



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Warsaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Menus

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Menus

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Menus
Date:	1852-1965
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Menus
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	2.8 Cubic feet (consisting of 6 boxes , 1 folder, 4 oversize folders, plus digital images of some collection material.)
Language:	Collection is in English. A few items and portions of menus are in French, German, Dutch, Italian.
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Accounting and Bookkeeping</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
Digital Content:	Image(s): Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Menus

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Menus 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.

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.

For this subject, minimal processing included arrangement to the folder level, based on prior processing and preservation action, with retention of the pre-existing arrangement when possible, if applicable. Otherwise, an order was imposed by the Processing Archivist. Some materials were consolidated to eliminate excess bulk but items within folders were not arranged further. The guide may or may not include a more refined lists of folder contents. Non-archival housing was replaced for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

Minimal level processing and machine-readable finding aid completed by Nicole Blechynden, March 2017.

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Menus, 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

Menus consists of approximately 700 menus from restaurants, principally within the United States. The material dates from 1852 to 1963, with the bulk of the material from 1880s to the 1920s. Most menus are from dining establishments and includes day-to-day fare and pricing, plus some special menus. Some are standard issued menus, others are souvenir menus. Prix fixe and a la carte menus are both present. A number of the menus are from railway and shipboard travel. Special event menus often contain additional details or listings of persons honored or attending, with some including background information. Menus are predominantly paper, but a few examples are printed on textiles or wood and a couple are leather bound. Menus may have decorative covers; some are embossed, hand-painted or decorated with ribbon or gilt. There are a few menus printed on satin ribbon. Menus from ships, railroads and the Christmas menus from the United States Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts offer good examples of decorative covers.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six subseries.

- Blank Menus
- Events and Celebrations
- Holidays
- In Transit, Travel-Based
- Location
- Named Honoree

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Diners -- United States
- Dining
- Dining cars
- Dinners and dining
- Food
- Holidays
- Railroads -- Dining-car service
- Restaurants

Types of Materials:

- Menus
- Menus -- 1940-1950
- Menus -- 20th century

Container Listing

Blank Menus, undated

Box 1, Folder 1 Printer's Samples, undated

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Events and Celebrations, 1852-1965

Scope and Contents: Special meals held at either a commercial establishment or a venue affiliated with the hosting organization.

Box 1, Folder 2-3 Business/Professional, 1869-1920, 1958

Box 1, Folder 4 Church Groups, 1892-1926

Box 1, Folder 5 Ethnic, 1919-1938, 1852-1877

Box 1, Folder 6 Government, 1900-1925, 1871-1888

Box 1, Folder 7 Historical, 1965, 1903, 1892

Box 1, Folder 8 Military, 1893-1916

Box 1, Folder 9 Scholastic, 1884-1900

Box 1, Folder 10 Social, 1916, 1862-1897

Box 1, Folder 11 Social/Fraternal, 1956, 1874-1902

Box SUPP 18,
Folder 4 Assorted Menus, 1876-1959

Box 1, Folder 12 Miscellaneous, 1853-1916
Notes: Contains additional menus for general and hosted events.

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Holidays, 1854-1964

Scope and Contents: Food selections and menu themes reflect United States holidays and traditions.

Box 1, Folder 13 New Year's, 1964, 1890, 1911-1918, undated

Box 1, Folder 14 George Washington's Birthday, 1901, 1891

Box 2, Folder 1 Easter, 1889-1894, 1957-1960

Box 2, Folder 2	Mother's Day, 1960, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Fourth of July , 1873-1931 Notes: Independence Day
Box 2, Folder 4	Thanksgiving, 1854 facsimile, 1941-1960, 1883-1918
Box 2, Folder 5	Thanksgiving, United States Hotel , 1884-1894, 1854 Notes: Boston.
Box 2, Folder 6	Christmas, 1899-1906, 1956
Box 2, Folder 7	Christmas, United States Hotel , 1885-1894 Notes: Boston.

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In Transit, Travel-Based, 1873-1962

Scope and Contents: Menus for meals, snacks, and other sundries available during long distance transit, both domestic and international.

Railway
Notes: Meals and a la carte items available through the railroad dining cars or snack vendors.

Box 2, Folder 8	Canada, 1897, 1954
Box 2, Folder 9	International, 1959, 1925
Box 2, Folder 10	United States, 1892-1956
	Shipboard Notes: Some of these menus also include program information for musical and other performances that accompanied the meal. See also the subject category <i>Steamboats [Ships, Boats, and Vessels]</i> , for additional examples of passenger and cruise ship menus.
Box 2, Folder 11	Cunard Line, 1931, 1891, 1960
Box 3, Folder 1	Cunard White Star Line, 1898-1899, 1936-1938
Box 3, Folder 2	Hamburg-Amerika Line, 1904, 1932
Oversize 132, Folder 5	Matson Line, 1951
Box 3, Folder 3	Navigazione Generale Italiana (NGI), 1930

Box 3, Folder 4	New York and Porto Rico [sic] Steamship Company, 1921
Box 3, Folder 5	Norddeutscher Lloyd Breman Line, 1901-1938, 1892-1899
Box 3, Folder 6	United Fruit Company Steamship Service, 1936 Notes: Great White Fleet
Box 3, Folder 7	United States Lines, 1928, 1938
Box 3, Folder 8	Miscellaneous, Other, 1873-1962 Notes: The shipping line is not listed, although in many instances the ship name is included.

