- 5-2-31: Mrs. Malcolm L. McBride, Cleveland, Ohio to VH.  
Seeking price for *El Sangre de Christo (sic) Mountains*.
- 9-21-33: TWX. Grand Central Art Galleries to VH.  
Saint Gaudens has invited VH's *Zinnias* for Carnegie International.
- 9-25-33: Carnegie Institute to VH.  
Announcing that *The Sleeping Model* is to be in the International .
- 11-7-33: Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, [Homer Saint-Gaudens, Dir.] to VH, Grand Central Art Galleries.  
Expressing "pride" that VH canvas, *Sleeping Model*, was among American paintings at Thirty-First International Exhibition. [But see claim of Los Angeles Museum, 4-21-25, supra.]

- 11-29-33: Grand Central Art Galleries, New York to VH.  
Notice of meeting of members [VH member] December 7, 1933.
- 1-26-34: Grand Central Art Galleries to VH  
Soliciting more of his works. NB: VH losing interest in shows at that Gallery? Elsewhere?
- 6-24-35: Brooklyn Museums to VH.  
Asking for instructions re return of *Hondo River* exhibited in 1933 International Water Colors at Museum.
- 2-11-36 Denver Art Museum to VH.  
Seeking 2 oils for March exhibition.
- 5-19-36: Art Association of Indianapolis, Indiana.  
The John Herron Art Institute to VH.
- 6-27-36: Treasury Dept., Rocky Ford, Colorado.  
Notifying him of approval of his mural designs for its Post Office.
- 7-20-36: Museum of New Mexico [School of American Research] to VH.  
Inquiring whether he will serve on the Hanging Committee for the Annual Exhibition of Southwestern Painters and Sculptors (September 1-30) along with Sheldon Parsons, [father-in-law], Joe Bakos, Will Shuster, [q.v. Will Shuster Collection], Raymond Johnson, etc.
- 1-25-37: Samuel M. Yunt Galleries, Dallas, TX to VH.  
Soliciting VH art.
- 5-24-39: American Federation of Arts, Washington, DC to VH.  
Referring to prospective loan of VH art for shows at State University of Iowa and elsewhere.
- 10-4-40: J.H. Sharp to VH.  
Enclosing Bill of Sale to *View of Taos Plaza* with covering note.
- 3-4-42: Rudolf Lesch Fine Arts to VH.  
Seeking reproduction rights to some of his paintings.
- 2-13-45: The H. Lieber Company, Inc. Indianapolis, IN to VH.  
Holding 2 watercolors awaiting instructions for return.
- 1-22-46: Grand Central Art Galleries to VH.  
Hanging his "new paintings."

- 3-22-48: The Butler Art Institute to VH.  
Responding to VH inquiry, the print of *Fiesta Day* was made by Photographische Gesellschaft, Berlin.
- 9-27-56: Contract of Sale. Joan Reed with H.J.L. Stark, Orange, TX.  
Lists 8 paintings being sold at stated prices totaling \$7,335.
- 2-27-73: Phoenix Art Museum to JHR.  
Thanking her for loan of VH works.
- 11-17-74: Harrison Eiteljorg to Mrs. Mack. Solicitation.
- [Undated]: School of American Research.  
List of names and addresses "for Victor."
- [Undated]: J.H. Sharp.  
Announces "entry" into the Southwest. Seeks works of Taos School of Painters.

14.

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.

The following correspondence and press comments pertain to a 1975 exhibition of VH works arranged at the Notre Dame Museum by the Mack and Reed families.

- 10-28-75: Dean A Porter [Dir, Art Gallery, University of Notre Dame] to Mr./Mrs. Robert Mack and JHR.  
Thanking them for their efforts in connection with scheduled VH exhibition.
- 11-17-75: D.A Porter to Mr./Mrs. Mack. Scheduling difficulty; sending them catalogs in process.
- 11-18-75: D.A Porter to JHR.  
To same effect.
- 12-8-75: D.A. Porter to Mr./Mrs. Mack. Thanking them for hospitality during recent visit.
- 2-9-76: Op. cit. supra.  
Enclosing catalog.
- 2-26-76: Op. cit. supra.  
Discussing forthcoming exhibition.

4-20-76: Op. cit. supra  
Ditto.

N.d.: Newsletter re: VH.

N.d.: Christmas 1976 letter from the Provost.

Tearsheet, photocopy. Publication unidentified - N.d.; c. 1976.

Titled, *The Week In Indian Art*.

Article, *Victor Higgins Retrospective*. Opens "[next] Wednesday."

The New Mexican. December 7, 1975; pp. 26-27.

Article, *On the Arts*.

Refers to VH Retrospective that opened in November.



