Guide to Archives Center Shopping Bag Collection

NMAH.AC.0570
Vanessa Broussard Simmons
December 12, 1996
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Archives Center Shopping Bag Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0570
Date: circa 1980-2004
Extent: 4 Cubic feet (9 boxes)
Creator: Archives Center, NMAH, SI.
Language: English
Summary: Shopping bags from a variety of businesses, including department stores, museums, book stores, libraries, hotels, banks, and specialty shops. Additional material will be added to this collection periodically.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance
This collection was artificially created.

Processing Information
Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, December 12, 1996.

Preferred Citation
Archives Center Shopping Bag Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access
Collection open for research.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
Fees for commercial reproduction. However, there are copyright and trademark restrictions.
Biographical / Historical

Many businesses have opted to use shopping bags as a less expensive form of advertisement rather than print ads or televisions commercials. These advertisements reflect the creative aspects of the businesses and can often convey the message of a brand. The bags are made of a variety of materials including cloth, heavy paper, and plastic. In addition, retail stores, restaurants, book stores, museums, libraries, coffee houses, grocery stores, and social groups create the shopping bag with the hope that the consumer will reuse it.

Scope and Contents

The shopping bags in this collection represent a number of department stores, book stores, antique stores, banks, libraries, museums, art institutes, toy stores, hotels, etc. and were gathered from a number of sources since it is difficult to get a wide regional selection. The Archives Center maintains these bags however in one collection to show the breadth and the range of the collection. The research value of these bags is as an advertising approach. It presents a view of how certain businesses choose to represent themselves. The designs of the bags, however, are not taken lightly. The graphics and designs on the bags can represent three months of work.

The shopping bags are arranged in alphabetical order by name of business since they were collected to relate to advertising more so than their relationship to art or graphic design. Researchers interested in a particular type of art style or technique or one artist should consult the shopping bag collection at the Cooper Hewitt Museum where they are collected as art forms.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Department stores
- Libraries and museums
- Museums
- Taverns (Inns)
- advertising -- Business ephemera

