



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Tommy Tucker the
Squirrel Photographs and Ephemera

NMAH.AC.1286

Marian Tatum Webb and Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

2017

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	3
Arrangement	3
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Tommy Tucker the Squirrel Photographs and Ephemera
Date:	1944-1955, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1286
Creator:	LeMartine, Elaine (Donor) Bullis, Zaidee (Creator)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection relates to Tommy Tucker, a squirrel kept as a pet, who entertained the public in an effort to sell World War II savings bonds.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by the estate of Elaine LeMartine in 2012.

Separated Materials

Tommy Tucker's stuffed and mounted body can be viewed in the Archives Center.

Related Materials

For materials relating to savings bonds, consult the following collections: Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Stocks and Bonds, NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Stocks

Japanese American Documentary Collection, NMAH.AC.0305

Princeton University Posters Collection, NMAH.AC.0433

Eisler Engineering Company Records, NMAH.AC.0734

United States Savings Bond Stamp Collection, 1949-1970, NMAH.AC.0758

Smithsonian Institution Archives Records, 1949-1991, Record Unit 486, SIA.FARU0486

For materials relating to World War II efforts, consult the following collections:

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Herbert M. Faust Papers, 1918-1949, NMAH.AC.0397

American Relief Administration. European Children's Fund, NMAH.AC.1199

Archives of American Art

Hildreth Meière papers, 1901-2011, bulk 1911-1960, AAA.meiemari

National Air and Space Museum Archives

World War II Propaganda Leaflets, NASM.XXXX.0846

For materials relating to squirrels, consult the following collections:

Smithsonian Institution Archives

National Museum of Natural History. Division of Mammals, Correspondence, 1934-1939, 1956-2017, SIA.FA18-100

Robert S. Hoffmann Papers, Accession 91-159

National Zoological Park. Department of Zoological Research, circa 1963-1996, Accession 20-094

Correspondence, circa 1965-2001, SIA.FA09-005

Gerrit Smith Miller, Jr., Papers, 1908-1940, SIA.FARU7173

Records, circa 1867-1971, SIA.FARU0208

Animal Research Records, 1967-1997, SIA.FA15-220

Office of Product Development and Licensing, Product Development and Licensing Records, SIA.FA00-112

National Zoological Park, Photographs, 1955-2005, SIA.FA16-065

Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

Lilian Swann Saarinen Papers, circa 1909-1977. AAA.saarlili

Processing Information

Processed by Marian Tatum-Webb, volunteer, 2012; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2012.

Preferred Citation

Tommy Tucker the Squirrel Photographs and Ephemera, 1944-1955, undated, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Tommy Tucker was a male squirrel who was orphaned in the back yard of the Washington, DC Bullis family residence. Zaidee C. Bullis adopted the baby squirrel as a pet in 1942. Bullis, born to Richard William Waldron (March 9, 1854-August 29, 1918) and Virginia Brandon Waldron (October 1, 1868-June 5, 1909), was a homemaker and wife to Dr. Mark Carlton Bullis (February 12, 1875-July 13, 1954) a dental surgeon. She created clothing for Tommy and in 1943 began touring the country with him as he performed tricks entertaining children while selling war bonds for World War II. Tommy sold war bonds until his death on June 25, 1949.

Sources: Ancestry.com

Scope and Contents

Collection primarily documents Tommy Tucker's efforts to sell war bonds across the United States from 1943-1949. It includes booking and tour materials, photographs, correspondence, magazine articles, a biography, certificate of copyright, and newspaper clippings. There are a few documents relating to the personal life of Zaidee Bullis. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Animal welfare
- Animals
- Anthropomorphism
- Children -- 20th century
- Clothing -- American
- Copyright
- Entertainers
- Entertainers -- United States
- Entertainment -- Photographs -- 1920-1970
- Fund raising -- World War, 1939-1945
- Savings bonds
- Savings bonds -- United States
- Squirrels
- Women's fashion
- World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

- Articles -- 20th century
- Biographies
- Ephemera -- 1940-1970
- Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.
- Photographs -- 1940-1960
- Typescripts

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 2	Certificate of copyright, 1944
Box 3, Folder 2	"Pet Squirrel, Tame Tommy Tucker of Washington Spends His Life Being Dressed Up" Life Magazine, 1944-01-31
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1944-1954, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Newspaper clippings, 1949, 1955
Box 1, Folder 6	Zaidee C. Bullis personal papers, 1954, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Bookings and tour information for Tommy Tucker, undated
Box 2	Photographs of Tommy Tucker, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Photograph of Tommy Tucker, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	The True Story of Tommy Tucker, undated