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Guide to the Irving Miller Collection of World War II Posters

MS 1845



compiled by Christopher Geissler and Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1845

CREATOR: Miller, Irving, 1918-

TITLE: Irving Miller collection of World War II posters

DATES: 1942-1943

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists primarily of World War II posters designed by Irving Miller and created by various artists, including Henry Koerner and Robert Gwathmey, for the Office of War Information and other government agencies. A few posters by other artists are included at the end of the collection.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1845>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1845>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jon Miller, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Irving Miller Collection of World War II Posters (MS 1845). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Irving Miller was born on December 7, 1918, in New York City. While a student at City College of New York, he designed book jackets for Random House, MacMillan, Alfred A. Knopf, Dodd Mead and Harper and freelanced for the newly formed CBS radio network. Upon graduation in 1939, he taught the first course in graphic design offered by City College. During World War II, he joined the Office of War Information (OWI) as the art director of war posters, working with leading artists such as Norman Rockwell, Ben Shahn, David Stone Martin, and others to produce a wide range of posters. He was later appointed art director of the OWI. Following the end of the war, he was appointed art director at CBS where he received numerous awards. Some of his work was published in major graphic design magazines and was featured in several highly successful one-man shows. He left CBS in 1958 to open his own graphic design studio on Lexington Avenue where, over the next twenty-five years, he worked for major clients such as IBM, International Paper, Westvaco, American Bank Note, and the Roman Catholic Church. Following his retirement in 1995, he continued in the graphic design field, as well as fine art painting.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists primarily of World War II posters designed by Irving Miller and created by various artists, including Henry Koerner and Robert Gwathmey, for the Office of War Information and other government agencies. A few posters by other artists are included at the end of the collection.

Arrangement

The Irving Miller Collection of World War II Posters is arranged alphabetically by the government agency for which the posters were produced. Within a department, the posters are arranged alphabetically by title. When known, the artist's name is provided, followed by the size of the poster.

Collection Contents

Department of Agriculture		
b.1	Food Comes First. [Glenn Grohe, 26 x 20]	1943
Federal Security Agency		
b.1	Enlist in a Proud Profession! Join the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. [Edmundson, 20 undated x 28]	
Office of Price Administration		
b.1	Rationing means a fair share for all of us. [Al Dorn, 22 x 28]	1943
Office of War Information		
b.1	America's Fishing Fleet and Men...Assets to Victory. [Henry Koerner, OWI poster no. 61, 28 x 21]	1943
b.1	A careless word...another cross. [John Atherton, OWI poster no. 23, 22 x 28]	1943
b.1	Do with less--so they'll have enough! Rationing gives you your fair share. [artist unidentified, OWI poster no. 37, 28 x 22]	1943
b.2	Easy to Get...Syphilis and Gonorrhea [artist unidentified, 14 x 20]	1943
b.2	Fish is a Fighting Food, We Need More. [Henry Koerner, OWI poster no. 60, 28 x 20]	1943
b.2	Food is a Weapon, Don't waste it! [Henry Koerner, OWI poster no. 60, 28 x 20]	1943
b.2	Help Bring Them Back to You! Make Yours a Victory Home! [artist unidentified, OWI poster no. 41, 22 x 28]	1943
b.2	"I'll carry mine too!" [Sarra, OWI poster no. 28, 28 x 22] English	1943
b.2	I've Found the Job Where I Fit Best! Find your war job in Industry--Agriculture--Business. [artist unidentified, OWI poster no. 55, 16 x 22½]	1943
b.3	Keep Him Flying! Buy War Bonds. [artist unidentified, 28 x 22]	1943
b.3	The more Women at work the sooner we Win! [artist unidentified, OWI poster no. 52, 14 x 22]	
b.3	Plant a Victory Garden. [Robert Gwathmey, OWI poster no. 34, 28 x 22]	1943
b.3	Save waste fats for explosives. [Henry Koerner, OWI poster no. 63, 28 x 20]	1943
b.3	Strong in the Strength of the Lord we who fight in the people's cause will never stop until that cause is won. [David Stone Martin, OWI poster no. 8, 21 x 28]	1942
b.4	This man may die...if you talk too much. [Sarra, OWI poster no. 6, 22 x 28]	1943

b. 4	United We are Strong United We Will Win. [Henry Koerner, OWI poster no. 61, 28 x 21]	1943
b. 4	Use it up--Wear it out--Make it do! Our labor and our goods are fighting. [Robert Gwathmey, OWI poster no. 39, 28 x 22]	1943
b. 4	War Shipments Mean Less Fuel for All. [artist unidentified, OWI poster no. 29, 22 x 28]	1943
b. 4	We French workers warn you...defeat means slavery, starvation, death. [Ben Shahn, OWI poster no. 17, 28 x 40]	1942
b. 5	"We'll have lots to eat this winter, won't we Mother?" Grow your own, can your own. [Al Parker, OWI poster no. 57, 22 x 14] English	1943
b. 5	Where our men are fighting our food is fighting. [Robert Gwathmey, OWI poster no. 35, 28 x 22]	1943
b. 5	Work on a Farm this Summer. [Douglas, OWI poster no. 59, 16 x 22½]	1943
War Production Board		
b. 5	If it'll save a second it's a great idea--let's have it! [Henry Koerner, 28 x 40]	1943
b. 5	Next of kin has been notified...your work will save lives. [Xavier Gonzalez, War Production Board poster no. 828, 28 x 40]	1942
Other		
b. 6	Dali, Salvador [untitled design donated to OWI, never used due to sensitive nature of material, copyright status unknown, 11 x 13½]	undated
b. 6	For Their Sake...Avoid Venereal Disease. [artist unidentified, 14 x 20]	1943
b. 6	I pay no more than top legal prices--I accept no rationed goods without giving up ration stamps. [decal; artist unidentified, 5 x 5]	undated
b. 6	Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms [poster depicting drawings of the four freedoms with descriptive history, 8½ x 11]	
b. 6	Your War Bonds are a Stake in the Future [Alan Sallburg, 20 x 28]	1943

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945 -- Posters

Genres / Formats

Posters

Names

Miller, Irving, 1918-

Corporate Body

United States. Office of War Information