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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Archives Center Poster Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0751
Date: 1910-2016
Extent: 120 Posters (14 map-folders)
Creator: Archives Center, NMAH, SI.
Language: English
Summary: An artificial collection of posters on various subjects, at present organized according to donor. Examples of contents include movie posters and propaganda posters.

Digital Content: Image(s): Archives Center Poster Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Ownership and Custodial History
This collection is a repository for miscellaneous posters from varied sources, including curatorial units, the public, and SI staff, which may be augmented periodically by new acquisitions. Donors include David Newsome, Nelse L. Greenway, and Verna Borup.

Processing Information
Collection processed by Craig Orr, archivist, and Franklin Robinson, Jr., 2002.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions on Access
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Biographical / Historical

Motion pictures have been exhibited in the United States since debuting at the Columbian Exposition in 1893. The public=s love affair with Athe movies@ has never waned. Beginning with silent films with simple plots the motion picture industry has grown into a multi-billion dollar industry where the small simple film costs millions of dollars and a great portion of a motion picture budget is designated for advertising. Movie posters have been an integral marketing tool for the motion picture from its inception. Movie posters attempt to capture the essence of the film in one clear defining image and image that will hopefully remain in the consumers mind. Early movie posters boasted original artwork with bright colors and bold lettering. Beginning in the 1950s, movie posters began to use actual photographs from the movie itself as the primary artwork for the movie poster. In the latter 20th century almost all movie posters were photographic in nature. With the expansion of motion pictures into the home video market from the early 1980s onward, movie posters became not only a marketing tool for the movie theatre but for the video store as well.

Scope and Contents

An artificial collection of posters on various subjects from various sources, including curatorial units, the public, and SI staff. Series one consists of miscellaneous posters, typically acquired one or two at a time. The remaining series contain posters acquired from individual sources, usually all relating to one topic. Detailed cataloging information for many of these posters can be found following this finding aid. This collection will be augmented periodically by new acquisitions.

Scope and Contents

The movie posters, all except two from the 1990s, represent a wide range of popular films, including both adult and children's films, live action and animated, and studio and independently made films.

Arrangement

Collections divided into four series.

Series 1: Miscellaneous Posters

Series 2: World War One Posters, 1917-1919

Series 3: Motion Pictures Posters, 1963-2016

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Film posters
- Propaganda

Types of Materials:
- Posters -- 20th century
- Posters -- Motion pictures -- 20th century
- Posters -- Soviet Union
Container Listing

Series 1: Miscellaneous Posters

Map-folder 4, Item 108A

To the Miner [poster], 1917
1 Folder (1 item)

Borup, Verna, Donor

Text on poster: “To the miner let me say he stands where the farmer does, the work of the world waits on him. If he slacks or fails statesmen are helpless. He also is enlisted in the great service army.”

Gift of Verna Borup. The donor found the poster in an abandoned cabin in the 1930s.

Local Numbers
2001.3021 (Nonacc. No.)

Topic: Miners -- 1890-1920
Mineral
World War, 1914-1918 -- Posters -- United States

Genre/Form: Posters -- World War, 1914-1918 -- United States

Map-folder 4, Item 108B

Cover letter for To the Miner poster, 1917

Map-folder 4, Item 109

[Emperor Hirohito, Japan] [poster], 1930s
1 Folder

Newsome, David, Donor
Newsome, Lisa, Donor

Poster of Japan's Emperor Hirohito, 1930s.

Local Numbers
2001.3059 (NMAH Acc.)

Names: Hirohito (Emperor of Japan)

Topic: Japan -- History -- 20th century

Genre/Form: Posters -- 20th century

Map-folder 4, Item 110


Map-folder 14, Item 111

[U.S. Treasury Department?] National Thrift Week - Save a Little - Watch it Grow, circa 1970s

Map-folder 4, Item 112

Unknown: Of all the things you'd love to hear him whisper in your ear Oops - the rubber broke isn't one of them, late 1990s
National Farm Strike [Poster], 1977 December 14, 1977
1 Item (poster)

Jefferson County. Office of American Agriculture (Louisville, Georgia), Sponsor

The Jefferson County (Georgia) Office of American Agriculture supported the American Agricultural Movement, which was organized to preserve the family farm system and to seek 100% parity for all agricultural products. The strike resulted when farmers' demands were not met by midnight, December 13, 1977. The strike subsided by March 1978 without the farmers accomplishing their goals.

Poster urging support of the National Farm Strike.

Found in the collection.

Local Numbers
2004.3002 (NMAH Acc.)

Topic:
Agriculture and politics
Agriculture and state -- Georgia
Strikes and lockouts

Genre/Form:
Political posters
Posters -- 1960-1980
Series 2: World War One Posters, 1917-1919, ca. 1917-1918

9 Folders (21 items)
Marygrove College, Donor
College in Detroit, Michigan.

Twenty-one World War One era posters. The posters encourage local support for the war effort. Many relate to the Cincinnati, Ohio War Chest Campaign.

