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MANUSCRIPTS AND ARCHIVES DIVISION**

JAMES M. GERAGHTY

Papers, 1940-1983

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March 1996**

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SUMMARY

- Title:** James M. Geraghty Papers, 1940-1983
- Size:** 4 lin. feet
- Source:** Gift of Mrs. James M. (Eva) Geraghty
- Description:** James M. Geraghty was the art editor of *The New Yorker* from 1939 to 1973. His papers include correspondence, original art (mostly in the form of Christmas cards), clippings, photographs, ephemera, a partial unpublished manuscript, and a scrapbook documenting his career at *The New Yorker*.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James M. Geraghty (1905-1983), the art editor of *The New Yorker* for thirty-three years, was born on April 22, 1905 in Spokane, Washington. He was the son of Nora (Toolen) and James Michael Geraghty, a prominent attorney and State Supreme Court Justice. Geraghty graduated from Gonzaga High School in Spokane in 1923 and attended Gonzaga University from 1924-1927. He worked as a radio script writer from 1930 to 1938. During that period, he began sending ideas for cartoons to Peter Arno, a *New Yorker* cartoonist. On Arno's recommendation, Harold Ross, then the editor of *The New Yorker*, hired Geraghty in 1939.

Geraghty acted as *The New Yorker's* art editor until his retirement in 1973. During his tenure, Geraghty also edited nine of the magazine's cartoon albums, including the war album of 1942 and those marking the magazine's twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries.

Geraghty married Eva Carr in 1931 and had two children, Sarah and John. Geraghty briefly served in the military (December 26, 1942-April 12, 1943) during his *New Yorker* career. Geraghty, died of a heart attack in 1983 at the age of 78.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The James Geraghty Papers document Geraghty's career as the art editor of *The New Yorker* and his friendships with the magazine's cartoonists. Included are artist and *New Yorker* colleague files containing correspondence, clippings, and ephemera; original art (largely in the form of Christmas cards); miscellaneous correspondence pertaining to *The New Yorker Album of Drawings, 1925-1975*, miscellaneous printed matter; photographs; and oversize items (including a scrapbook). Approximately 60% of the collection consists of artist and *New Yorker* colleague files. Another 20% consists of original art. The remainder of the collection is made up of miscellaneous correspondence, printed matter, photographs, and oversize items. The collection includes posthumous letters of condolence and other miscellaneous correspondence sent to Eva Geraghty by *New Yorker* cartoonists and their spouses, as well as clippings she continued to add to artist and colleague files after her husband's death. Many items bear Mrs. Geraghty's annotations identifying correspondents.

NOTE ON PROVENANCE

The James Geraghty Papers were donated by Mrs. James (Eva) Geraghty. Most, if not all, of the collection seems to have been organized by Mrs. Geraghty and includes letters of condolence and other miscellaneous correspondence sent to her by *New Yorker* artists and their spouses.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The papers are arranged into six series: I. *New Yorker* Artist and Colleague files; II. Original Art; III. Miscellaneous Correspondence; IV. Miscellaneous Printed Matter; V. Photographs; and VI. Oversize Items. The series are described in sequence below.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. New Yorker Artist and Colleague Files (1940-1992) (Containers #1-7)

The artist and colleague files are arranged alphabetically. Following the single artist/coworker files are four general folders of artists, writers, and editors; the material within these folders is also arranged alphabetically. The folders contain a large number of Christmas cards, as well as other correspondence, invitations to exhibitions and other ephemera, and clippings (gathered in the back of each folder). The bulk of the material dates from 1960-1990 (and includes correspondence Mrs. Geraghty received from *New Yorker* artists and their spouses after her husband's death and clippings she continued to amass). The correspondence is largely informal, consisting of friendly notes from home and abroad. The original art found in these folders has been separated out and filed in Series II, though photocopies remain in the original folders. Correspondence from artists and colleagues pertaining to *The New Yorker Album of Drawings, 1925-1975*, Geraghty's retirement, and Geraghty's death are filed in Series III.

The Alan Dunn and Mary Petty file contains extensive correspondence between Syracuse University personnel and James and Eva Geraghty regarding Dunn and Petty materials donated to the University museum. The Mort Gerberg file contains a book proposal for a work on magazine cartooning. The Brendan Gill file includes speeches given by Gill, as well as manuscripts for a short play ("Meeting Mr. Ives"), an essay ("Christmas at the Owl House"), and a short story ("The Malcontents"). The Saul Steinberg file contains correspondence between the Whitney museum and Geraghty relating to a 1978 exhibition of Steinberg's work. The William Shawn file includes clippings pertaining to Tom Wolfe's controversial 1965 *New York Herald Tribune* article about the inner workings of *The New Yorker*.

Series II. Original Art (Containers #8-9)

The original art consists largely of Christmas cards created by *New Yorker* artists. These items have been removed from *New Yorker* artist files in Series I (although photocopies remain in the original folders). The art is arranged alphabetically by artist. Two pieces by Robert Day and one piece by Susanne Suba have been removed and filed in Box 13 (Series VI) with oversize items.

