



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

William L. Bird Factory Postcards Collection

NMAH.AC.1572

Vanessa Broussard Simmons

2023

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Content Description	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
United States, 1905-1950	3
Europe, undated	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	William L. Bird Factory Postcards Collection
Date:	1905-1950, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1572
Creator:	Bird, William L. (Donor)
Extent:	.2 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection contains postcards from North America and England depicting factories in the first half of the twentieth century.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was assembled and donated by William L. Bird, Jr., curator.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work and Industry in March 2022.

Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Postcards, NMAH.AC.0060

Loretta Thomsen Smith Picture Postcard Collection, NMAH.AC.0147

Victor A. Blenkle Postcard Collection, NMAH.AC.0200

Archives Center Postcard Collection, NMAH.AC.0483

Darrell L. Bertness Postcard Collection, NMAH.AC.1190

William L. Bird Postcard Collection, NMAH.AC.1465

Processing Information

Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2023. Finding aid encoded by Audrey Willius, intern, 2023.

Preferred Citation

William L. Bird Factory Postcards Collection, 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

William Lawrence "Larry" Bird, Jr. received his Bachelor of Art (B.A.) degree in History from the University of Maryland in 1973 and two years later his Master of Art (M.A.) degree also in history from the University of Arizona. He went on to obtain his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in History from Georgetown University in 1985.

Bird spent much of his museum career as a curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, in its Division of Political History. He curated numerous exhibitions including *Design for Victory: World War II Posters on the American Home Front* (with Harry R. Rubenstein, 1998); *Paint by Number: The How-to Craze that Swept the Nation* (2001); *Holidays on Display* (2007); *America's Doll House: The Miniature World of Faith Bradford* (2010); *Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, and Curios from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History* (2013); and is co-author and co-curator of *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith* (2017).

Bird's many publications include "American Television from the Fair to the Family, 1939-1989;" "Vote: The Machinery of Democracy;" "Paint by Number: Accounting for Taste in the 1950s;" "Holidays on Display;" "America's Doll House: The Miniature World of Faith Bradford;" and "Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes and Curios from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History." He is currently Curator Emeritus and continues to write.

Content Description

Collection consists of postcards collected by William Lawrence (Larry) Bird Jr. The postcards contain color images of factories, stores, and buildings located throughout the United States with a few from England. They are arranged first by country and then in alphabetical order by state.

Arrangement

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:

Factories

Types of Materials:

Picture postcards -- 20th century

Container Listing

United States, 1905-1950

Box 1	Alabama, 1943, undated
Box 1	Colorado, undated
Box 1	Georgia, undated
Box 1	Illinois, 1913-1948, undated
Box 1	Indiana, 1911, undated
Box 1	Kentucky, undated
Box 1	Louisiana, 1919
Box 1	Maryland, undated
Box 1	Massachusetts, undated
Box 1	Michigan, 1921-1950, undated
Box 1	New Hampshire, 1905-1922
Box 1	New Jersey, undated
Box 1	New York, 1914-1947, undated
Box 1	North Carolina, undated
Box 1	Ohio, 1907, undated
Box 1	Pennsylvania, 1907-1935, undated
Box 1	Tennessee, undated
Box 1	Virginia, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Europe, undated

Box 1

England, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)