



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Jane and Michael Stern Collection

NMAH.AC.1392

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Jane and Michael Stern Collection
Date:	1890-2008
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1392
Creator:	Stern, Michael, 1946- (Creator) Stern, Jane (Creator)
Extent:	17 Cubic feet (41 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents Jane and Michael Stern's travels across the United States collecting data for their books on American material culture subjects, with particular emphasis on food and dining.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Jane and Michael Stern Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Jane and Michael Stern, 2016.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Sarah Gediman, intern, 2019; Julia Gibson, intern, 2019; Savannah Hildre, intern, 2019; and Lauren Janik, intern, 2019; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, Supervisory Archivist, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Jane and Michael Stern Collection, circa 1920-2015, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Biographical / Historical

Jane Grossman Stern (1946-) and Michael Stern (1946-) are American writers best known for their popular series of books titled Roadfood. These publications provided recommendations of restaurants, truck stops, diners, delis, bakeries, and other food-related establishments in the United States who served classic American regional specialties. The Sterns are also authors of books about American material culture subjects including truckers, cowboys, kitsch, and dog shows. They have been guests on public radio, contributors to magazine columns, and have won numerous awards for their work.

Scope and Contents

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 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. The collection is arranged into five series: Series 1, Research Documentation and Writings, 1975-2015, undated; Series 2, Product Cookbooks, and Trade Literature, 1890-1993, undated; Series 3, Photographic Materials, 1947-2008, undated; Series 4, Subject Files, 1910-1995; and Series 5, Vintage Postcards, undated.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into five series:

Series 1, Research Documentation and Writings, 1975-2015, undated

Series 2, Product Cookbooks, and Trade Literature, 1890-1993, undated

Series 3, Photographic Materials, 1947-2008, undated

Subseries 3.1, Photographs, 1947-2002, undated

Subseries 3.2, Slides and Transparencies, 1965-2008, undated

Series 4, Subject Files, 1910-1995

Series 5, Vintage Postcards, undated

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

Container Listing

Series 1: Research Documentation and Writings, 1975-2015, undated

Scope and Contents: Documents the Stern's research and travel across the United States for their publications. Materials primarily consist of correspondence, notes, calendars, subject files, and travel files organized by states. There are drafts of writings including introductions and materials relating to the promotion and sale of their books. In addition, there are materials relating to Jane Stern's 2003 published memoir *Ambulance Girl: How I Saved Myself by Becoming an EMT* which describes her struggle with severe clinical depression.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence and poetry, Jack Hamilton, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Apache Bill, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, Henry P. Joyce, 1975
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, general, undated
Box 15, Folder 1	Correspondence, Belva G. Lowery from Nebraska, 1992
Box 1, Folder 5	Ambulance Girl movie materials, 2005
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, general, 2005
Box 29, Folder 54	Ambulance Girl movie materials, 2006
Box 1, Folder 7	Notes from roadtrips, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Notes from roadtrips, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Notes from roadtrip, undated
Box 40, Folder 11	Notes from road trips, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Notebook, 2009
Box 2, Folder 2	Calendar, 1975-1976
Box 2, Folder 3	Calendar, 1977
Box 2, Folder 4	Calendar, 1978
Box 2, Folder 5	Calendar, 1979

Box 2, Folder 6	Calendar, 1980
Box 2, Folder 7	Calendar, 1981
Box 2, Folder 8	Calendar, 1982
Box 2, Folder 9	Calendar, 1983
Box 2, Folder 10	Calendar, 1984
Box 2, Folder 11	Calendar, 1985
Box 2, Folder 12	Calendar, 1986
Box 2, Folder 13	Calendar, 1987
Box 2, Folder 14	Calendar, 1988
Box 2, Folder 15	Calendar, 1989
Box 2, Folder 16	Calendar, 1990
Box 2, Folder 17	Calendar, 1991
Box 2, Folder 18	Calendar, 1992
Box 2, Folder 19	Calendar, 1993
Box 2, Folder 20	Calendar, 1994
Box 2, Folder 21	Calendar, 1995
Box 2, Folder 22	Calendar, 1996
Box 2, Folder 23	Calendar, 1997
Box 2, Folder 24	Calendar, 1998
Box 2, Folder 25	Calendar, 1999
Box 2, Folder 26	Calendar, 2000
Box 2, Folder 27	Calendar, 2001
Box 2, Folder 28	Calendar, 2002
Box 2, Folder 29	Calendar, 2003

