



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Archives Center Poster Collection

NMAH.AC.0751

Craig Orr

2002

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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

Collection donated by Nelse L. Greenway, July 6, 2001, and Martha Rosen, May 29, 2002.

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

Archives Center Poster Collection, 1910s-2001, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment.

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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 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 consumer's 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

Series 4: Soviet Propaganda Posters, 1959-1960

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
 Mining
 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 Travelers Insurance Company: Lift Safely - Safety Makes a Hard Job Easier, 1950s-1960s
- 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

Map-folder 4, Item
112

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

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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: AEnd 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: AAmerican Library Association Library War Service, undated
- Map-folder 2, Item 18 American Library Association: AAmerican 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
[Image\(s\)](#)

- Map-folder 6, Item 24 The Addams Family, 1991

- 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
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 4, Item 108	Love & Friendship, 2016
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
Map-folder 11, Item 82	Outbreak, 1995
Map-folder 11, Item 83	The Paper, 1994
Map-folder 11, Item 84	Passion Fish, 1992
Map-folder 12, Item 85	A Perfect World, 1993
Map-folder 12, Item 86	Rambling Rose, 1991
Map-folder 12, Item 87	Regarding Henry, 1991
Map-folder 12, Item 88	Robin Hood Men in Tights, 1991
Map-folder 12, Item 89	Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, 1991

Map-folder 12, Item 90	Roommates, 2001
Map-folder 12, Item 91	The Rugrats Movie, 1998
Map-folder 12, Item 92	Sabrina, 1995
Map-folder 12, Item 93	Safe Passage, 1994
Map-folder 12, Item 94	Separate But Equal, 1991
Map-folder 13, Item 95	Soapdish, 1991
Map-folder 13, Item 96	Sommersby, 1993
Map-folder 13, Item 97	Star Trek: Generations, 1994
Map-folder 13, Item 98	Strictly Ballroom, 1992
Map-folder 13, Item 99	This Boy's Life, 1993
Map-folder 13, Item 100	Thumbelina, 1994
Map-folder 13, Item 101	Trial by Jury, 1994
Map-folder 13, Item 102	Tom and Viv, 1994
Map-folder 13, Item 103	Waterworld, 1995
Map-folder 13, Item 104	What's Eating Gilbert Grape, 1993
Map-folder 13, Item 105	What's Love Got to Do With It, 1993

Map-folder 13, Item 106 A Woman Under the Influence, 1974

Map-folder 13, Item 107 Wyatt Earp, 1994

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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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