Types of Materials:
- Shopping bags
- Trademarks
Container Listing

Box 7, Folder 1  ABC Sports, Gifts and Books, New York
Box 4, Folder 1  Abercrombie & Fitch, Clothes and Sporting Goods, 1999
Box 1, Folder 1  Abraham & Straus, Department Store
Box 1, Folder 1  Adirondack Museum, Museum Gift Shop, New York, 2000
Box 7, Folder 1  Ahlens
Box 7, Folder 1  Altmans of Orchard Street, New York
Box 4, Folder 1  American Airlines Bistro, Restaurant, 2000
Box 1, Folder 1  American Plant Food Company
Box 4, Folder 1  Anne Taylor, Woman's Clothing Store
Box 1, Folder 1  Appalachian Spring, Washington DC
Box 7, Folder 1  Arche Chaussures, Shoe Store
Box 7, Folder 1  Aubergine, Bethesda, Maryland, 1998
Box 7, Folder 1  Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum, Auburn, Indiana
Box 4, Folder 1  Aveda, Cosmetics
Box 7, Folder 1  B. Altmans & Company
Box 1, Folder 2  Banana Republic, Clothing Store
Box 1, Folder 2  Barnes and Noble, Books and Magazines, 1975
Box 4, Folder 1  Barnes and Noble, Books and Magazines, 1975-1995
Box 7, Folder 1  Barnes and Noble, Books and Magazines
Box 1, Folder 2  Barneys Clothing Store, New York
Box 1, Folder 2  Bath & Body Works, Beauty Products, Albany, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 1  Bath & Body Works, Beauty Products, Albany, Ohio
Box 7, Folder 1  Batsheva, Tel Aviv
Box 4, Folder 1  Bavaria
Box 7, Folder 1  Beba, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 7, Folder 1  Benetton, Women's Clothing
Box 1, Folder 2  Bergdorf Goodman, New York
Box 7, Folder 1  Bershire City Savings Bank, Bank
Box 7, Folder 1  Besse-Clarke, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 7, Folder 1  Black & Decker Industrial Power Tools, Electronics and Tools
Box 4, Folder 2  Bloomingdale's Big Brown Bag and Others, Department Store, New York
Box 7, Folder 2  Bloomingdale's, Department Store, New York
Box 7, Folder 2  Blue, Australian Store
Box 7, Folder 2  Body Shop, The, Beauty Products
Box 4, Folder 2  Bread & Circus Foods, Grocery Store
Box 7, Folder 2  Brepols
Box 4, Folder 2  Brooks Brothers, Men's Clothing
Box 7, Folder 2  Brothership Clothing, Clothing Store
Box 7, Folder 2  Burrough's English Vodka
Box 7, Folder 2  Buster Brown, Children's Shoes
Box 4, Folder 2  Canon, Electronics (cameras), 2000
Box 4, Folder 2  Caribou Coffee, Coffee Shop
Box 4, Folder 2  Carlyle Wines
Box 1, Folder 3  Carol and Mary
Box 7, Folder 3  Casablanca
Box 7, Folder 3  Casual Corner, Women's Fashions
Box 7, Folder 3  Cat Clinic, The, Veterinary Office, Germantown, Maryland
Box 7, Folder 3  Champs Disques, Paris
Box 1, Folder 3  Charles Jourdon, London, New York, Paris
Box 1, Folder 3  Chas Schwartz & Son, Washington, DC
Box 7, Folder 3  Cheesecake Factory, The Restaurant
Box 7, Folder 3  Chelsea Antique Market, Antiques
Box 7, Folder 3  Chelsea 59 St. Village, Army-Navy store
Box 7, Folder 3  Chicken Out, Restaurant
Box 7, Folder 3  Chicago Art Institute, Gifts and Books, Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 3  China Dynasty, The
Box 4, Folder 2  Chona, Northampton
Box 7, Folder 3  Clip Shop, The, Hair Care and Supplies, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 2  Coach, Leatherware
Box 7, Folder 3  Cohoes, New York
Box 4, Folder 2  Colonial Williamsburg, Gifts, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1996
Box 7, Folder 4  Comcast, Cable Company
Box 7, Folder 4  Come to the Fair
Box 7, Folder 4  Conrans
Box 7, Folder 4  Cottage, The, Gifts and Clothes, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 7, Folder 4  Country curtains, Curtains
Box 7, Folder 4  Crabtree & Evelyn, Beauty Products
Box 7, Folder 4  Crate and Barrel, Houseware and Furnishings
Box 4, Folder 2  Crosby's, Lexon, Massachusetts
Box 7, Folder 4  Dansk
Box 7, Folder 4  David Beyer
Box 7, Folder 4  Dillard's
Box 8, Folder 1  Dimensions, Hartsdale
Box 8, Folder 1  Dino's, Cincinnati
Box 8, Folder 1  Donna Karan, Clothing, New York
Box 2, Folder 1  Dover Publications