## Section IV : Articles, Newspaper Clippings and Political Matters

### A. Articles

1. Inland Stationer. Tear sheets, pp. 48-49; n.d.  
Article: *An Artist in Bruges*. By VH.  
Story about Bruges the Dead. A walking tour of the old city.
2. Article. *St. Ives, Seaport and Borough of West Cornwall*. Mr. Higgins's impressions. 3 pgs.  
A review of its history, customs, mores, and geography.
3. Brochure. Quarterly. July 1928 - Published by Societe Anonyme. New York, NY.  
Article: *Photography in Aesthetics*. By Sara Parsons. Pgs. 23-30 .  
Illustrated.
4. Brochure. Light and Shade. May 1930. Published by Pictorial Photographers of America.  
New York, NY.  
Article: *Photography As a Means of Picture Making*. By Sara Parsons.
5. Article : *Creative Diversrty: The Story of Sara Mack*. By Mary Carroll Nelson.  
Typewritten, 16 pp.  
Article claims that Sara Mack was, by her own words, largely influenced by her mother, \*Carolin (sic) Reed Parsons," a gifted portrait photographer," and her father, Sheldon Parsons, a renowned artist of his day.
6. Article. *Taos. 1540-1632*. By Olive G. Arthur. Typewritten, 9 pp.  
Geographic and historic survey.

[Folders 7 - 10 deleted]

## **B. Newspaper Clippings**

The records do not indicate who clipped articles and stories from various local (i.e. Southwest) newspapers, but it is likely that VH and JHR were responsible for most of the work.

Evidently no attempt was made to keep the clippings in any kind of sequence or order. They were found in a carton in helter-skelter condition. Because they had yellowed and become extremely fragile, assembly of them in chronological order has been very difficult. Many of them had no dates; most are left without showing newspaper sources. But much remains to shed light on the work of VH and fellow artists.

### **CAVEAT**

The original clippings are encased in each Folder. Photocopies have been made, and should be used, leaving the originals intact and preserved.

\* \* \*

**11.** Clippings -1914 to 1922.

**12.** Clippings -1924 to 1931.

**13.** Clippings -1940 to 1975.

**14.** Undated clippings.

[Many can be correlated to approximate dates by their references to particular events.]

### C. Political Matters

15. 9-1-48: Letter. Antonio Cordoba, Treasurer, Taos Co. to VH.  
Enclosing monthly Report of Financial Condition of Taos County at September I, 1948, and Annual Report at f/y/e June 30, 1948, and of disposition of bond balance indebtedness.
16. Monthly Report of Financial Condition of Taos Co. at December 31, 1948 by (outgoing) County Treasurer Cordoba.  
Also: statement of balance paid to P.B. Romero (incoming) Treasurer. January 15, 1949.
17. Resolutions. Taos Pueblo Council meeting. Photostat. 3 pgs. May 23, 1963. Granting by Bureau of Indian Affairs of right of way to New Mexico State Highway Commission for public highway across Pueblo lands [35.790 acres] for \$150.

## Section V : Memberships and Inventions

### Box 21

#### A. Memberships

1. Chicago Society of Artists. Year Book. Contains Constitution and By- laws. 1910.
2. April 2, 1919: Letter. Chicago Society of Artists to Fellow Members. Lower half of sheet tom off.  
Letterhead mast shows VH as President. Letter calls supper meeting for April 7. Reverse side: green ink sketches (4), one of Indian carpet design.
3. American Irish Historical Society. Membership Committee. Notice of VH membership nomination; n.d. New York, NY.  
Requesting acceptance of nomination via attached sheet.  
[Not detached or completed .]
4. 4-5-25: Letter. Allied Artists of America, Inc., New York, NY to VH.  
Demand for payment of dues in arrears.
5. 2-17-25: Statement. Allied Artists of America, Inc. to VH.  
Statement of open membership dues for 1923 (\$5.), 1924 (\$5.), 1925 \$10.
6. The Society of Independent Artists, New York, NY. Membership card, 1929.
7. The American Artists Professional League, New York, NY. Annual bill for dues, \$3.00. 1934.
8. 1-9-36: Letter: American Society of Painters, Sculptors and Gravers to VH.  
Informing VH of his election to membership, and enclosing conditions of membership .

## B. Inventions

These records reflect VH's venture into the field of inventions with J. Oscar Davis [JOD]. The latter was essentially the creative force, and VH gave it visual birth with his artist's pen.

\* \* \*

9. Agreement. VH and JOD. January 20, 1922.  
JOD grants VH a one-third interest in concepts for a rotary motor, an anti-theft device, an air compressor, and an air jack and device for measuring the specific gravity of gasoline pumped at gas stations; for which VH agrees to make the drawings, assist with suggestions, and promote marketing efforts.  
  
Attached: long-hand version, signed by the parties on the same date. Attached: a supplemental agreement, same date, declaring JH co- inventor and co-owner of the motor concept and others.
10. March 14, 1922: TWX. L.L. Driggs to VH.  
Working on agreement for manufacturing efforts re inventions.
11. Patent claims. Longhand JOD and VH. March 31, 1922.  
  
Also: Memorandum sheet. JOD & VH. April 15, 1922.  
Sets forth ideas underlying inventions.
12. Letter agreement. JOD & VH with L.L. Driggs [LLD]. April 18, 1922. LLD  
  
[Driggs Ordnance and Manufacturing Corporation] undertakes to develop aforementioned inventions for a 25% interest. Also: with drafts and unsigned copies. List of tracings given to LLD on April 21, 1922; signed by all parties.
13. 5-7-22: Letter. JOD to LLD.  
Explanatory comments on motor; meant to aid in preparation of claims to be set forth in patent application.  
  
