



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Sex

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Sex
Date:	circa 1750-1943
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Sex
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	0.47 Cubic feet (consisting of 1 box, 1 folder.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Sex</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

Sex 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](#)

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: Sex, 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 material consists primarily of books, clippings, advertisements, and images relating to sex for the general public. Though the materials span nearly two hundred years, the bulk of the material is from the late 19th century.

Series 1, Sex Health, 1892–1943, includes some books on sex health and heredity. There are also materials pertaining to contraception and sexual hygiene. These materials pertain to both women and men's health and range from scholarly treatises to advertisements for contraceptive methods and feminine hygiene products.

Series 2, Images, undated, contains advertisements, lithographs, and photographic images relating to sex. The bulk of the images are depictions of nude women, including two different postcards. There are no nude pictures of men included in this series.

Series 3, Prostitution, 1938; undated, contains mostly undated materials relating to prostitution. Most of the materials are advertisements from establishments offering prostitution services. There is also an article written by a prostitute for Ken magazine (1938).

Series 4, Sex and the Law, 1836–1867, contains materials relating to sex and the law. There are pamphlets addressing blue laws and prostitution. Woman and homosexual suffrage are also topics addressed in these materials.

Series 5, Transexuals, 1750–1829, contains one image and one newspaper clipping about men transforming themselves into women. There is also a small story about a woman who masqueraded as a man and married another woman and a drawing of this woman.

Series 6, Sex Humor, 1940; undated, contains some jokes and humorous stories relating to sex. Most of the material appears to date from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. Some of these materials may be considered risqué or offensive.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Business ephemera
- Ephemera

Container Listing

Subseries 1: Sex Health

Box 1, Folder 1-4	Sex Health
Box 1, Folder 5	Sex Hygiene
Box 1, Folder 6	Contraception

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Subseries 2: Images

Box 1, Folder 7	Images
Box SUPP 27, Folder 10	Trade Card and Pamphlet, 1879, undated Notes: Promotional card for a text on sexual systems and a flier with a morality story on promiscuity.

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Subseries 3: Prostitution

Box 1, Folder 8	Prostitution
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Subseries 4: Sex and the Law

Box 1, Folder 9	Sex and the Law
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Subseries 5: Transexuals

Box 1, Folder 10	Transexuals
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Subseries 6: Sex Humor

Box 1, Folder 11	Sex Humor
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