Box 2, Folder 1  Doyle 2000, New York
Box 4, Folder 2  Droste, Chocolatier
Box 4, Folder 2  Dumas Patisserie, Restaurant, New York
Box 4, Folder 2  Eddie Bauer, Sporting Goods and Clothing Store, 1998-2001
Box 8, Folder 1  Eddie Bauer, Sporting Goods and Clothing Store, 1998-2001
Box 8, Folder 1  Either-Or Book Store, Books, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 1  Elizabeth Arden, Beauty Products and Perfumes
Box 2, Folder 1  Endangered Species Store, Hawaii, 1997
Box 4, Folder 2  English Trading Co., The, Maryland, 1999
Box 8, Folder 1  Essentials, House ware Store, Northampton
Box 4, Folder 2  Estee Lauder, Beauty Products and Perfumes
Box 8, Folder 1  Express, Women’s Fashion
Box 5, Folder 1  FAO Schwartz, Toy Store, New York
Box 8, Folder 1  FAO Schwartz, Toy Store, New York
Box 8, Folder 1  Feathers, London
Box 8, Folder 1  Floris, London
Box 5, Folder 1  Fortnum & Mason, London
Box 5, Folder 1  Fresh Fields, Grocery Store, 1998, 2000
Box 5, Folder 1  Galeries Lafayette
Box 5, Folder 1  Gap, Clothing
Box 2, Folder 1  Garfinckel’s
Box 2, Folder 1  Georgetown Leather Design, Leather Store
Box 5, Folder 1  Georgetown Leather Design, Leather Store
Box 8, Folder 2  Givenchy
Box 2, Folder 2  Godiva Chocolate
Box 5, Folder 1  Godiva Chocolate
Box 8, Folder 2  Gracious Home, New York
Box 8, Folder 2  Great Think Piece, Cliff Notes
Box 5, Folder 1  Greystone, Culinary Institute, Napa Valley, California
Box 2, Folder 3  Hallmark, Cards and Gifts, 1996
Box 2, Folder 3  Hard Rock Café, Restaurant, Denver, Colorado, 2000
Box 8, Folder 2  Harley-Davidson, Motorcycles and Accessories, 1991
Box 2, Folder 3  Harnetts, 2000
Box 8, Folder 2  Harrods
Box 8, Folder 2  Harvard Book Store, Books and Gifts
Box 2, Folder 2  Henri Bendel, New York, 1992
Box 5, Folder 1  Henri Bendel, New York, 1992
Box 8, Folder 2  Hudson's
Box 2, Folder 2  Hudson Trail Outfitters, Outdoor and Sporting Goods, Washington DC
Box 8, Folder 2  Huntington
Box 2, Folder 2  Hyde Park Hotel, New York
Box 8, Folder 2  IKEA, Furniture
Box 8, Folder 2  Imperial Hotel
Box 8, Folder 2  Jim's House of Shoes, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 8, Folder 2  Jockey Underwear
Box 8, Folder 2  Junior Teen Boutique, Teenage Female Clothes, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 8, Folder 2  Just Paper & Tea, Georgetown, Virginia
Box 5, Folder 1  Kate Spade, Purses and Accessories, New York, 2004
Box 2, Folder 3  Kron, 1981
Box 2, Folder 3  Lafayette Ave
Box 8, Folder 3  Laura Ashley, Women's Clothing, London
Box 8, Folder 3  Leisure Learning Products
Lemon Twist shop, The, Chevy Chase, Maryland
Liberty
Library, The
Liz Clairborne, Women's Clothing, 1998
Liz Clairborne, Women's Clothing
L.L. Bean, Outdoors and Sporting Gear and Clothes
Loehmann's, Department Store, New York
Lord & Taylor, Department Store, New York
Macy's, Department Store, New York
Macy's, Department Store, New York
Maggiano's, Restaurant, Washington DC
Male Ego, Male Clothing
Market City Café, CA
Marylandica, Wheaton, Maryland, 1998
Mauna Loa, Nuts and other Food Goods, Hawaii
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gifts and Books, New York City
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gifts and Books, New York City
Michaels Shoes, Shoes, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Mixed Paper Recycling, Recycling, Maryland
M&M's, Candy, Las Vegas
M & M's, Candy
Monet 1998
Mont Blanc
Morgenstern's, Men's Clothing, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Motherhood Maternity, Maternity clothes
Museum Company, The Gifts
Box 8, Folder 3  Museum Shop, The, Gifts, Chicago
Box 5, Folder 2  Nancy Heller
Box 5, Folder 2  National Geographic Society
Box 5, Folder 2  Nature Company, The, 1995
Box 3, Folder 1  Neiman-Marcus, Department Store
Box 5, Folder 2  Neiman-Marcus, Department Store
Box 9, Folder 1  Neiman Marcus, Department Store
Box 9, Folder 1  New York Times, The, Newspaper, New York
