

Collection of Alfred J. Frueh caricatures, 1911-1957
(bulk 1922), 167 items



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Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Alfred J. Frueh (1880-1968) and the Museum of the City of New York

Title: Collection of Alfred J. Frueh caricatures

Dates: 1911-1957, bulk 1922

Abstract: The combination of nine gifts, the collection contains original caricatures of popular stage performers drawn by Alfred J. Frueh, the bulk published in *Stage Folk: a book of caricatures by Frueh*, a limited 500 copy edition by Lieber and Lewis, 1922.

Quantity: 167 items

Accession numbers: 35.180.1-37; 46.397.1-12; 51.10.4-7; 54.349.1-2; 56.84; 60.53.1-39; 65.124.1-32; 82.127.2; 83.168.1-39

Language: English

Biographical Note

American caricaturist Alfred Joseph Frueh was born in 1880 in Lima, Ohio to Henry Frueh, a farmer and a brewer, and Anna Roemer. The oldest of four, Frueh (pronounced “free”) worked as a farmer and a bookkeeper in his father’s brewery until 1904 when he moved to St. Louis. There his uncle introduced him to editors at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Though he had limited formal training, the newspaper hired him as a cartoonist. At the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Frueh did sketches of court scenes and political cartoons. As early as 1907, Frueh began travelling to Europe and formalizing his training in Paris studios. While abroad in 1913, he married Giuliette Fanciulli with whom he had three children.

By 1910, Frueh had moved to New York, and from 1910 to 1924 his sketches appeared daily in the *New York World*. Frueh’s name became associated with theatrical caricatures when his rendering of stage star Fritzi Scheff was published with her face transformed into a dog-like snout. His first gallery show was mounted by photographer and art promoter Alfred Stieglitz at the Little Gallery of the Photo-Secession in 1912. It included caricatures of theater luminaries such as Oscar Hammerstein I, Billie Burke, and Ethel Barrymore. In 1922, Lieber & Lewis published a 500 copy, limited edition run of *Stage Folk: a book of caricatures by Frueh* featuring many of his theatrical caricatures. Frueh contributed two cartoons to the first edition of the *New Yorker* and created the cover image for the second issue. He was a regular contributor to the magazine until 1963. Alfred J. Frueh died at age 88 in 1968 after having suffered several severe strokes.

Scope and Content

The collection consists entirely of linocut prints and drawings by Alfred J. Frueh. The majority of the works are from *Stage Folk: a book of caricatures by Frueh* published in 1922 by Lieber & Lewis. Caricatures include those of Ethel Barrymore, Fritzi Scheff, George M. Cohan, David Warfield, and many other theatre and vaudeville personalities of the early 20th Century.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series. Objects are ordered by accession number within each series. This arrangement does not reflect the order in which works were created.

Series I: Stage Folk: a book of caricatures by Frueh

This series is made up of individual linocut prints that originally formed at least five different editions of *Stage Folk: a book of caricatures by Frueh*. Objects were given unbound as separate sheets. There are two complete sets of prints and three partial editions. The original number for each edition is not known.

Series II: non-Stage Folk caricatures

This series consists of linocut prints and drawings made prior to or after the publication of *Stage Folk*. While the publication history of a majority of the works is unknown, at least one was created for *New Yorker* magazine (82.127.2). Object 54.349.1, an Ethel Barrymore drawing, was done specifically for the Museum of the City of New York.

Collection is located onsite at the Museum’s Curatorial Center.

Language of Materials

Materials are in English.

Access and Use

The Museum of the City of New York collections must be examined on site. Appointments to examine materials must be made in advance by contacting the Archivist through e-mail at research@mcny.org.

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Administrative information**Custodial history**

The collection consists of nine gifts with six identified donors: 35.180 and 51.10 were donated by Gaston J. Cramer; 46.397 and 54.349 were donated by Alfred J. Frueh; 56.84 was donated by Susan Lyman; 60.53 was donated by Olga Drexel Dahlgren; 65.124 was donated by Philip Sills; and 82.127 was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Cassel. Direct donor information is not known for gift 83.168, but an inscription on the index page indicates the gift was at one time owned by H. B. Swope, given to him by the artist.