5-24-22: Also: Ernest Wilkinson [W. & Guista, patent attorneys]. Enclosing copies of related patents.
14. 9-9-22 to 1-5-23: Letters. Various exchanges concerning non-progress of LLD, indicating ultimately that LLD was a dead beat.

Also:

- 8-8-29: Letter. [intramural]. David Ferguson [Chief Engineer, James Cunningham, Son & Co.] to E.F. Cunningham [Cunningham-Hall Aircraft Corp.]  
Discourages further efforts with patents application for VH and JOD.
15.  
4-7-24: Bill. Redding, Greeley, O'Shea & Campbell to VH.  
Bill for advice whether rotary combustion motor improvement can be patented. \$25.
16.  
3-17-25: Letter. Curtis B. Camp, Esq., Chicago to VH.  
Commenting on his plans to open a gallery, he then discusses VH drawings for gas engine and states his unwillingness to finance its development.
17.  
6-20-27: Letter. Peggy Davis to VH.  
Suggesting there is a new interested party.

## Oversize

### Box 1

Drawings and sketches.

Of rotary motor and other inventions. Some signed by VH and JOD.

Also: Longhand notes of JOD with calculations. N.d.

## Section VI : Photographs, Snapshots & Reproductions

The collection contains snapshots and more formal photographs, mostly black and white (unless otherwise indicated) of various sizes. Except for a very few instances, they contain no identifying inscriptions. Where there are some, they appear on the reverse side of the pictures.

They have been kept largely in the groups in which they were found to maintain the archival integrity of the collection.

\* \* \*

### Box 22

1. Snapshots
  - (a) Family and friends. 4 x 5 and smaller.  
95 snapshots; some duplicates.
  - (b) Travel. 4 x 5 and smaller.  
31 snapshots.
  - (c)
    - Family and friends. 4 7/8 x 7 1/8.  
6 snapshots
    - Tournament of Roses. 3 1/4 x 4 3/4.  
10 snapshots.
    - Christmas tree scenes. 3 1/2 x 4 1/4  
8 snapshots.
    - Miscellaneous . Various sizes.  
8 snapshots.
  - (d) Color prints (2).
2. Photos and negatives taken by Parsons family members (29). Approximately 3 3/4 x 5 5/8; with negatives (5) of some of the foregoing. 2 1/2 x 3 1/4 negative enlargements (5), 4 x 5 1/2
  - Scenes of imposing white residence (5). Not identified .
  - Mission church (9).
  - Portal of Palace of the Governors (3).
  - Taos Pueblo (1).
  - Home interior (3), one used as Christmas card, 1925.
  - Landscapes (6).
  - Miscellaneous (3).

All but Christmas card, supra, packaged in film folder of "Mack Photo Service, Santa Fe," and labeled:

'For Parsons." N.d.

- 3 Photos - portraits and portrait - type prints of Sheldon Parsons [SP], descendants, and friends of the family (107).
- (a) of SP (13), various sizes, n.d., with news story and picture of artist; two negatives, 4 ½ x 5 ¼.
  - (b) of Joan Higgins Reed, various sizes:
    - As a child (5) at various ages. Includes newspaper picture.
    - As an adult (11).
    - With husband (5), together with negatives of some (12).
    - Of husband (19).
    - Newspaper photo, at 7 years of age; back from school in Germany.
    - As a child with mother, Sara; also negative.
  - (c) - Formal and semi- formal poses (44). Various sizes. By Caroline Reed Parsons, Sheldon Parson's wife and well-known photographer in New York
  - (d) - Negatives (5), 3 ½ x 5 ¼ of Sara fishing. Envelope marked "Sara." By Caroline Reed Parsons
  - (e) - Positive prints and negatives of Joan Higgins Reed (8).
- 4 . (a) (b) Additional posed pictures, some individuals identified. In two envelopes: Part I, Part II.
5. Snapshots, color. 3 ½ x 3 ½. 20 ea. In 3 loose-leaf booklets. Labeled: Victor Higgins Exhibit, Notre Dame Art Gallery. October 26, 1975. Bound by Detroit Camera Shop.
- Vol. I: VH paintings hanging in gallery.
  - Vol. II: VH paintings and gallery guests.
  - Vol. III: Marked: "Afterglow at the Morris Inn."  
Cocktail party.
- Notre Dame Art Gallery WS part of the University, and is associated with Indianapolis Museum of Art.
6. Snapshots. Various sizes. Taken by VH for study purposes as predicates for painting. Mostly of Native Americans and habitat. Various sizes. c. 1920-1930. [See also folder 12, infra.]
- (a) Native Americans, posing and at activities (46). Native
  - (b) Americans: dancers (14).
  - (c) Habitat and activities (17).
  - (d) Reduced size, approximately 2 ¼ x 3 ½. Various of above (28).
  - (e) Postcard. Photo of painting. *Vaillant. Sur le plage. Salon. 1905.* Photo by Stieglitz



