Sam Smith Collection

MSS 14



compiled by Sarah Welcome

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Center for British Art, Rare Books and Manuscripts

Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts

1080 Chapel Street P. O. Box 208280

New Haven, CT 06520-8280

203-432-2814

ycba.rarebooks@yale.edu

https://britishart.yale.edu/about-us/departments/rare-books-and-

manuscripts

CALL NUMBER: MSS 14

CREATOR: Smith, Sam, 1908-

TITLE: Sam Smith Collection

DATES: 1972-1996

BULK DATES: 1972-1979

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection comprises original work by Sam Smith including ink drawings,

mock-ups, hand-carved wooden boats, paper model sets, typescripts, and

correspondence.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://

hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0014

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0014.

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

b. box f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Max and Barbara Wilk.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Sam Smith Collection, Yale Center for British Art, Gift of Max and Barbara Wilk.

Biographical / Historical

British artist Sam Smith is best known for his hand-carved wooden toys and sculpture. He was born on 27 July, 1908, in Southampton, England. His father, Edwin Thomas Smith, was a steamship captain and a great influence on Smith's art. Smith often depicts themes of the sea, including boats, sea side towns, mermaids, and sea captains.

Smith was educated at Victoria College, Jersey, between 1918 and 1925, and later at Bournemouth School of Art and Westminster School of Art, London, from 1926 to 1930. He aspired to become a painter, but even after one of his paintings was exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts in 1925, he did not find success. In 1933 he became an assistant at the Little Gallery in London. While at the Little Gallery, Smith began carving small wooden objects; these later transformed into wooden toys sold at the gallery. By 1935, he began to receive some critical recognition.

Smith's activity creating wooden sculpture was interrupted by World War II, during which he was sent to work as an illustrator of bridge-building manuals for GTC Redbridge Bailey Bridge Company. Smith's experience rendering technical drawings would later prove helpful in his own career as an artist and sculptor.

After 1945, and with the help of Henry Rothschild, Smith began to exhibit his work more frequently, with shows at Primavera, London, and later at the Portal and Serpentine Galleries in London. Smith's work continued to increase in popularity and he began producing on a larger scale. He soon began to supply toys to department stores, boutiques, and private collectors.

Smith's work was widely received in the United States after 1955. He achieved far greater success in the American market, where he developed a cult-like following. The more successful he became, the more expansive and ambitious were his pieces, including some large-scale wooden sculpture, paper cut-out books, and toy theaters. Smith had many dedicated patrons and promoters, including Max and Barbara Wilk, and in 1972 the Bristol City Art Gallery held his first major retrospective exhibition. The exhibition later traveled to Camden Arts Centre, London, and the Beauford Arts Centre, Devon. This exhibition was extremely successful and gave Smith the recognition in his home country that he had previously enjoyed in the United States.

Other exhibitions would follow and some are written about in his letters to Max and Barbara Wilk. In 1976, BBC2 Arena released an award-winning film, *Sam Smith: Genuine England*. In the early 1980s Smith had a major exhibition at The Serpentine Gallery, London. Illness followed soon thereafter, and Smith died in 1983.

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises original work by Sam Smith including ink drawings, mock-ups, hand-carved wooden boats, paper model sets, and typescripts for three unpublished works: *Bioscope Palace, Edward and his marvellous telescope*, and *Trudi, Angela and John Darme*. One of these unpublished works, *Bioscope Palace*, illustrates Smith's interest in toy theater and silent cinema.

Also present is related correspondence, primarily between Smith and Max and Barbara Wilk. The letters cover many topics, including Smith's unpublished works and his exhibitions. Letters in the collection are from the period of ambition and recognition that Smith enjoyed in the 1970s. The tone is personal and comical and it is obvious that Smith took great care in producing the letters, as they are always hand addressed and signed with love from Sam. The collection also includes secondary material about Smith, including exhibition catalogs and magazine clippings

Bibliography

Lister, Eric. Twentieth Century British Naïve and Primitive Artists. London: Astragal Books, 1977. Burr, James. "An Alternative Art." Apollo, Dec. 1980, p. 428.

Sam Smith: Genuine England. 2003. Jessica Jewett and Jamie Ridyard. 8 Dec. 2011 http://www.sam-smith.org/

Pasierbska, Halina. "Smith, Alan Verner [Sam] (1908-1983)" Oxford dictionary of National Biography. 2004. Oxford University Press. 8 Dec. 2011 http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/93092 > Sam Smith: Genuine England, Arena, BBC2, 1976.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into eight series: I. Bioscope Palace; II. Edward and His Marvellous Telescope; III. Trudi, Angela and John Darme; IV. Paper Model Sets; V. Carved and Painted Wood Sculpture; VI. Exhibition Material; VII. Correspondence; and VIII. Miscellaneous

Collection Contents

Series I: Bioscope Palace

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1 Letter to Max, Barbara and Francie Wilk

1974

3 leaves ; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in black ink. Heading dated: "the ninth 1974" Smith, Sam, 1908-

The letter refers to the "Silent Cinema Toy," later known as the Bioscope Palace. There is also a reference to an unidentified publication with "thirty 2" pages of illustrations for Ernest Benn Ltd.

