



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Matrimony

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives Center, National Museum of American History |
| Title: | Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Matrimony |
| Date: | 1704-1987 |
| Identifier: | NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Matrimony |
| Creator: | Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969 |
| Extent: | 1 Cubic foot (consisting of 2 boxes, 1 folder, 4 oversize folders.) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Matrimony</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

Matrimony 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](#) .

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

Processing Information

In 2016, with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund, the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History implemented the use of minimal level processing standards to increase information about and facilitate access to more of our collections. A large portion of stored material from the original acquisition received minimal level processing, which resulted in additions to this Subject category. This effort included basic arrangement and replacement of non-archival housing for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed. Revisions to the encoded finding aid were made to reflect the added content in context to the previously processed material.

Minimal level processing and enhancement of the machine-readable finding aid completed by Nicole Blechynden, September 2017.

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Matrimony, 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- Matrimony consists primarily of books, documents, clippings, and advertisements relating to matrimony. There are also a number of images of couples, the bride, and the ceremony. The material includes matchmaking services, wedding certificates, invitations, and materials relating to divorce.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Marriage

Types of Materials:

Business ephemera
Ephemera

Container Listing

Literature and Documentation, 1704-1987

Oversize 65, Folder 7-8 Matrimony

Oversize 130, Folder 5-6 Matrimony

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Subseries 1: Wedding Documents, 1713 - 1987

Scope and Contents: Wedding documents such as wedding certificates (1828-1885), invitations (1835-1920), announcements (1889-1944), calling cards (undated), and memory books for brides (undated). Most of the wedding documents come from the weddings of specific couples. There are miscellaneous materials pertaining to the legal side of matrimony, including an oversized (Box 130, Folder 6) list of the membership of an anti-polygamy league that has an anti-polygamy petition on the reverse. There are three folders in oversize boxes, which contain large wedding certificates (Box 35, Folders 7 and 8 and Box 130, Folder 5). These certificates tend to be more decorative than the smaller format certificates and two of them include photographs of the couples.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 1-2 | Bride Books |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Wedding Certificates |
| Box 1, Folder 4-6 | Wedding Invitations |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Wedding Announcements |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Calling Cards and Envelopes |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Weddings and the Law |

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Subseries 2: Wedding Guides and Etiquette, 1745 - 1964

Scope and Contents: Wedding Guides and Etiquette includes books and pamphlets giving guidance for married and soon-to-be married couple. There are also some books on wedding etiquette, which give guidance on the proper codes of behavior at weddings and for married couples. The guides are geared for both men and women.

Box 1, Folder 10-13 Wedding Guides and Etiquette

Box 2, Folder 1 Wedding Guides and Etiquette

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Subseries 3: Matchmaking, 1744, undated

Scope and Contents: Matchmaking includes newspaper clippings from the 18th century in which a man or woman advertises for a mate. There are also advertisements for matchmaking services, which are undated but are most likely from the 20th century. There are a number of oversized matchmaking newspapers (Box 130, Folder 6) from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These newspapers include love stories, advertisements for finding a mate, and other tips on matchmaking.

Box 2, Folder 2 Matchmaking

Oversize 130, Folder
6 Matrimony

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Subseries 4: Anniversaries, 1860 – 1912

Scope and Contents: Anniversaries contains a number of invitations to wedding anniversary parties. This series also contains a bound volume published for the golden anniversary of a married couple. There is also a coin, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of a married couple.

Box 2, Folder 3-4 Anniversaries

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Subseries 5: Divorce, 1860 – 1861

Scope and Contents: Divorce contains materials relating to two divorce cases, the New York laws on divorce, and a newspaper advertisement on divorce.

Box 2, Folder 5 Divorce

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Subseries 6: Wedding Humor, 1831 – 1882

Scope and Contents: Wedding Humor contains two humorous literary pieces on marriage as well as some humorous advertisements and a joke book on marriage.

Box 2, Folder 6-7 Wedding Humor

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Subseries 7: Wedding Images, 1885 – 1907

Scope and Contents: Wedding images contains lithographs, photographs, and published images relating to matrimony. The images are divided into those depicting the couple, the ceremony, the bride and miscellaneous images pertaining to matrimony. There are two oversized wedding images (Box 35, Folder 8 and Box 130, Folder 5). One is an engraving of a bride and the other is an engraving of a Babylonian wedding market.

Box 2, Folder 8 Images Relating to Marriage

Box 2, Folder 9 Images of the Couple

Box 2, Folder 10 Images of the Ceremony

Box 2, Folder 11 Images of the Bride

Oversize 35, Folder 8 Matrimony

Oversize 130, Folder 5 Matrimony

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Box SUPP 17, Folder 13 General, Matrimony, 1704-1899
Notes: Publications include a manual on household management (1866) and a monograph *Cupid and the Footlights* (1899) which contains facsimile courtship letters. Other materials include an ad for a correspondence bureau promoting introductions between men and women, a handwritten letter from a wife to a husband (1850), a list of "Wife's Commandments", and an annotated bible clipping noting a 1704 knott of marriage.