



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Martin J. Weber Graphic Arts Collection

NMAH.AC.1209

Holly Nelson

2016

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Martin J. Weber Graphic Arts Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1209
Date:	1931-1980
Extent:	0.75 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Creator:	Weber, Carl Weber, Martin J., 1905-2007
Language:	English
Summary:	This collection features business documents, legal papers, and examples of prints from Martin J. Weber, who pioneered the "Weber Process."

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives Center by Martin J. Weber's son, Carl Weber, 2011.

Processing Information

Collection was processed by Holly Nelson, intern, 2016.

Preferred Citation

Martin J. Weber Graphic Arts Collection, 1931-1971, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

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.

Biographical / Historical

Martin J. Weber was born in 1905 and worked as a graphic artist, inventor and typographer in the commercial art industry into his eighties. He died in 2007 at the age of 102.

Weber invented and patented the Weber Process in 1942, which utilized a photomechanical apparatus that altered images and text photographically to give pattern, texture, and shadow. Also known as Posterization, the process gave two-dimensional surfaces the "illusion of being reproduced in three dimensions" by printing multiple layers offset from one another. Weber helped to define the look of mid-twentieth century American advertising art, offering a "low-cost way of simulating multiple color reproduction." The process revolutionized lithography, screen printing, and standard printing, and later influenced computer typography.

Sources

Heller, Steven. "Martin Weber in the Third Dimension." Design Observer. June 19, 2007. Accessed August 03, 2016. <http://designobserver.com/article.php?id=5657>.

Scope and Contents

This collection documents the Weber Process for printing that made images on paper appear more three dimensional, as well as the photomechanical apparatus Weber developed to implement it . The collection contains patent documents, contracts and business papers, correspondence, design drawings, advertisements for the Weber Process and for his studio, and a paper he delivered to the American Photo Engravers Association. It also contains numerous samples of Weber's work, including magazines covers and advertisements, annual reports from companies featuring images enhanced by Weber, brochures, and other printed material.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into nine series.

Series 1: Articles, 1931-1971

Series 2: Awards, 1931-1971

Series 3: Business Documents, 1931-1971

Series 4: Correspondence, 1931-1971

Series 5: Legal Documents, 1931-1971

Series 6: Prints, 1931-1980

Series 7: Weber Process Documents, 1931-1971

Series 8: Photographs, 1931-1971

Series 9: Large Prints, 1931-1971

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Graphic artists
- Graphic arts
- Inventors
- Printing
- Printing machinery and supplies

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements -- 20th century
- Annual reports -- 20th century
- Business records
- Contracts
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Design drawings
- Magazines (periodicals) -- 20th century
- Patents

Container Listing

Series 1: Articles, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 1 Articles, 1931-1971

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Series 2: Awards, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 2

Awards, 1931-1971

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Series 3: Business Documents, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 3 Office Documents, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 4 Financial Papers, 1931-1971

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Series 4: Correspondence, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 5 American Optical Company, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 6 Miscellaneous, 1931-1971

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Series 5: Legal Documents, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 7	Contracts, 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 8	Patents, 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 9	Photomechanical Apparatus Patent, 1931-1971

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Series 6: Prints, 1931-1980

Box 1, Folder 10	AD Publishing, 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Miscellaneous, 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 13	Miscellaneous, bound booklet, 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 14	NBC Radio Network, 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 15	Newsweek covers, 1970-1980
Box 1, Folder 16	Panhandle Eastern Annual Report, 1970
Box 1, Folder 17	Productionwise, 1956
Box 1, Folder 18	Schenley Industries Annual Report, 1953-1954
Box 1, Folder 19	Stamps, 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 20	Standard Oil Annual Report, 1962

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Series 7: Weber Process Documents, 1931-1971

Box 1, Folder 21

Weber Process Documents, 1931-1971

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Series 8: Photographs, 1931-1971

Box 2, Folder 1 Photomechanical Apparatus Patent Photographs, 1931-1971

Box 2, Folder 2 Weber Photographs, 1931-1971

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Series 9: Large Prints, 1931-1971

Box 2, Folder 3	Miscellaneous, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 4	People, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 5	Screen prints, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 6	United Nations stamp, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 7	American Optical Company Diagrams, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 8	Caproni Galleries Correspondence, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 9	Newspaper clippings, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 10	Weber Process pamphlet, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 11	Patent photo engraved surfaces for printing textile fabrics, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 12	Photomechanical Printing Apparatus Diagram, 1931-1971
Box 2, Folder 13	Sketches, 1931-1971
Box 3	Oversize cigarette posters, 1931-1971

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