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Corporate Body: Ernest Benn Ltd

Names:

Begaye, Mary Frances -- Correspondence Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 2 Letter to Max Wilk

1974 August 4

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in pen, with purple ink stamp of Sam Smith below signature.
Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter mentions the "Silent Cinema Toy," later referred to as the Bioscope Palace: "Have come to the conclusion some form of pictures turning on rollers is the right answer, and Jasper is now supposed to be making a mock-up model." The header of the letter is addressed: The Golf House Kingswear Dartmouth Devon England Europe The World Solar System Universe Lap of God.

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 3 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1975 September

5 leaves; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in ink. Letter includes sketches of the "Silent Cinema" later known as the Bioscope Palace. Some sketches hand-colored. Leaf 1-2 on white paper. Leaves 3-4 are on pink paper. Leaf 5 on Sam Smith letterhead with portrait of The Founder. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter discusses an upcoming visit by a photographer, F. Bullock, for the purpose of gathering material for a book on crafts. It includes sketches for the "Silent Cinema" later known as the Bioscope Palace.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 4 Letter to Max Wilk

1978 September

1 leaf; 27×19 cm. Typescript letter on Hawthorn Books letterhead. Signed in black pen by Judith Sachs. Includes original envelope with Hawthorn books, Inc. label on verso. Sachs, Judith

Sachs discusses how everyone loves Sam's work but that no one can figure out how to make the theater idea work.

Hawthorn Books, Inc. merged with EP Dutton in 1979.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Sachs, Judith -- Correspondence Smith, Sam, 1908-Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

Artwork

b. 1, f. 5 Sketched mock-up design of Bioscope Theatre

1970s

1 mock-up; 25×30 cm. folded to 25×16 cm. Constructed from manila folder and sketched on with red pen. Includes 1 strip of scenes, 7×22 cm. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Mock-up shows both the printed and mechanical design of the theater. The folder was previously used to keep files regarding Judith Sachs; it is labeled in pen, "Judith Sachs 6/12/78."

Genres / Formats:

Miniature theaters Mock-ups Toy theaters

Names:

Sachs, Judith

Artwork (continued)

b. 1, f. 6 Advertisement design for Bioscope Palace

1970s

1 leaf; 28×21 cm. Colored felt marker and graphite on white paper. 4×6 cm piece of paper glued to sheet.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Preliminary colored drawing of a design for a Bioscope Palace advertisement. It states that the Bioscope Palace is the "home of FINE ENTERTAINMENT for ALL the FAMILY."

Genres / Formats:

Miniature theaters

Mock-ups

Pen and ink drawings

Toy theaters

b. 1, f. 7 Advertisement design for Bioscope Palace

1970s

1 leaf; 25 x 22 cm. Colored felt marker and graphite on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Drawn in color, advertisement design for Bioscope Theater. "Coming! Don't Miss It! Limited Engagement Hurry!"

Genres / Formats:

Miniature theaters

Mock-ups

Pen and ink drawings

Toy theaters

b. 1, f. 8 Program cover design for Bioscope Palace

1970s

1 leaf; 28 x 22 cm. Colored felt tip marker and graphite on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Program design for the Bioscope Palace drawn in colored felt tip marker. Some preliminary graphite lines remain.

Genres / Formats:

Miniature theaters

Mock-ups

Pen and ink drawings

Toy theaters

b. 4, f. 1 Prototype of Bioscope Palace

1974

1 miniature theater, 2 strips of scenes, 1 strip of announcements; theater $23 \times 46 \text{ cm} + 2 \text{ strips}$ of scenes $13 \times 55 \text{ cm}$, 1 strip of announcements $13 \times 26 \text{ cm}$. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Mechanical prototype design of a miniature or toy theater with three strips. Designed as a replica of a 1910-style motion picture theater illustrated with pen and ink and watercolor. The two strips of scenes include 12 captioned drawings of scenes imitating early film. The other strip has illustrated announcements to the audience. All are hand-colored with pen and black ink, watercolor and colored felt-tip pen.

Genres / Formats: Miniature theaters Mock-ups Toy theaters

Miscellaneous

b. 1, f. 9 Letter of agreement regarding "Biograph Palace"

1974 June 19

1 leaf; 28 x 22 cm. Typescript contract signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-Wilk, Max, 1920-

Typescript contract stating the basis for an agreement between Sam Smith and Max Wilk, regarding the possible publication of the "Biograph Palace" prototype as a mass-produced toy, book, or both.

