

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

**Ward and Harvey Studios Set Designs  
1921-1932**

**\*T-VIM 2014-006**

## Summary

**Title:** Ward and Harvey Studios Set Designs

**Size:** 1.7 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Preferred citation:** Ward and Harvey Studios Set Designs, \*T-VIM 2014-006, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

## Historical note

Ward and Harvey Studios was begun by designers Herbert Ward and Walter M. Harvey and was located on West 38th Street in New York City. The firm is credited with scenic design for Broadway productions between 1921 and 1932.

## Scope and content note

Original set designs and sketches by Ward and Harvey Studios for theater productions including *Chee-Chee* book by Lew M. Fields, music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Lorenz Hart (1928); *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* book by Herbert Fields, music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Lorenz Hart (1927), *A Farewell to Arms* by Laurence Stallings, based on Ernest Hemingway's novel (1930), *Janet of France* (1929), *The Sap from Syracuse* by Jack O'Donnell and John Wray (1930), and *Through the Years* (musical version of *Smilin' Through*) book by Brian Hooker, music by Vincent Youmans, lyrics by Edward Heyman (1932). Of note is the Robert Benchley design for a drop curtain depicting a map of Camelot, to be used during the intermission for *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Approximately one half of the designs are for unidentified productions, one of which is possibly *Lew Leslie's Blackbirds of 1930*. Designers include Junius Cravens, Walter M. Harvey, John F. Hawkins, Herbert Ward, and William Weaver; there are also several designs with a circus theme and a commedia dell'arte character, Punchinella.

## Container list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	<p>"Can-Can Drop," ca. – 1930</p> <p>Includes 2 items by Walter M. Harvey: 1 color on board design with circus motif; initialed on verso with a portion of United Scenic Artists stamp visible; 1 pencil on paper rendering of same design; Walter Harvey name, address and phone number in pencil on verso.</p>
1	2	<p><i>Chee-Chee</i>, 1928</p> <p>Includes 2 color on stock designs by John F. Hawkins; 1 is signed and 1 is initialed on verso; United Scenic Artists stamp on both versos.</p>
1	2	<p>Circus Theme, ca. 1930</p> <p>Includes 2 color on stock designs.</p>
1	3	<p>Commedia dell'Arte – Punchinella – "Prologue," ca. 1930s</p> <p>Includes color on illustration board design.</p>
1	4-5	<p><i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i>, 1927</p> <p>Includes 10 color on stock and board designs, 1 of which is for a drop curtain depicting a map of Camelot by Robert Benchley, to be used during intermission; 2 are cutouts; 1 design is signed "Junius Cravens;" John F. Hawkins is listed as scenery and costume designer for this production.</p>
1	6	<p><i>A Farewell to Arms</i> – Act I, Scenes 1 and 2, 1930</p> <p>Includes color on stock design.</p>
1	7	<p><i>Janet of France</i>, 1929</p> <p>Includes color on stock design; United Scenic Artists stamp partially visible in lower right corner.</p>
1	8	<p>Minstrels (Possibly <i>Lew Leslie Blackbirds of 1930?</i>)</p> <p>Includes 2 color on stock designs: 1 of commercial products such as Cream of Wheat, Gold Dust, Ginger Browns, Brown Sugar Cookies, and 2 iconic figures (male and female); 1 of Lenox Avenue exterior.</p>
1	9	<p><i>So Was Napoleon (The Sap from Syracuse)</i>, 1930 (Includes color on stock design.)</p>
1	9	<p><i>Through the Years (Musical Version of Smilin' Through)</i>, 1932</p> <p>Includes 2 color on board designs; signed Harvey; <i>Smilin' Through</i> printed on bottom of designs.</p>
		<p>Untitled, ca. 1921 – 1932</p> <p>Signed</p>
2	1	<p>Cravens, Junius, ca. 1921 – 1926</p> <p>Includes 2 color on stock designs: 1 of Café de la Paix exterior, 1 of proscenium arch with 18<sup>th</sup> century aristocrats on horses, with deer, servants, and 2-sides staircase; signed.</p>
2	2	<p>Ward, Herbert, ca. 1921 – 1932</p> <p>Includes 4 items: 3 are color on stock and 1 is color on board (possibly a paint elevation); all are initialed with United Scenic Artists stamp on versos.</p>
2	1	<p>Weaver, William, ca. 1921 – 1932</p> <p>Includes color on board design of nursery rhymes; signed.</p>
		<p>Unsigned</p>
2	7	<p>Arch with Column in Center (Possibly Looking through to Stadium)</p> <p>Includes color on stock design.</p>
2	7	<p>Arches with Kissing Couple, Female Dancers and Large Blue Silhouettes</p> <p>Includes color on illustration board design.</p>

2	4	Art Deco Hallway with Black and Gold Floor and Steps Includes color on stock design.
2	4	Art Deco Interior with Steps Opening to Terrace Includes color with pencil design on stock.
2	4	Art Deco Mechanical Device with Dial on Right Side Includes color on stock design (possibly a backdrop); pencil sketch of traditional balcony and arches.
2	7	Curtain with Covered Wagon, Horse and Men with Trees Includes color on board design.
2	3	Embroidery Samplers Includes 2 color on board designs.
2	3	Futuristic Theme Includes 2 color on paper designs with rocket ships and futuristic Buildings; frames attached to surfaces.
2	5	Garden Scenes (Nighttime) Includes 2 color on board designs: 1 cutout of trees and garden, 1 exterior of large stone home with wall and garden.
2	5	Grey Stone Buildings (Possibly Prisons) Viewed through Arch Surrounded by Dark Blue Includes color on stock design; pencil sketches on verso.
2	5	Interior of Formal Room with French Windows and Mural Includes color on illustration board design.
2	5	Eighteenth Century Male and Female Figures Dancing Includes color on paper mounted on board; there is a cutout of a female figure pasted on the surface; only a small portion of the male figure remains.
2	6	Mediterranean (?) Evening Exteriors Includes 2 color on stock panoramic designs.
2	7	Olio (?) with Country Cottage and Peacock Includes color on stock design.
2	4	Ship Exterior Includes color on stock design with black background and showgirls in short white jackets, top hats and canes.
2	4	Village Lane Includes pencil on paper; "Bot of drop" in lower right corner.