Guide to the World War II Joke and Humor Collection, ca. 1941-ca. 1945

Special Collections & Archives
Oviatt Library
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, CA, 91330
URL: https://library.csun.edu/SCA
Email: oviattsca@csun.edu
© Copyright 2012 Special Collections & Archives. All rights reserved.
Overview of the Collection
Collection Title: World War II Joke and Humor Collection
Dates: ca. 1941-ca. 1945
Identification: SC/WWJH
Physical Description: 0.21 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections
Abstract: The World War II Joke and Humor Collection consists of jokes, poems, rhymes, letters, cartoons, and other humorous materials read by and exchanged between soldiers serving in World War II. Common topics are sex, women, military life, commanding officers, and Hitler. Most items are hand-written, though some possibly copied out of magazines and other publications as there are multiple copies in different hands. A few items are type written, or small pamphlet publications.
Note: This collection was purchased with funds generously donated by Gus and Erika Manders.
Genre/Form of Material:
Ephemera
Paper records
Photographic material
Conditions Governing Use:
Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection has not been transferred to California State University, Northridge. Copyright status for other materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.
Conditions Governing Access:
The collection is open for research use.
Preferred Citation:
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.
Scope and Contents
The World War II Joke and Humor Collection consists of jokes, poems, rhymes, letters, cartoons, and other humorous materials read by and exchanged between soldiers serving in World War II. Common topics are sex, women, military life, commanding officers, and Hitler, most notably a lengthy rhyme titled "Hitler's Dream" in which the Nazi leader finds himself unable to enter Hell because the Devil does not want him to corrupt the "good morals" of his evil minions. Most items are hand-written, though some were probably copied out of magazines and other publications as there are multiple copies in different hands. A few small pamphlet publications, type written, or clipped from newspapers. Some items are mildly pornographic, and the collection also includes a few nude photographs. It is filed alphabetically by format.

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Drawings |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Ephemera |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Extended Metaphors in Prose |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Jokes |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Letters |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Loose Envelopes |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Photographs |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Poems and Rhymes |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Song |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Stories |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Valentine |
| Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 1 | Maps |