



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Archives Center Poster Collection

NMAH.AC.0751

Craig Orr, updated by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., 2022

2002, revised 2022

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## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Archives Center Poster Collection  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1917-1998, undated   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0751   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 120 Posters (14 map-folders)   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | An artificial collection of posters on various subjects, at present organized according to donor and/or subject. Examples of contents include motion picture posters and propaganda posters. |

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## 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 A. Robinson, Jr., archivist, 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 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.

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## 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 is augmented periodically by new acquisitions.

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Miscellaneous Posters, 1917-1990, undated

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Map-folder 4, Item<br>108A | <p>To the Miner [poster], 1917<br/>1 Folder (1 item)</p> <p>Donor: Borup, Verna</p> <p>Notes: 2001.3021 (Nonacc. No.)</p> <p>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."</p> <p>Gift of Verna Borup. The donor found the poster in an abandoned cabin in the 1930s.</p> <p>Topic: World War, 1914-1918 -- Posters -- United States<br/>Mining<br/>Miners -- 1890-1920</p> <p>Genre/Form: Posters -- World War, 1914-1918 -- United States</p> |
| Map-folder 4, Item<br>108B | Cover letter for To the Miner poster, 1917  |
| Map-folder 4, Item<br>109  | <p>[Emperor Hirohito, Japan] [poster], 1930s<br/>1 Folder</p> <p>Donor: Newsome, David<br/>Newsome, Lisa</p> <p>Notes: 2001.3059 (NMAH Acc.)</p> <p>Poster of Japan's Emperor Hirohito, 1930s.</p> <p>Names: Hirohito (Emperor of Japan)</p> <p>Topic: Japan -- History -- 20th century</p> <p>Genre/Form: Posters -- 20th century</p>  |
| Map-folder 4, Item<br>110  | Travelers Insurance Company: Lift Safely - Safety Makes a Hard Job Easier, 1950s-1960s  |
| Map-folder 14, Item<br>111 | [U.S. Treasury Department?]: National Thrift Week - Save a Little - Watch it Grow, circa 1970s  |
| Map-folder 4, Item<br>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<br>112  | <p>National Farm Strike [Poster], 1977 December 14, 1977<br/>1 Item (poster)</p> <p>Sponsor: Jefferson County. Office of American Agriculture (Louisville, Georgia)</p> <p>Notes: 2004.3002 (NMAH Acc.)</p> <p>Poster urging support of the National Farm Strike.</p>   |

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.

Found in the collection.

Topic: Agriculture and state -- Georgia  
Agriculture and politics  
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)

Donor: Marygrove College  
 Local: 2001.3081 (NMAH Acc.)  
 Numbers:  
 Scope and Contents: 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.  
 Biographical / Historical: College in Detroit, Michigan.  
 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<br>15 | Detroit Evening News Association: AThe President's Plea for a World<br>Democracy, 1917                      |
| Map-folder 2, Item<br>16 | Harry H. Hamm: AU.S. National Army Cantonment Camp Custer Battle Creek<br>MI, undated                       |
| Map-folder 2, Item<br>17 | American Library Association: AAmerican Library Association Library War<br>Service, undated                 |
| Map-folder 2, Item<br>18 | American Library Association: AAmerican Library Association Library War<br>Service, undated                 |
| Map-folder 2, Item<br>19 | American Library Association: "American Library Association Library War<br>Service", undated                |
| Map-folder 5, Item<br>20 | United War Work Campaign: "Oh Boy! That's the Girl! The Salvation Army<br>Lassie keep her on the Job", 1918 |
| Map-folder 5, Item<br>21 | Cincinnati War Chest: AFill the War Chest, 1919   |

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## Series 3: Motion Picture Posters, 1963-1998

*107 items in 9 folders Items*

Creator: Rosen, Martha

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 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.

Donor did not want to have her name in collection title so the donation was added into this artificial collection.

Scope and Contents: This collection was collected from movie theaters and video stores in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and with few 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 motion picture title.