## Box 23

- 1904.
- (f) Photostats (7 sheets) of landscape photos, as above.
7. Photos of VH paintings (69). 3 ½ x 5.  
All tagged "Joan Reed" and numbered #1 to 69, incl.
8. Photos of VH paintings (14) and of VH (1).  
Descriptions on reverse side.
9. Negatives. 7 ¾ x 9 ¾. Of VH paintings.  
Also: negative, 3 ½ x 5 ½.  
Appears to be composite, indoor scene.  
Also: negatives, 3 ¼ x 5 1/8 (17). Various subjects.  
Also: negatives, 4 x 5 (34). Various subjects.
10. Photos. Of SP paintings (16).  
- Approx. 4 ¾ x 6 ½ (12). Landscapes.  
- Approx. 4 ¾ x 5 ½ (4). Landscapes .  
Descriptive comments on reverse sides of some.
11. Photos (7). VH studies for painting of *Women of Taos*.  
Various sizes.
12. Snapshots as working models (studies) for WS paintings (74).  
[See also folder 6, supra] Various sizes.
- (a) Indian subjects (2).
- (b) Mission churches (6).
- (c) Indian subjects photographed by Ted Powell and signed by him (12). 3 ¼ x 4 ¼
- (d) Pueblo festivities and scenes (7)
- (e) Outdoor scenes (19)
- (f) Miscellaneous (6). Includes one of Carlsbad Caverns.
- (g) Miscellaneous. Reduced size of photos in (f). (32)

13. Miscellaneous.

- (a) Postcard, color. *Street Scene, Bruges*, by VH (3).
- (b) Pueblo Indians at pueblo. Walter Ufer at left of picture (1)
- (c) Articles with pictures of VH paintings, black & white (3).
- (d) VH studio and SP house (2).  
VH studio photo shows VH paintings unfinished.
- (e) Miscellaneous (5). Appears to include pictures of VH and wife. One is postcard to VH from C. Kraffi in Arcadia, MO. October 1916.
- (t) Postcard, black & white, of VH and 2 family members.

## Addenda

Considerable material, including the photos noted below, was uncovered after assembling the pictures described in the previous portion of this section. Some of them duplicate earlier listed photos; many do not. The photos listed below should be examined along with previous identified items in this section.

\* \* \*

### 14. Formal and informal posed pictures of VH and others.

#### (a) Formal poses. VH.

- (i) Sepia in paper frame by Connell, Los Angeles, n.d. 4 ¼ x 6 3/8. Swell Photographer. Indoor with palette and oversize paint brush. Note hacksaw in VH's left hand. N.d.
- (ii) In paper frame. 3 ¼ x 5 ¼ in frame, 4 3/8 x 9. Chaplinesque pose. Second copy unframed.
- (iii) Cropped to 4 ½ x 6 ½ .
- (iv) Field picture with sport jacket and fedora. 4 5/8 x 6 5/8.
- (v) Smoking a cigar. 7 ½ x 9.
- (vi) Profile, full length. Taken by Sara Parsons, first wife. 1916.
- (vii) Full length. 7 3/4 x 9 5/8.

#### (b) Informal poses. VH.

- (i) Sepia, under portal with palette and easel. Signed (facsimile) by VH. 5 x 6 7/8. N.d.
- (ii) In riding habit. Shows unfinished work on easel. 4 9/16 x 6 5/8. N.d.
- (iii) With pipe, working indoor at easel. Other paintings against wall. 1915. 4 7/8 x 6 15/16.
- (iv) Outdoor, snow-capped mountains; at easel showing preliminary brush strokes on canvas. Photo by Laura Gilpin. Santa Fe, 1947.

15. (a) Photos of VH (23), various sizes, Alone and with others.  
Includes photo, 3 x 4, n.d. of VH with a beard, only such picture extant. Photo taken by Sara Parsons Higgins. 1925. Shown on Wichita Art Association folder re 1925 Higgins exhibition.
- (b) Photos. Group pictures with VH (6).
16. Photos (3). Of Sara Parsons Higgins. Posed picture depicts her at age 13, the year she met VH [1914]. They were married 5 years later [1919]. The picture was used in Porter catalog.
17. (a) Photos of WS paintings (85). Some glossy prints, some flat. Various sizes; some damaged .
- (b) Photo of WS painting (1). 7 ½ x 8. Reverse side inscription by VH noting that original work is in Union League Club Collection in Chicago, IL.
- (c) Miscellaneous, reduced sizes (8); several bear reverse side description.
18. Photo (1), postcard (1).  
Postcard, color, after a painting of Blumenschein: *Taos Pueblo* with native American. n.d. Photo, reverse side explanatory description of Blumenschein painting depicted: VH and Walter Ufer drawn in painting [destroyed in fire]. Photo 7 1/4 x 8 3/8 inscribed by Blumenschein as gift to VH. May 1935.
19. Photos (4) of model posing for parrot painting used on cover of *Town and Country*, May 15, 1924.
20. Photo of VH in process of painting *The Widower*. 3 x 4.  
Also: reproduction of finished painting from magazine *Colour*. **January 1926**. Inscription by VH.
21. (a) 35 mm. color slides (57). Of art of VH. 1983.  
In sets of two and three. Depicting oils, water colors, charcoal sketches, etc. Each pair reflects slightly different exposures of same subject. Most of them identify subjects by titles; sizes of canvases; dates of works. Inscribed, "MFA Coll. Joan Higgins Reed."
- (b) 35 mm. slides (14). Of art of VH. 1983.  
Of charcoal drawings of Indian faces. Multiple copies developed at different exposures. Black and white slides. No identifications. Includes 2 depicting march of the tin cans.