Genres / Formats: Legal documents

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908-Wilk, Max, 1920-

b. 1, f. 10 Typescript. Description of Bioscope palace

1970s

2 leaves; 28 x 22 cm. Typescript. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Narrative typescript description of the Bioscope Palace as "the finest of that most exciting new invention, the moving picture play."

Genres / Formats: Typescripts

Series II: Edward and His Marvellous Telescope

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 11 Postcard to Barbara Wilk

1972 September

1 postcard; 9 x 14 cm. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Addressed to Mrs. Barbara Wilk, 14 Eton Villas, London, N.W.3. "Thursday Have brought my telescope to Wolver-Hampton for a new view. Wish you were here, Sam."

Postcard with four pictures of Wolverhampton, including Town Hall, West Park, St. Peter's Collegiate Church, and Victoria Street.

Genres / Formats:

Postcards

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 12 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1973 March 14

1 leaf; 30 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on light orange paper. Addressed and signed in blue ink.
Smith, Sam, 1908-

The third paragraph of the letter discusses the "telescope idea" and Sam's wish to work out some rough sketches to send along with his next correspondence. Sam also mentions that he has enclosed a recently completed "do-it-yourself cutout."

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 13 Letter to Max Wilk

1974 August 2

1 leaf; 30 x 21 cm. Typescript letter to Max Wilk from Timothy Benn on Ernest Benn Ltd. letterhead. Addressed and signed in blue ink. Benn, Timothy, 1936-2019

Letter discusses putting the manuscript of *Edward* and *His Marvellous Telescope* in the post that afternoon and sending it to another publisher, Farrar Straus. Mr. Benn explains that they are currently working on *The Secret Harbour* (another work by Sam Smith) and how he would like to complete that project before embarking on another. He is, however, very interested in the concept of *Edward* and hopes to make it a companion book to the *The Secret Harbor* after "a good deal of modification."

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Corporate Bodies:

Ernest Benn Ltd

Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

Names

Benn, Timothy, 1936-2019 -- Correspondence Smith, Sam, 1908-Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 14 Letter to an unidentified recipient

1970s

1 leaf; 21 x 15 cm. Autograph signed letter in blue ink on The Victoria Hotel letterhead.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter thanks the recipient for his previous letter and discusses thinking about telescopes in the Prince Albert Room and going to Birmingham to think some more.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 15 Letter to Max Wilk

before 1979

1 leaf; 30 x 21 cm. Typescript letter to Max Wilk on light orange paper. Addressed and signed in black ink.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Most of the letter discusses health issues (of Sam and Barbara Wilk), a farm, and farm animals. The final paragraph reads: "My gosh it will be good if *Ed and his Telescope* take off. I hope we can keep plenty of words. Surely up to ten thousand would be all right (12,000). Love to all, Sam"

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 16 Letter to Barbara Wilk

before 1979

1 leaf; 30 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on light orange paper. Addressed and signed in blue ink.
Smith, Sam, 1908-

The first two paragraphs of the letter discuss health issues. The next two paragraphs discuss the "Telescope project," including a first chapter for a "Telescope theme." Smith adds that there is a drawing of "the place", "drawings of the Captain-loving and Dis-approving--could be a two-faced cut-out," and "a trick drawing--the opening of the water machine as seen through Edward's telescope."

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

Artwork

b. 4, f. 2 Signed drawings of the Captain

1970s

1 sheet; 33 x 26 cm. 2 sheets of white watercolor paper adhered together. Drawn with colored pen and signed on both sides. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Each side of the sheet has an emotional depiction of the Captain. One side declares: "The Captain...could be a loving man." The other side counters: "He could also be a strongly disapproving man."

Genres / Formats: Pen and ink drawings

b. 4, f. 3 Signed drawing of a scene through the telescope

1970s

1 sheet; 33 x 26 cm. 1 sheet of white paper and one sheet of black adhered together. Black sheet has circular cutout opening to a colored illustration on the white paper. The illustration has a flap that can be lifted to show another colored illustration.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

The illustration depicts a scene from Edward and His Marvellous Telescope, as if the viewer were looking through a telescope. Under the illustration Smith has written "through the telescope." Above the picture Smith notes: "Lift to see what happened next." When a flap is lifted there is another scene from the story on the other side.