Box 2, Folder 30	Calendar, 2004
Box 2, Folder 31	Calendar, 2005
Box 2, Folder 32	Calendar, 2006
Box 2, Folder 33	Calendar, 2007
Box 2, Folder 34	Calendar, 2008
Box 2, Folder 35	Calendar, 2009
Box 2, Folder 36	Calendar, 2010
Box 3, Folder 1	Calendar, 2011
Box 3, Folder 2	Calendar, 2012
Box 3, Folder 3	Calendar, 2013
Box 3, Folder 4	Calendar, 2014
Box 3, Folder 5	Calendar, 2015
Box 3, Folder 6	Horses, 1994
Box 41, Folder 3	Charles Weldon poster, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Michael Stern T-Boy, 2004
Box 3, Folder 8	Travel file, Nebraska and Colorado, 2007
Box 3, Folder 9	Travel file, Springfield, Illinois, 2008
Box 3, Folder 10	Travel file, Texas, 2008
Box 3, Folder 11	Travel file, Michigan, 2008
Box 3, Folder 12	Travel file, South Carolina and Georgia, 2008
Box 3, Folder 13	Travel file, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2008
Box 3, Folder 14	Travel file, Cleveland, Ohio, 2008
Box 3, Folder 15	Travel file, Virginia and North Carolina, 2008
Box 3, Folder 16	Travel file, Texas, 2008

Box 3, Folder 17	Travel file, Louisiana Boudin, 2009 Image(s): Louisiana Boudin
Box 3, Folder 18	Travel file, Charleston, South Carolina, 2009
Box 3, Folder 19	Travel file, Maine, 2009
Box 3, Folder 20	Travel file, Buffalo, New York, 2009 Image(s): Buffalo, New York
Box 3, Folder 21	Travel file, California (Artichoke), 2009
Box 3, Folder 22	Travel file, Virginia and Delaware, 2010
Box 3, Folder 23	Travel file, Arkansas, 2010
Box 3, Folder 24	Travel file, California, 2010
Box 3, Folder 25	Travel file, Ohio, 2010
Box 3, Folder 26	Travel file, San Antonio, Texas, 2010
Box 3, Folder 27	Travel file, Charleston, South Carolina, 2010
Box 3, Folder 28	Travel file, Fall River, Massachusetts, 2010
Box 3, Folder 29	Travel file, New Mexico, 2010
Box 3, Folder 30	Travel file, Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, 2010
Box 3, Folder 31	Travel file, Atlanta, Georgia, 2010 Image(s): Atlanta, Georgia
Box 3, Folder 32	Travel file, St. Augustine, Florida, undated
Box 3, Folder 33	Philly cheese steaks, undated
Box 3, Folder 34	Travel file, Rhode Island, undated Image(s): Rhode Island
Box 29, Folder 53	Chile certificate for Michael Stern, 1991
Box 14, Folder 1	American Mustang and Burro Association, 1992
Box 40, Folder 1	American Stone Trade, undated
Box 14, Folder 2	Boots, undated

Box 14, Folder 3	Brands, undated
Box 14, Folder 4	Buckskin, undated
Box 14, Folder 5	Buffalo, undated
Box 14, Folder 6	Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, Euro Disney, 1992
Box 14, Folder 7	Cactus, 1973-1991
Box 14, Folder 8	Casey Tibbs, undated
Box 14, Folder 9	Cheerios product packaging and printed advertisements, 1940-1950
Box 14, Folder 10	Cheyenne, undated
Box 14, Folder 11	Cheyenne Frontier Park, undated
Box 14, Folder 12	Chinks, 1992
Box 14, Folder 13	Comanche by David Dory, 1976
Box 14, Folder 14	Cowboy Way, The, 1992
Box 40, Folder 4	Cowboy Way, The, undated
Box 14, Folder 15	Cowboy Way Philosophy, 1950-1992
Box 41, Folder 4	Cowboy Joe coloring book, 1951
Box 14, Folder 16	Coyote, undated
Box 14, Folder 17	Creepy Snakes, Lizards and Horned Toad, 1990-1992
Box 14, Folder 18	Critters, undated
Box 14, Folder 19	End of the Trail, undated
Box 14, Folder 20	Fashion plates, undated
Box 14, Folder 21	Gary Leffew, undated
Box 14, Folder 22	Gene A text, undated
Box 14, Folder 23	General introduction for publication, 1992
Box 14, Folder 24	Guns, undated