Local Numbers
2001.3081 (NMAH Acc.)

Topic: World War, 1914-1918 -- Posters -- United States
Place: Cincinnati (Ohio)
Genre/Form: Posters -- World War, 1914-1918 -- United States

Map-folder 1, Item 1 Fourth Liberty Loan: AWe Clear the Way for Your Fighting Dollars, 1918
Map-folder 1, Item 2 U.S. Food Administration: Don't Stop saving Food, undated
Map-folder 1, Item 3 United War Work Campaign: AThe Spirit of War Camp Community Service, undated
Map-folder 1, Item 4 United War Work Campaign: ALend Your Strength to the Red Triangle, 1918
Map-folder 1, Item 5 Cincinnati War Chest: AFill It!, 1919
Map-folder 1, Item 6 Cincinnati War Chest: AGive for Your Soul's Sake, 1919
Map-folder 1, Item 7 Unknown: AStand by the President, undated
Map-folder 1, Item 8 Cincinnati War Chest: Give for Your Soul's Sake, 1919
Map-folder 1, Item 9 Cincinnati War Chest: Give! For Your Soul's Sake, 1919
Map-folder 1, Item 10 American Red Cross: Put Fighting Blood in Your Business, undated
Map-folder 1, Item 11 Unknown: Ko#ciuszko Pulawski walczyli o wolno#c w Ameryce, undated
Map-folder 2, Item 12 American Library Association: Yanks in Germany want more Books, undated
Map-folder 2, Item 13 Cincinnati War Chest: Be Merciful!, 1919
Map-folder 2, Item 14 Unknown: portrait of General John J. Pershing, undated
Map-folder 2, Item 15 Detroit Evening News Association: AThe President's Plea for a World Democracy, 1917
Map-folder 2, Item 16 Harry H. Hamm: AU.S. National Army Cantonment Camp Custer Battle Creek MI, undated
Map-folder 2, Item 17  American Library Association: American Library Association Library War Service, undated

Map-folder 2, Item 18  American Library Association: American Library Association Library War Service, undated

Map-folder 2, Item 19  American Library Association: "American Library Association Library War Service", undated

Map-folder 5, Item 20  United War Work Campaign: "Oh Boy! That's the Girl! The Salvation Army Lassie keep her on the Job", 1918

Map-folder 5, Item 21  Cincinnati War Chest: AFill the War Chest, 1919

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Series 3: Motion Pictures Posters, 1963-2016

Motion pictures have been exhibited in the United States since debuting at the Columbian Exposition in 1893. The public's love affair with the movies has never waned. Beginning with silent films with simple plots the motion picture industry has grown into a multi-billion dollar industry where the small simple film costs millions of dollars and a great portion of a motion picture budget is designated for advertising. Movie posters have been an integral marketing tool for the motion picture from its inception. Movie posters attempt to capture the essence of the film in one clear defining image and image that will hopefully remain in the consumers mind. Early movie posters boasted original artwork with bright colors and bold lettering. Beginning in the 1950s, movie posters began to use actual photographs from the movie itself as the primary artwork for the movie poster. In the latter 20th century almost all movie posters were photographic in nature. With the expansion of motion pictures into the home video market from the early 1980s onward, movie posters became not only a marketing tool for the movie theatre but for the video store as well.

This collection was collected from movie houses and video stores in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and with two exceptions, exclusively covers the decade of the 1990s. The collection contains movie posters from a wide range of motion pictures; animated, children's, adult, studio and independently made films and consists of full size, six-sheet posters with two small four-sheet size posters. The collection is arranged alphabetically by movie title.