Genres / Formats: Pen and ink drawings

Artwork (continued)

b. 4, f. 4 Signed drawing of Harmouth harbor

1970s

1 sheet; 33 x 51 cm. Pen and black ink drawing with colored felt-tip pen, watercolor and gouache. Was once folded in half and creased in the middle. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Drawing is of Harmouth harbor and depicts Edward's lonely white cottage on one side of the harbor and the populated port on the other. Below the drawing, in black felt-tip pen is written: "Any stranger coming for the first time to the small port of Harmouth who might wonder who lived in the small white cottage which stood alone on the far side of the harbour had only to ask and they would be told, 'Edward lives there with his grandfather.' All the town knew Edward and his grandfather, though only in a distant sort of way; for people could not quite understand why anyone should choose to live in such a lonely place when they could be cosily crowded together with everyone else in the town." Signed on the bottom right in black ink.

Genres / Formats: Gouaches Pen and ink drawings Watercolors (paintings)

Miscellaneous

b. 1, f. 17 Typescript of Chapter 1 and a one-page development of rest of story

1970s

15 leaves; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript with corrections. 14 leaves on white paper, 1 leaf on green paper. Includes original folder with title drawn in ink and 9 x 15 cm. note signed by Timothy Benn in blue ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Typescript leaves contain chapter 1 of *Edward and his Marvellous Telescope* and includes a one-leaf synopsis of "How the story would continue: "The story takes place in the small port of Harmouth. The characters are Edward, his grandfather (the Captain), Primrose (the Harbour Authority's steamer that Edward's grandfather was once the captain of), Major Swivel, Edward's telescope, The Mayor Ma'am, The Harbour Authority, and others."

Genres / Formats: Typescripts

Series III: Trudi, Angela and John Darme

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 18 Letter to Barbara Wilk

1972 November

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in purple ink. Additional notation in ink on right side edge of letter. Smith, Sam, 1908-

The typescript portion of the letter states that Sam has completed the story of *Trudi and Angela*, but has not completed the drawings due to a hospitalization. There is also a brief note about completing the full draft of "the telescope story." Along the edge of the letter on the right-hand side Sam writes, in ink, "Elections sadden me because humans are always so much more credulous than I hope."

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Names

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 19 Letter to Barbara Wilk

1973 January 23

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter mainly talks about Smith's personal health and that of "Glad's." There is a brief entry stating, "It will be marvellous if anything comes of the Trudi-Angela piece."

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 20 Letter to Barbara Wilk

before 1979

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Smith's letter discusses the contents of an enclosure (not included), which consisted of photocopies of letters that he wrote to a young girl in the hospital. He describes the letters as something that he once did and still does "naturally."

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

Artwork

Artwork (continued)

b. 4, f. 5 Shall we go to the beach?

1970s

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Pen and black ink and colored felt-tip pen on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Depicts a sheep and a dog facing one another in conversation below a sun. Gray gouache frame is painted around image.

Genres / Formats:

Gouaches

Pen and ink drawings

b. 4, f. 6 The end of the day on the beach

1970s

1 leaf; 28 x 22 cm. Pen and black ink and colored felt-tip pen on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Depicts a man in uniform (John Darme?), a sheep, and three dogs, dancing around a broom stick with flags. At bottom is a note in black ink: "short authorised version" and "see p. 127." The drawing is 1 of 3 samples enclosed with a signed typescript of *Trudi, Angela and John Darme* with illustrations and colored title page.

Genres / Formats:

Pen and ink drawings

Watercolors (paintings)

b. 4, f. 7 Going home

1970s

1 leaf ; 29 x 22 cm. Pen and black ink and colored felt-tip pen on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

The drawing depicts a man in uniform riding a bicycle with a ladder, a sheep, and three dogs. It is stamped in purple ink "Sam Smith, England." The drawing is 1 of 3 samples enclosed with a signed typescript of *Trudi, Angela and John Darme* with illustrations and colored title page.

Genres / Formats:

Pen and ink drawings

Watercolors (paintings)

b. 4, f. 8 Lottie and Liza lazing on a flower bed.

1970s

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm Pen and black ink and colored felt-tip pen on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Depicts two dogs lying in a flowerbed eating chocolate biscuits.

Genres / Formats:

Pen and ink drawings

Watercolors (paintings)

Artwork (continued)

b. 4, f. 9 Trudi pretends to be a witch and makes Angela laugh until her wool goes 1970s straight

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Pen and black ink and colored felt-tip pen on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Depicts a dog in a witch costume, and a sheep laughing. "See page 147" is written below the tile.

Genres / Formats: Pen and ink drawings

b. 4, f. 10 Trudi's house: drawn by hand from a photograph

1970s

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Pen and black ink and colored felt-tip pen on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Depicts a house with two doors and a walkway in the foreground. The doors are colored blue and pink and there is a yellow ring around the house.

Genres / Formats: Graphite drawings Pen and ink drawings

b. 4, f. 11 Untitled drawing for Trudi, Angela and John Darme

1970s

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Pen and black ink drawing on white paper. Smith, Sam, 1908-

The drawing depicts a house with two doors and two trees in the foreground. At bottom-left is a note in black ink: "short authorised version." The drawing is 1 of 3 samples enclosed with a signed typescript of *Trudi, Angela and John Darme* with illustrations and colored title page.

