George McFadden Costume and Set Design Clippings Collection

at
Emerson College

Finding Aid prepared by Courtney Holmes

Emerson College Archives
Boston, MA

2010

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Collection Summary
Title: George McFadden Costume and Set Design Clippings Collection
Span Dates: 1926-1970, Bulk 1930s-1940s
ID no.: MSS 016
Extent: 16 Linear Feet
Language: English
Repository: Emerson College Archives, Boston MA

Abstract: The George McFadden Costume and Set Design Clippings Collection consists of clippings; magazine covers; newspapers; postcards; photographs and other materials which served as inspirations for his design career. Much of the collection dates from his time as a theater set and costume designer in the 1930s and 1940s. The collection also contains material from his work as a store window display designer.

Subjects
(See folder titles)
Advertising, Magazine
Advertising, Newspaper
Block Printing
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Clothing and dress
Clothing and dress--Foreign influences
Costume Design
Drawing
Greeting Cards
Magazine covers
Petty, George
Petty Girl
Set Designers
Show Windows--Design
Theater--Massachusetts--Boston
Theater--Research
Theaters--Stage-setting and scenery

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance: The collection was donated to Emerson College by the estate of George McFadden in 1991.

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Preferred Citation: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [Container number], [Folder Title], George McFadden Costume and Set Design Clippings Collection, Emerson College Archives, Emerson College, Boston, MA.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:
George A. McFadden showed an early interest in design when, as a teenager, he created a mechanical store display featuring an Eskimo drinking for his parents' drug store in Maine. Later he attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, where he studied design, particularly theater design. There he also met his wife Alyce, a costume designer who worked with him throughout his career.

Throughout his life McFadden pursued varied interests, as a jeweler, a metalsmith, and a creator of mechanical devices used by clowns in the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. He was also a faculty member at Emerson College from 1930-1931.

His designs included sets for the Boston Stage Society, the Brattle Theater, the Wharf Players in Provincetown, and the Repertory Theater, as well as window displays for such department stores as Filene's and Jordan Marsh. Some of his store displays are still used in Boston.

After his retirement in the 1970s, McFadden began fixing and making clocks in his Winchester, MA home. While he worked with conventional clocks, he also made whimsical cuckoo clocks with quirky takes on traditional themes, some of which are now on display at local museums.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The George McFadden Costume and Set Design Clippings Collection is a collection of materials relating to set and costume design generated by George McFadden throughout his career as a theater designer. Included in the collection are clippings and articles from magazines and newspapers of people, places, designs, objects, artists' work, advertisements and other inspirations; sketches; greeting cards; magazine covers; newspapers; postcards; and photographs, all of which inspired him in some aspect of design. Also included in the collection are a number of drafted designs for store window displays that McFadden created during and after his theater career, dated through 1970.

One of the original containers was kept as an example of how the collection was originally housed.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE: The collection is arranged in the original order organized by McFadden. Items are separated by binder number and folder title, and oversized objects, which were separated out before the collection was received, are boxed separately.

Series 1: Clipping Binders
Series 2: Oversized Items

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

Series 1: Clipping Binders
Arrangement: Series is arranged by binder number and kept in original alphabetical order.
Dates: 1926-1970, Bulk 1930s-1940s
Volume: 14 linear feet
Scope and content note: This series contains a collection of materials relating to set and costume design generated by George McFadden throughout his time as a designer. Included in the collection are clippings and articles from magazines and newspapers of people, places, designs, objects, artists' work, advertisements and other inspirations; sketches; greeting cards; magazine covers; newspapers; postcards; and photographs.

Some clippings from Box 5A have been photocopied due to water damage prior to its acquisition.

Box List

Box 1: Binders 1 & 2

Binder #	Folder Title
1	Master Index
	Binder 1 Index
	Cats
	Dogs
	Elephants
	Fish, Undersea scenes, Crabs
	Horses
	Lions
	Monkeys
	Misc. Animals
	Prehistoric Animals, Dinosaurs
	Reptiles
	Sea Mammals
	Tigers, Leopards, Pumas
	Worms, Wolves, Foxes
	Zebras, Giraffes
2	Binder 2 Index
	Block Prints, Woodcuts
	Crayon
	Drawing in Perspective

