



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Humor

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Humor

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

1999

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Advertisements, Caricatures, Printed Matter, 1870-1911.....	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Humor
Date:	1870-1911
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Humor
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	0.9 Cubic feet (consisting of 2 boxes, plus digital images of some collection material.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Humor</i> forms part of the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Subseries 1.1: Subject Categories. The Subject Categories subseries is divided into 470 subject categories based on those created by Mr. Warshaw. These subject categories include topical subjects, types or forms of material, people, organizations, historical events, and other categories. An overview to the entire Warshaw collection is available here: Warshaw Collection of Business Americana

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Humor is a portion of the Business Ephemera Series of the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Accession AC0060 purchased from Isadore Warshaw in 1967. Warshaw continued to accumulate similar material until his death, which was donated in 1971 by his widow, Augusta. For a period after acquisition, related materials from other sources (of mixed provenance) were added to the collection so there may be content produced or published after Warshaw's death in 1969. This practice has since ceased.

Materials in the Archives Center

Archives Center Collection of Business Americana (AC0404)

Forms Part Of

Forms part of the [Warshaw Collection of Business Americana](#) .

Missing Title:

- [Series 1: Business Ephemera](#)
- [Series 2: Other Collection Divisions](#)
- [Series 3: Isadore Warshaw Personal Papers](#)
- [Series 4: Photographic Reference Material](#)

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Humor, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Some items may be restricted due to fragile condition.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Scope and Contents

This subject category- Humor material ranges from tiny cards bearing humorous messages to bound volumes of cartoons, caricatures and humorous writings. Examples of humorous advertising, lectures and periodicals are also included as well as collections of jokes and funny stories. Several well known humorists are represented including Josh Billings, Joe Miller, Petroleum V. Naseby, Chic Sale, and Will Rogers.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Caricatures and cartoons

Types of Materials:

Business ephemera
Ephemera

Container Listing

Advertisements, Caricatures, Printed Matter, 1870-1911

Box 1, Folder 1	Caricatures (English), circa 1830s
Box 1, Folder 2-3	"Them As Is, Because" Book of Caricatures, 1911 Notes: Published by Press Artists Association
Box 1, Folder 4	Cartoons, Miscellaneous
Box 1, Folder 5	Cartoons-Book "The Good Things of Life," 1884
Box 1, Folder 6-7	Cartoon Cards
Box 1, Folder 8	Humorous text Cards
Box 1, Folder 9	Postcards
Box 1, Folder 10	Humorous Advertising
Box 2, Folder 1	Humorous Lectures and Entertainment
Box 2, Folder 2	Humorous Almanacs, 1872-1892
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Humorous Periodicals
Box 2, Folder 5	Humorous Poetry
Box 2, Folder 6-8	Collections of Stories and Jokes
Box 2, Folder 7	Drummer's Yarns / Fun on the "Road" [sic] [book], 1886 1 Item Publisher: Excelsior Publishing House Language: English. Notes: AC0060-0000904.tif (AC Scan No.) Paperback book containing cartoons, jokes, anecdotes, and humorous poetry. 73 pages plus advertising material in the back. Cover image, a lithograph printed in color, shows a man with a moustache and top hat, apparently telling a joke to another man, who is laughing uproariously. Lithograph credited to "Johns & Co. Lith. Cleveland, O." (lower right). Note: although the title suggests that the jokes in the book are suitable for traveling salesmen to tell each other, the jokes are not necessarily about salesmen. Line cartoons are scattered throughout the text. Fragile, tattered; cover page detached. New York, N.Y., Excelsior Publishing House., 1886

Cover reproduced (black and white) in Walter A. Friedman, *Birth of a Salesman / The Transformation of Selling America*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, England: Harvard University Press, 2004, p. 84.

Topic: Wit and humor
Sales personnel -- 19th century
Traveling sales personnel

Genre/Form: Books -- 19th century
Caricatures
Lithographs -- 1880-1900
Cartoons (humorous images)

Box 2, Folder 9 Humorous Novels

Box 2, Folder 10-11 Satire

Box 2, Folder 12 Miscellaneous

[Return to Table of Contents](#)
