



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Seymour Robins collection

NMAH.AC.1270

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Seymour Robins collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1270
Date:	1962 - 1992
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet
Creator:	Robins, Seymour.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

All materials were donated by Mr. Robins in 1992. Transferred to the Archives Center in 2012.

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

Seymour Robins Papers, 1962-1992, 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

Seymour Robins is a graphic and industrial designer. Born in Canada, he has lived most of his life in New York City and had his design practice there. Although locking together slotted pieces of paper has been done for many years, in the two decades that Robins has been designing these shapes that become forms when opened, he has developed them into a unique art form in itself. Robins' interlocking paper sculptures have been called "magic". He has had successful design assignments for AT&T, Diamond International Corporation, Genesco, Mohawk Paper Mills, Neenah Paper, Creative Playthings, and a host of other names in American industry. Robins designed the complex and precise Armillary Sphere

for the Smithsonian, and has done paper sculptures for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, The Whitney Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, The Philadelphia Museum, and others. Over the years his demands and guidance for perfection in production have forced graphic arts suppliers into innovative improvements that have raised the level of die-makers' and the die-cutters' crafts. His work appears regularly in international design journals and is in the permanent collection at the Cooper-Hewitt Archives. He now lives and works in Sheffield, Massachusetts, in a barn he has converted into a studio and home.

Scope and Contents

Materials consist of project catalogs for Mohawk Paper Mills and Neenah Paper, a division of Kimberly-Clark. The collection documents Robins' work as a graphic and industrial designer.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Design, Industrial -- Sources -- History -- 20th century -- United States
Graphic arts -- Sources -- History -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Trade catalogs

Names:

AT & T (Firm)
Cooper-Hewitt Design Archive
Creative playthings, Inc.
Diamond International Corporation
Genesco, Inc
Kimberly-Clark Corporation
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
Mohawk Paper Mills (Cohoes, N.Y.)
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Neenah Paper (Firm)
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Smithsonian Institution
Whitney Museum of American Art

Occupations:

Industrial designers -- United States

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Catalog, Neenah Paper , 1978
Box 1, Folder 2	Catalog, Mohawk "Linen" Paper, 1981
Box 1, Folder 3	Catalog, Mohawk Poseidon, Mazes and Labyrinths, 1984