Box 14, Folder 25	Hats, undated
Box 14, Folder 26	Hoppy, 1950
Box 14, Folder 27	Indian style text for publication, undated
Box 14, Folder 28	Indians, undated
Box 14, Folder 29	In-house publications that might be of interest, 1924
Box 14, Folder 30	Introduction for Critter publication, 1991
Box 14, Folder 31	Introduction for Road publication, undated
Box 14, Folder 32	Jewelry, undated
Box 14, Folder 33	Jim Shoulders, undated
Box 14, Folder 34	John Wayne, 1950-1992
Box 14, Folder 35	Larry Mahan, 1968
Box 15, Folder 2	Manuel, 1922-1989
Box 15, Folder 3	Millicent Rogers, 1992-1993
Box 15, Folder 4	Miss Rodeo America, 1991-1992
Box 15, Folder 5	Motels, 1993
Box 15, Folder 6	Natural Wonders, undated
Box 15, Folder 7	New York Times art, 1992
Box 15, Folder 8	Playboy Magazine, 1973
Box 15, Folder 9	Prescott Frontier Days, 1991-1992
Box 15, Folder 10	Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, undated
Box 15, Folder 11	Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, undated
Box 15, Folder 12	Ranch Life, 1949-1991
Box 15, Folder 13	The Road, undated
Box 15, Folder 14	Roadrunners, 1984

Box 15, Folder 15	Route 66, 1992
Box 15, Folder 16	Scenery, undated
Box 15, Folder 17	Senior Rodeo, undated
Box 15, Folder 18	Sidekick, 1950
Box 15, Folder 25	Sights, undated
Box 27, Folder 7	Stern book promotion, undated
Box 15, Folder 19	Sun Trails Magazine, 1953
Box 15, Folder 20	Tequila, undated
Box 15, Folder 21	Trader Fred, undated
Box 15, Folder 22	Trading posts, undated
Box 15, Folder 23	Trigger, undated
Box 15, Folder 24	Well-dressed horse, undated

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Series 2: Product Cookbooks and Trade Literature, 1890-1993, undated

Scope and Contents: Contain materials collected by the Sterns relating to the products and food subjects that they were interested in. The subjects of the material were created by the Sterns. Materials are arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

Box 41, Folder 1-2 Advertising fans, undated

Box 4, Folder 1 Appliances, 1920s

Box 4, Folder 2 Appliances, 1930s

Box 4, Folder 3 Appliances, 1930s

Box 4, Folder 4 Appliances, 1930s

Box 4, Folder 5 Appliances, 1940s

Box 4, Folder 6 Appliances, 1940s

Box 4, Folder 7 Appliances, 1950s

Box 5, Folder 1 Appliances, 1960s

Box 5, Folder 2 Appliances, 1970-1980

Box 5, Folder 3 Appliances, undated

Box 5, Folder 4 Appliances, undated

Box 5, Folder 5 Appliances, undated

Box 5, Folder 6 Baking, circa 1890-1910

Box 6, Folder 1 Baking, 1920s

Box 6, Folder 2 Baking, 1930s

Box 6, Folder 3 Baking, 1930s

Box 6, Folder 4 Baking, 1940s

Box 6, Folder 5 Baking, 1940s

Box 6, Folder 6 [Baking, 1950s](#)

