



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to Greeting Card Collection

NMAH.AC.0579

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2003

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Greeting Card Collection
Date:	1920-1980
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0579
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Graphic Arts
Creator:	Conn, Nat Tolman, Sarah Tolman, Ruel P. (Ruel Pardee), 1878-1954
Extent:	2 Cubic feet (12 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection consists of greeting cards, over 95% of them Christmas cards, received from the 1920s-1980s by two Washington, D.C. families, those of Ruel Tolman and Nat Conn.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Greeting Card Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center by the Division of Graphic Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life). Ruel P. Tolman was a Curator of Graphic Arts.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Kelly Gaberlavage and Alison Oswald, 2003.

Preferred Citation

Greeting Card Collection, 1920-1980, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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

The collection consists of greeting cards, over 95% of them Christmas cards, received from the 1920s-1980s by two Washington, D.C. families, those of Ruel Tolman and Nat Conn. The Christmas cards are rich in imagery and contain the following subjects: angels, bells, birds, candles, cats, dogs, carolers, carriages, churches, children, deer, family photographs (black and white and color), hearths/fireplaces, holly, houses/barns, hunting dogs, mailboxes, music, packages, ornaments, pine cones, poinsettia, politics, religious scenes (Three Wise Men, Madonna and Child, manger scenes), Santa Claus, ships/boats, snowmen, trees, and wreaths. Other occasions and holidays include anniversary, birthday, Easter, father's day, get well, Jewish holidays (Passover and Hanukah), military, mother's day, thank you's, and valentines day. There are some Christmas letters/messages that were either sent alone or were inserted into greeting cards. Many of the cards are printed with greetings such as "Holiday Greetings," "Happy Holidays," "New Year's Greetings," "Season's Greetings," "Noel," and "Peace". The foreign greeting cards consist of cards sent to the Tolman and Conn families from family and friends residing outside the United States. There are several empty envelopes lined with paper depicting Christmas images and the miscellaneous folder contains parts of greeting cards, many of which are missing photographs. The collection is arranged into two series: Series 1: Christmas and Series 2; Other occasions.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Angels
- Bells
- Birds -- Pictorial works
- Candles
- Christmas
- Deer
- Greeting cards
- Holidays

Types of Materials:

- Christmas cards

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Graphic Arts

Container Listing

Series 1: Occasions

Box 1, Folder 1	Angels
Box 1, Folder 2	Bells
Box 1, Folder 3	Birds
Box 1, Folder 4	Candles
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Candles
Box 2, Folder 3	Cats and dogs
Box 2, Folder 4	Carolers
Box 2, Folder 5	Carriages
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Carriages
Box 3, Folder 3	Children
Box 12, Folder 2	Christmas Calenders, 1942-1987
Box 12, Folder 3	Christmas Cards, 1890-1985
Box 12, Folder 4	Christmas Cards, Corporate, Christmas Letters, 1948-1964 Notes: Includes letters from U.S. Industrial Chemicals, Inc., Columbian Steel Tank Company, Southwest Grease and Oil Company, M & D Motor Freight Lines, Inc., Dierks & Sons Lumber Company, E.L. Evans Printing Company, Burlington Truck Lines, A.W. West Petroleum Company, Kanas Petroleum Industries Committee, Oil Men's Club of Kansas City, Sun Oil Company, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Midway Ford Truck Center, Inc., Watson Bros. Transportation Company, Inc., Canco, Foley Electrical Supply Company, and Acme Scale and Service Company,
Box 12, Folder 5	Christmas Cards , Corporate. General, undated
Box 12, Folder 6	Christmas Cards, Corporate, Banks, undated
Box 12, Folder 7	Christmas Cards, Corporate, Manufacturers, undated

Box 12, Folder 8	Christmas Cards , Corporate, Petroleum and Chemical Industries, undated
Box 12, Folder 9	Christmas Cards, Corporate, Stationers Examples, undated
Box 12, Folder 10	Christmas Cards, Corporate, Transportation Companies, undated
Box 12, Folder 11	Christmas Cards, Geographical, undated
Box 3, Folder 4-5	Churches
Box 4, Folder 1	Deer
Box 5, Folder 1	Family photos
Box 5, Folder 2	Foreign
Box 5, Folder 3	Greetings from Florida
Box 5, Folder 4	Happy Holidays
Box 7, Folder 4	Poinsettia
Box 5, Folder 5	Hearths/Fireplaces
Box 5, Folder 6	Holiday Greetings
Box 5, Folder 7-8	Holly
Box 4, Folder 2-5	Houses/Barns
Box 4, Folder 6	Hunting Dogs
Box 6, Folder 1	Mailboxes/Packages
Box 6, Folder 2	Merry Christmas
Box 6, Folder 3	Messages/Letters
Box 6, Folder 4	Music
Box 6, Folder 5	New Year's Greetings
Box 6, Folder 6	Noel
Box 6, Folder 7	Ornaments
Box 6, Folder 8	Peace

Box 7, Folder 1-2	People—General
Box 7, Folder 3	Pine Cones
Box 7, Folder 5	Political
Box 8, Folder 1-4	Religious
Box 8, Folder 5	Santa Claus
Box 9, Folder 1-2	Season's Greetings
Box 12, Folder 14	Seasonal Cards, Corporate, undated
Box 9, Folder 3	Ships
Box 9, Folder 4	Snowmen
Box 10, Folder 1-3	Trees
Box 10, Folder 4	Wreaths
Box 11, Folder 1	Anniversary
Box 11, Folder 2	Birthday
Box 12, Folder 1	Birthday Cards, undated
Box 11, Folder 3	Easter
Box 12, Folder 12	Ethnic and Gender Stereotypes, undated
Box 11, Folder 4	Father's Day
Box 11, Folder 5	Get Well
Box 11, Folder 6	Jewish Holidays
Box 11, Folder 7	Military
Box 11, Folder 8	Mother's Day
Box 11, Folder 9	Thank You
Box 11, Folder 10	Valentine
Box 11, Folder 11	Envelopes

Box 11, Folder 12 Miscellaneous

Box 12, Folder 13 Miscellaneous, undated

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