
Guide to the Merle H. Cunnington Collection, 1964-2012

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Merle H. Cunnington Collection

Dates: 1964-2012

Bulk Dates: 1964-1983

Identification: URB/MHC

Creator: Cunnington, Merle H., 1931-2013

Physical Description: 7.81 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Urban Archives

Abstract: Merle Howard Cunnington (1931-2013) was an editorial cartoonist, both freelance and on staff at the *Van Nuys News & Green Sheet* from 1964-1978. The collection consists primarily of preliminary drawings and tear sheets, as well as a handwritten autobiography (through 1979), correspondence, lists, and other materials. Topics of interest include the Vietnam conflict, the energy crisis, school busing, the environment, social security, and Right-to-Work legislation.

Note:

This collection was processed with generous support from the Tom W. Reilly estate.

Biographical Information:

Merle Howard Cunnington (1931-2013) was born near Sun Valley, Idaho in 1931. He studied history and political science at Utah State University, graduating in 1953. He met his future wife, Elise Mae, in 1956 at friend's wedding in the San Fernando Valley. They married in 1957 and had three children.

Cunnington worked at Chevy plant in Van Nuys, CA before getting a teaching job at Pacoima Jr. High School, where he worked from 1957-1960. He transferred to Columbus Jr. High School, where he taught history and art until his retirement. He also taught art and cartooning classes at Pierce College, the California State University Northridge Extension, and Ventura College.

His interest in art led him to study at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles. Cunnington used the pen name McHoward for the first years of his cartooning career. He began working as a free-lance cartoonist for the *Valley News* in 1964 and was doing five cartoons a week when he left in May of 1978, just a few years after the paper was bought by the Chicago Tribune Co. In 1975 he illustrated *The San Fernando Valley* by Jackson Mayers.

Access Terms

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:

Paper records

Processing Information:

April Feldman, 2013

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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.

Arrangement of Materials:

Series I: General Files, 1964-2012

Series II: Drawings, 1964-1978

Sub-Series A: Preliminary Drawings, 1964-1978

Sub-Series B: Tear Sheets, 1964-1978

Scope and Contents

The Merle H. Cunnington Collection consists primarily of preliminary drawings and tear sheets, as well as a handwritten autobiography (through 1979), correspondence, lists, and other materials. The collection documents such topics as the Vietnam conflict, the energy crisis, school busing, the environment, social security, and Right-to-Work legislation. Also of interest are a small number of illustrations from the Jackson Mayer book *The San Fernando Valley* (1976). The collection has been divided into two series: General Files (1964-2012) and Drawings (1964-1978).

Series I, General Files, documents the business and professional development aspects of Cunnington's artistic career. The series includes accounting and payment information, professional journals and correspondence, and ideas for future drawings. This series consists of correspondence, lists, and other similar materials, and is arranged alphabetically.

Series II, Drawings, consists entirely of Cunnington's preliminary drawings and published tear sheets. Topics of interest include the Vietnam conflict, energy crisis, school busing, the environment, social security, and Right-to-Work legislation. Also of interest are a small number of illustrations from the Jackson Mayer book *The San Fernando Valley* (1976). The series has been further divided into two subseries. Subseries A, Preliminary Drawings, consists of hand-drawn ink sketches of many of Mr. Cunnington's editorial cartoons. There are also a small number of copies or transparencies when no original drawing was present. Subseries B, Tear Sheets, consists of editorial cartoons as they appeared in publications, primarily the *Valley News & Green Sheet*. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Series I: General Files, 1964-2012

Box 1

- Folder 1 **13th International Salon of Cartoons, 1976**
- Folder 2 **Accounting, Drawings, 1964-1969**
- Folder 3 **Accounting, Drawings, 1970-1974**
- Folder 4 **American Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, Annual Convention, 1973, 1990-2004**
- Folder 5 **American Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, Membership lists, 1969, 1983, 1990-1996**
- Folder 6 **California State University, Northridge Cartooning Class, 1977**
- Folder 7 **Cartoonews, No. 17, 1977**
- Folder 8 **Correspondence, 1967, 1969**
- Folder 9 **Correspondence, 1970-1979**
- Folder 10 **Correspondence, 1981-2012**
- Folder 11 **Correspondence**
- Folder 12 **Cunnington, Merle H, Personal History**
- Folder 13 **Drawings in Galleries, Sold or Given**
- Folder 14 **Drawings, Other**
- Folder 15 **Editorial Cartoons, Brochures and Catalogs, 1983, 1991-1993**
- Folder 16 **The Festival of Cartoon Art, 1983**
- Folder 17 **Ford, Gerald, Drawings, 1975**
- Folder 18 **Ideas and Notes, 1965-1971**
- Folder 19 **International Biographical Center Magazine, 1977**
- Folder 20 **Newspaper Clippings**
- Folder 21 **Notes, 1969-1977, 2011**
- Folder 22 **Payment Requests, 1965-1967**
- Folder 23 **Payment Requests, 1968-1974**
- Folder 24 **San Diego Union, 1970-1971**
- Folder 25 **San Fernando Valley, History, 1975**

Box 14

- Folder 1 **Correspondence, 1970-1979**
- Folder 2 **Drawings, Other**
- Folder 3 **Ford, Gerald, Drawings, 1975**
- Folder 4 **San Fernando Valley, History, 1975**

Box 15

- Item 1 **Photograph, San Fernando Valley History, 1975**
- Item 2 **Photograph, San Fernando Valley History, 1975**

