



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Beatrice Morgan
Steyskal Greeting Card Collection

NMAH.AC.1198

Anne Jones

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Beatrice Morgan Steyskal Greeting Card Collection
Date:	circa 1955-1985
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1198
Creator:	Steyskal, Beatrice Morgan (Creator)
Extent:	2 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection consists of greeting cards with machine woven and handwoven fabric inserts. Also included among the materials are machine woven fabric bookmarks.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives Center by Verna Suit in May 2010.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Anne Jones, 2012.

Preferred Citation

Beatrice Morgan Steyskal Greeting Card Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Biographical / Historical

Beatrice Morgan Steyskal, a resident of Grosse Ile, Michigan, began collecting greeting cards with decorative silk jacquard inserts in the 1950s. The cards were designed for holidays, birthdays and other occasions and featured a wide variety of pictorial subjects and greetings woven in considerable detail. Steyskal and her family exchanged the cards on important occasions, while other cards were collected without being used. Most of the cards in the collection were created by companies such as Hallmark, American Greetings, Gibson, Ambassador, and Laurel.

A weaver herself, Mrs. Steyskal collected cards featuring inserts of handwoven fabric sent to her by other weavers, as well as a few of her own creation. In addition, she collected samples of woven bookmarks and cards featuring woven bookmarks. Many of these materials were made by the Quality Weaving Company of Philadelphia. After Mrs. Steyskal's death in 1990, the collection was given to Verna Suit by Mrs. Steyskal's husband George.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of commercially produced greeting cards, handmade greeting cards, and woven bookmarks. It also contains a scrapbook and several personal items related to weaving, a few letters, and a photo-copied article about weaving.

Series 1, Commercial Greeting Cards, circa 1958-1970; undated, features die-cut windows with small pictures or designs woven on silk or similar fabric. The cards are arranged in alphabetical order by occasion and by size, beginning with the largest. The dated cards are placed first in each group, followed by the undated cards. The Christmas cards are further divided alphabetically by subject.

Series 2, Cards Created by Handweavers, circa 1955-1981; undated, includes samples with fabric placed in a cut-out shape within the design of a manufactured card. There are also cards that are entirely handmade. In addition, there is a scrapbook that consists primarily of handmade cards created by handweavers.

Series 3, Quality Weaving Company, 1959; undated, consists primarily of materials created by this Philadelphia company. There are some woven bookmarks which closely resemble that of the inserts used in the greeting cards. Also included are letters from the company to Mrs. Steyskal. Sample stock cards and custom designs for woven bookmarks are included among these materials.

Series 4, Related Materials, 1961-1995; undated, includes an article about Christmas cards with handwoven inserts and a directory for the Michigan League of Handweavers. There are also a few cloth and paper bookmarks from unknown makers.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series.

Series 1, Commercial Greeting Cards, circa 1958-1970; undated

Series 2, Cards Created by Handweavers, circa 1955-1981; undated

Series 3, Quality Weaving Company Materials, 1959; undated

Series 4, Related Materials, 1961-1995; undated

Container Listing

Series 1: Commercial Greeting Cards, circa 1958-1970; undated

Box 3, Folder 7	Anniversary, 1958, 1963-1965
Box 3, Folder 1	Birthday, 1958-1968
Box 3, Folder 2	Birthday, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Christmas, 1958-1962
Box 1, Folder 2	Christmas, 1963-1970
Box 1, Folder 3	Christmas, [angels, bells, birds, candles], undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Christmas, [Christmas trees], undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Christmas, [holiday greetings, holly], undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Christmas, [musical instruments, Nativity scenes, ornaments, poinsettias], undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Christmas, [Santa Claus, snowflake, stagecoach], undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Easter, 1959-1967
Box 1	Easter, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Father's Day, 1958-1967
Box 3, Folder 6	Father's Day, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Graduation, 1964; undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Mother's Day, 1962-1970
Box 3, Folder 4	Mother's Day, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Religious, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Thanksgiving Day, 1966; undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Valentine, 1958-1968

Box 2

Valentine, undated

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Series 2: Cards Created by Handweavers, circa 1955-1981; undated

Box 4, Folder 1	Cards with handwoven inserts, 1958, 1962, 1969, 1970
Box 4, Folder 41675	Cards with handwoven inserts, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	Handmade cards with handwoven fabric inserts, 1970, 1981; undated
Box 5	Scrapbook of cards with handwoven fabric, 1955, 1959, 1961, 1972, 1979; undated
Box 4, Folder 7	Embroidered cards, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Handmade paper cards with pressed plant materials, 1979; undated
Box 4, Folder 9	Cards featuring illustrations of weaving, 1960; undated
Box 4	Card with illustration on silk insert, undated
Box 4	Card fragments, undated
Box 6	Embroidered cloth panel "Guild Greetings Christmas 1958" with sixteen embroidered signatures and decoration and appliquéd fabric elements

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Series 3: Quality Weaving Company Materials, 1959; undated

Box 4, Folder 12	Letters to Beatrice Steyskal, 1959 July 2
Box 4, Folder 13	Woven bookmarks, undated
Box 4, Folder 14	Christmas cards with woven bookmarks, undated
Box 4, Folder 15	Sample stock cards and custom designs for woven bookmarks, undated

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4: Related Materials, 1961-1995; undated

Box 4, Folder 11	Directory, Michigan League of Handweavers, 1961
Box 4, Folder 10	"Christmas Cards", Handweaver and Craftsman Magazine, 1964 Spring
Box 4, Folder 16	Bookmarks, fabric and paper, 1994-1995; undated