Preferred citation

Title, date. Collection of Alfred J. Frueh caricatures. Museum of the City of New York. Accession #.

Acquisition information

Items in this collection were acquired by the donation of eight separate gifts to the Museum of the City of New York. The first gift was by Gaston J. Cramer in May 1935. Mr. Cramer donated additional items in January 1951. The artist, Alfred J. Frueh, donated caricatures in December 1946 and then again in December 1954. Miss Susan E. Lyman donated a caricature in February 1956, followed by a donation by Miss Olga Drexel Dahlgren in March 1960. Mr. Philip Sills made his donation in December 1965. Mr. and Mrs. Milton Cassel made a donation in July 1982. Gift 83.168 was found in the collection with no known donor and accessioned in January 1984.

Processing information

The collection was processed intern Jeremy Zoref in the fall of 2012. Processing included item level cataloging and reference images of each object.

Related Material

Additional material related to the personalities listed may be found in the Theatrical Personalities files. Additional material related to productions mentioned may be found in the Collection on Broadway Productions.

Other institutions:

[Alfred Frueh caricatures, 1906-1962](#), New York Public Library

[Alfred Frueh 1880-1968 biographical file](#), Ohio State University

[Alfred J. Frueh papers, 1904-1993](#), Smithsonian Archives of American Art

[Alfred Joseph Frueh: artist file, miscellaneous uncataloged material](#), Baltimore Museum of Art Library

[Artist file](#), Brooklyn Museum Libraries & Archives

[Cartoon drawing filing series](#), Library of Congress

Access Points

Personal names:

Adams, Maude, 1872-1953

Arliss, George, 1868-1946

Bainter, Fay, 1892-1968

Barrymore, Ethel, 1879-1959

Bates, Marie (not in LOC)

Bayes, Nora, 1880-1928

Ben-Ami, Jacob

Bernard, Barney, 1877-1924

Cohan, George M. (George Michael), 1878-1942

Collier, William, 1866-1944

Collinge, Patricia, 1894-1974

Courtenay, William, 1875-1933

Cowan, Jerome, 1897-1972

Daly, Arnold, 1875-1927

Ditrichstein, Leo, 1865-1928

Dressler, Marie, 1869-1934

Drew, John, 1853-1927

Edeson, Robert, 1868-1931

Emery, John, 1905-1964

Errol, Leon, 1881-1951

Faversham, William, 1868-1940

Fields, Lew, 1867-1941

Fiske, Minnie Maddern, 1865-1932

Forbes-Robertson, Johnston, Sir, 1853-1937

Foy, Eddie, 1856-1928

Frueh, Alfred Joseph, 1880-1968

Gillette, William, 1853-1937

Goodwin, Nat. C. (Nathaniel Carll), 1857-1919

Guilbert, Yvette, 1865-1944

Hitchcock, Raymond, 1865-1929
Hopper, De Wolf, 1858-1935
Illington, Margaret, 1879-1934
Ito, Michio
Kellerman, Annette, 1888-1975
Kuluva, Will, 1917-1990
Lackaye, Wilton
Lansbury, Angela, 1925-
Marlowe, Julia, 1865-1950
Mathews, Carmen
McGavin, Darren, 1922-2006
Miller, Henry, 1860-1926
Nash, Mary, 1885-1976
Nazimova, 1879-1945
Powers, James T., 1862-1943
Russell, Lillian, 1861-1922
Scheff, Fritzi, 1879-1954
Skinner, Otis, 1858-1942
Slezak, Walter, 1902-1983
Starr, Frances
Trevor, Norman, 1877-1929
Warfield, David, 1866-1951
Weber, Joe, 1867-1942
Williams, Bert, 1874-1922
Wilson, Francis, 1854-1935
Wise, Thomas A. (Thomas Alfred), 1865-1928
Young, Roland, 1887-1953

Corporate names:

Lieber & Lewis
Morosco Theatre (New York, N.Y.)
New Yorker (New York, N.Y. : 1925)

Topical subjects:

Actors -- United States -- Caricatures and cartoons
Caricature
Linocuts
Theater--New York (State)--New York--Caricatures and cartoons
Wit and Humor, Pictorial

Geographic subjects:

New York (N.Y.)