Box 6, Folder 7 Baking, 1950s

Box 7, Folder 1	Baking, 1960-1980
Box 7, Folder 2	Baking, undated
Box 7, Folder 3	Baking, undated
Box 7, Folder 4	Baking, undated
Box 7, Folder 5	Baking, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Celebrities, television, radio, and frozen food, 1930s
Box 8, Folder 2	Celebrities, television, radio, and frozen food, 1940-1950
Box 8, Folder 3	Celebrities, television, radio, and frozen food, 1960-1970
Box 8, Folder 4	Celebrities, television, radio, and frozen food, undated
Box 8, Folder 5	Fruits, vegetables, nuts, 1920s
Box 8, Folder 6	Fruits, vegetables, nuts, 1930s
Box 8, Folder 7	Fruits, vegetables, nuts, 1930s
Box 8, Folder 8	Fruits, vegetables, nuts, 1950s
Box 8, Folder 9	Fruits, vegetables, nuts, 1970s
Box 9, Folder 1	Fruits, vegetables, nuts, undated
Box 9, Folder 2	Health and diet, undated
Box 9, Folder 3	Meat, fish, and game, 1920s
Box 9, Folder 4	Meat, fish, and game, 1930s
Box 9, Folder 5	Meat, fish, and game, 1940s
Box 9, Folder 6	Meat, fish, and game, 1950s
Box 9, Folder 7	Meat, fish, and game, 1960-1970
Box 10, Folder 1	Meat, fish, and game, undated
Box 10, Folder 2	Meat, fish, and game, undated
Box 10, Folder 3	Parties, etiquette, and how to, 1920-1940

Box 10, Folder 4	Parties, etiquette, and how to, 1950s
Box 10, Folder 5	Parties, etiquette, and how to, 1960-1970
Box 11, Folder 1	Parties, etiquette, and how to, undated
Box 11, Folder 2	Products, 1900-1920
Box 11, Folder 3	Products, 1930s
Box 11, Folder 4	Products, 1930s
Box 11, Folder 5	Products, 1930s
Box 11, Folder 6	Products, 1940s
Box 12, Folder 1	Products, 1950s
Box 12, Folder 2	Products, 1960s
Box 12, Folder 3	Products, 1970s
Box 12, Folder 4	Products, undated
Box 12, Folder 5	Products, undated
Box 40, Folder 8	Jane Russell in Underwater, undated
Box 12, Folder 6	Suburban, outdoor, and how to, 1930-1940
Box 13, Folder 1	Suburban, outdoor, and how to, 1950s
Box 13, Folder 2	Suburban, outdoor, and how to, 1960s
Box 13, Folder 3	Suburban, outdoor, and how to, 1970-1980
Box 13, Folder 4	Suburban, outdoor, and how to, undated
Box 13, Folder 5	War, The, 1941-1942
Box 13, Folder 6	War, The, 1943
Box 13, Folder 7	War, The, 1944-1945

Box 13, Folder 8

War, The, undated

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Series 5: Vintage Postcards, undated

Scope and Contents: Include materials collected by the Sterns and maintained as a group. Many of the subjects overlap with the interests found in other parts of the collection. Materials are arranged in alphabetical order.

Box 25, Folder 1	Animals, undated
Box 25, Folder 2	Art, undated
Box 25, Folder 3	Cacti, undated
Box 25, Folder 4	Cartoons and caricatures, undated
Box 25, Folder 5	Celebrities, undated
Box 25, Folder 6	Cowboys, undated
Box 26, Folder 1	Dinosaurs, undated
Box 26, Folder 2	Elvis Presley, undated
Box 26, Folder 3	Food, undated
Box 26, Folder 4	Home and garden, undated
Box 26, Folder 5	Hotels and motels, undated
Box 26, Folder 6	International, undated
Box 26, Folder 7	Miscellaneous, undated
Box 26, Folder 8	Music, undated
Box 26, Folder 9	Native American themes, undated
Box 26, Folder 10	Nudism, undated
Box 26, Folder 11	Parrots, undated
Box 27, Folder 1	Pin-up girls, undated
Box 27, Folder 2	Politics, undated
Box 27, Folder 3	Product advertisements, undated
Box 27, Folder 4	Religion, undated

Box 27, Folder 5	Restaurants, undated
Box 27, Folder 6	States and cities, undated
Box 27, Folder 8	Stores, undated
Box 27, Folder 9	Transportation and Route 66, undated
Box 27, Folder 10	World's Fair, undated

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