5-26-2016

Preservation of Popular Culture

Jay Trask
Molly Marcusse
Amanda Stow

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Learning from “The Man” and Saving the Future!

Stan Lee, Connie Willis, Archives, Primary Sources, and Education

Jay Trask, University of Northern Colorado
Molly Marcusse, University of Wyoming
Amanda Stow, University of Wyoming
Cheyenne Comic Con
May 14, 2016
Jay Trask
- Head of Archival Services
- James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado (UNC)
- Fan of: Astro City (but love most superheroes), action figures, role-playing games and tabletop miniatures, and Star Wars.

Molly Marcusse
- Reference Archivist, Entertainment Industry Acquisitions Archivist
- American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming (AHC)
- Fan of: Wonder Woman, Harley Quinn, Dr. Who, Game of Thrones, and classic video games

Amanda Stow
- Reference Archivist, Entertainment Industry Acquisitions Archivist
- American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming (AHC)
- Fan of: Muppets, Neil Gaiman, Graphic Novels, and Cinephile

Basic all-round nerds
• We collect historical records
• Primary resources
  • Material that contains firsthand accounts of events that were created at the time of the event
  • Unpublished
  • The “raw material”
• Provide evidence of the process of creation; aids scholars and other artists/writers
• Scholars are using science fiction, fantasy, comics, etc. to study cultural reactions to a variety of experiences
• A responsibility of archivists to preserve the diversity of U.S. culture
  • Papers of sci-fi, fantasy, comic book writers provide a means of cultural identification
• Stan Lee’s papers are an example...
• Themes of race, gender, politics, adolescence/childhood, societal angst are in comics, but Lee’s records give more insight.
  • Marvel and other writers is in Lee’s collection
  • History of comic writing...i.e. Comics Code Authority
• Marketing and promotional material (cultural interests)
• Devotion to education and literacy (working with schools and universities)
• But, especially fan mail
  • Light v. Dark (Soapbox)
  • Using comics as a source of affirmation and relevance
American science fiction writer

- 16 novels and novellas
- 7 short story collections
- Dozens of short stories and essays
• Science Fiction Writers of America Grand Master
• Science Fiction Hall of Fame inductee
• 11 Hugo Awards
• 8 Nebula Awards
• 4 Locus Awards
• 1 Joseph W. Campbell Memorial Award
Acquisitions: the stuff!

Accessioning: the processes used to gain intellectual and physical control over the stuff.
• Book collections
• Correspondence
• Manuscripts
• Photographs
• Videos
• Awards
• Gifts from fans
Acquisitions and Accessions

To Connie, Girl,
A Small Girl among Too Many
of my Hugos

GRRM
A Retrospective
George R. R. Martin

Fever Dream
George R. R. Martin

How Few Remain
Harry Turtledove
Acquisitions and Accessions

RESTRICTED
until published in 2016

SC059
THE CONNIE WILLIS PAPERS
Telepathy
Box 7 of 8
• Light
• Temperature
• Humidity
• Pollution/Contamination
• Pests
• Human action
Preservation vs. Conservation
Access

- University of Northern Colorado Archival Services and the American Heritage Center (University of Wyoming) are both open to public
  - UNC Archival Services: Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM
  - AHC: Monday 10 AM-7 PM, Tuesday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM
- Simply need to fill out registration form annually
- Materials do not leave the building
- We love sharing the experience of our stuff with interested people!
• How do you find something inside the Stan Lee and Connie Willis papers?
  • http://rmoa.unm.edu/docviewer.php?docId=wyu-ah08302.xml
  • http://uncoarchives.coalliance.org/repositories/2/resources/102
• You’ve found something great, now how do you actually access it?
  • On-site access
  • Duplication options
  • Distance requests
Inventory of the Stan Lee papers, 1926-2011

University of Wyoming, American Heritage Center.

Date: 2014

University of Wyoming

Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Stan Lee papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1926-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Lee, Stan, 1922-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The papers of Stan Lee, an American comic book writer, editor, publisher, and former president and chairman of Marvel Comics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>8302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>126.96 cubic ft. (196 boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>University of Wyoming, American Heritage Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language(s)</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Related Materials

- Series I: Professional files, 1942-1971
- Series II: Correspondence, 1955-1981
- Series III: Manuscripts by Stan Lee, circa 1950-2009
- Series IV: Published works by Stan Lee
### Series I. Professional files, 1942-2011

Arranged alphabetically. Contains biographical files, files about Stan Lee, Marvel Comics Group, the comic book industry, subject files, publicity and merchandise files, organizational memberships, photographs, and other documents relating to Lee's professional ventures. A small amount of the material relates to Stan Lee's early writing career. Also includes numerous scrapbooks which contain clippings, photographs, and other documents representing Lee's professional life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Container</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appearance announcements and events, circa 1982-2011</td>
<td>Box 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance announcements and events, undated</td>
<td>Box 144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance announcements and events - Comic Con, 2004-2011</td>
<td>Box 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Now (programs celebrating the American Arts), 1974-1975</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork, undated</td>
<td>Box 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork, undated</td>
<td>Box 144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork, undated</td>
<td>Box 148-149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - 7th Portal Heroes and Villains, 1999</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - Amazing Fantasy prints (limited edition of 5000), 1999</td>
<td>Box 127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - by Joe Sinnott, undated</td>
<td>Box 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - Comic Artist Professional Society tribute to Stan Lee, 2007</td>
<td>Box 144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - A Critical Analysis of Contemporary Pop Art (article by Jolly Bob Wider), undated</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - from a fan, undated</td>
<td>Box 127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - miscellaneous, 1957-1990s</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artwork - to work on, undated</td>
<td>Box 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennet Marks - The Tree Where Spider-Man Was Born (position paper on Marvel), 1976</td>
<td>Box 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical files, 1945-1989</td>
<td>Box 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business files and clippings, 1981-2008</td>
<td>Box 125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connie Willis Papers