Genres / Formats: Pen and ink drawings

Miscellaneous

b. 1, f. 21 Signed typescript of Trudi Angela and John Darme with illustrations

1970s

18 leaves ; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript, with corrections and annotations in pen and black ink.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Most leaves are typescript. A note on the title page reads: "Draft of the expanded version; the illustrations--lots of them--would be in the style of the four samples [i.e. the four illustrations listed above]." The typescript includes one colored illustration and two additional black ink illustrations embedded in the text.

Genres / Formats: Typescripts Miscellaneous (continued)

b. 1, f. 22 Signed typescript of Trudi Angela and John Darme with illustrations and colored title page

12 leaves ; 26 x 21 cm. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Typescript title page has ink colored title with illustration of the sun. Below this Smith has typed: "A hot-up of the short Authorised Version. Illustrations, as 3 samples, would be simple in colour and look as if they had been drawn by anybody's uncle. Love to all Sam." Includes two illustrations in pen and black ink embedded in the text. The three samples that Smith refers to are "Untitled," "Going Home," and "The end of the day on the beach," listed above.

Genres / Formats: Typescripts

b. 1, f. 23 Photocopy of manuscript and typescript of Trudi and Angela, incomplete 1970

18 leaves ; 33 x 21 cm. Smith, Sam, 1908-

The photocopied pages of Trudi and Angela, as explained in the letter to Barbara Wilk, are "all that remains of letters I wrote to a small child in hospital some years ago..." Some letters are hand written, others are typescript. There are illustrations.

It pages were an enclosure with the Barbara Wilk letter included in the present series.

Genres / Formats: Photocopies

Series IV: Paper Model Sets

b. 1, f. 24 The Ship of Matrimony

1973

1 perforated sheet; 23 x 31 cm. Smith, Sam, 1908-Crafts Advisory Committee

The sheet depicts a miniature boat, a man, and a woman. "The ship of matrimony is a do-it-yourself vessel created specially for the Crafts Advisory Committee." Includes instructions.

Genres / Formats: Cut-out craft Models (representations)

Subjects: Paper toys

b. 1, f. 25 Pleasure Boats of England

1974

1 pamphlet (4 perforated sheets, folded cover); 21 x 30 cm. Signed in black ink on reverse, "For Frances with Love Sam Nov 1975" Smith, Sam, 1908-

Design Council, publisher

"Designed specially for home Paper Boat Builders, Sam Smith genuine England 1974 ... All the parts you need to build four trim little craft: The Houseboat, Sea Trips, Idle Hearts and the Old Gaffer ... It will help if you have a knife for scoring along the lines and opening out the slots before assembly, a drop or two of glue to put on the tabs for a stronger job, and a pair of tweezers to hold the smaller parts if your fingers are all thumbs. Bon Voyage!"

Subjects: Paper toys

Genres / Formats: Cut-out craft

Models (representations)

Names:

Begaye, Mary Frances

b. 1. f. 26 Fair Fun for All

1976

4 sheets (3 perforated); 21 x 30 cm. Smith, Sam, 1908-Crafts Advisory Committee, publisher

"Fair Fun for All, Sam Smith's simple press-out paper steam roundabout and sideshow attractions, all the parts you need to build the Waterloo Gallopers, the Bearded Lady show, Annie Oakley's shooting range, Gipsy Mona's caravan and the candy floss stall." Includes one sheet of instructions. The remaining sheets are perforated and contain the parts for building.

Genres / Formats: Cut-out craft Models (representations)

Subjects: Paper toys

b. 1, f. 27 Article from the Observer: "Sam's circus"

1977 November

13

1 leaf; 21 x 12 cm.

The Observer, London

Magazine clipping. Includes an image of Smith in his workshop and an image of his boat wood carvings and an assembled set of *Fair Fun for All*.

Genres / Formats:

Clippings

Magazines (periodicals)

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Corporate Body:

Crafts Advisory Committee

ca. 1965

Series V: Carved and Painted Wood Sculpture

b. 2

1 wood-carved sculpture, 1 stand; 11 x 20 cm. on stand Hand painted wood-carved sculpture (with string), of a boat with three men and a fish. The name Shirley is painted on the bow. Sits on unpainted stand.

Smith, Sam, 1908-, artist

Blue and black painted boat named Shirley holds three men, attached to a string is their catch, a fish with painted red lips. This is one example of Smith's preoccupation with the sea and his love for hand-made toys.

