

**The New York Public Library  
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

**Carl Kent Set Designs**  
**ca. 1941-ca. 1957 and undated**

**\*T-VIM 2013-215**

## Summary

**Main entry:** Kent, Carl.

**Title:** Carl Kent Set Designs, ca. 1941-ca. 1957 and undated

**Size:** 3 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Preferred citation:** Carl Kent Set Designs, \*T-VIM 2013-215, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

## Biographical note

Designer, technical advisor, jazz pianist, and lyricist, Carl Kent (1918-1959), was born in New York City. A graduate of the National Academy of Design, he also studied at the Art Students League. Kent served as technical advisor and supervisor on a number of Broadway and television productions, often under Harry Horner. His Broadway design credits include *Tis of Thee* (Maxine Elliott's Theatre, 1940); *Career Angel* (National Theatre, 1944); *Peepshow* (Fulton Theatre, 1944); *As We Forgive Our Debtors* (Princess Theatre, 1947); *Leaf and Bough* (Cort Theatre, 1949). Among Kent's television credits are *NBC Opera Theatre* (1951) and *United States Steel Hour* (1955-1956). At the time of his death, he was living in Great Neck, New York and died at North Shore Hospital at the age of 43.

## Scope and content note

This collection contains ca. 46 original set designs (mostly color), primarily for television, but also for theater, by Carl Kent (1918-1959). A number of set designs are for the television programs *NBC Opera Theatre* (1951) and *United States Steel Hour* (1955-1956). The collection also contains blueprints for *Peepshow* by Ernest Pascal (Fulton Theatre, 1944), for which Kent designed lighting, as well as for the motion picture *Crowded Paradise* (1956), on which Kent served as art director. There are also a few designs for businesses such as De Soto, Gordon's Distillers and John Strobl's Viennese Restaurant. Several set designs are untitled and unidentified.

## Container list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	<i>As We Forgive Our Debtors</i> - Act II, Sc.2 - For José Ferrer & ANTA, [1947] Includes color on board; signed on front and verso; mat frame; United Scenic Artists and personal stamps on verso.
1	2	<i>The Clock</i> - NBC Television, 1949 Sept. 24 Includes black and white sketch on board; signed and dated; mat frame with typed descriptive label; United Scenic Artists stamp, signature and date also on verso; covered in cellophane.
1	3	<i>La Coquille au Citron</i> - Act II, undated Includes color and pencil on board with pencil sketches on verso.
3	1	<i>(Corridor) to the Unknown</i> - Narrative Sequences Set - For Screen Gems, ca. 1950s Includes color on drawing board; signed; personal stamp and additional notes on verso.
1	4	<i>Crowded Paradise</i> (Motion picture), [1956] Includes 2 blueprints of plans and elevations; Kent served as Art Director.
1	4	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> - José Ferrer Project - <i>Producers' Showcase</i> (Television), [1955 Oct. 17]
3	2	Theatre Proscenium Includes color and pencil paint elevation (?) on illustration board; signed; United Scenic Artists stamp on front; additional notes in pencil; covered in cellophane.
3	2	Exterior (Nighttime) Includes color on illustration board; partial mat frame (bottom part missing); additional notes in pencil on verso.
3	2	Untitled (Interior with Proscenium and Stage) Includes color and pencil on illustration board; initialed; additional notes and typed label on verso.
3	3	De Soto - "Pavillion - Showroom" - Exterior (Terrace) Shot, ca. 1950s Includes color on board; mat frame; "Designed for BBDO and De Soto by Carl Kent" in lower right corner; United Scenic Artists and personal stamps on verso; covered in cellophane.
1	5	<i>Foliage and Candlelight</i> - East Wall Layout, undated Includes color and pencil on board with sketch of chair on mat frame; signed.
1	5	Gordon's Distillers Color Film - Mr. Gordon's Office - Caravel Films, undated Includes color on illustration board paint elevation with 2 fabric swatches; signed; United Scenic Artists and personal stamp; covered in cellophane.
1	5	John Strobl's [Viennese Restaurant], ca. 1940s? (Includes color on board; signed.)
4	1	<i>Native Son</i> , [ca. 1941] Includes black and white exterior with figure on illustration board; mat frame. <i>NBC Opera Theatre</i> , 1951 <i>Pagliacci</i> , 1951 Sept. 25 Rear of Dressing Wagon Includes color and pencil on illustration board paint elevation; signed; United Scenic Artists stamp on front; additional notes in pencil; covered in cellophane.
4	1	"Teatro Comico" (Side View of Wagon?) Includes color and pencil on board paint elevation; notes in pencil; covered in cellophane.
4	1	<i>Pique Dame</i> ( <i>Queen of Spades</i> ), 1951 All designs are signed and covered in cellophane; United Scenic Artists and personal stamp on all versos.
4	2	The Church Scene (Additional notes in pencil on verso.)
4	3	Gambling Table and Ballroom Beyond (Mat frame; additional notes on verso.)

