Guide to the Engravings and Posters, 1848-1964

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Guide to the Engravings and Posters, 1848-1964

Collection number: MSS PRINTS 0048

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Date Completed:
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Encoded by:
  Steven Mandeville-Gamble

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Engravings and posters,
Date (inclusive): 1848-1964
Collection number: MSS PRINTS 0048
Creator: Taller de Grafica Popular
Extent: 172 prints
Repository: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.
Abstract: Engravings (71) and posters (101) by multiple artists.
Language: English.

Access Restrictions
None.
Publication Rights
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Provenance
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Biography
The Taller de Grafica Popular (The Workshop for Popular Graphic Art) was founded in Mexico City in 1937 by artists Leopoldo Mendez, Pablo O’Higgins and Luis Arenal. All three men had been involved with the Mexican Mural Movement, under the leadership of Diego Rivera. Other artists joined the TGP and soon the membership grew to a constant twelve to fifteen members. (see list below)
The basic premise of the group was to be a center of collective work and to provide both pragmatic and philosophical support to its members. Pragmatically, because most of the artists were poor and could not afford the equipment necessary to create prints, the TGP provided working quarters and basic equipment in a well lit, orderly atmosphere. Philosophically,
the collective provided a constant source of shared expertise and la critica colectiva, in which members reviewed and critiqued each other's work. The collective was run as a business, with an executive board and weekly member meetings to discuss common concerns. There was also an established structure for the commission and sale of member's work. Members would receive two-thirds of the sale price of individual prints and the TGP one-third. The intent was that the workshop would pay for itself and generate revenue for the individual artists.

The Taller produced editioned prints, pamphlets, illustrated books and films. Primarily, however, the work of the TGP was a continuation of the school of Mexican printmaking begun by Jose Posada. Posters, or broadsides, depicting the basic needs of the working and peasant classes were the most prolific product of the TGP. Like Posada, TGP artists found that the imagery of the corridos and calaveras were the most successful way to communicate with a largely illiterate audience. Bold, black and white images with densely printed surfaces are typical of the TGP iconography and reflect the artists' admiration for Mexican folk art and Pre-columbian relief sculpture.

**Scope and Content**

The collection contains prints and posters made by the various members of the Taller de Grafica Popular (The Workshop for Popular Art). Please refer to the Biographical Note for a complete listing of artists who belonged to the TGP. The collection is divided in two series: Prints and Posters. There are approximately 63 prints and 101 posters; dimensions for each piece are given in centimeters.

All of the prints in the collection were executed by the use of linoleum blocks. Although the process of lithography had been introduced in the 1920's, the stone required for the process was not cheap or abundant in Mexico. Since the objective of the TGP was to produce large editions in the cheapest manner possible, members quickly embraced the linoleum block printing process. Linoleum was the most modern means of printing; it was a cheap and accessible type of "block" and could be used for both large and small-scale images. If mistakes were made, pieces could be discarded more easily than with expensive wood or stone. Linoleum also lent itself well to the bold, black and white imagery used by most of the TGP artists. Leopoldo Mendez, one of the founders of the Taller de Grafica, wrote that there was a certain power in the black and white print. He felt that it served as a contrast to the colorful backdrop of the country, and was an excellent means of representing the heavy burden of oppression endured by the Mexican people.

Because the TGP considered itself to be both an artistic cooperative and politically radical group, most of the images in the collection deal with current events, political figures and social causes. Favorite topics include: poverty and oppression of the Indian population, oil expropriation, the workers movement, imperialism, literacy and the high cost of living. But there was also attention to las peguenas cosas cotidianas (the details of daily life), expressed, as Jose Gudalupe Posada had done years before, by means of corridos and calaveras. After World War II, the TGP members turned their attentions to peace-time cultural missions such as literacy campaigns, saving archeological sites and promoting the motion picture industry in Mexico.

**Access Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Beltrán.
Bracho, Angel.
Bustos, Arturo Garcia.
Calderon, Celia.
Catlet, E.
Escobedo, Jesús.
Flores, Norberto.
Gómez, Andrea.
Huerta, Elena.
Jiménez, Sarah.
Méndez, Leopoldo.
Mereles, Alfredo.
Mexiac, Adolfo.
Mora, Francisco.
Morales, Antonio.
Ocampo.
O'Higgins, Pablo.
Pache, Fernando Castro.
Quinteros, Adolfo.
Ramirez, Everardo.
Ravel, Fany.
Sosamontes, Ramón.
Ventura, Hector.
Zalce, Alfredo.
Art, Modern--Mexico.

Series 1. Prints

Map Folder 1  Leopoldo Mendez n.d.
Physical Description: 1 Linoleum Block Print
Scope and Content Note
Untitled, 73.7 x 50

Box 1, Folder 1  Adolfo Quinteros n.d.
Physical Description: 3 Linoleum Block Prints
Scope and Content Note
Derecho de Huelga, 1951, 25.0 x 32.7; La Fuerza de la Union, 1958, 32.5 x 25.0; Untitled (Portrait), 1960, 56.1 x 49.9

Box 1, Folder 2  Norberto Flores n.d.
Physical Description: 2 Linoleum Block Prints
Scope and Content Note
Protesta contra alza de comestibles, 35.2 x 47.4; Untitled, 39.0 x 56.8

Box 1, Folder 3  Fernando Castro Pachecon.d.
Physical Description: 4 Linoleum Block Prints
Scope and Content Note
Asesinato de Obregon, 32.7 x 25.0; Asesinato del General Alva Obregon, 39.5 x 49.0; Untitled, 35.0 x 44.7; Las Demandas del Pueblo, 48.0 x 34.6;

