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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Jane and Michael Stern Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1392
Date: 1920 - 2005
Extent: 17 Cubic feet
Creator: Stern, Michael, 1946-
Stem, Jane
Language: English
Collection is in English.
Digital Content: Image(s): Jane and Michael Stern Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Reproduction restricted due to copyright or trademark.

Biographical / Historical

The Sterns are authors who compiled a popular series of books called Roadfood, in which they provide recommendations of restaurants, truck stops, diners, delis, bakeries and other food-related establishments in each U.S. state serving classic American regional specialties. They are also authors of books about other American material culture subjects including truckers, cowboys, kitsch, and dog shows. They are frequent guests on public radio, and are regular contributors to magazine columns.
Scope and Contents

The collection primarily consists of the raw materials amassed by Jane and Michael Stern as they traveled the United States, researching for their books on American material culture subjects, with particular emphasis on food and dining. These materials include writings, jottings and notes from their various stops while traveling; photographs and slides of places they visited; vintage postcards collected in their travels; paper ephemera such as take-out menus, placemats, etc.; large quantities of trade literature such as product cookbooks (some dating back to the 1920s), food packaging and brochures on food-related subjects, under headings such as "Meat, Fish, Game", "Parties, Etiquette, How-To", "Baking" and numerous others; trade literature on other material culture subjects the Sterns wrote books about with headings which include "Rodeo", "Cowboys", "Indians" and many others; correspondence; business records, articles and clippings.

Arrangement

Collection is unarranged.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Automobile travel -- United States
- Bakeries -- United States
- Cowboys -- United States
- Delicatessens -- United States
- Diners -- United States
- Dining
- Dog shows -- United States
- Food -- United States
- Kitsch -- United States
- Local foods -- United States
- Material culture -- United States
- Restaurants -- United States
- Roads -- United States
- Rodeos -- United States
- Truck drivers -- United States
- Truck stops -- United States

Types of Materials:
- Articles -- 20th century
- Articles -- 21st century
- Brochures -- 20th century
- Brochures -- 21st century
- Business records -- 20th century
- Cookbooks -- 20th century
- Cookbooks -- 21st century
- Correspondence -- 20th century
Correspondence -- 21st century
Ephemera -- 20th century
Ephemera -- 21st century
Menus -- 20th century
Menus -- 21st century
Notes -- 20th century
Postcards -- 20th century -- United States
Slides (photographs) -- 20th century
Trade literature
Writings