- (c) 35 mm. color slides (18) of VH art, from c. 1925/1927. Stark collection: most slides contain titles.
  - (d) 35 mm. color slides (numbered 1-38; some duplicate numbers, some numbers missing) of VH art, not labeled (39). All slides dated by developer December 1983. Some marked in ink: "Bequest."
  - (e) 35 mm. color slides (18) of VH art from Peters collection and Stark collection. Museum of New Mexico early 1930s; some dated 1940/1949.
22. Glass plate negatives (2). April 1916. Comers broken. 5 x 7. April 1910. Possibly of Sara Parsons Higgins, or Caroline Reed Parsons.
  23. Snapshot. John Tilson Higgins. 3 ¼ x 5 ¾.  
N.d. VH father. Outdoor in snow.
  24. Photo. VH painting . 7 ½ x 8. By Frederick O. Bemm, Chicago. August 1929.  
Titled *Fiesta Day*; owned by Youngstown, Ohio Museum.
  25. Pencil sketch. VH? Photocopies. 2 ¾ x 3 ¾.  
Style of *Whistler's Mother*. N.d.
  26. Landscape photos, 7 sheets. Composite pictures. Photocopies of earlier photographs in this section.
  27. Photocopy sheets (4), marked Sample Sheets.  
Sketches.
  28. Photos (3), black & white. Indian blankets. 3 ½ x 5 7/8.
  29. Composite sheets (2). Photocopies. Assorted pictures.

\* \* \*

The following items, too large to place in standard-size boxes, are to be found in oversized box marked "VH-O.B. 4."

1. Hand-drawn reproductions of VH Paintings and Murals (23). National Gallery of Art. Washington, D.C.
2. Photo album.
  - Family snapshots
  - Postcards, German scenes
  - " , French scenes
  - " , New York City scenes
  - " , S.S. Washington
  - Snapshots, Country scenes
  - " , Santa Fe and home
  - " , Indian dancers
  - " , Church at Santa Cruz
  - " , Ancient pueblos
  - " , Canyons
  - Postcards, Carlsbad Cavern
  - Color postcards (2) of *Summer Rain* by VH.
3. Photocopies, 2 sheets, composite reproductions of snapshots, mostly depicting Indian blankets, the designs of which were made part of some VH paintings.
4. Photograph, black and white, posed. 12 x 16. Sara Parsons Mack and child Joan [JHR]. In paper folder.
  - Also: Photo, black and white, posed. Profile. 3 x 6.
  - Of Sara Parsons Mack.
  - Also: Photocopy of 12 x 16 photo.

## Section VII : Letters and Holiday Cards to Victor Higgins

## A. Letters

Only a small part of the correspondence from and to VH has been found, if indeed any more was preserved. Correspondence, however, from Sara Parsons Mack, VH's first wife, to their daughter Joan Higgins Reed, [JHR] and the latter's husband Allan W. Reed [AWR] was kept by JHR almost intact. It is to be found in the Joan Higgins Reed Collection in the Archives of the Museum of Fine Arts Library. [Boxes 26 seq.] It is a reflection of the closely interwoven lives of Sara and her daughter, and of the pathetic progress -actually lack of progress- of Christopher, the only child of the Reed couple.

The correspondence here is assembled in chronological order. Letters deemed to be of no especial significance are simply identified by date. Letters that shed light on matters of family importance are briefly outlined. Where the writer of the letter is not clear, but attribution if possible, it is set forth within brackets.

## Box 24

\* \* \*

## 1. 1912-1924

6-7-12: John W. Cotton to VH.

10-26-12: Whitehouse [?] to VH. Picture postcard .

11[?]-14-12: John W. Cotton to VH. Sketches on back.

11-9-17: VH to Paul Walter [?]. Photocopy.

N.d., c. 1918: Tom Dell to VH. Mournful announcement of death of unidentified male companion .

12-18: TWX, fragment. John Andrew Meyers to VH. Recommending collection of funds for "widower ."

4-12-19: The Cliff Dwellers, Chicago to Franklin Inn Club, Philadelphia, PA Introducing VH.

8-23-19: W.H. Klauer [Klauer Mfg. Co., Dubuque, Iowa] to VH.

1-11-23: Chamber of Commerce, Amarillo, TX to VH. Asking when painting of Palo Duro Canyon will be finished.

