



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Sign Paintings

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Sign

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Collection Overview

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

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Sign Paintings 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: Sign Paintings, 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 of scattered correspondence on letterhead stationery, informational brochures, product lists, sample lettering, trade journals, advertisements and business cards from manufacturers and distributors of signs and materials needed to make signs. The signs are made of various materials including cloth, glass, brass, wood, zinc, silver and marble. There are also some references to sign painters and hangers. Painters tended to advertise that they also painted houses and or were wall paper hangers. The material is mostly organized by name of company.

There are seven folders arranged by type: samples and specimens, direct mail advertisements, bills and invoices, correspondence, and advertising images, specifically sandwich boards and two folders containing business cards.

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

Business Records, Marketing Material, and Other, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	S. E. Adamson, New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 2	American Neon Sign Company, Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 3	American Sign Company, Clyde, Ohio
Box 1, Folder 4	Edison Lamp Works, Lighting Data, Harrison, New Jersey, November 1921
Box 1, Folder 5	Empire Sign Company, Elmira, New York.
Box 1, Folder 6	Federal Signs System Electric, New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 7	Gleason's Show Cards, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 8	Kantrowich & Harris, Electric Signs, Albany, New York
Box 1, Folder 9	Pettingell-Andrews Company, Exemplar Electric signs, Sales brochure, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 10	Smoot's Sign System, Billboards, Parkersburg, West Virginia
Box 1, Folder 11	Spanjer Brothers, Wood Materials for signs, Newark, New Jersey
Box 1, Folder 12	Stonehouse Steel Sign Co., Denver, Colorado
Box 1, Folder 13	Storm Sign Company, South Bend, Indiana
Box 1, Folder 14	Sign and Display Industry, Trade Journal., March, 1965
Box 1, Folder 15	Sign and Display Industry, Trade Journal., September, 1963
Box 1, Folder 16	Sign Painting: Samples
Box 1, Folder 17	Sign Painting: Direct Mail Advertisements
Box 1, Folder 18	Sign Painting: Sandwich Boards
Box 1, Folder 19	Sign Painting: Bills and Invoices
Box 1, Folder 20	Sign Painting: Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 21-22	Sign Painting: Business Cards

Box SUPP 27, Folder
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Marketing Material, undated

Notes: An order form for billboard locations and a trade card.

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