



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

J. Walter Wilkinson Papers

NMAH.AC.0116

Robert S. Harding

1986

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	J. Walter Wilkinson Papers
Date:	ca. 1932-1935, 1940-1964, 1985-1987.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0116
Creator:	Wilkinson, Walter Gandy, 1917- Bird, William L. (Interviewer) Wilkinson, J. Walter (commercial artist) (Author)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (2 boxes, 2 map-folders)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by J. Walter Wilkinson, September 13, 1984

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Harding, 1986

Preferred Citation

J. Walter Wilkinson Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

J. Walter Wilkinson (1892-) is an award winning commercial artist, perhaps best known for a series of six war bond posters he and his son Walter G. Wilkinson (1917-1971) created for the United States Treasury Department. J. Walter Wilkinson was born on Maryland's eastern shore, received formal academic training in art, and worked on newspapers and at an advertising agency before becoming a free lance artist. In addition to his war posters and other government commissions, he created a number of outdoor and magazine advertisements and many magazine covers. Major products for which Wilkinson did advertising art work included Ivory soap, Pabst beer, and Ballantine ale.

Scope and Contents

Originals and copy photographs of advertisements and other commercial art work, original sketches, materials documenting a mechanical drafting instrument patented by the Wilkinson and his son, Walter G. Wilkinson, and a scrapbook of clippings, photographs, awards, and other materials documenting the Wilkinsons' careers. Also included are audiocassettes containing interviews of Wilkinson, conducted by National Museum of American History curator, Larry Bird.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Soap
- War posters
- advertising

Types of Materials:

- Audiocassettes
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks
- Sketches

Occupations:

- Commercial artists

Container Listing

Series 1: Original Artwork, undated

Box 1, Folder 5	Original sketches, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Original painting (cabin cruiser), undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Original sketches, undated

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1957

Box 1, Folder 2

Correspondence (advertising awards), 1941-1957

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Series 3: Photographs, undated

Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs of Wilkinson's work

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Series 4: Papers relating to the "Math-a-graph", 1953-1964

Box 1, Folder 8

Papers relating to the Wilkinson Math-a-graph, including patent, design drawings, correspondence, printed material, 1953-1964

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Series 5: Scrapbook, undated

Box 2

Scrapbook containing clippings, advertisements designed by Wilkinson, photographs of his work, dated

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Series 6: Printed Materials, 1892, 1932; undated

Box 1, Folder 1	Clippings, printed material, writings, a scrapbook page, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Proof sheets and advertisements, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Proof sheets and advertisements, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Photocopies of articles and writings, undated
Box 2	Theater program from the Globe Theatre, Boston, 1892
Box 2	Reprint from Vanity Fair on the subject of theater actors, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Proof sheets of advertisements, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Mock-up of Saturday Evening Post cover, 1932
Box 1, Folder 4	Proof sheets and advertisements, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Advertising stand-alones, undated
Map-folder 1	Lansdowne Whiskey advertisement
Map-folder 2	Lansdowne Whiskey advertisement
Map-folder 2	"You Buy 'em, We Fly 'em" war bond poster
Map-folder 2	Arrow Beer Poster

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Series 7: Oral History interviews, 1984, 1985, 1987

Box 1

Oral history interviews of Wilkinson, 1984, 1985, 1987

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