- 3-20-23: Lewis A. RI to VH.
- 3-27-23: Amarillo Art Association to VH. Discussing painting of Palo Duro Canyon.
- 11-22-23: Capitol Decoration Commission, Missouri, to VH. Re Jefferson City Commission .
- 5-22-23 : Western Litho. & Off Supply Co., Wichita, KA to VH. Letterhead depicts Kansas wheat field.
- 9-3-23: Wm. Preston Harrison to VH.
- 9-14-23 : Capitol Decoration Commission, Columbia, Missouri, to VH. Requests sample of work.
- 9-17-23 : Chamber of Commerce, Amarillo, TX to VH. Re Palo Duro Canyon painting .
- 2-12-24: VH to Mr. Logan. List of works done during two years of their agreement [missing], with sales, prices, etc. 31 paintings, 5 sketches, titles.
- 2-28-24: Mrs. John F. Conant to VH.
- 3-14-24: TWX. James W. Young to VH.

**2. 1925**

- 1-5-25: Gertrude Light to VH.
- 1-13-25: American Steel Foundries to VH.
- 3-5-25: VH [?]to. Logan. Letterhead of The Alvarado, a Fred Harvey Hotel in Albuquerque, with pictures of hotel. Letter unsigned.
- 3-6-25: Mrs. J.B. Fisher to Taos Art Society.
- 3-11-25: Mrs. Archie Rait to VH.
- 3-11-25 : Mary M. Ufer to VH.
- 3-11-25: Chicago Public School Art Society to VH.
- 3-13-25: Mary M. Ufer to VH.



- 3-16-25 : Mrs. Mary Young Hunter to VH. [First wife of John Young Hunter, who built the second story on VH's house in Taos.]
- 3-24-25: Shelley B. Neltner, attorney, to VH.
- 3-28-25: American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, to VH.
- 3-31-25: National Academy of Design to VH. Enclosing ballot to elect jury members of 101st annual exhibition.
- 4-7-25: Chamber of Commerce, Amarillo, TX to VH.
- 4-25-25 : Mary Young Hunter.

**3. 1930-1934**

- 1-5-30: "Lib" [Katherine Cornell] to VH. [The earliest of a series of letters from this famous actress of stage and screen, who usually signed her letters simply as "Lib." Envelope shows return address to E.S. James, 135 E. 40 St., New York City.]
- Expressed concern over VH's health and hospital stay. Laments closing of *Jezebel* at \$30,000 loss; mentions other play plans.
- 2-20-30 : Rose Ellen [Mrs. J.Tilson] Higgins [VH's mother] to VH.  
From Shelbyville, IN.
- Upset he forgot" to stop off on way back from New York; supposes he "doesn't care to see her anymore."
- 12-16- 30: Lillian (Mrs. B.N.) Beaumont to VH.
- 8-28-31: "Murph" (Mrs. William A.) Murphy to VH.  
Addresses VH as "Dear Hig."
- 3-5-33: University of North Dakota, [Paul Barr, Art Dept.] to VH.  
Thanking him for loan of landscape painting.
- 6-3-33 : [Unident.] to VH. Unsigned.

- c. 6-33: Admission card. International Exposition, Chicago. Reverse side: Notes by VH on paintings; some prices.
- 12-1-33: Chester Johnson [Chester H. Johnson Galleries] to VH.
- 12-7-33: "Lib" to VH. On memo paper of Elizabeth S. James, Syracuse, New York. Declaring that "house business" is a mess. Gossip.
- 12-8-33: Postcard. Muriel Draper to VH. Yolanda
- 12-19-33: Belloli-Davenport to VH. Richard L.
- 12-26-33: Templeton to VH.
- 12-28-33: K. Cornell to VH. Her house rented by a dipsomaniac. [No salutation, no signature. Envelope marked E.S. James.]
- 12-30-33: Packet of 10 Irish Sweepstakes tickets @ ten shillings each.
- 1-3-34 Katherine Cornell, ["Lib"] to VH. No salutation.
- 1-3-34: Ditto. "Lib" to VH. Inquires whether VH has read Gertrude Stein's *Biography of Biography of Alice B. Toklas*.
- 1-8-34 Ruth to VH.
- 1-23-34: [Sender not legible] to W.H. from Morristown, NJ. TWX.
- 1-31-34: TWX. R. Shiba to VH.
- 1-31-34: Ditto. Chester died that afternoon in Chicago.
- c. 2-1-34: Munma to VH. Letterhead of Hotel Knickerbocker, Chicago, IL. Describing Chester's death.
- 4-2-34 : Arthar (sic) Haddock to VH.
- 7-5-34: JHR to "Dear Dad [VH]. On letterhead - *bas relief* - of Robert Mack and Sara Mack.
- 8-24-34: E.J. Carlin, El Paso, TX to VH.
- 10-29-34: Irene Heleners [?] to VH.

**4. 1935**

- 3-4-35: Lucile (Mrs. Walter G.) Lacy [The Citizens National Bank, Waco, TX] to VH.
- 8-8-35: Shelley - [Carpenster, Neltner and Scolnik, Chicago attorneys] to VH.
- 9-4-35: Dorothy L. Meredith, Milwaukee, WI to VH.
- 9-12-35: Louis B. Merwin to VH.
- 10-20-35: Paula MacWhite [Piedra Lumbre Cattle Company, Abiquiu, New Mexico] to VH.
- 12-24-35: F.W. Higgins [Wholesale Cash and Carry Grocer], Charlottesville, VA to VH. "Dear Brother" letter. Christmas greetings.
- 12-26-35: JHR to "Dear Victor" [father].