4	2	Herman's Room - Barracks (Includes black and white on board; dated.)
4	3	Lisa's Room (Mat frame; additional notes on verso.)
4	2	Untitled (Interior)
4	3	Untitled (Interior with Male Figure and Harp) Design has gold paint in center of drawing; mat frame; additional notes on verso.
1	6	<i>R.S. V.P. - Mantel Unit</i> , 1951 Nov. 1 Includes color and pencil on illustration board paint elevation; signed and dated; United Scenic Artists stamp on front; covered in cellophane.
1	6	<i>Nothing But the Truth</i> [Broadcast as <i>To Tell the Truth</i> ] - Goodson-Todman Productions - CBS TV, ca. 1957 Includes color and pencil with 3 fabric swatches on illustration board; signed on front and verso; notes to painters and United Scenic Artists stamp on verso; mat frame; covered in cellophane (torn).
1	6	<i>Peepshow</i> - Elevation and Plan (Lemuel Ayers), [1944] Includes blueprint of Lemuel Ayers drawing; Kent did lighting design.
1	6	Robert Lawrence Productions - Budweiser A - Penthouse, Modern, ca. 1950s Includes color and pencil on board; signed; mat frame.
1	7	<i>Swatch</i> - Abstraction - Stylized Drop - Westinghouse Wardrobe Film, undated Includes color on black construction paper (?) paint elevation mounted on cardboard with pencil sketch of female on right; covered in cellophane; "Carl Kent, Art Director" and additional notes on front. <i>United States Steel Hour</i> (Television), 1955-1956 <i>Command</i> , 1956 Feb. 15
2	1	Bridge of the "Pennant" - Night & Dawn Includes color and pencil on illustration board signed and dated; covered in cellophane.
2	1	Dan's Cabin Includes color and pencil on illustration board; signed and dated; covered in cellophane.
2	2	<i>Funny Heart</i> - Apartment - Entry, Pantry Door, Living Room, 1956 Apr. 1 Includes charcoal with brown design on tracing paper; signed and dated ("4/11 Show" on design); United Scenic Artists stamp on front. <i>The Gambler</i> , 1955 July 20 (Includes 3 copies on paper of design sketches.)
2	2	Hotel Rin (sp.?)
2	2	Miami Hotel Set
2	2	Untitled <i>The Great Adventure</i> , 1956 Jan. 18 Includes color and pencil on illustration board covered in cellophane; signed and dated.
2	2	Exterior and Interior
2	2	Lonsdale's
2	2	Pub #1 and Pub #2
4	4	<i>The Meanest Man in the World</i> (Sidney Lumet, Dir.), 1955 July 6 Includes pencil and ink sketch on tracing paper and photocopy of sketch; upper right corner of sketch is missing. <i>Shoot It Again</i> , 1955
2	3	The Mansion - Bel Air, Hollywood - Marilyn & Chuck Includes color and pencil on board; signed and dated; mat frame; also includes a copy of the design; covered in cellophane.
2	4	Untitled - Corner II, ca. 1956 Includes black and white on illustration board; signed on front and verso; mat frame; covered in cellophane; "Projected Part of a Set, <i>U.S. Steel Hour</i> " and United Scenic Artists stamp also on verso; covered in cellophane.

- Unidentified Designs, ca. 1945 - ca. 1956 and undated
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| 2 | 5 | Chorus Girls Onstage in Restaurant, undated<br>Includes color on illustration board; signed on front and verso; United Scenic Artists<br>Stamp also on verso; covered in cellophane.   |
| 2 | 6 | "For John Haggott; For Marshall Jamison - with Compliments" - Interior with<br>Birdcage and Horse Table (Possibly for <i>U.S. Steel Hour</i> ), ca. 1956<br>Includes pencil on tracing paper sketch of set taped to board; signed; top pieces<br>missing or loose; top is fragile. |
| 2 | 5 | Interior, undated<br>Includes color and pencil on paper; signature appears to be Leo Kerz; mat frame; "Carl<br>Kent Portfolio" on verso in pencil.   |
| 2 | 5 | Interior also Showing Exterior, undated<br>Includes black and white on illustration board; signed; mat frame; covered in<br>cellophane.  |
| 2 | 5 | Soldier with Cannons on Battlefield, 1945<br>Includes color on illustration board; initialed; notes on verso.  |
| 2 | 7 | Tenement Apartment and Hallway with Figures, undated<br>Includes 2 items: charcoal and color on stock; mat frames; covered in cellophane<br>(torn).  |
| 2 | 7 | Waiting Room (?) with Chandelier, Desk and Potted Plant, ca. 1950s?<br>Includes black and white on board; signed; mat frame; covered with plastic.   |