Series III. Miscellaneous Correspondence (Container #10)

The miscellaneous correspondence consists of letters from *New Yorker* artists and colleagues pertaining to the publication of *The New Yorker Album of Drawings, 1925-1975* (edited by Geraghty), Geraghty's retirement, and Geraghty's death. Each folder is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. The file containing letters to Mrs. Geraghty on Geraghty's death also includes the text from Geraghty's April 23, 1983 memorial service and eulogies given by Whitney Darrow, Charles Saxon, and Ronald Mansbridge.

Series IV. Miscellaneous Printed Matter (Container #11)

The printed matter consists of 1942-43 editions of "The Conflict" (*The New Yorker* staff newsletter during World War II), reviews for *The New Yorker Album of Drawings, 1925-1975*, 1972 and 1974-77 magazine covers from *The New Yorker*, *Harvard Lampoon* and *Punch* spoofs of *The New Yorker*, and an annotated partial unpublished manuscript by Geraghty for a book about his years at the magazine. The manuscript describes *New Yorker* editorial meetings, the nature of Geraghty's editing, his relationships with *New Yorker* editors Harold Ross and William Shawn, and the work of the magazine's more prominent cartoonists. The artists discussed in the manuscript include: Charles Addams, Peter Arno, Perry Barlow, Chon Day, Robert Day, Peter DeVries, Al Frueh, Helen Hokinson, Rea Irvin, Robert Kraus, George Price, Mischa Richter, and William Steig. The folder containing the manuscript also includes correspondence with Simon & Schuster regarding this manuscript, as well as a draft of an introduction for a book about Peter Arno. (A letter from Dodd, Mead annotated by Mrs. Geraghty indicates that the introduction for Arno's book was eventually written by Charles Saxon, another *New Yorker* cartoonist.)

Series V. Photographs (Container #12)

The photographs include two 1967 photos of Geraghty's Weston, CT home, eighteen photos of Geraghty and *New Yorker* artists in and around *The New Yorker* building in 1972, twenty-five photos of a 1973 football game party at the Geraghty's home in Weston, CT, and twenty-nine photos of a 1973 surprise party for Geraghty at Barney and Bede Tobey's New York apartment (Tobey was a *New Yorker* cartoonist). Among the artists in the photos are: Charles Addams, Whitney Darrow, Robert Day, Ed Fisher, Dana Fradon, Arthur Getz, Stan Hunt, Robert Kraus, Frank Modell, Charles Martin, William O'Brian, George Price, Mischa Richter, Charles Saxon, Saul Steinberg, and Barney Tobey. Also pictured are former *New Yorker* editor William Shawn, *New Yorker* "idea man" Richard McCallister, art editor Lee Lorenz, Geraghty's longtime assistant Barbara Nicholls, and Eva Geraghty. All photos are labeled on the back by Mrs. Geraghty.

A framed photograph of Irving Penn's 1947 group portrait of *The New Yorker* artists is in Box 13 (Series VI) with oversize items.

Series VI. Oversize Items (Container #13)

This series consists of a scrapbook documenting Geraghty's life and career, two pieces of original art by Robert Day, one piece by Susanne Suba, and a framed photograph of Irving Penn's 1947 group portrait of *The New Yorker* artists. It is not clear whether Geraghty or Mrs. Geraghty assembled the scrapbook, which has been annotated by Mrs. Geraghty and includes items produced after her husband's death. The book includes copies of Geraghty's birth certificate, high school diploma, honorable discharge from the army, marriage certificate, *Who's Who* entry, letters of admittance to the Century Association and the Grolier Club, correspondence from Harold Ross during Geraghty's stint in the army, and clippings pertaining to his career at *The New Yorker*, as well as clippings pertaining to the lives and careers of *New Yorker* artists. Also included are invitations to *The New Yorker* twenty-fifth anniversary party, various Christmas cards, and posthumous material (including text from Geraghty's memorial service and obituaries).

CONTAINER LIST

Box Folder No.

I. *NEW YORKER* ARTIST AND COLLEAGUE FILES

A. Individual

1	f.1	Addams, Charles
	f.2	Alain, Daniel and Janice Biala
	f.3	Alajalov, Constantin
	f.4	Allen, Laura Jean
	f.5	Angell, Roger
	f.6	Arno, Ed
	f.7	Birnbaum, Abe
	f.8-9	Darrow, Whitney
	f.10-11	Day, Chon
	f.12	Day, Robert
	f.13	DeVries, Peter
	f.1	Dunn, Alan and Mary Petty
	f.2	Duvoisin, Roger
	f.3	Eicke, Edna and Tom Funk
	f.4	Fairall, Laurence
	f.5	Fradon, Dana
	f.6	Francois, Andre
	f.7	Frueh, Alfred
	f.8	Gerberg, Mort
	f.9-11	Getz, Arthur
	f.12-14	Gill, Brendan
3	f.1	Hokinson, Helen
	f.2	Hunt, Stan and Carlita
	f.3	Hyman, Stanley and Shirley Jackson
	f.4	Karasz, Ilonka
	f.5	Koren, Edward
	f.6	Kovarsky, Anatol
	f.7	Kraus, Robert
	f.8-9	Langdon, David
	f.10	Le-Tan, Pierre
	f.11	Lorenz, Lee
	f.12	Low, Joseph
	f.13	Mahood, Kenneth
	f.14	Martin, Charles
	f.15	Massie, Reginald
	f.16	Maxwell, William

