



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the William Metzsig Papers

NMAH.AC.1269

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	William Metzig Papers
Date:	circa 1925-1979
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1269
Creator:	Metzig, William, 1893-1989
Source:	Murgio, Matthew, Mrs. (Donor)
Extent:	16 Cubic feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Mr. Metzig's daughter, Mrs. Matthew Murgio, and a former student and friend of Metzig's, Lili Wronker, 1990.

Provenance

The collection was transferred from the Cooper-Hewitt Design Archives to the Archives Center in 2012.

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

William Metzig Papers, ca. 1925-1979, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Permission of staff required to photograph materials.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Graphic designer and artist. Born Hanover, Germany, 1893. Metzig apprenticed with a lithographer prior to establishing his own studio in the 1920s. He designed trademarks, logos, letterheads, brochures, and posters for clients. He is best known for his work for Pelikan Ink Company.

He also designed book covers, magazine covers, and page layouts. In the 1930s, Metzig became known as a leading calligrapher and advertising artist in Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1939 and settled in New York where he taught calligraphy and did freelance graphic design until his death in 1989.

Scope and Contents

The materials in this collection span the years from the late 1920s to the 1970s and document Metzig's work in Germany and the United States. Little background and biographical information is available.

Project files : More than 500 examples of the designer's work, including letterheads, logos, trademarks, brochures, book jackets, magazine covers and layouts, certificates, awards, and product labels.

Printed Materials : Includes articles written by Metzig and a copy of his publication, "Art Lettering and Design," which was done for the International Correspondence Schools of Pennsylvania in 1957. This collection does not include any business records or correspondence.

Other Visual Materials : Photographs, slides, and transparencies of many of Metzig's designs.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three record groups: 1) printed materials; 2) project files; and 3) other visual materials. Project files are arranged in alphabetical order by name of client. Extensive files for projects done for distilleries and publishing companies are alphabetized separately.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Book jackets -- Design -- United States
- Calligraphy
- Corporate image -- Design
- Graphic artists
- Graphic arts -- Germany
- Graphic arts -- United States
- Graphic designers
- Greeting cards -- Design
- Labels -- Design
- Letterheads -- Design
- Logos (Symbols) -- Design
- Magazine covers -- Design
- Packaging -- Design
- Pamphlets -- Design
- Posters -- Design

Trademarks -- Design
Works of art
advertising

Types of Materials:

Advertisements
Book jackets
Brochures
Clippings
Drawings
Photographs -- 20th century
Slides
Transparencies

Names:

Cooper-Hewitt Design Archive
Dutton
Fawcett
Fieldcrest Mills Inc.
Heubelin, Inc.
Metzig, William, 1893-1989
Murgio, Matthew, Mrs.
Pelikan Ink Company
Popov Distilling Company

Occupations:

Illustrators

Container Listing

Box 1	Project files, corporate
Box 2	Project files, corporate
Box 3	Project files, corporate
Box 4	Project files, corporate
Box 5	Project files, corporate - publishers and publishing projects, printed materials - articles and clippings
Box 6	Printed materials - articles and clippings (outside), writings by Metzig
Box 7	Other visual materials - photos, slides, transparencies
Box 8	Project files - corporate, oversized
Box 9	Project files - corporate, other projects, other visual materials, printed materials
Box 10	Oversized project files, corporate