Genres / Formats:

Boats

Carvings (visual works)

Primitivism (artistic concept)

Toys (recreational artifacts)

woodcarving

b. 2 Zebra

ca. 1975 1 woodcarving, 1 stand; 18 x 26 cm. Hand painted wood-carved sculpture (with string), of a boat with two primitive figures and a fish. The name Zebra is painted

on the bow. Sits on unpainted stand. Smith, Sam, 1908-, artist

Black, brown, white and red painted boat named Zebra holds two bobble-head primitive figures, attached to a string is their catch, a brown and blue painted fish. This is one example of Smith's pre-occupation with the sea and his love for handmade toys.

Genres / Formats:

Boats

Carvings (visual works)

Primitivism (artistic concept)

Toys (recreational artifacts)

woodcarving

b. 3 No Fly Posters/No Bill Stickers

1961

1 assemblage; 49 x 14 cm. Hand manipulative assemblage made of painted wood, fabric, string, sequins, nails, and pins.

Smith, Sam, 1908-, artist

This multi-media assemblage is designed to be viewed on either of two sides depending on how it is being held. One side depicts a dark haired, blue eyed, female head wearing fake pearls and holding a sign stating, "No Bill Stickers". When turned around, the opposite side depicts the head of a dark haired, red eyed, moustached man holding a sign stating, "No Fly Posters". During this time period, Sam Smith created similar objects which he called mood-indicators. These objects were two-sided, wooden, peg-style heads, meant to be turned one way or the other to show either a happy or unhappy face.

Genres / Formats:

Assemblages (sculpture) Carvings (visual works) Primitivism (artistic concept) woodcarving

Series VI: Exhibition Material

b. 1, f. 28 Sam Smith exhibition catalog

1972

brochure (24 pages); 21 x 21 cm. Perforated cover designed to be removed and used to assemble a face mask. 2 copies.

City Art Gallery, Bristol

Exhibition catalog for *Sam Smith*, published independently by the City Art Gallery, Bristol. Introduction written by Arnold Wilson, Director of City Art Gallery, Bristol at the time of publication. Biographical forward written by Sam Smith, followed by images of some of his works and a list of objects from the exhibition. Presented by the Arkwright Arts Trust and financed by the London Borough of Camden. The exhibition venues and dates are as follows: City Art Gallery, Bristol, 4th May - 27th May 1972; Beaford Arts Centre, Devon, 5th June - 30th June; Camden Arts Centre, London, 12th July - 16th August.

Genres / Formats:

Brochures

Exhibition catalogs

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Corporate Body:

City Art Gallery, Bristol

b. 1, f. 29 Sam Smith exhibition catalog

1980

booklet; 20 x 18 cm. Ernest Benn Ltd, publisher Arts Council of Great Britain

"Published by Ernest Benn Limited in cooperation with the Arts Council of Great Britain on the occasion of an exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery, London 5 December 1980 to February 1981"--title page. Catalog accompanied by a typescript note, "sent at the request of Mr. Eric Lister" on Serpentine Gallery/Arts Council of Great Britain stationary.

Genres / Formats: Brochures

Exhibition catalogs

Names:

Lister, Eric

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Corporate Body:

Serpentine Gallery

b. 1, f. 30 "Relics of Lost Gaiety" from The Daily Telegraph Magazine

1972 July 28

3 leaves (6 pages); 31 x 25 cm. Daily Telegraph (London)

"Relics of Lost Gaiety" features Sam Smith and his wood carvings. Article advertises that, "Well over 100 of Sam Smith's objects are on display at the Camden Arts Center in London until August 16." Clipping is missing the continuation on page 28.

Genres / Formats: Clippings

Corporate Body: Camden Arts Centre

Names: Smith, Sam, 1908-

b. 1, f. 31 The Daily Telegraph Magazine

1972 July 28

1 volume ; 31 x 25 cm. Daily Telegraph (London)

Magazine is marked in ink; "see p. 22" The Sam Smith article, "Relics of Lost Gaiety" are on pages 22-25, continued on 28. Article features Sam Smith and his wood carvings and advertises that, "Well over 100 of Sam Smith's objects are on display at the Camden Arts Center in London until August 16."

Genres / Formats: Magazines (periodicals)

Corporate Body: Camden Arts Centre

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Series VII: Correspondence

b. 1, f. 32 Letter to Eric Lister

1972 July 7

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter is addressed to "Eric," who is probably Eric Lister from the Portal Gallery. There are references to him being an acquaintance of Mr. Max (probably Max Wilk) and Mr. S.J.Perelman. Sam Smith is looking for Mr. Max's address so he can send him an invitation to his art show at the Camden Arts Centre in London NW3 6DG.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Lister, Eric -- Correspondence Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence

Corporate Body:

Portal Gallery (London, England)

b. 1, f. 33 Unaddressed, unsigned letter

1972 July 19

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter with ink additions. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Typescript letter is not addressed or signed. There are ink additions of speech bubbles leading from the image of "The Founder" on the letterhead to the typescript.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 34 Letter to Barbara Wilk

1972 October 2

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper with purple ink stamp of the sun, addressed and signed in ink.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Sam Smith tells Barbara that he is working on two commissions and preparing for a lecture in Bournemouth to be called "Art and Laughter."

