



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Dick Price Collection of Ice Show and Skating Memorabilia

NMAH.AC.1206

Alison Oswald.

2012

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	3
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Personal Materials, 1936 - 1999.....	4
Series 2: Programs, 1945 - 2002.....	6
Series 3: Photographs and Scrapbook, 1940s-1990s.....	7

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Dick Price Collection of Ice Show and Skating Memorabilia
Date:	1936-2002 (bulk 1950-1958)
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1206
Creator:	Price, Dick (Donor)
Extent:	3 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
Language:	Collection is in English. Some materials in French, German, and Spanish.
Summary:	The collection documents the life and career of ice skater Dick Price, with emphasis on the 1940s and 1950s, when he was in the prime of his career performing ice shows throughout Europe. Included are photograph albums, letters, most sent from Europe by Price to his parents describing performances and his travel adventures; programs from various ice shows; personal financial records; school report cards, and work-related permits, contracts, and insurance.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Andrea Stevens on June 17, 2010.

Processing Information

Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2012.

Preferred Citation

Dick Price Collection of Ice Show and Skating Memorabilia, 1937-1999, (bulk 1950-1958), Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

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.

The rights to the published programs remain with the publishers.

Accruals

Additional materials (.15 cubic feet) was received in 2012 from Andrea Stevens.

Biographical / Historical

Richard "Dick" S. Price was born on March 27, 1928 to Mary Schweitzer Price and Alfred Price. He had one brother, Robert Ira Price. He was raised in the New York City area and attended local schools (Columbia Grammar, Junior High School 165, Pratt Institute, and Parsons School of Design) as well as a brief period at the Admiral Farragut Academy, a boarding school in New Jersey. Price took skating lessons at Lake Placid, New York, circa 1934 and dance lessons in New York City as a young boy. According to Price's "memoirs" he was hired as a replacement skater for the *Hollywood Ice Revue* (regular skaters went on strike) and he convinced his father to sign the contract since he was underage. Price enlisted in the United States Coast Guard on March 19, 1946. He was a Seaman second class and served on the *Cutter Pequot*. Price was dishonorably discharged on October 17, 1946.

Price's first skating performances were with Sonja Henie's ice show company in 1947. He later performed with other companies such as *Holiday on Ice* and *Ice Vogues*. His ice skating career took off and by 1948, he was known as the "Bombshell of the Ice." Later in life he produced Las Vegas-style nightclub shows, and he translated and presented many significant Broadway musicals in the German theatre. Price died on June 5, 2005, in a senior care facility in Mondsee, Austria.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the life and career of ice skater Dick Price, with emphasis on the 1940s and 1950s, when he was in the prime of his career and performing ice shows throughout Europe. Included are several photograph albums featuring portraits and action shots of Price and other skaters, some autographed, highlights of his travels, his friends and family. Also included is a scrapbook containing clippings and other printed materials; letters most sent from Europe by Price to his parents describing performances and his travel adventures; printed materials, especially programs from the various ice shows; personal financial records; school report cards, and work-related permits, contracts and insurance.

Series 1, Personal Materials, 1936-1999, consists of school report cards, personal financial materials (blank checks and passbook), work-related permits, contracts, membership cards and insurance, ephemera, newspaper clippings, publications, and correspondence. The correspondence constitutes the bulk of the material and consists of handwritten and typescript letters, with some postcards, telegrams, and radio grams, written by Richard "Dick" Price to his parents, Alfred and Mary Price of New York City. Some materials are written by Mary Price and Virginia and Bob Price, sister-in-law and brother to Dick Price. Other materials in this series are addressed to Peter Haener, a friend, particularly Christmas cards from the 1990s. Price describes his ice skating performances, friendships (especially with a woman named Kim), and travels throughout Europe. Additional materials include hotel and air cargo invoices. A series of Trans World Airlines certificates issued to Mary Price, Dick Price's mother, document her travels across the Atlantic Ocean from 1953-1956. The Hawaii materials (maps, postcards, and menus) relate to a trip Price took in July 1948. Price is listed as a passenger on the *S.S. Lurline*.

Series 2, Programs, 1945-2002, consists of color programs and brochures for ice skating shows Price appeared in or attended. Some of the programs are autographed. Price appears on the cover of *Garmisch This Week*, 1955, a publication of the United States Army Leave and Rest Center. There are several programs for *Holiday in Garmisch/Ice Revue* for the Casa Carioca, a night club built by General George S. Patton. The club was located at the U.S. Army base in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and operated from 1945-1970. The club was an important venue for professional ice skaters. The programs are arranged alphabetically by the name of the ice skating show and then chronologically. Other programs include musical and theatrical productions that Price organized and/or produced in Austria. All of these programs are in German.