Box 9, Folder 1  Nexxus, Hair and Beauty
Box 9, Folder 1  Nordstrom, Department Store
Box 9, Folder 1  Oilily
Box 9, Folder 1  Old Navy, Clothing Store
Box 9, Folder 1  Paper Store, The, Paper Products, Washington DC
Box 5, Folder 3  Pampillonia, Jewelry
Box 5, Folder 2  Pantry, The, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 9, Folder 1  Papyrus
Box 5, Folder 2  Parfums Hermes, Perfumes, Paris
Box 3, Folder 2  Patagonia
Box 3, Folder 2  Philadelphia Museum of Art, Gifts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 9, Folder 1  Petaks Caterers, Restaurant
Box 9, Folder 1  Peter Stuyvesant, Tobacco Store, Paris
Box 5, Folder 2  Peterbrooke, Chocolatier, 1999
Box 9, Folder 1  Pickleman, The, New York City
Box 5, Folder 2  Pier 1 Imports, House wares
Box 9, Folder 1  Pier 1 Imports, House wares
Box 9, Folder 1  Polo Ralph Lauren, Clothing Store
Box 5, Folder 2  Poque's, Cincinnati
Box 3, Folder 2  Pottery Barn, House wares
Box 3, Folder 2  Prespectives
Box 3, Folder 2  Provident, The, Bank
Box 3, Folder 2  Quartermaine Coffee Roasters, Coffee Shop, 2000
Box 6, Folder 1  Red Shoe
Box 6, Folder 1  Relish
Box 6, Folder 1  Saint Laurent Rive Gauche
Box 3, Folder 3  Saks Fifth Ave, Clothing Store, 2000
Box 6, Folder 1  Saks Fifth Ave, Clothing Store
Box 9, Folder 2  Saks Fifth Ave, Clothing Store
Box 9, Folder 2  Salvatore's, Shoe Store, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 3  Sansar, Crafts, Bethesda, Maryland, 1981
Box 3, Folder 3  Sephora
Box 9, Folder 2  Skill Craft
Box 9, Folder 2  Smithsonian National Zoo, Gifts, Washington DC
Box 6, Folder 1  Smithsonian Craft Show, Gifts, Washington DC
Box 9, Folder 2  Stage Deli, Deli, New York City
Box 3, Folder 3  Starbucks Coffee Shop,, 1995, 1998-99
Box 9, Folder 2  Steven Valenti, Men's Clothing, Pittsfield, MA
Box 9, Folder 2  Strand Bookstore, Books and Gifts, New York
Box 9, Folder 2  Strawberries, Records and Tapes, Pittsfield, MA
Box 9, Folder 2  Strut, Shoes, Northampton
Box 3, Folder 3  Sutton Place Gourmet, Grocery Store, Washington DC
Box 9, Folder 2  Sutton Place Gourmet, Grocery Store, Washington DC
Box 3, Folder 3  Sylene, Lingerie Shop, Chevy Chase, Maryland, 1999
Box 9, Folder 3  Tanglewood, Music Store, Boston, MA
Box 9, Folder 3  Taylor & Hume's Magicland, Disneyland, CA
Box 4, Folder 4  Texas
Box 6, Folder 1  Three Dog Bakery, Dog Food and Treats, New York City, 2000
Box 4, Folder 4  Tiffany, Jewelry and Fine Gifts, New York
Box 9, Folder 3  Tower Records, Music Store, New York
Box 6, Folder 1  Treasure Traders, 2001
Box 9, Folder 3  Trick or Treat, Halloween Bags
Box 3, Folder 4  Tudor Place
Box 9, Folder 3  Ultima II- Charles Revson
Box 9, Folder 3  Upstairs-Downstairs, Pittsfield, MA
Box 9, Folder 3  United Colors of Benetton, Clothing Store
Box 9, Folder 3  United States Census, Promotion for Census, 2000
Box 9, Folder 3  United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Gifts and Books, Washington DC, 1994
Box 3, Folder 4  Victoria's Secret, Lingerie Store
Box 9, Folder 3  Village Designer Shoes, Shoe Store, New York
Box 9, Folder 3  Village Viking, The Cincinnati
Box 9, Folder 3  Vista International Hotel
Box 6, Folder 1  Waldenbooks, Bookstore
Box 9, Folder 3  WETA Store of Knowledge, TV Channel Store, Washington DC
Box 6, Folder 1  Whole Foods 2000, Grocery Store
Box 3, Folder 4  Wild Bird Centers, Bird Food and Feeders
Box 9, Folder 3  Williams Co-op, Williamstown, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 4  Williams-Sonoma, Kitchen and Housewares
Box 9, Folder 3  Wolff Office Furniture, Office Furniture, New York
Box 6, Folder 1  Woodward & Lothrop
Box 9, Folder 3   Woodward & Lothrop
Box 9, Folder 3   Your Kitchen, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 6, Folder 1   Zabars, New York
Box 6, Folder 1   Zips, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 6, Folder 1   1888 Shop, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 6, Folder 2   Miscellaneous