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 35 Letter to Barbara Wilk

1973 August 21

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper addressed and signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

A personal letter discussing Barbara Wilk's poor health. Also discusses giving a lecture in Edinburgh and a film unit visiting his home to make a television piece of him at work.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 36 Letter to Barbara Wilk

1974 April 16

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper addressed and signed in ink. Includes envelope with sun stamp in purple ink on verso. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Discusses going to Toronto, Canada, for a "gigantic friendly international friendly arty conference," where there will also be an exhibition where some of his pieces will be displayed.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 37 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1974 June

1 leaf; 20 x 16 cm. Manuscript letter in pen and black ink. Signed Samstone Y. Colander. Includes original envelope.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Amusing letter possibly describing a visit to Africa.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 38 Letter to Francie Wilk

1974 July 18

 $1 \, leaf$; $30 \, x \, 21 \, cm$. Typescript letter on orange paper, addressed and signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Gives stories about horses, goats and Francie's parents.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Begaye, Mary Frances -- Correspondence Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 39 Postcard to Max and Barbara Wilk

1974 September 21

1 postcard; 15 x 11 cm. With a handwritten note in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Describes personal experiences in France.

The postcard image depicts Les Eyzies-de-Tayac (Dordogne).

Genres / Formats:

Postcards

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 40 Letter to Barbara Wilk

1974 October 28

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter hand addressed and signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Discusses personal matters and makes mention of Eric, Lionel, and Frances.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 41 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1975 November

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper, addressed and signed in ink. Includes envelope with pen and ink on verso, "Isn't Loretta Young a beauty?" Smith, Sam, 1908-

Discusses a book, but does not give the title. "The book is marvellous and it's quite extraordinary the way Max's presence can be felt on each page; quite unseen but there, lurking behind the Sheik of Araby and round the corner at the End of the Long Long Trail."

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 42 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1976 April 28

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper, addresses and signed in orange ink.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

The letter makes reference to Max's book, but does not give the title. Sam also mentions a film unit being in his home to make a film for the Arts Council.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 43 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1976 August 20

2 leaves Typescript letter addressed and signed in orange ink. Some extra illustration and corrections in black ink. Leaf one on pink paper, leaf 2 on white paper.; 26 x 21 cm. 2 leaves; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in orange ink. Some extra illustration and corrections in black ink. First leaf on pink paper; leaf two on white paper.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Discusses drought in south England, correspondence from Eric Lister, and needing to get started on another children's book.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Lister, Eric -- Correspondence Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

Corporate Body:

Portal Gallery (London, England) -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 44 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1977 March 5

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper. Addressed and signed in green ink.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Describes Smith's affection for Lillian Gish and the preview of his film, **Sam Smith, Genuine England** made by the Arts Council.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Corporate Body:

Arts Council of Great Britain -- Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 45 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1977 May 12

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper, addressed and signed in green ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter is mainly personal. Smith mentions that "Pres. Carter has won the hearts of the English." Smith also gives his well wishes to Frances.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Begaye, Mary Frances Carter, Jimmy, 1924-Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920 --- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 46 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1977 August

1 leaf, 2 pages ; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper, signed and addressed in orange ink. An extra note is added in black ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

The letter mentions a few different people, Frances, Kay Eddy (for whom he is working on some art pieces), Eric, and Lionel (for whom he is making an Adam and Eve set for their exhibition). In the extra note on the reverse, Sam mentions receiving a copy of the Arts Council film and that it had won an award in Australia.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Begaye, Mary Frances Lister, Eric Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920 --- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 47 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1978 January 1

1 leaf; 26 x 20 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper, addressed and signed in orange ink. Postscript written in black ink.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Discusses welcoming the New Year, Smith's previous hospitalization, and house hunting.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920 --- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 48 Letter to Max Wilk

1979 June 21

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper, addressed and signed in black ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter is personal, but mentions an upcoming show: "next October, when I am doing a show in a castle in Wales which has a leaning tower ..."

Letterhead has a new mailing address: 21d Forde Park, Newton Abbot, Devon, England. Smith makes reference to furiously working after the year of moving house.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 49 Letter to Max Wilk

1979 October 29

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper addressed and signed in red ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter is personal in nature, but does mention finishing "a thing" for the Portal Gallery. There is also mention of "Ms Dawn Begaye" the Wilks' daughter Frances.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

Corporate Body:

Portal Gallery (London, England)

b. 1, f. 50 Letter to Barbara Wilk

before 1979

1 leaf; 30 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in green ink. Some corrections in ink.
Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter discusses a trip to London once Sam receives word that the model for a "Beauty Queen" is complete and giving a lecture next January in London. He also mentions receiving a letter from a (Lady) Gloria Dale.

