



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Milton Halpert collection of puppetry

1930s-1980s [bulk 1970s]

*T-Mss 2014-105

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

Summary

Creator: Halpert, Milton

Title: Milton Halpert collection of puppetry

Date: 1930s-1980s [bulk 1970s]

Size: 5 linear feet (12 boxes)

Source: Donated by Milton Halpert, 2013.

Abstract: Milton Halpert (1910-2000), draftsman and stage hand was an advocate for the art of puppetry. The collection, dated 1930s to 1980s, is mostly material collected on puppetry in the United States. The collection holds correspondence, material from festivals, printed matter, photographs, ephemera and sketches.

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Processing note: Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

Creator History

Milton Halpert (1910-2000) was a draftsman and stage hand who developed an interest in the art of puppetry. He strongly supported the Puppeteers of America, a national organization that celebrates puppetry through festivals and guilds. Halpert frequently attended their annual festival, and other puppetry guild festivals. He was known among puppeteers as an advocate for puppetry and as an occasional puppeteer. Halpert married Sylvia Halpert (maiden name unknown) (1912-1997) who shared his love of puppetry. Halpert died in 2000. He was survived by his daughter Lorraine Halpert Baker (1935-2013).

Scope and Content Note

The collection, dated 1930s to 1980s (bulk dates 1970s), contains information about puppetry in the United States and abroad. Milton Halpert (1910-2000) created this collection as a result of his support for the art of puppetry. The collection holds correspondence, material from festivals, printed matter, photographs, ephemera and sketches.

The correspondence is mostly letters from puppeteers thanking Halpert for his support and information about puppetry. These letters also indicate that his wife Sylvia also enjoyed puppetry. Other subjects are about puppet festivals, the Puppeteers of America and other guilds.

Festivals material is mostly for the Puppeteers of America and other festivals held in the United States and abroad. This material is the official brochure, registration forms, newspaper clippings, and any other puppet information that the Halperts picked-up at the event. The festivals include the the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild, the Pacific Southwest Regional Festival and UNIMA International Puppetry Association.

Halpert extensively collected all available information on puppetry including newspaper clippings, flyers, and guild subscriptions.

There are several black and white photographs and color photographs of puppets and puppeteers. Halpert was photographed with a group of puppeteers, dated 1961. The remaining material includes buttons, greeting cards with puppetry themes; membership cards; sketches of a logo; and floor plans.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format and subject as follows: Correspondence, Festivals, Printed Matter, Ephemera, and Sketches

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Greeting cards
Handbills
Photographs

Subjects

Puppet festivals
Puppeteers
Puppets

Names

Halpert, Sylvia
Puppeteers of America

Container List

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1-10 General Correspondence 1932-1989
- b. 2 f. 1-9 Puppeteers of America 1955-1989

Festivals

- b. 3 f. 1 Atlantic South-Eastern Puppetry Guild 1976
- b. 3 f. 2 Boston Area Guild of Puppetry 1967
- b. 3 f. 3-4 British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild 1954-1987
- b. 3 f. 5 International Mime Institute and Festival 1974
- b. 3 f. 6 Pacific Regional Puppetry Festival 1969
- b. 3 f. 7 Pacific Southwest Regional Festival 1969-1978
- b. 3 f. 8 Puppet Theatre. London 1972
- b. 3 f. 9-15 Puppeteers of America 1961-1975
- b. 4 f. 1-13 Puppeteers of America 1970-1989
 - b. 5 f. 1 Puppets on a Pedestal. University of Dallas 1972
- b. 5 f. 2-9 UNIMA. International Puppetry Association 1962-1980
- b. 5 f. 10 Various Exhibitions and Festivals 1933, 1960s-1970s

Printed Matter

Clippings

- b. 6 f. 1-8 1950s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 9-11 How to Make Puppets 1950s-1970s
- b. 7 f. 1-10 Flyers, Handbills and Leaflets 1960s-1976
- b. 8 f. 1-9 Flyers, Handbills and Leaflets 1976-1985

Newsletters

- b. 8 f. 10-11 British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild 1973-1978
 - b. 9 f. 1 Broken Arrow. Urbandale Baptist Church, Michigan 1970-1972
 - b. 9 f. 2-3 Center News. Center for Puppetry Arts. Atlanta, Georgia 1981-1985
 - b. 9 f. 4 Federal One. George Mason University 1976-1977
 - b. 9 f. 5-7 Involvement. Puppetry Guild of Greater New York 1976-1977
 - b. 9 f. 8 Learning Theater News. Learning Theater 1975
 - b. 9 f. 9 Punchline. Puppet Guild of Long Island 1973-1975
- b. 9 f. 10-11 Puppet Life. Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry 1973-1976
 - b. 9 f. 12 Puppet Patter. Garden State Puppetry Guild 1973-1974
- b. 10 f. 1-2 Puppet Patter. Garden State Puppetry Guild 1975
 - b. 10 f. 3 Puppeteers of America. Southeast Region 1980s
 - b. 10 f. 4 San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild 1973-1978
- b. 10 f. 11 Assorted Printed Matter 1960s-1980s
 - b. 10 f. 5 Book Lists about Puppets 1970s-1980s
 - b. 10 f. 6 Catalogues about Puppets 1970s-1980s
 - b. 10 f. 7 Don Folia. No. 1. Mexico undated

Printed Matter (cont.)

Assorted Printed Matter (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 8 Foto Misterio. No. 127: Los Titeres Vengadores (Avenging Puppets) undated
- b. 10 f. 9-10 Ventriloquism 1950s, 1970s

Ephemera

- b. 10 f. 12-13 Buttons and Badges 1970s-1980s
- b. 11 f. 1-10 Greeting Cards 1950s-1980s
- b. 11 f. 11-12 Membership Cards 1934-1960s-1970s
- b. 11 f. 13 Puppetry Business Cards; General Ephemera undated

Sketches and Photographs

- b. 12 f. 1 Blueprint Sketch for Puppet Stage undated
- b. 12 f. 2-3 Fifth Avenue Theatre. Ground Plans, Property List, and Sound Effects 1931
- b. 12 f. 4 Marion Models, Inc. Ground Plans and Property List 1933
- b. 12 f. 5 Sketches of Logos undated
- b. 12 f. 6 Sketches of Puppets undated
- b. 12 f. 7 Photographs of Puppeeters and Puppets 1970s