	Etchings and Drypoint
	Lithographs and Old Prints
	Murals and Decorative Panels

Box 2: Binders 2 & 2A

Binder #	**Folder Title**
2	Opaque and Tempura Colors
	Pen and Ink
	Technique
	Watercolor
2A	Binder Index
	Biblical Scenes
	Design, Misc.
	English and Continental Theater
	Futuristic and Modern Setting
	Floats
	Lighting (Sets and Equipment)
	Masks—McFadden
	Make-up
	Opera
	Puppets
	Russian Theater
	Shakespearean Theater
	Window Display
	Misc. Theater

Box 3: Binders 2B & 2C

Binder #	**Folder Title**
2B	Binder Index
	Appia, Aronson
	Bel Geddes
	Craig
	Drottingholm and Historic Theater
	Misc. American Theater Notes
	Gorilick
	Jones, Robert E.
	Jorgulesco—Johnson, Alfred
	Mielsiner—Movies—Musical Comedy
	Oenslager
	Props—Posters and Signets
	Russe, Herman
	Simonson—Sovey
	Technical Theater notes
	Urban

	Misc. Notes on Acting and Playwriting
2C	Binder Index
	Bridges-Covered, etc.
	Clouds
	Foreign Scenes, misc.
	House of Ocher Lands
	Landscapes
	Mountain and Cliffs

Box 4: Binders 2C & 3

Binder #	**Folder Title**
2C	Ornithology (Birds [1]
	Ornithology (Birds [2]
	Packard Ads
	Scenes with Houses
	Trees
	Water and Seascapes
3	Binder Index
	American Furniture [1]
	American Furniture [2]
	[Misc. Furniture]

Box 5: Binders 3 & 3A

Binder #	**Folder Title**
3	Doors
	Fireplaces—Chimneys
	Gates
	Misc. Architecture
	Pools and Bridges
	Roofs
	Stairways
	Terraces, Gardens, etc.
	Windows
3A	Binder Index
	Antiques European [1]
	Antiques European [2]
	Doors
	Fireplaces and Chimneys
	Gates
	Misc. Architecture
	[Misc. Architecture (2)]

Stairways
Terrace and Gardens
Windows

Box 6: Binders 3B & 4

Binder #	**Folder Title**
3B	Binder Index
	Arches and Cloisters
	Castles
	Churches—Church Fittings
	Decoration Hints
	Glass—Stained
	Illumination
	Locks and Hardware
	Misc. Articles
	Observatories and Misc. Time Devices--Compass
	Pottery, Porcelain and Silver
	Screens
	Tapestries and Rugs
	Wrought Iron and Grille
4	Binder Index
	Babies
	Children of Other Lands
	Dolls and Doll Houses
	Fairy Tale Illustrations
	Gnomes, Elves and Fairies
	Heads, Children
	Kay, Gertrude, Lawson Robert
	Mickey Mouse
	Misc. Children (Clothes)

Box 7: Binders 4 & 5

Binder #	**Folder Title**
4	Rackham
	Silhouettes
	Tenggren
	Misc. Illustrations with Children
5	Binder Index
	[Misc. Clippings]
	American Indian—Aztec
	Babylonian and Assyrian
	Cretian

[Dutch]
Egyptian
Greek
Misc. Military, Naval, etc.
Nurses, Maids, Doctors, etc.
Roman
South America, Mexico
United States
West Indies
New Zealand and Savage Tribes

Box 8: Binder 5A

Binder #	**Folder Title**
5A	Binder Index
	[Misc. Costume]
	Austrian and Hungarian
	British
	French
	German
	Italian
	Netherlands
	Russian
	Spanish

Box 9: Binders 5B &5C

Binder #	**Folder Title**
5B	Binder Index
	Albanian--Cypress
	[Misc. clippings]
	Burmese, Javanese, Cambodian
	Chinese (Mongolia, Korea, Turkestan)
	Damascus and Holy Land
	Ecclesiastic—(Nun, priests, etc.)
	Greenland and Iceland
	India
	Japanese
	Misc. Costume
	[Calendar, 1931]
	Persian, Arabian
	Swiss
	Turkish—Tunis
5C	Binder Index
	[Misc.]

