

Anton Refregier (Russian/American 1905-1979), *mural studies for the "History of California", Rincon Postal Annex, San Francisco, CA*, pencil drawing on rice paper, 1940

Anton Refregier was born in Russia but immigrated to the United States in 1920. He was quite well trained as an artist, having won a scholarship to the Rhode Island School of Design. He continued his classical studies in Munich, Germany before the outbreak of World War II.

In 1940 Refregier won the commission for his most famous work, the "*History of San California*" murals located in the Rincon Postal Annex in San Francisco. He adopted the style of social realism which caused quite a bit of controversy in the increasingly conservative atmosphere of the late 1940s. An act of Congress was introduced to mandate the destruction of the finished murals but was thankfully not adopted. These are the original studies for the mural series. The completed murals are visible today in the Rincon Postal Annex in San Francisco but the final product was modified to eliminate any reference to strikes or labor unrest.