**5. 1936**

- 1-31-36: JHR to VH. Addressing her father as "Victor."
- 2-1-36: JTH to VH.
- 3-2-36: Marie to VH [brother]. Anna
- 3-18-36: Seideneck to VH.
- 5-7-36: University of New Mexico to VH [c/o Bldg. Comm., Harwood Foundation]. Expresses appreciation for plans to build annex to increase Harwood services to Taos County.
- 6-7-36: Cady - to VH. Thanks him for invitation to join the Heptagon.
- 6-11-36: Katherine ["Lib"] Cornell to VH. Expects to arrive in Taos on 6-25. Asks him to take over a bag of coal. [!].
- 6-19-36: Cora E. Tindall to VH.
- 6-36: TWX. JHR to VH. Hugs and kisses on Daddies Day. [?]
- 7-13-36: ? to VH.

- 8-13-36: Mabel Dodge Luhan to VH.  
Mentions sale of house to VH.
- 9-24-36: Katherine ["Lib"] Cornell to VH. Asks VH to check on status of her car, whether Loren Mozley will purchase it. Preparing her role in Hamlet; moving to 239 E. 51st St.
- 10-8-36: George W. Bradford [College of Wooster, Wooster, OH] to VH.
- 10-28-36: Fredrik Nyquist [University of Kansas City] to VH.
- 11-10-36: National Academy of Design [Jonas Lie, Pres.] to VH.
- 12-2-36: U.S. Post Office, [Rocky Ford, CO] to VH. Elated at election of FDR.
- 12-3-36: VH to Frederik Nyquist [University of Kansas City Art Ed.].
- 12-7-36: Ralph Douglass [University of New Mexico] to VH. VH
- 12-10-36: VH to Mimi Abbott.
- 36: [?] to VH.

**6. 1937**

- 1-11-37: JTH to VH.
- 2-3-37: U.S. Treasury Department [Rocky Ford, CO] to VH.  
Asks for status report.
- 2-16-37: Op. cit, supra to VH.
- 2-20-37: Railway Express to VH.
- 3-1-37: James W. Phillips to Heptagon Art Gallery, Taos.
- 3-2-37: Evelyn Gerlach to VH.  
Reports on physical condition of Marion [wife] at San Antonio, TX.
- 3-4-37: Mrs. Fred Fischer [Marie] to VH.  
Family affairs.

- 3-5-37 JTH to VH. Enclose Kodak pictures (20) of father [with family members]; with some negatives (3) in envelope of Orebaugh Studio, Shelbyville, IN. Also: one tintype [of their parents]. Describes father's image on picture.
- 3-27-37: Virginia Leberman [Christianson Leberman, portraits by photography] to VH.
- 6-22-37: JTH to VH.
- 7-15-37: U.S. Post Office, Rocky Ford, CO to VH.  
Still waiting for painting.
- 7. 1938-1941**
- 10-8-38: TWX. Marion [Higgins] to VH.  
Relates to family and friends affairs.
- 10-26-38: Willard to VH.
- 6-6-39: E.R. von Szpessy to Dear Madam.
- 7-4-39: JTH to VH.
- 7-6-39: FWA, Public Buildings Administration to all parties having contracts.  
Calling attention to Reorganization Act of 1939.
- 7-7-39: Szpessy to VH.
- 7-11-39: Magnon's Travel Service to VH.
- 7-18-39: Moloney to VH.
- 7-19-39: Postcard. Roy Valentine to VH.
- 7-24-39: Ditto.
- 8-4-39: JHR to VH [father]. Personal.
- 8-9-39: [?] to VH.
- 8-19-39: Harwood Foundation of University of New Mexico to VH.

- 8-25-39: JHR to VH. Personal.
- 9-7-39: JHR to VH. Personal.
- 10-16-39: JHR to VH. Personal.
- 5-14-40: Dow Bond Plumbing & Heating Co. to VH. Specs for installing bathroom at Taos home. \$362.50
- 8-27-40: VH to JHR.
- 11-13-40: JHR [at Stanford University] to VH. Personal.

1941

- 7-3-41: Theo Rondall to VH. Railing the fact that VH did not visit her for dinner last night.
- N.d. c. 1941: Gustave Bauman [1881-1971] to VH.  
Two letters; one has attached list of artists.

**8. 1946-1949**

- 3-21-46: U.S. Post Office, Rocky Ford, CO to VH. Enjoying the mural.
- 8-24-46: Lez L. Haas (University of New Mexico) to VH.
- 10-5-46: Jean Rosen [?] to VH.
- 1-2-46: [sic] meaning 1947. JHR to VH.  
Enclosing 2 snapshots inscribed to describe store where Allan [Reed] works.
- 1-28-47: VH ("Dad") to JHR. Responsive to her "lovely letters." Harwood
- 2-24-47: Foundation to VH.  
Postcard announcement of new book, *Taos and Its Artists* by Mabel Dodge Luhan.
- 7-30-47: George Feldkamp [Feldkamp-Malloy Inc., Chicago] to VH.