	Alice in Wonderland
	Ballet Costume

Box 10: Binders 5C & 6

Binder #	**Folder Title**
5C	Dance costumes
	Futuristic Costume
	Musical Comedy
	Opera
	Plays (Misc. Scenes)
	Shakespearean
	Misc. Stage Costumes
6	Binder Index
	Arms, coats of; Insignias, etc.
	Bookplates
	Design, Misc.
	Easter Eggs
	Handcraft
	Layout and Background
	Modern Design
	Needle Designs

Box 11: Binders 6 & 6A

Binder #	**Folder Title**
6	Poster
	Religious Design and Angels
	Swedish and Peasant Art
	Textile Design
6A	Borders, Card Design, Decorative Design, Illustration (decorative)
	[Borders, Card Design, Decorative Design, Illustration (decorative)]
	[Borders, Card Design, Decorative Design, Illustration (decorative)]
	[Borders, Card Design, Decorative Design, Illustration (decorative)]
	[Borders, Card Design, Decorative Design, Illustration (decorative)]

Box 12: Binders 7 & 8

Binder #	**Folder Title**
7	Binder Index
	Armstrong (Pastel Heads)
	Modern Heads with Backgrounds
	Classical and Pencil Heads
	Evening Coiffures

	Flato, Hans; Fisher, H.
	Hats
	Misc. Heads and Faces
	Oils
	Physiognomy and Types
	Silhouettes
	Three-quarter Length
8	Binder Index
	Afternoon Dresses
	Coats

Box 13: Binders 8, 8A & 8B

Binder #	**Folder Title**
8	Hands and Gloves
	Lingerie
	Modern Figures
	Sportswear
8A	Binder Index
	[Misc.]
	Bevans Torre
	[Dresses]
	Dresses, Evening
	Evening Wraps
	Jewelry and Accessories
	Legs and Footwear
	Silhouettes
	Vogue Views
	Wedding Gowns
8B	Binder Index
	Anatomy
	Boxing and Wrestling
	Bullfighting
	Dancing Figure
	Football, Baseball, Basketball

Box 14: Binders 8B, 9 & 9A

Binder #	**Folder Title**
8B	Golf, Tennis
	Jumping and Track
	Misc. Action of Figures
	Nudes

Polo and Horsemanship
Resort
Swordsmanship
Tobogganing and Winter Sports
Water Sports and Fishing

9 Binder Index
Austen, John
Barney, Maginal (children, Christmas); Broadhead (Historical, Elizabethan, Louis XIV)
Cornwell, Dean (Biblical, pirate, East Indian); Content, Dan (peasant)
DeFoe (1890 New England Interiors)
Flagg, J.M. (pen and ink)
Gassner (Impressionistic)
Heitland (watercolor—historic)
Lyendecker (covers, Kuppenheimer clothes)
McKay (symbolic pen and ink)
Pyle, Howard; Pyle, Ellen (children); Preston, May; Preston, James (watercolor, quaint houses and streets)
Rockwell, Norman
Soulen (Chinese, misc. historical costume); Sturgis, Katherine (decorative costume ill.)
Tomasso, Rico (Chinese)
Vassos

9A Binder Index
Allen, Courtney (Spanish—farms)
Barclay (fisher body ads, covers); Beckhoff

Box 15: Binders 9A & 9B

Binder #	**Folder Title**
9A	Chapman (decorative illustration); Coleman (East Indian)
	Dulac, Edmund (myths, famous queens, fairy tales)
	Flato (stocking ads and misc.); Flint, Russell (Biblical)
	Gould (negro); Grosbeck (Chinese, Russian)
	Hollingsworth (travel posters)
	Louderbeck (Spain—historical); Leonard (modern black and white)
	Mutz, Franz (historical); Maswell (historical); Monvel (geometric figures)
	Patterson, R.; Paus (symbolic figures)
	Raleigh, Henry (colonial, modern)
	Starrett, H. (1890 costume); Schaeffer (historical-Charles II); Stivers (Paris café and street scenes)
	Von Schmidt (Pilgrim)
	Wyeth N.C. (biblical, Middle Age, Ships, Elizabethan, Pioneer West)

9B	Binder Index
	Advertisements, misc.—Camel ads (magic); Cannon towels; Fire; Hammermill Bond (offices); Lavender soap; Lysol; Maxwell House Coffee; Scripps Harvard News; Steinway-paintings; Victrola (stage); Zippers
	Benda (myths, East Indian); Brinkley; Brissard (historic costume); Booth (pen and ink)
	Cater, Pruett (historic costume)
	Dryden, Helen (heads, modern); Dupas, Jean
	Erte (cover design, costume, historic costume)