Series II: Drawings, 1964-1978

Sub-Series A: Preliminary Drawings, 1964-1978

Box 2

Folder 1 **1964**
Folder 2 **1964**
Folder 3 **1964**
Folder 4 **ca. 1964**
Folder 5 **ca. 1964-ca. 1966**
Folder 6 **1964**
Folder 7 **1965**
Folder 8 **1965**
Folder 9 **ca. 1965-ca. 1967**
Folder 10 **January-June 1966**
Folder 11 **July-December 1966**
Folder 12 **1966**
Folder 13 **1966**
Folder 14 **January-June 1967**
Folder 15 **July-September 1967**
Folder 16 **1967**

Box 3

Folder 1 **ca. 1967**
Folder 2 **ca. 1967**
Folder 3 **January-March 1968**
Folder 4 **January-March 1968**
Folder 5 **April-June 1968**
Folder 6 **April-June 1968**
Folder 7 **July-December 1968**
Folder 8 **1968**
Folder 9 **ca. 1968**
Folder 10 **ca. 1968**
Folder 11 **ca. 1968**
Folder 12 **ca. 1968**
Folder 13 **ca. 1968**
Folder 14 **1969**
Folder 15 **1969**
Folder 16 **1969**

Box 4

Folder 1 **ca. 1969-ca. 1970**
Folder 2 **ca. 1969-ca. 1970**
Folder 3 **ca. 1969-ca. 1970**
Folder 4 **ca. 1969-ca. 1970**
Folder 5 **January-March 1970**
Folder 6 **January-March 1970**
Folder 7 **April-June 1970**
Folder 8 **April-June 1970**
Folder 9 **July 1970**
Folder 10 **August-September 1970**
Folder 11 **October-November 1970**
Folder 12 **November-December 1970**

Box 5

Folder 1 **ca. 1970**
Folder 2 **ca. 1970**
Folder 3 **January-March 1971**
Folder 4 **April-June 1971**
Folder 5 **April-June 1971**
Folder 6 **June-September 1971**

Folder 7	July-September 1971
Folder 8	October-December 1971
Folder 9	October-December 1971
Folder 10	1971
Folder 11	1971
Folder 12	1971
Folder 13	ca. 1971
	Box 6
Folder 1	January-March 1972
Folder 2	January-March 1972
Folder 3	April-June 1972
Folder 4	April-June 1972
Folder 5	July-September 1972
Folder 6	October-December 1972
Folder 7	October-December 1972
Folder 8	1972
Folder 9	January-March 1973
Folder 10	January-March 1973
Folder 11	April-June 1973
Folder 12	April-June 1973
	Box 7
Folder 1	July-September 1973
Folder 2	1973
Folder 3	1973
Folder 4	October-December 1973
Folder 5	1973
Folder 6	January-March 1974
Folder 7	April-June 1974
Folder 8	July-September 1974
Folder 9	October-December 1974
Folder 10	October-December 1974
Folder 11	1974
Folder 12	1974
Folder 13	ca. 1974
	Box 8
Folder 1	January-March 1975
Folder 2	April-June 1975
Folder 3	July-September 1975
Folder 4	July-September 1975
Folder 5	October-December 1975
Folder 6	October-December 1975
Folder 7	1975
Folder 8	ca. 1975
Folder 9	January-March 1976
Folder 10	April 1976
Folder 11	July-September 1976
Folder 12	July-September 1976
	Box 9
Folder 1	October-December 1976
Folder 2	October-December 1976
Folder 3	1976
Folder 4	1976
Folder 5	ca. 1976
Folder 6	January-March 1977
Folder 7	January-March 1977
Folder 8	April-June 1977
Folder 9	April-June 1977
Folder 10	July-September 1977

Folder 11	July-September 1977
Folder 12	October-December 1977
Folder 13	October-December 1977
	Box 10
Folder 1	1977
Folder 2	1978
Folder 3	1978
Folder 4	1978
Folder 5	Undated
Folder 6	Undated, Unsigned

Sub-Series B: Tear Sheets, 1964-1978

	Box 11
Folder 1	1964
Folder 2	ca. 1964
Folder 3	1965
Folder 4	1965
Folder 5	ca. 1965
Folder 6	January-June 1966
Folder 7	July-December 1966
Folder 8	1966
Folder 9	January-June 1967
Folder 10	July-September 1967
Folder 11	October-December 1967
Folder 12	January-March 1968
Folder 13	April-June 1968
Folder 14	July-December 1968
Folder 15	1968
Folder 16	ca. 1968
Folder 17	1969
Folder 18	January-March 1970
Folder 19	April-June 1970
Folder 20	July-September 1970
Folder 21	October-December 1970
Folder 22	January-March 1971
Folder 23	April-June 1971
Folder 24	July-September 1971
Folder 25	October-December 1971
Folder 26	1971
Folder 27	January-March 1972
	Box 12
Folder 1	April-June 1972
Folder 2	July-September 1972
Folder 3	October-December 1972
Folder 4	1972
Folder 5	January-March 1973
Folder 6	April-June 1973
Folder 7	July-September 1973
Folder 8	October-December 1973
Folder 9	1973
Folder 10	January-March 1974
Folder 11	April-June 1974
Folder 12	July-September 1974
Folder 13	October-December 1974
Folder 14	January-March 1975
Folder 15	April-June 1975
Folder 16	July-September 1975

Folder 17	October-December 1975
Folder 18	January-March 1976
Folder 19	April 1976
Folder 20	July-September 1976
Folder 21	October-December 1976
Folder 22	ca. 1976
Folder 23	January-March 1977
Folder 24	April-June 1977
	Box 13
Folder 1	July-September 1977
Folder 2	October-December 1977
Folder 3	1978
Folder 4	Undated
Folder 5	Undated, Unsigned