4	f.1-3	Micossi, Mario	
	f.4	Mirachi, Joe	
	f.5	Modell, Frank	
	f.6	Mulligan, Jim	
	f.7	O'Brian, William	
	f.8	Olden, Dick	
	f.9-10	Opie, Everett	
	f.11	Preston, David	
	f.12	Price, Garrett	
	f.13	Price, George	
	f.14	Reilly, Donald	
	f.15-16	Richter, Mischa	
	5	f.1	Rose, Carl
		f.2-4	Ross, Harold
f.5-7		Saxon, Charles	
f.8-9		Searle, Ronald	
6	f.1	Shahn, Judith	
	f.2-3	Shawn, William	
	f.4	Smilby, Francis Smith	
	f.5	Smith, C	
	f.6	Soglow, Otto	
	f.7	Steig, William	
	f.8-10	Steinberg, Saul	
	f.11	Stevenson, James	
	f.12	Suba, Susanne	
	f.13	Taylor, Richard	
	f.14	Thurber, James	
	f.15-16	Tobey, Barney	
	f.17	Truax, R. Hawley	
	f.18	Weber, Robert	
	f.19	White, E. B. and Katharine	

B. General

7	f.1	Bainbridge, John Barlow, Perry Blegvad, Eric Cobean, Sam Cook, Ted Davidson, Raymond Dedini, Eldon Eastman, Phil
	f.2	Emett, Rowland Farris, Joe Fisher, Ed Fleischmann, Peter Forster, Louis Frascono, Ed Hamburger, Philip Handelsman, Bud
	f.3	Hoff, Syd Hubbel, Albert McCallister, Richard Mitchells, Joe Packard, Freddie Pascal, David Ramsey, Alice
	f.4	Smits, Tom Starke, Leslie Tippit, Jack Von Schmidt Williams, Garth Wilson, Rowland Wiseman, Bernie

II. ORIGINAL ART

- | | | |
|---|------|--------------------------|
| 8 | f.1 | Arno, Ed |
| | f.2 | Allen, Laura Jean |
| | f.3 | Birnbaum, Abe |
| | f.4 | Cobean, Sam |
| | f.5 | Cook, Ted |
| | f.6 | Darrow, Whitney |
| | f.7 | Day, Robert |
| | f.8 | Duvoisin, Roger |
| | f.9 | Eicke, Edna and Tom Funk |
| | f.10 | Farris, Joe |
| | f.11 | Fradon, Dana |
| | f.12 | Francois, Andre |
| | f.13 | Frueh, Alfred |
| | f.14 | Getz, Arthur |
| | f.15 | Hubbel, Albert |
| | f.16 | Hunt, Stan and Carlita |
| | f.17 | Karasz, Ilonka |
| | f.18 | Kovarsky, Anatol |
| | f.19 | Kraus, Robert |
| | f.20 | Langdon, David |
| | f.21 | Le-Tan, Pierre |
| | f.22 | Mahood, Kenneth |
| | f.23 | Martin, Charles |
| | f.24 | Maxwell, William |
| | f.25 | Mirachi, Joe |
| 9 | f.1 | Modell, Frank |
| | f.2 | Mulligan, Jim |
| | f.3 | Olden, Dick (?) |
| | f.4 | Packard, Freddie |
| | f.5 | Preston, David |
| | f.6 | Richter, Mischa |
| | f.7 | Rose, Carl |
| | f.8 | Saxon, Charles |
| | f.9 | Searle, Ronald |
| | f.10 | Shahn, Judith |
| | f.11 | Smilby, Francis Smith |
| | f.12 | Smith, C |
| | f.13 | Steig, William |
| | f.14 | Steinberg, Saul |
| | f.15 | Suba, Susanne |
| | f.16 | Tobey, Barney |
| | f.17 | Weber, Robert |

III. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

- 10 f.1 The New Yorker Album of Drawings, 1925-1975
f.2 Geraghty's retirement
f.3-5 Geraghty's death

IV. PRINTED MATTER

- 11 f.1 "The Conflict" (1942-43)
f.2 Reviews for The New Yorker Album of Drawings, 1925-1975
f.3-4 *New Yorker Covers* (1972, 1974-77)
f.5 Spoofs of *The New Yorker* in Harvard Lampoon, 5/6/39 & 5/15/48;
Punch, 4/7/54
f.6 Partial unpublished manuscript by Geraghty for a book about his
years at *The New Yorker*

V. PHOTOGRAPHS

- 12 f.1 Geraghty home, Weston, CT
f.2 *New Yorker* artists on New York streets, 1972
f.3-4 Football game party at Geraghty home, 1973
f.5-6 Surprise party for Geraghty, 1973

VI. OVERSIZE ITEMS

- 13 Scrapbook
Two pieces of original art by Robert Day
One piece of original art by Susanne Suba
Framed photograph of Irving Penn's 1947 group portrait of
The New Yorker artists