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Location, 1849-1965

Scope and Contents: Includes restaurants, inns, and taverns with convenient take-out to fine dining fare. Only a few menus are from abroad; most are US based establishments and represent only a small sampling compared to the vast number of possible dining options in a given location.

International

Box 3, Folder 9	Bahamas/Bermuda, 1886, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Canada, 1896-1928, undated
Box 3, Folder 11	France, 1957, 1874-1897
Box 3, Folder 12	Great Britain, 1899, 1959-1960, 1932
Box 3, Folder 13	Italy, 1957, undated
Box 3, Folder 14	Miscellaneous, 1959, 1896-1897, undated Notes: The location of the establishment is not listed or cannot be readily discerned because text is in another language.

Oversize, International

Oversize 37, Folder 4	International, 1960-1963, 1906, undated
Oversize 132, Folder 5	International, undated

United States

Box 4, Folder 1	Arkansas , undated
Box 4, Folder 2-3	California, 1887, 1937-1959

Box 4, Folder 4	Colorado, 1887
Box 4, Folder 5	Connecticut, 1957-1960, 1899, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	Florida, undated
Box 4, Folder 7	Georgia, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Illinois, 1955-1959, 1857-1898, undated
Box 4, Folder 9	Indiana, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Iowa, undated
Box 4, Folder 11	Kansas, 1889
Box 4, Folder 12	Louisiana, 1908
Box 4, Folder 13	Maine, 1869, undated
Box 4, Folder 14	Massachusetts, 1849-1910, 1940-1941
Box 4, Folder 15	Massachusetts, Boston, 1850-1906, 1956
Box 5, Folder 1	Massachusetts, Boston, J. Fellner, 1883-1884
Box 5, Folder 2	Massachusetts, Boston, Young's Hotel, 1881-1882
Box 5, Folder 3	Massachusetts, New Bedford, Parker House, 1889
Box 5, Folder 4	Michigan, 1882, 1955-1957
Box 5, Folder 5	Minnesota, 1890-1891
Box 5, Folder 6	Missouri, 1899, 1956
Box 5, Folder 7	Montana, undated
Box 5, Folder 8	New Hampshire, 1878-1914, 1959
Box 5, Folder 9	New Hampshire, Franconia Notch, Profile House, 1885-1886
Box 5, Folder 10	New Jersey, 1937-1955, 1893, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	New Mexico, undated
Box 5, Folder 12	New York, 1852 Facsimile, 1880-1915, 1938-1959

Notes: A number of these are annotated by "Billy," often including quotes, comments about the dining experience, and sometimes noting who the dining companion was.

Box 5, Folder 13	New York, NYC, A-C, 1860-1915, 1932-1955, 1843 Facsimile
Box 5, Folder 14	New York, NYC, D-P, 1929-1953, 1876-1899 Notes: Includes a signed Jack Dempsey menu (1940).
Box 5, Folder 15	New York, NYC, N-W, 1897, 1937-1948
Box 5, Folder 16	New York, NYC, Fifth Avenue Hotel, 1940, 1863-1889
Box 6, Folder 1	North Dakota, 1891
Box 6, Folder 2	Ohio, 1881, 1857-1859, undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Oregon, 1897, 1956-1958, undated
Box 6, Folder 4	Pennsylvania, 1956-1958, 1848-1910, undated
Box 6, Folder 5	Rhode Island, 1869-1890
Box 6, Folder 6	South Carolina, undated
Box 6, Folder 7	Texas, 1884
Box 6, Folder 8	Utah, undated
Box 6, Folder 9	Vermont, 1884
Box 6, Folder 10	Virginia, 1956, undated
Box 6, Folder 11	Washington, 1892
Box 6, Folder 12	West Virginia, 1878, undated
Box 6, Folder 13	Wisconsin, 1880
Box 6, Folder 14	Wyoming, 1928
Box 6, Folder 15-16	Miscellaneous/Other, 1857-1905, 1920-1959 Notes: The state is not listed on the menu or there are multiple franchises that cross state boundaries such as Howard Johnsons and Glass House.

Oversize, United States

Oversize 37, Folder 3	California - Massachusetts, 1889-1965
Oversize 132, Folder 4	California - Massachusetts, undated
Oversize 37, Folder 4	New York - US Undesignated, 1937-1964, 1852
Oversize 132, Folder 5	New York - US Undesignated, 1904-1941 Notes: Includes a signed Jack Dempsey menu (1940).

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Named Honoree, 1862-1922

Scope and Contents: Menus from planned occasions where an individual person or small group of persons was recognized. Some include biographical notes or program agendas. Several items are leather bound; another is printed on a textile, and one is bound using a nut and bolt combination. These menus include special events for Justice John Marshall Harlan (1902, US Supreme Court) and President Taft (1909).

Box 6, Folder 17-18 Named Honoree, 1862-1922

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Box 2, Folder 15	Children's World Restaurant [menu] 1 Item (Ink on paper.) Image(s) Image(s) Advertiser: Childrens World Restaurant Language: English. Notes: AC0060-0000039-1 (AC Scan No. front and back cover) AC0060-0000039-2 (AC Scan No. inside menu) Approx. a dozen pairs of non-American children entering a restaurant and being greeted by three American children at the door. New York., Allied Printing Topic: Ethnic Imagery Project, Archives Center Food Ethnic relations Genre/Form: Menus Culture: Mexicans Dutch Irish Scottish Africans Asians Canadians
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