Genres / Formats: Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 51 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

before 1979

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter addressed and signed in blue ink on Sam Smtih letterhead.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Sam sends his regrets regarding a party and adds a postscript stating, "there is a lot developing on the Sam Smith pasture."

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 52 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

before 1979

1 leaf; 26 x 21 cm. Typescript letter on pink paper addressed and signed in ink. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Sam tells Max and Barbara that his house is on the market and that he is moving to a town named Newton Abbot.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 53 Letter to Max Wilk

1980 September

22

1 leaf, 2 pages ; 26 x 21 cm. Manuscript letter on pink paper. Smith, Gladys [Jewett] Smith, Sam, 1908-

Written by Gladys Smith on Sam Smith's behalf. Sam has had a stroke on August 1st and is in recovery. Gladys mentions that the Arts Council Exhibition of Sam Smith and H.C. Westermann will still go on from Dec. - Jan. at the Serpentine, London.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Begaye, Mary Frances Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Westermann, H. C. (Horace Clifford), 1922-1981 Wilk, Barbara Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

Corporate Bodies:

Arts Council of Great Britain Serpentine Gallery

b. 1, f. 54 Letter to Max and Barbara Wilk

1970s

1 leaf; 24 x 20 cm. Written in black ink, on Prince Rupert Hotel letterhead. Smith, Sam, 1908-

Letter describes upcoming trip to North Wales and a later trip to Crete. Smith expresses his concern for knocking down Grand Central Station.

Genres / Formats:

Correspondence

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence Wilk, Barbara -- Correspondence Wilk, Max, 1920- -- Correspondence

b. 1, f. 55 Card unaddressed

1970s

 $1\,\mathrm{card}$; $11\,\mathrm{x}$ $14\,\mathrm{cm}$. Card with printed artwork on cover. Handwriten and signed in black ink.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Smith mentions "Eric"--possibly Eric Lister--and a visit by two young Australians. Smith sends his New Year's wishes and an update about the conversion of his loft into a work space.

Genres / Formats:

Greeting cards

New Year cards

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Correspondence

Sam Smith Collection MSS 14

Series VIII: Miscellaneous

b. 1, f. 56 Sam Smith: typescript (photocopy) of a speech

circa 1979-1980

5 leaves ; 30 x 21 cm. Smith, Sam, 1908-

This speech, produced for the Arts Council of Great Britain, was broadcast by the BBC (ca. 1979-1980).

Genres / Formats: Typescripts

Corporate Bodies:

Arts Council of Great Britain British Broadcasting Corporation

b. 1, f. 57 Shipping envelope to Barbara Wilk

3 January 1973

Smith, Sam, 1908-, author

Genres / Formats: Envelopes (Stationery) Postage stamps

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Archives Wilk, Barbara -- Archives

b. 4, f. 12 Woodblock printed wrapping paper

unknown

2 folded sheets; 41 x 23 cm. 2 off-white folded sheets of woodblock printed wrapping paper.

Smith, Sam, 1908-

Woodblock prints include "Sam Smith", a sail boat, a man shoeing a horse, an eagle, an upright piano, a bull, a crown, a horse-drawn carriage, etc. In red felt-tip pen one is marked No. 1 and No. 2. Invoice No. is highlighted in red. These must be examples of the papers in which Smith wrapped his commissions.

Genres / Formats: Wood engravings wrapping paper

Names:

Smith, Sam, 1908- -- Archives

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

Artists -- Great Britain Handicraft -- Great Britain Paper toys -- Great Britain Sculpture -- Great Britain Toymakers -- Great Britain Toys -- Great Britain Camden Arts Centre Crafts Advisory Committee Ernest Benn Ltd Farrar, Straus, and Giroux Portal Gallery (London, England) Serpentine Gallery

Genres / Formats

Brochures Clippings Cut-out craft **Exhibition catalogs** Gouaches Graphite drawings Legal documents Letters Magazines (periodicals) Miniature theaters Mock-ups Models (representations) Pen and ink drawings **Photocopies Postcards** Recreations Toy theaters **Typescripts** Watercolors (paintings) Wood engravings

Names

Begaye, Mary Frances
Benn, Timothy, 1936-2019
Lister, Eric
Sachs, Judith
Smith, Sam, 1908Westermann, H. C. (Horace Clifford), 1922-1981
Wilk, Barbara
Wilk, Max, 1920-

Corporate Bodies

Arts Council of Great Britain British Broadcasting Corporation