



Smithsonian

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

## Guide to the Frank Seymour Firefighting Ephemera Collection

NMAH.AC.1232

Alison Oswald

2012

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Frank Seymour Firefighting Ephemera Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1852 - 1957
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1232
<b>Creator:</b>	CIGNA (Donor) Seymour, Frank (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.3 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English. Some materials in French.
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection documents firefighting and fires in American history through newspaper and magazine illustrations, ephemera, and photographs. The emphasis is on large urban fires (New York City and Chicago) and industrial fires in the northeastern United States. There are some illustrations of cartoons, rescues, poems, fires on ships and clippings about great floods in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated by CIGNA through Roxanne Korostowski, Director, Relocation Services on August 19, 2005.

### Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center in 2011 by the Division of Home and Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life).

### Related Materials

#### **Materials at the Archives Center, National Museum of American History**

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Fires and firefighting (series), circa 1821-1955.(AC0060)

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Fires and firefighting: stereographs, circa 1875-1888 (AC0060)

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Inventions: stereographs, 1880s (AC0060)

Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection, [Firefighters working water pump: Active no. 1810. photonegative,] 1926. (AC0143)

Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection, [Firefighters in action.] 2031 photonegative. (AC0143)

Jack Robrecht Firefighting Photographs (AC1231)

#### **Materials at the Division of Home and Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life), National Museum of American History**

The Division of Home and Community Life holds fire-related artifacts. See Accession numbers: 2005.0233; 2005.0279; 2006.0247; 2007.0160; and 2007.0174.

## Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2012.

## Preferred Citation

Frank Seymour Firefighting Ephemera Collection, 1852-1957, 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 or 202-633-3270.

## 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.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection documents firefighting and fires in American history through newspaper and magazine illustrations, ephemera, and photographs. The emphasis is on large urban fires (New York City and Chicago) and industrial fires in the northeastern United States. There are some illustrations of cartoons, rescues, poems, fires on ships and clippings about great floods in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

**Series 1, Newspaper clippings, 1852-1933**, consists primarily of illustrations and text from *Harper's Weekly*, but other publications represented include *Collier's Weekly*, *Harper's New Monthly Magazine Illustrated London News*, *Leslie's Weekly*, *Gleason's Pictorial*, and *Scientific American*. The clippings are arranged geographically by state and city. The majority of the clippings relate to fires, firemen, fire engines, and parades featuring fire equipment. There is one folder that relates to a fire on the steamship *Bienville*, an explosion of the *H.L. Cotton*, as well as the floods. There is some ethnic imagery depicting John Bull during the Civil War and antislavery movement in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania folder.

**Series 2, Illustrations, [1939?]**, consists of printed color illustrations of fire engines from Kenneth Holcomb Dunshee's book, *Enjine! Enjine!* published by Howard Vincent Smith of New York in 1939. The illustrations are arranged in an alphanumeric system (FS 105) assigned by Frank Seymour.

**Series 3, Photographs and Ephemera, 1957 and undated**, consists of primarily black-and-white photographs of engines, horse-drawn fire ambulances, a dog-drawn fire hose, an auction program for the Joseph L. Hallett Firemanic Collection, and a brochure for the National Fire Museum, Inc. of South Carver, Massachusetts. There is one color photograph of Ellie Mazur, undated.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

**Series 1, Newspaper Clippings, 1852-1933**

**Series 2, Illustrations, [1939?]**

**Series 3, Photographs and Ephemera, 1957 and undated**

## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

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

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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:

- Disasters
- Fire departments
- Fire engines
- Fire extinction
- Firefighters
- Fires
- Ships -- Fires and fire prevention

### Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Illustrations
- Postcards
- Prints

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Newspaper Clippings, 1852 - 1933

Box 1, Folder 1	Sacramento, California, 1853
Box 1, Folder 2	San Francisco, California, 1898, 1906
Box 1, Folder 3	Hartford, Connecticut, 1864
Box 1, Folder 4	Chicago, Illinois, 1868, 1871, 1874
Box 1, Folder 5	Portland, Maine, 1866
Box 1, Folder 6	Baltimore, Maryland, 1904
Box 1, Folder 7	Boston, Massachusetts, 1852 - 1853, 1872
Box 1, Folder 8	Fall River, Massachusetts, 1874
Box 1, Folder 9	Lynn, Massachusetts, 1868, 1889
Box 1, Folder 10	Salem, Massachusetts, 1866
Box 1, Folder 11	Jersey City, New Jersey, 1904, 1866
Box 1, Folder 12	Brooklyn, New York, 1864, 1872 , 1877, 1853
Box 1, Folder 13	New York City, 1912, 1898 - 1899, 1884, 1858, 1876
Box 1, Folder 14	New York Fire Department/New York Fire Insurance Patrol /New York Fire Alarm Telegraph, 1858 - 1925
Box 1, Folder 15	Saratoga Springs, New York, 1868
Box 1, Folder 16	Cincinnati, Ohio, 1858, 1864
Box 1, Folder 17	Dayton, Ohio, 1869
Box 1, Folder 18	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1861
Box 1, Folder 19	Hampton, Virginia, 1861
Box 1, Folder 20	Cartoons, poems, rescues, 1867 - 1882

Box 1, Folder 21	Explosion of the H.L. Cotton, 1868
Box 1, Folder 22	Fire engines, steamers, hand pumpers, hose reels, fire boats, 1855 - 1933
Box 1, Folder 23	Fire on steamship Bienville, 1872
Box 1, Folder 24	Great floods (Cincinnati and Pittsburgh), 1884

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## Series 2: Illustrations, [1939?]

Box 2, Folder 2	Hayseed, Hudson Engine 1, New York, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Old Brass Backs, New York Engine 3, New York, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Red Rover, Howard Engine 34, New York, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Black Joke Engine 33, New York, undated
	Old Maid, Chatham Engine 15, New York, undated
	Lafayette Engine 19, New York, undated
	The Blue Boys Jefferson Engine 26, New York, undated
	Old Stag Clinton Engine 41, New York, undated
	Mankiller Empire Engine 42, New York, undated
	Old Brock Marion Engine 9, New York, undated
	Mutton Hose Eagle Hose 1, New York, undated
	Silver Nine Columbian Hose 9, New York, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	The Ball Club Hook and Ladder 1, New York, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	The Elephant, Manhattan Engine 8, New York, undated

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## Series 3: Photographs and Ephemera, 1957 , undated

*Box 2, Folder 1*

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