Series 3, Photographs and Scrapbook, 1940s-1990s, consists of black-and-white and color prints both in albums and loose. The majority of the photographs are black-and-white. They document Price's professional

ice skating career primarily in Europe and depict both images of Price and other skaters performing. Leisure time sight-seeing and touring throughout Europe is well-documented. Many of the photographs are unidentified. The photographs are arranged chronologically. There is one scrapbook, 1948-1953, which consists of postcards, ice skating programs, newspaper and magazine articles, telegrams, Christmas cards, and hotel ephemera documenting Price's ice skating career primarily in the United States.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1, Personal Materials, 1936-1999

Series 2, Programs, 1945-2002

Series 3, Photographs and Scrapbooks, circa 1940s-1990s

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs, negatives, and slides.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Figure skaters
- Ice skaters
- Ice skating

Types of Materials:

- Financial records -- 20th century
- Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.
- Photograph albums -- 20th century
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Programs -- 20th century
- Report cards
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century

Names:

- Henie, Sonja, 1912-1969

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Materials, 1936 - 1999

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume, undated
Box 1, Folder 1A	United States Navy, Coast Guard (notice of separation), 1946 October 17
Box 1, Folder 2	Report cards, 1936 - 1945
Box 1, Folder 3	Admiral Farragut Academy regulations and application, 1943
Box 1, Folder 4	Banking
Box 1, Folder 5	Membership cards, work permit, 1952 - 1953
Box 1, Folder 6	Unemployment insurance (Restricted), 1948
Box 1, Folder 7	Work contract, 1957 - 1958
Box 1, Folder 8	Airline travel documents, 1958 - 1959
Box 1, Folder 9	Trans World Airlines (certificates of flight), 1953 - 1956
Box 1, Folder 10	Hawaii materials, 1948
Box 1, Folder 11	Ephemera
Box 3, Folder 13	Publications, 1949, 1944
Box 1, Folder 11A	Newspaper clippings, 1954, 1990, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1945 - 1949
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1950 - 1952
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1953 - 1954
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1955 January-1955 March
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1955 April-1955 August (not inclusive)
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1955 September-1955 December
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1956

Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1958 - 1959
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1973
Box 2, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1994 - 1995
Box 2, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1996 - 1997
Box 2, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1998 - 1999
Box 2, Folder 8	Correspondence, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Programs, 1945 - 2002

Box 2, Folder 9	Alcazar de Paris, 1993
Box 2, Folder 10	Dick Button's Ice-Travaganza (New York World's Fair), 1964 - 1965
Box 2, Folder 11	Dido, 1951 - 1953
Box 2, Folder 12	Garmisch This Week, 1955 February
Box 2, Folder 13	Garmisch This Week, 1955 June
Box 2, Folder 14	Gilbert and Sullivan operas, 1956
Box 2, Folder 15	Holiday in Garmisch (Casa Carioca), undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Holiday on Ice, 1948 - 1957
Box 3, Folder 2	Holiday on Ice, 1991
Box 3, Folder 3	Hollywood Ice Revue, 1954
Box 3, Folder 4	Ice Adventures (at Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans), 1949
Box 3, Folder 5	Ice Capades, 1947 - 1950
Box 3, Folder 6	Ice Follies, 1945 - 1951
Box 3, Folder 7	IceTime (Rockefeller Center), circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 8	Ice Vogues, 1948 - 1949
Box 3, Folder 9	Im Land der Traume (In the Land of Dreams), circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 10	Skating Club of Lake Placid, 1947
Box 3, Folder 11	Vive Les Girls!, circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 12	Sonja Henie Hollywood Ice Revue, 1945 - 1951
Box 3, Folder 12A	Programs for musical productions (in German), 1972 - 2002

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Photographs and Scrapbook, 1940s-1990s

Box 5, Folder 1-12	Album (Ice skating performances), 1947 - 1950
Box 6, Folder 1-9	Album (United States and Cuba), 1947 - 1951
Box 7, Folder 2	Album (Germany and Canada?), [1948?]
Box 7, Folder 1; Box 4, Folder 1	Album (France, Germany, Spain), circa 1950s
Box 4, Folder 2; Box 8, Folder 1	Album (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands), circa 1950s
Box 8, Folder 2; Box 4, Folder 3	Album ("My Time, My Friends"), 1955 - 1956
Box 4, Folder 4	Miscellaneous loose photographs, circa 1940s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 13-17	Scrapbook, 1948 - 1953

[Return to Table of Contents](#)