

Wentworth, Edgar, cartoons and correspondence

Edgar Wentworth cartoons and correspondence
1886-1912

Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16703

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1392

Unit Date

1886-1912

Language

English

Extent

1 Cubic Feet 1 letter size document box, 1 half-width legal size box, 2 oversize S folders

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from ian Brabner, Rare Americana by the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 2 June, 2019.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16703, Edgar Wentworth cartoons and correspondence, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

Edgar "Ed" Wentworth, a resident of South Berwick, Maine, was a comic and political illustrator from 1886 to 1912. His cartoons were published in *The Yellow Kid* and *Judge* magazines. Twenty three of his cartoons are racist, where he exaggerates the faces and language of marginalized groups of people.

His drawings also include rural farmers, portraits, criminals, animals, food, prohibition of alcohol and the temperance movement, and politicians, including presidents of the United States.

While little is known about Ed Wentworth, letters in the collection suggest that he may have had some formal art training from the "Correspondence School of Illustrating in New York" and "The School of Art Criticism." Empty envelopes dated monthly suggest that he might have been a regular contributor to *The Herald* and *The Boston Globe*

Content Description

Edgar Wentworth archive of primary material documenting the career of a little-known American cartoon illustrator from 1886 to 1912. There are original cartoons and related correspondence containing approximately 295 pen and ink drawings and sketches, 125 illustrations, 170 loose drawings, including his personal album, "Original Pen & Pencil Sketches, A Book of the Etiquette of the Day, by Ed. Wentworth, 1886."

General warning: Twenty three of his cartoons portray racial and ethnic stereotypes, exaggerating the faces and language of marginalized groups of people including African American, Indigenous, Irish, and Jewish people. These materials are preserved for their historical significance even though they are offensive. Some cartoons are clearly offensive with Black face, lynching, and false representations of people. Others are satirical and the line is hard to draw between offensive versus making fun of racial injustice. Some illustrations stimulate important discussions.

His drawings also include rural farmers, portraits, criminals, animals, food, prohibition of alcohol and the temperance movement, and politicians, including presidents of the United States.

The correspondence includes seven letters from publishers about acceptance, rejection, and/or payment for Wentworth's cartoons. There is one letter from Howard, Ainslee & Co., publisher's of *The Yellow Kid* and six letters from Arkell Publishing Co., publisher of *Judge*. Twenty two envelopes without contents dated the same time each month suggest subscriptions with the Boston newspapers, *The Herald* and *The Boston Globe*. Also included is an issue of *The Yellow Kid*.

Keywords

cartoons (humorous images)

General

General Content warning: Twenty three of his cartoons portray racial and ethnic stereotypes, exaggerating the faces and language of marginalized groups of people including African American, Indigenous, Irish, and Jewish people. These materials are preserved for their historical significance even though they are offensive. • This material contains references or imagery involving racism. The purpose of this note is to give users the opportunity to decide whether they need or want to view these materials, or at least, to mentally or emotionally prepare themselves to view the materials.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217779

Mixed Materials [X032669214] 1 (box)

Container 1-2 (folder)

Language English

Cartoons about African American, Indigenous, Irish and Jewish people

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217780

Mixed Materials [X032669214] 1 (box)

Container 3-6 (folder)

General

General warning: Twenty three of his cartoons portray racial and ethnic stereotypes, exaggerating the faces and language of marginalized groups of people including African American, Indigenous, Irish, and Jewish people. These materials are preserved for their historical significance even though they are offensive.

Cartoons about food, animals, portraits, criminals, and others

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217781

Mixed Materials [X032669214] 1 (box)

Container 7-12 (folder)

Miscellaneous cartoons

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217782

Mixed Materials [X032669214] 1 (box)

Container 13-16 (folder)

Printed cartoons

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217783

Mixed Materials [X032669214] 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Personal album, "Original Pen & Pencil Sketches, A Book of the Etiquette of the Day, by Ed. Wenworth

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217784

Unit Date 1886

Mixed Materials [X032669215] 2 (box)

Language English

General

Warning: offensive content with depictions of caricatures of marginalized people, Blackface, and lynchings.

Oversize miscellaneous cartoons

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217786