



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Preliminary Guide to the Archives
Center Poster Stamp Collection

NMAH.AC.1125

NMAH Staff

2011

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: Poster Stamps, circa 1890s-1960s.....	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Archives Center Poster Stamp Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1125
Date:	circa 1890s-1960s
Extent:	3 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
Creator:	Hoffman, John Nathan, 1923-1982
Language:	English
	Collection is in English. Some materials in Afrikaans, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, and Slovak.
Summary:	The collection consists of poster stamps (non-denominated stamp-sized miniature posters) advertising or commemorating a large variety of places, events, products, causes, and miscellaneous other subjects, including many international subjects. Some of the stamps are in albums or album sleeves.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by John Hoffman to National Museum of American History, Division of Work and Industry, Collection of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1982.

Provenance

The poster stamps were assembled by former National Museum of American History curator John N. Hoffman. The poster stamps were originally part of the Hoffmania Collection (AC0062) and were removed from the Hoffmania Collection to form the Archives Center Poster Stamp Collection (AC1125) on June 30, 2011.

Processing Information

Preliminary processing by Alison Oswald, archivist, July 2011.

Preferred Citation

Archives Center Poster Stamp Collection, circa 1890s-1960s, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

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.

Biographical / Historical

The stamps were first issued in Europe in the early nineteenth century to promote events such as fairs and expositions, or to advertise products. Their popularity increased and reached its peak in the 1920s and 1930s. Collectors saved them in special albums designed for collecting poster stamps.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of small, loose poster stamps (non-denominated stamp-sized miniature posters) advertising or commemorating a huge variety of places, events (particularly expositions and fairs), products, causes, and miscellaneous other subjects (e.g. sports), including many international subjects. Some of the stamps are in albums or album sleeves which have been maintained.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged alphabetically.

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

Types of Materials:

- Albums
- Poster stamps
- Stickers

Container Listing

Series 1: Poster Stamps, circa 1890s-1960s

Box 1	"A"
Box 1	Alberta (Winnipeg)
Box 1	America
Box 1	America (scenes)
Box 1	American Bible
Box 1	American Concrete Institute
Box 1	American Kidney Foundation
Box 1	AmVets
Box 1	Art
Box 1	"B,"
Box 1	Blindness
Box 1	Boats
Box 1	Books
Box 1	Boys Farm
Box 1	British Empire
	Brockton National Bank
Box 1	Buffalo Industrial Show
Box 1	Buildings
Box 1	"C"

Box 1	Carolinas
Box 1	Chicago Water Front
Box 1	Christmas, , undated
Box 1	Christmas, , 1966
Box 1	Christmas Seals, , 1912-1972
Box 1	Christmas Seals, , 1916-1980
Box 1	Clean up, Paint up, Fix up
Box 1	College banners
Box 1	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Box 1	Conservative Caucus, Inc.
Box 1	Crippled Children
Box 1	Delaware (Wilmington)
Box 1	Depauw
Box 1	Discount Coupons
Box 1	"E"
Box 1	Engineering Exhibition
Box 1	Epilepsy Foundation
Box 1	Expositions
Box 1	"F"
Box 1	Food and drink
Box 1	Foreign--unsorted, undated
Box 1	Golden Rule League

Box 1	Handi-Shop
Box 1	Highland Linen writing paper
Box 1	Illinois (Peoria)
Box 1	Indian (French Lick) (Pluto Water)
Box 1	Jewelry
Box 1	"L"
Box 1	"M" (machinery)
Box 1	Massachusetts (Worcester)
Box 1	Missouri
Box 1	"N"
Box 1	National Asthma Center
Box 1	National Wildlife
Box 1	New Jersey (Newark)
Box 1	New York (views)
Box 1	Nip and Tuck Club (animal stamps)
Box 1	Oregon (Eugene)
Box 1	Oregon (Portland)
Box 1	"P"
Box 1	Peace
Box 1	Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
Box 1	Philately,

Box 1	Politics
Box 1	"R"
Box 1	Red Cross
Box 1	Rubber Gloves (Miller)
Box 1	"S"
Box 1	Seals
Box 1	Sight Conservation Committee
Box 1	Sports
Box 1	St. Christopher's Inn
Box 1	St. Jude's Children
Box 1	"T"
Box 1	Tennessee (Memphis)
Box 1	Texas (Galveston)
Box 1	Textiles
Box 1	[Travel?]
Box 2	United Airlines
Box 2	[Valentines?]
Box 2	Vermont
Box 2	Virginia
Box 2	"W" (women/war)
Box 2	Whale of the month
Box 2	X-ray

Box 2	Yes/No and thank you/no thank you
Box 1	Scrapbook (various poster stamps), , undated
Box 2	Scrapbook (various poster stamps)
Box 3, Folder 1	Scrapbook pages--primarily sports, undated
Box 3, Folder 2-3	Scrapbook pages--World's fairs/expositions, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Fairs/Pan American Exposition
Box 3, Folder 5	Scrapbook pages--miscellaneous subjects, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	[Scrapbook pages--loose?], undated
Box 4, Folder 1-3	Foreign, , undated
Box 4, Folder 4	France, , undated
Box 5, Folder 1	Scrapbook pages loose--foreign, , undated
Box 5, Folder 2	Scrapbook pages--foreign, , undated
Box 5, Folder 3-5	Scrapbook pages--various subjects, , undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)