Acquisition Information: Donated to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution by Martha Rosen, 2001.

Processing Information: Processed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archivist, June 2002.

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

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<br>29 | The Ballad of Sad Cafe, 1991    |
| Map-folder 6, Item<br>30 | The Belly of an Architect, 1987 |
| Map-folder 6, Item<br>31 | Bopha!, 1993                    |
| Map-folder 6, Item<br>32 | Blue Sky, 1994                  |
| Map-folder 6, Item<br>33 | The Bodyguard, 1992             |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>34 | Bugsy, 1991                     |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>35 | Cape Fear, 1991                 |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>36 | Christopher Columbus, 1992      |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>37 | Class Action, 1991              |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>38 | Clueless, 1995                  |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>39 | Cold Comfort Farm, 1995         |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>40 | Come See the Paradise, 1990     |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>41 | Crimson Tide, 1995              |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>42 | December, 1991                  |
| Map-folder 7, Item<br>43 | Dennis the Menace, 1993         |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>44 | Doc Hollywood, 1991             |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>45 | Dolores Claiborne, 1995         |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>46 | The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain, 1995 |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>47 | Ethan Frome, 1993  |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>48 | The Field, 1990  |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>49 | First Knight, 1995   |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>50 | The Flintstones, 1994  |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>51 | Flubber, 1997  |
| Map-folder 8, Item<br>52 | Free Willy, 1993   |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>53 | Grand Canyon, 1991   |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>54 | Gypsy, 1993  |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>55 | Heaven and Earth, 1987   |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>56 | Hocus Pocus, 1993  |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>57 | Hoodlum, 1997  |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>58 | How to Make and American Quilt, 1995                             |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>59 | Howard's End, 1992   |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>60 | Indecent Proposal, 1993  |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>61 | In & Out, 1997   |
| Map-folder 9, Item<br>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<br>80 | Noises Off, 1992                   |
| Map-folder 11, Item<br>81 | Not Without My Daughter, 1991      |
| Map-folder 11, Item<br>82 | Outbreak, 1995                     |
| Map-folder 11, Item<br>83 | The Paper, 1994                    |
| Map-folder 11, Item<br>84 | Passion Fish, 1992                 |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>85 | A Perfect World, 1993              |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>86 | Rambling Rose, 1991                |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>87 | Regarding Henry, 1991              |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>88 | Robin Hood Men in Tights, 1991     |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>89 | Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, 1991 |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>90 | Roommates, 2001                    |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>91 | The Rugrats Movie, 1998            |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>92 | Sabrina, 1995                      |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>93 | Safe Passage, 1994                 |
| Map-folder 12, Item<br>94 | Separate But Equal, 1991           |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>95 | Soapdish, 1991                     |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>96 | Sommersby, 1993                    |

|                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>97  | Star Trek: Generations, 1994        |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>98  | Strictly Ballroom, 1992             |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>99  | This Boy's Life, 1993               |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>100 | Thumbelina, 1994                    |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>101 | Trial by Jury, 1994                 |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>102 | Tom and Viv, 1994                   |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>103 | Waterworld, 1995                    |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>104 | What's Eating Gilbert Grape, 1993   |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>105 | What's Love Got to Do With It, 1993 |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>106 | A Woman Under the Influence, 1974   |
| Map-folder 13, Item<br>107 | Wyatt Earp, 1994                    |

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## Series 4: Soviet Political Posters, 1959-1960

### *1 Folder (5 items)*

Donor: Greenway, Nelse L.  
Scope and Includes items 113 to 117.  
Contents: Five Soviet political posters.  
Local 2001.3052 (Nonacc. No.)  
Numbers:  
Biographical / Smithsonian Institution volunteer.  
Historical:  
Provenance: The posters were given to the donor by an official of the U.S. Department of Defense.  
Topic: Soviet Union -- 1950-1960  
Propaganda, Soviet  
Genre/Form: Posters -- 20th century

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