- 10-30-47: U.S. Post Office, Rocky Ford, CO to VH.  
2-19-48: E. Ru- , Guildord, CT to VH.  
3-18-48: National Academy of Design to members [VH].  
3-24-48: Harwood Foundation to E.J. Bisstrom, copy to VH.  
5-5-49: JHR to VH.  
6-14-49: JHR & AWR to JHR. Postcard.

\* \* \*

[There follows a series of letters to VH from Harriet (Mrs. Ropes) Cabot, 106 Chestnut Street, Boston, MA, during the period 1948-1949. The missives show intimacy; each addressed VH in endearing terms.] Thus -

- 7-3-48: To "Dearest."  
7-10-48: To "Dear, dear Victor."  
N.d. To "Victor dear." Postcard with picture of El Greco painting.  
7-31-48: No salutation. Picture postcards (2).  
8-10-48: To "Dearest Victor."  
9-23-48: Marie to VH.  
N.d. Los Programmas to VH. Enclosing patron's card to concert, 1948-1949.  
10-31-48: Charles W. M - to VH.  
11-1-48: Helen Gadd [?] to VH.  
11-9-48: Fred North [U.S.P.O.] to VH.  
11-11-48: Faye [Davidson], Wichita, Kansas, to VH.  
11-16-48: National Academy of Design to VH.

- 11-18-48: Harwood Foundation, University of New Mexico to VH.
- 11-24-48: National Academy of Design to VH.
- 1-20-49: Charlotte and Ted -, Washington, D.C. to VH.
- 3-2-49: To "Dearest Victor." Postcard with picture of Titan painting.
- 3-13-49: Doe [Dol?] -, Laguna Beach, CA to VH.
- 3-13-49: Frieda -, Port Isabel, TX to VH.
- 3-22-49: University of California & U.S. Department of Agriculture to VH. Answering questions how to prevent flowers on cottonwoods.
- 4-5-49: Faye Davidson to VH.
- 4-8-49: Op. cit. Supra.
- 4-20-49: Estelle & Jack [JTH]. Postcard.
- 4-25-49: To "Dearest Victor."
- 5-31-49: To "Dearest Victor."
- 7-14-49: To "Dear Victor."
- 8-11-49: Standish Hall [Yellow Van & Storage Co.] to VH. Mentions Faye Davidson.
- c. 1949: [?], to Guilford, CT to "Dear Whiggy." Postcard.

### **B. Holiday Cards to VH**

9. Christmas and New Year's cards, unassorted.  
Two cards are hand-drawn.



## Section VIII : Odds & Ends

# Box 25

### A. Travel Maps and Brochures

1. Maps and travel brochures. Southwest areas and resorts.
  - (a) Death Valley National Monument. CA. n.d.
  - (b) Catalina Island (Santa Catalina), So. California. n.d.
  - (c) Yosemite National Park. California. n.d.
  - (d) Ibid. Larger version. Rev. 1946
  - (e) Ibid. Visitors' Guide, with schematic map. Spring, NY.
  - (f) Ibid. The Firefall. Explanation & history. n.d.
  - (g) California Missions. Bound paper, 74 pp. History and descriptive comments for each mission. 1947.
  - (h) Uncompahgre National Forest, CO. c. 1923. Description of facilities, geographical features. Opens into lg. map to scale of Forest and New Mexico. Principal and Sixth Principal Meridians. Also: Travel Colorado-maps and descriptive comments.
  - (i) Mesa Verde National Park, CO. n.d. Schematic location map of Four Comer's area.
  - (j) *White Sands* by Tom Charles. c. 1938. Geological commentary and history. In envelope. Illustrated .
  - (k) National Parks. Location Parks, Southwest, Location Map 6.
  - (l) Boulder Dam, National Recreation Area. n.d. Botanical features.
  - (m) Pulvers. Automobile Road Map. SW states. 1924.
  - (n) Carson National Forest. New Mexico. Recreation map, photographs, commentaries; n.d.
    - n-1 Carson National Forest - Motor trip. Word-tour through towns, canyons, etc. including Blue Lake, Taos, etc. May 1951. 3 cc.

C. Writing Case. VH, etc.

10. A brown leather, accordion writing case of VH's 8 1/2 x 10. Much worn, with simple silver [?] lock at envelope-type fold. Containing various notes and letters and a blotter rest with ink writings, not decipherable, in VH' s hand.

The contents have been left inside as found.

**Also**

11. Photograph. Color. VH's home in Taos, 1997.  
Advertising art, sculpture, and photography for sale at Lumina of New Mexico by Robert Mangold.
12. Recipe for Tokay (type of wine). In ink; writer unidentified. N.d.
13. Papers on Protest of VH on Private Claims No. 198, and No. 272 on designated parcels of land.  
Affidavit of VH dated January 22, 1934, Unsigned copy. 2 pp. With copy of VH letter to Pueblo Land Board. Undated. In pencil.