Container List

Acc. #	Title	Date
Series I: Stage Folk: a book of caricatures by Frueh		
35.180.1	Annette Kellerman	1922
35.180.2	Leo Ditrichstein	1922
35.180.3	Julia Marlowe	1922
35.180.4	George Arliss	1922
35.180.5	William Faversham	1922
35.180.6	Lillian Russell	1922
35.180.7	James T. Powers	1922
35.180.8	William Gillette	1922
35.180.9	Robert Edeson	1922
35.180.10	Thomas Wise and William Courtenay	1922
35.180.11	Ethel Barrymore	1922
35.180.12	John Drew	1922
35.180.13	Bert Williams	1922
35.180.14	Fritzi Scheff	1922
35.180.15	Maude Adams	1922
35.180.16	William Collier	1922
35.180.17	George M. Cohan	1922
35.180.18	All Nazimova	1922
35.180.19	Frances Starr	1922
35.180.20	Johnston Forbes-Robertson	1922
35.180.21	Yvette Guilbert	1922
35.180.22	Wilton Lackaye	1922
35.180.23	Arnold Daly	1922
35.180.24	Jacob Ben-Ami	1922
35.180.25	Roland Young	1922
35.180.26	Leon Errol	1922
35.180.27	Otis Skinner	1922
35.180.28	Mrs. Fiske	1922
35.180.29	Nat Goodwin	1922
35.180.30	Francis Wilson and DeWolf Hopper	1922
35.180.31	Marie Dressler	1922
35.180.32	Barney Bernard	1922
35.180.33	David Warfield and Marie Bates	1922
35.180.34	Joe Weber and Lew Fields	1922
35.180.35	Mary Nash	1922
35.180.36	Norman Trevor	1922
35.180.37	Raymond Hitchcock	1922
51.10.4	Joe Weber and Lew Fields	1922
51.10.5	Maude Adams	1922
51.10.6	Lillian Russell	1922
51.10.7	Wilton Lackaye	1922
60.53.1	Annette Kellerman	1922

60.53.2	Leo Ditrichstein	1922
60.53.3	Julia Marlowe	1922
60.53.4	George Arliss	1922
60.53.5	William Faversham	1922
60.53.6	Lillian Russell	1922
60.53.7	James T. Powers	1922
60.53.8	William Gillette	1922
60.53.9	Robert Edeson	1922
60.53.10	Thomas Wise and William Courtenay	1922
60.53.11	Ethel Barrymore	1922
60.53.12	John Drew	1922
60.53.13	Bert Williams	1922
60.53.14	Maude Adams	1922
60.53.15	William Collier	1922
60.53.16	George M. Cohan	1922
60.53.17	Alla Nazimova	1922
60.53.18	Frances Starr	1922
60.53.19	Johnston Forbes-Robertson	1922
60.53.20	Yvette Guilbert	1922
60.53.21	Wilton Lackaye	1922
60.53.22	Arnold Daly	1922
60.53.23	Jacob Ben-Ami	1922
60.53.24	Roland Young	1922
60.53.25	Leon Errol	1922
60.53.26	Otis Skinner	1922
60.53.27	Mrs. Fiske	1922
60.53.28	Nat Goodwin	1922
60.53.29	Francis Wilson and DeWolf Hopper	1922
60.53.31	Barney Bernard	1922
60.53.32	David Warfield and Marie Bates	1922
60.53.33	Joe Weber and Lew Fields	1922
60.53.34	Mary Nash	1922
60.53.35	Norman Trevor	1922
60.53.36	Raymond Hitchcock	1922
60.53.37	Fritzi Scheff	1922
60.53.38	Character Listings	1922
65.124.1	Leo Ditrichstein	1922
65.124.2	Julia Marlowe	1922
65.124.3	George Arliss	1922
65.124.4	William Faversham	1922
65.124.5	Lillian Russell	1922
65.124.6	William Gillette	1922
65.124.7	Robert Edeson	1922
65.124.8	Thomas Wise and William Courtenay	1922
65.124.9	Ethel Barrymore	1922

