



Smithsonian

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

## Guide to the Merrie Spaeth Collection of Davy Crockett Trading Cards

NMAH.AC.0873

Catherine Keen

2004

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Merrie Spaeth Collection of Davy Crockett Trading Cards
<b>Date:</b>	1956.
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0873
<b>Creator:</b>	Spaeth, Merrie (Donor) Topps (Publisher)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 Cubic feet (1 box)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Merrie Spaeth in 2004.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Catherine Keen, December 2004.

### Preferred Citation

Merrie Spaeth Collection of Davy Crockett Trading Cards, 1956, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at [archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu) or 202-633-3270.

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## Biographical / Historical

Topps Chewing Gum Company issued the "Davy Crockett" trading card series in 1956, after the extremely popular Disney film starring Fess Parker had been released. The film was so popular that coonskin caps and other memorabilia from the film, such as lunch boxes, were in high demand. The first series (the orange backed cards) were extremely popular but desire for them quickly waned, apparently (according to Price Guide to the Non-Sports Cards, 1930-1960) because the sorting in the packages enabled too easy an accumulation of the full set. As an attempt to solve this problem, later that year, the green backed series was issued, and inexplicably, the cards were numbered 1-80, just as the first set had been, only with the letter "A" added. The second series was far less popular than the first. This collection includes a full set of both series.

## Scope and Contents

One hundred sixty (160) cards, with color photographs of scenes from the Disney film "Davy Crockett" on one side, and a number, title, (such as "Bowie's Last Stand"), and a synopsis of the scene on the other side. The collection is divided into two series, the first series being the orange backed cards, which were issued first, and Series two consists of the green-backed cards, issued later.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series.

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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:

- Collectibles
- Collectors and collecting
- Motion pictures
- Popular culture

Types of Materials:

- Collecting cards

Names:

- Crockett, Davy, 1786-1836
- Parker, Fess

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## Container Listing

Series 1: Card numbers 1 - 80

*Box 1*

[Image\(s\)](#)

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## Series 2: Card numbers 1A – 80A

*Box 1*

[Image\(s\)](#)

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