

Railton, Stephen collection of Uncle Tom's Cabin ephemera

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1884-2015

Title Statement

Railton, Stephen collection of Uncle Tom's Cabin ephemeraStephen Railton collection of Uncle Tom's Cabin ephemera MSS 16759

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16759

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1484

Unit Date

1884-2015

Language

English

source

Railton, Stephen, 1948-

Extent

2 Cubic Feet One legal-sized document box, one letter document box, three medium oversized folders, one large oversized folder; Vinyl records, wax cylinders, grooved analog discs, and open reels.

Extent

2 grooved analog discs 2 wax cylinders

Extent

3 open reel videotapes 3 open reel tapes

Extent

15 vinyl recordings 15 vinyl records

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 a gift from Steven Railton to the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 1 July, 2019.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16759, Steven Railton collection of Uncle Tom's Cabin ephemera, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

Dr. Stephen Railton is Professor of English at the University of Virginia. He came to Virginia from Columbia University, where he earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. Professor Railton has published numerous articles on American literature and has written two books, including Fenimore Cooper: A Study of His Imagination. He

has also appeared on PBS's Newshour with Jim Lehrer as an expert on Mark Twain. Dr. Railton has also created two award-winning Web-based electronic archives, intended to explore the uses of electronic technology for teaching and studying American literature: Mark Twain in His Times (<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/railton>) and Uncle Tom's Cabin & American Culture (<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/utc>), which won Gettysburg College's prestigious Lincoln Prize, awarded for the finest scholarship on Lincoln and the Civil War era.

Source: The Great Course website. Accessed 4/10/2023
<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/professors/stephen-railton>

Content Description

This material contains racist imagery of Black people. This note aims 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.

This collection contains materials related to Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" predominately created between the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth century and collected and curated by Stephen Railton. Railton is a University of Virginia English professor whose work predominantly focuses on American literature. As part of his scholarship, Railton created a digital humanities project titled "Uncle Tom's Cabin & American Culture," a multi-media archive exploring the cultural phenomena of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published in 1852. The project website explores the precursors of the book, the book itself, its responses, and its popularity within the post-Civil War United States following the institution of Jim Crow Laws, particularly in the American South.

The materials collected by Railton include sheet music, newspaper clippings, adaptations and abridgments of the book, playbills, postcards, glass slides, stereograph photographs of scenes and characters from the book, tickets, a photograph of actors in blackface, paper doll cutouts, advertisements for performances of Uncle Tom's Cabin, advertisements using characters from the book, a makeup up guide for actors with extensive instructions for blackface and minstrel makeup, a children's play set composed of various fold-out paper buildings recreating the setting of Uncle Tom's Cabin, needlecraft patterns, vinyl records, wax cylinders, open reels, grooved discs, and films based on Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Racist caricatures and stereotypical depictions of Black people are commonplace throughout this collection of ephemera. The reach of Uncle Tom's Cabin extended into the arenas of advertising, children's toys, literature, play productions, and household objects.

In addition to these materials is a folder of correspondence between Railton and other institutions to secure rights and permissions for the use of other institutions' materials for the website.

Related Materials

Broadside a1852 a. U54.Collection of Uncle Tom's cabin miscellaneous theater tickets, advertisements and images.

There is also an Uncle Tom's Jigsaw puzzle in PS2954.U6|bU46 1852.

Keywords

Black people--segregation
Slavery--United States--History--19th Century
African Americans
Slave trade-United States-History
Slaveholders
postcards
Songbooks.
Advertising
American Literature--19th Century--History and Criticism
Railton, Stephen, 1948-

General

Content warning: contains racial imagery typical for the time that contemporary viewers may find offensive.This material contains racist imagery of Black people. This note aims 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

Series 1. Ephemera

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241926

Printed versions of Uncle Tom's Cabin

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241917

Unit Date 1852-1926

Mixed Materials [X031579414] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Advertisements, postcards, and tickets

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241919

Unit Date 1923-1992

Mixed Materials [X031579414] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Theatre programs and guidebooks

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241920

Unit Date 1852-1926

Mixed Materials [X031579414] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Photographs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241921

Mixed Materials [X031579414] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Glass plates

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241922

Mixed Materials [X031579414] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Songbooks

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241918

Unit Date 1884-1900

Mixed Materials [X031579414] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Uncle Tom Health Food cereal box

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/241929

Mixed Materials [X031579415] 2 (box)

Rights and Permissions for Steve Railton's Uncle Tom's Cabin of American Culture

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241924

Mixed Materials [X031579414] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Series 2. Oversize materials

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241927

Oversize Needlecraft patterns and newspaper clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241930

Mixed Materials Archival Oversized Box L-3 (Flat_Box)

Container 4/4 (Oversize_Folder(Within_an_OSBox))

Oversize posters Needlecraft, Saturday Evening Post, Boston Sunday Globe

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242235

Mixed Materials Archival Oversized Box S 6 (Flat_Box)

Container 3/4 (Oversize_Folder(Within_an_OSBox))

Scope and Contents

Boston Globe contains cut-out paper dolls

Sheet music

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242233

Mixed Materials Archival Oversized Box S 6 (Flat_Box)

Container 1/4 (Oversize_Folder(Within_an_OSBox))

Sheet music

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/242234

Mixed Materials Archival Oversized Box S 6 (Flat_Box)

Container 2/4 (Oversize_Folder(Within_an_OSBox))

Series 3. Multi-media

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241928

Waxed cylinders (2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241932

Mixed Materials [X031579415] 2 (box)

Grooved media (2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241931

Mixed Materials Archival Oversized Box S 5 (Flat_Box)

Open reel tapes (3)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241933

Vinyl recordings (15)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/241934