65.124.10	John Drew	1922
65.124.11	Bert Williams	1922
65.124.12	Fritzi Scheff	1922
65.124.13	Maude Adams	1922
65.124.14	William Collier	1922
65.124.15	George M. Cohan	1922
65.124.16	Alla Nazimova	1922
65.124.17	Frances Starr	1922
65.124.18	Forbes-Robertson	1922
65.124.19	Yvette Guilbert	1922
65.124.20	Wilton Lackaye	1922
65.124.21	Arnold Daly	1922
65.124.22	Roland Young	1922
65.124.23	Leon Errol	1922
65.124.24	Otis Skinner	1922
65.124.25	Mrs. Fiske	1922
65.124.26	Nat Goodwin	1922
65.124.27	Marie Dressler	1922
65.124.28	Barney Bernard	1922
65.124.29	Joe Weber and Lew Fields	1922
65.124.30	Mary Nash	1922
65.124.31	Norman Trevor	1922
65.124.32	Raymond Hitchcock	1922
83.168.1	Annette Kellerman	1922
83.168.2	Leo Ditrichstein	1922
83.168.3	Julia Marlowe	1922
83.168.4	George Arliss	1922
83.168.5	William Faversham	1922
83.168.6	Lillian Russell	1922
83.168.7	James T. Powers	1922
83.168.8	William Gillette	1922
83.168.9	Robert Edeson	1922
83.168.10	Thomas Wise and William Courtenay	1922
83.168.11	Ethel Barrymore	1922
83.168.12	John Drew	1922
83.168.13	Bert Williams	1922
83.168.14	Fritzi Scheff	1922
83.168.15	Maude Adams	1922
83.168.16	William Collier	1922
83.168.17	George M. Cohan	1922
83.168.18	All Nazimova	1922
83.168.19	Frances Starr	1922
83.168.20	Johnston Forbes-Robertson	1922
83.168.21	Yvette Guilbert	1922
83.168.22	Wilton Lackaye	1922

83.168.23	Arnold Daly	1922
83.168.24	Jacob Ben-Ami	1922
83.168.25	Roland Young	1922
83.168.26	Leon Errol	1922
83.168.27	Otis Skinner	1922
83.168.28	Mrs. Fiske	1922
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83.168.30	Francis Wilson and DeWolf Hopper	1922
83.168.31	Marie Dressler	1922
83.168.32	Barney Bernard	1922
83.168.33	David Warfield and Marie Bates	1922
83.168.34	Joe Weber and Lew Fields	1922
83.168.35	Mary Nash	1922
83.168.36	Norman Trevor	1922
83.168.37	Raymond Hitchcock	1922
83.168.38	Character Listings	1922

Series II: non-Stage Folk caricatures

46.397.1	George Arliss	Undated
46.397.2	Nora Bayes	Undated
46.397.3	Patricia Collinge in "Pollyanna"	ca. 1920
46.397.4	Eddie Foy	Undated
46.397.5	Michio Ito	ca. 1925
46.397.6	Henry Miller	Undated
46.397.7	David Warfield in "The Auctioneer"	ca. 1918
46.397.8	Francis Wilson	Undated
46.397.9	Fay Bainter	Undated
46.397.10	Mrs. Fiske	Undated
46.397.11	Margaret Illington	Undated
46.397.12	Alla Nazimova	Undated
54.349.1	Ethel Barrymore	1954
54.349.2	Ethel Barrymore	1954
56.84	George Arliss	1911
82.127.2	"My 3 Angels"	1952