Summary

Identifier: SC059

Dates

1970-2015 (Creation)
Acquisition Date: 2010-02-09 (Existence)

Extents

162.00 Box(es) (Whole)  162 Linear Feet
78 Box(es) (Whole)  (126 linear feet), 36 linear feet of published material.
Components

Published Writings, circa 1970-2015
- Fiction, 1982 - 2015
  - Short Fiction
  - Short Fiction Collections, 1985 - 2007
  - Short Fiction Collections by others, Introductions, 2005
  - Anthologies, 1994 - 2001
  - Non-Fiction, 1970 - 2002
  - Various Published Works, 1988 - 2011
  - Introductions and Forwards to Other's Books, 1998 - 2011
  - Tributes, 1993 - 2011
- Biographical Statements, 1985 - 2003
  - Passage
  - Passage
  - Box 12
  - Box 13
  - Box 14
  - Box 15
  - Box 16
  - Box 17
  - Box 18
  - Box 19
  - Box 20
  - Box 21
  - Box 22
  - Box 23
  - Box 24
  - Box 25
  - Box 26
  - Box 27
  - Box 28
What Can Sci-Fi and Comic Book Archival Materials be Used For?
UW classes that have used Stan Lee materials or other pop culture materials
- Superheroes, Stan Lee, and Studying for Success: What does popular culture have to do with research?
- Women in the American West, material culture unit
- Night of the Living Film: Zombies, Living Dead, Walkers... Humans
- 4-12th grade classes
- Can teach importance of literacy and impact of relatable characters
• Popular culture scholars
• University students for class assignments
• History Day projects
• Stan Lee Rentschler Distinguished Lecturer visit in 1994
• What does this have to do with us here at Comic-Con?
• Fan letters and what we can learn about the celebrities we love through them
March 8, 1982

Mr. Stan Lee
MARVEL PRODUCTIONS LTD.
4610 Van Nuys Boulevard
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Dear Stan:

Everybody's telling me about plans for a "Fantastic Four" movie. To make a long story short, I want to be the "Thing". Here are some scenes from "KISS - ATTACK OF THE PHANTOM" which was a KISS co-production for television, and an Avco Embassy worldwide feature.

Either way, all the best of luck with the movie. I have been a fan since the beginning, and still am.

Best of luck,

Gene Simmons

P.S. Kindly contact my agent, Mr. Paul Martino, at ICM, 40 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019, # 212/556-6820 (direct line).
APRIL 13, 1994

DEAR MR STAN LEE,

MY NAME IS . I AM TWENTY THREE YEARS OLD AND HAVE GROWN UP PRIORILY IN LARAMIE. AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, IT HAS BEEN MY GOAL TO BECOME A COMIC ILLUSTRATOR AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY MENTOR AND EVERYTHING I’VE DONE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS BEEN DONE WITH YOU IN MIND. I HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING A STORY-LINE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS THAT I AM EXCITED ABOUT. WHEN I HEARD THAT "STAN THE MAN" WAS COMING TO LARAMIE I DECIDED TO DRAW A FEW PAGES FROM THAT STORY TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF MY STYLE.

YOUR OPINION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME AND I AM HOPING THAT YOU WILL BE KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO LOOK AT THE ENCLOSED WORK. IT IS A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF WORK I DO. I DO MANY OTHER CHARACTERS AND ALSO FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT DRAWING ANY MARVEL COMICS. ANY FEEDBACK YOU CAN OFFER WILL MEAN A LOT TO ME.

ALTHOUGH BECOMING A COMIC ILLUSTRATOR IS MY LIFE LONG DREAM, I HAVE A WIFE AND TWO LITTLE DAUGHTERS TO SUPPORT. TO MAKE ENDS MEET I HAVE BEEN TATTOOING FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS. THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANT TO DO FOR A LIVING. I WANT TO WORK IN COMICS------I WANT TO DRAW.

I WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH MARVEL. I REALISE THAT TO START I MAY HAVE TO DO BACKGROUNDS, INKING, ETC. I’M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET A CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF.

I KNOW THAT YOUR SCHEDULE HERE IS VERY BUSY. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE AND WANT TO SEE A BROADER REPRESENTATION OF MY WORK, I HAVE A GALLERY AT 211 GRAND AVENUE DOWNTOWN. THE WORK CONSISTS OF DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS, AND AIRBRUSH. IF YOU CAN HELP ME WITH MY DREAM OR WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO ME, I’LL BE AT . THIS IS MY DAD’S BUSINESS PHONE. YOU CAN ALSO LEAVE ME A MESSAGE ON THE MACHINE THERE.

MAKE mine Marvel

EXCELSIOR!
Questions?