Map-folder 3, Item 22     The Muppet Christmas Carol, 1992
Map-folder 3, Item 23     The Wizard of Oz re-issue, 1963
Map-folder 6, Item 24     The Addams Family, 1991
Image(s)
Map-folder 6, Item 25     Addams Family Values, 1993
Map-folder 6, Item 26     AFI's 100 Years 100 Movies, 1998
Map-folder 6, Item 27     Air Force One, 1997
Map-folder 6, Item 28     Amistad, 1997
Map-folder 6, Item 29     The Ballad of Sad Cafe, 1991
Map-folder 6, Item 30     The Belly of an Architect, 1987
Map-folder 6, Item 31     Bopha!, 1993
Map-folder 6, Item 32     Blue Sky, 1994
Map-folder 6, Item 33     The Bodyguard, 1992
Map-folder 7, Item 34     Bugsy, 1991
Map-folder 7, Item 35     Cape Fear, 1991
Map-folder 7, Item 36     Christopher Columbus, 1992
Map-folder 7, Item 37     Class Action, 1991
Map-folder 7, Item 38  Clueless, 1995
Map-folder 7, Item 39  Cold Comfort Farm, 1995
Map-folder 7, Item 40  Come See the Paradise, 1990
Map-folder 7, Item 41  Crimson Tide, 1995
Map-folder 7, Item 42  December, 1991
Map-folder 7, Item 43  Dennis the Menace, 1993
Map-folder 8, Item 44  Doc Hollywood, 1991
Map-folder 8, Item 45  Dolores Claiborne, 1995
Map-folder 8, Item 46  The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain, 1995
Map-folder 8, Item 47  Ethan Frome, 1993
Map-folder 8, Item 48  The Field, 1990
Map-folder 8, Item 49  First Knight, 1995
Map-folder 8, Item 50  The Flintstones, 1994
Map-folder 8, Item 51  Flubber, 1997
Map-folder 8, Item 52  Free Willy, 1993
Map-folder 9, Item 53  Grand Canyon, 1991
Map-folder 9, Item 54  Gypsy, 1993
Map-folder 9, Item 55  Heaven and Earth, 1987
Map-folder 9, Item 56  Hocus Pocus, 1993
Map-folder 9, Item 57  Hoodlum, 1997
Map-folder 9, Item 58  How to Make and American Quilt, 1995
Map-folder 9, Item 59  Howard's End, 1992
Map-folder 9, Item 60  Indecent Proposal, 1993
Map-folder 9, Item 61  In & Out, 1997
Map-folder 9, Item 62  Indian Summer, 1993
<p>| Map-folder 10, Item 63 | The Inner Circle, 1991 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 64 | I.Q., 1994 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 65-66 | Just Cause, 1995 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 67 | The Last of the Mohicans, 1992 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 68 | Losing Isaiah, 1995 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 69 | Love Affair, 1996 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 70 | Love Field, 1992 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 71 | M Butterfly, 1993 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 72 | Mac, 1992 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 73 | The Mambo Kings, 1992 |
| Map-folder 10, Item 74 | The Man in the Moon, 1991 |
| Map-folder 11, Item 75 | Man Trouble, 1992 |
| Map-folder 11, Item 76 | Maverick, 1994 |
| Map-folder 11, Item 77 | Much Ado About Nothing, 1993 |
| Map-folder 11, Item 78 | My Own Private Idaho, 1991 |
| Map-folder 11, Item 79 | Naked Gun 33 1/3 The Final Insult, 1994 |
| Map-folder 11, Item 80 | Noises Off, 1992 |
| Map-folder 11, Item 81 | Not Without My Daughter, 1991 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map-folder 11, Item 82</th>
<th>Outbreak, 1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 11, Item 83</td>
<td>The Paper, 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 11, Item 84</td>
<td>Passion Fish, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 12, Item 85</td>
<td>A Perfect World, 1993</td>
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<td>Map-folder 12, Item 86</td>
<td>Rambling Rose, 1991</td>
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<td>Map-folder 12, Item 87</td>
<td>Regarding Henry, 1991</td>
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<td>Map-folder 12, Item 88</td>
<td>Robin Hood Men in Tights, 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 12, Item 89</td>
<td>Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 12, Item 90</td>
<td>Roommates, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 12, Item 91</td>
<td>The Rugrats Movie, 1998</td>
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<td>Map-folder 12, Item 92</td>
<td>Sabrina, 1995</td>
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<td>Map-folder 12, Item 93</td>
<td>Safe Passage, 1994</td>
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<td>Map-folder 12, Item 94</td>
<td>Separate But Equal, 1991</td>
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<td>Map-folder 13, Item 95</td>
<td>Soapdish, 1991</td>
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<td>Map-folder 13, Item 96</td>
<td>Sommersby, 1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 97</td>
<td>Star Trek: Generations, 1994</td>
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<td>Map-folder 13, Item 98</td>
<td>Strictly Ballroom, 1992</td>
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<td>Map-folder 13, Item 99</td>
<td>This Boy's Life, 1993</td>
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<td>Map-folder 13, Item 100</td>
<td>Thumbelina, 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 101</td>
<td>Trial by Jury, 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 102</td>
<td>Tom and Viv, 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 103</td>
<td>Waterworld, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 104</td>
<td>What's Eating Gilbert Grape, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 105</td>
<td>What's Love Got to Do With It, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 106</td>
<td>A Woman Under the Influence, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-folder 13, Item 107</td>
<td>Wyatt Earp, 1994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Series 4: Soviet Political Posters, 1959-1960

1 Folder (5 items)

Greenway, Nelse L., Donor
Smithsonian Institution volunteer.

Includes items 113 to 117.

Five Soviet political posters.

The posters were given to the donor by an official of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Local Numbers

2001.3052 (Nonacc. No.)

Topic: Propaganda, Soviet
Soviet Union -- 1950-1960

Genre/Form: Posters -- 20th century

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