Box 16: Binders 9B & 9C

Binder #	**Folder Title**
9B	Foster, Alan (covers-children)
	Gotlieb, Jules (Russian peasant-shipboard)
	Held, John
	Jackson (Chinese, Medieval, Louis XIV)
	Kent, Rockwell (Greek costume)
	La Gatta, John (pastel, women)
	Mitchell, Charles (pencil)
	O'Neill, Rose (Kewpies, children)
	Schabilitz
	Szyk
9C	Binder Index
	Allen, J. E. (Spanish—Aztec in costume)
	Belcher (Cockney cartoon); Brown, Arthur (pencil)
	Clement (colonial); Crooks(1865, peasant)
	Design for covers
	Fischer, A. (ships, costume early); Fisher, Harrison
	Gruger (ships, Aztec, Empire, 1860); Grant, Vernon (gnomes, etc.)
	House Beautiful covers
	Lee, Robert
	Millard, C. E, (furniture with background)
	Mowat, H. J.
	Peck, Clara (children); Price, Norman (pirates, costume, Louis XIV)
	Seymore, Lucas; Skidmore
	Tepper, Saul (industry, travel); Vogue and Harper's Bazaar covers

Box 17: Binders 9D & 9E

Binder #	**Folder Title**
9D	Binder Index
	Arctic scenes
	Boat scenes
	Courtroom—Christmas scenes

	Deserts
	First World War Pictures [1]
	First World War Pictures [2]
	Gunmen, etc.
	Houses and Buildings
	Industry, Misc.
	Mexican
	Negro
	Pirates
	Restaurant and nightclub—Theatre
	Stores-misc. period
	Traveling
	Western scenes and Indians
	Binder Index
9E	
	Arabian and Misc. Asian and African
	Butlers—Brokers
	Circus, Carnivals

Box 18: Binders 9E, 10 & 11A

Binder #	**Folder Title**
9E	Futuristic Figures
	Gypsy and Peasant
	Japanese and Chinese
	Medieval and European Costume
	Out of Doors—Farms
	Pilgrim and Colonial
	Rural
	Soldier—Foreign Legion
	Victorian and Civil War
	Misc. crowds, etc.
10	Binder Index
	[Misc. Men's Fashion]
	Barnum, Hart Schaffner ads
	Coats
	Daywear
	Evening
	Heads
	Morning
	Sportswear
	Underwear
11A	Binder Index
	[Minerals and Elements]

Articles Misc.
Color
Flowers

Box 19: Binders 11A & 12

Binder #	**Folder Title**
11A	Lettering
	Musical Instruments and Musicians
	Photography
	[Misc.]
	Symbolic Figures
	Telephones and Switchboards
12	Binder Index
	Automobiles—misc. backgrounds
	Boats—misc. small boats, gondolas
	Carriages, coaches, etc.
	Dirigibles, airplanes, etc.
	Early types of boats
	Galleons
	Junks and Chinese Litters, etc.
	Misc. modes of travel, maps
	[Travel and Maps]

Box 20: Binders 12, 13 & 14

Binder #	**Folder Title**
12	Racing Sloops and Schooners
	Steamships—early steamships
	Trains
	War Vessels
	Yankee Clippers
13	Binder Index
	Aztec and Mexican
	Byzantine and Biblical
	Chinese—Cretian
	[Misc. Clippings]
	French, Egyptian, English
	Greek
	India, Japanese
	Misc.
	Persian—Polish
	Roman—Pompeiian
	Scandinavian

	New Zealand and Misc. island
14	Binder Index
	Biblical
	Colonial 1700-1800
	Pilgrims (Early American)

Box 21: Binders 14 & "Letters"

Binder #	**Folder Title**
14	Greek
	Henry VIII—Elizabethan
	Landscape
	Medieval
	Nudes
	Portraits
	Stuart and Charles II
	Victorian
	Sculpture
	Misc.
Letters	Binder Index
	An American Institution
	Buildings, Historical
	Civil War
	Documents
	Famous People
	Historical Scenes and Events
	Lincoln
	Napoleon

Box 22: Binders "Letters" & Unnamed Binder 1

Binder #	**Folder Title**
Letters	Pilgrims
	Relics, Historical and Landmarks
	Washington
	United States Presidents
Unnamed Binder 1	
	[Misc.]
	Animal Cards
	Borders, etc.
	Card Design [1]
	Card Design [2]

Design—misc.
Illustration, Decorative

Series 2: Oversize Items
Arrangement: Items were received with no real arrangement aside from oversize status and are generally grouped according to type
Dates: 1930s-1970
Volume: 2 linear feet
Scope and content note: This series contains a collection of materials that includes oversize magazine clippings, catalogs and store window display designs.

Box List

Flat Box 1
Oversize Items
Wood Carving Catalogs
Petty Girls
Vogue Covers
Misc. clippings

Flat Box 2
Oversize Items
Motor Catalogs
Store Display Designs