Box 1, Folder 4  Jesus Escobedon.d.
Physical Description: 3 Linoleum Block Prints
Scope and Content Note
Los Diplomatica, 50.3 x 38.6; Untitled, 38.7 x 36.0; Untitled, 47.5 x 35.0

Box 1, Folder 5  Leopoldo Mendez n.d.
Physical Description: 9 Linoleum Block Prints
Scope and Content Note
Doria, 23.7 x 34.5; Danza del Maiz, 18 x 28.5; Incidentes Melodicos, 24.1 x 32.1; Untitled, 22 x 28.3; Untitled, 27.2 x 42; Coscomates, 38 x 44.5; Bestias, 38.2 x 52.8; Soledad, 50.7 x 41.5; Untitled, 44.7 x 57

Box 1, Folder 6  Sarah Jimenez V.n.d.
Physical Description: 6 Linoleum Block Prints
Scope and Content Note
Detencios, 32.5 x 24.7; Mecanicos, 32.5 x 50; Justicia, 33.0 x 50; Zapata Prisionero, 32.7 x 50; Huelguista, 50 x 32.5; Untitled, 56.5 x 64.5
Box 1, Folder 7  
**Angel Brachon, d.**  
Physical Description: 9 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Calaveras, 35.2 x 47.3; Aleman y Truman, 50.2 x 32.5; Alto al agocotismo, 28.4 x 35;  
Chicanos, 31.0 x 41; Anonimo, 35 x 47.5; La Huelga de Rio Blanco, 35.7 x 47.2; Ola de  
Hurlgas en Espana, 40.3 x 56.3; Creacion de la CTM, 42.3 x 62.8; La Victoria de  
Quetzalcoatl, 53 x 64.3

Box 1, Folder 8  
**Francisco Moran, d.**  
Physical Description: 4 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Untitled, 50 x 32.5; Untitled, 50.5 x 40; Untitled, 27 x 29.5; La Decena Tragica, 65 x 50

Box 1, Folder 9  
**Arturo Garcia Bustos, n.d.**  
Physical Description: 5 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Untitled, 31.7 x 40; Untitled, 47.5 x 35; Paris, 1960, 41.5 x 50.5; II Congreso Campesino,  
65.2 x 50.2; Adam Mickiewicz, 65.5 x 50.2

Box 1, Folder 10  
**Various Artists, n.d.**  
Physical Description: 12 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
E. Catlet, Quejas del Pueblo, 32.5 x 25.3; Celia Calderon, Recursos Naturales del Mexico,  
35 x 47.8; Fany Revel, Untitled, 42 x 62; Adolfo Mexiac, Untitled, 55.8 x 43.9; Everado  
Ramirez, La Culebra, 51 x 41; Elena Huerta, Constituyentes Mexicanos, 57 x 45; Ramon  
Sosamontes, Soldado, 45 x 55; Pablo Ohiguins, CTAL Unidad, 34.8 x 47.2; Hector Ventura,  
Untitled, 35 x 47.5; Antonio Morales, Trabajadores, 64.8 x 49.7; Ocampo, Dos  
Pepenadores, 46.2 x 61; Andrea Gomez, Untitled, 49.8 x 64.8

Box 1, Folder 11  
**Beltran, n.d.**  
Physical Description: 3 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Untitled, 47.5 x 35; Untitled, 47.7 x 70, Untitled, 47.7 x 70

Box 1, Folder 12  
**Alfredo Mereles, n.d.**  
Physical Description: 3 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Calaveras del Sismo, 49.8 x 65.2; Terror en el Mercado, 47.9 x 70; Untitled, 65 x 49.8

Box 1, Folder 13  
**Alfredo Zalcen, n.d.**  
Physical Description: 2 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Untitled, 36 x 56.8; Amenaza Nazi, 48 x 35

Box 1, Folder 14  
**Anonymous Artists, n.d.**  
Physical Description: 5 Linoleum Block Prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Untitled, 19 x 22.3; Untitled, 30.5 x 41.3; Untitled, 47.5 x 56.6; Untitled, 47.5 x 56.6;  
Imperialismo, 64.9 x 49.8

**Series 2. Posters**
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<tr>
<th>Map Folder 2</th>
<th>Posters n.d.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong> 8 posters</td>
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<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>La risa del pueblo, 43.7 x 67.3; Vida y Drama de Mexico, 47.5 x 69.5 [2 copies]; 1869 Universidad Autonoma de Hidalgo, 46.5 x 57.2; Fuera de Panama, 57 x 43.2; La Paz para el progreso, 46.5 x 60.2; Buenos vecinos, buenos amigos, 67.2 x 47.5; La URSS, 67.2 x 46.5.</td>
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<th>Map Folder 3</th>
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<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong> 7 posters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50,000 Cubiertas, 50 x 64; La risa del Puebla, 67.5 x 43.5 [2 copies]; El fascismo conferencia, 67 x 47; El fascismo conferencia, 67.5 x 46.5; Marisol S. Timoshenka, 67.2 x 46.5 [2 copies]</td>
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<th>Map Folder 4</th>
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<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Puedes sembrar con mal suelo; Las mejoradas de maiz; Corrido de los tranvias; Corrido de Lopez Perez; Congreso Continental Americano por la paz, Israel.</td>
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<th>Map Folder 5</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Untitled, 57 x 71; Americana, 61 x 118; Universidad Obrera de Mexico, 61.3 x 81; Los Tranvarios luchan en, 93.3 x 67.7; A un tiempo nuevo, 95 x 70.3; Homenaja a Cardenas, 56 x 86.4; Exposicion Plateria Mexicana, 61.3 x 81; Victoria!, 60 x 80; Homenaje a Benito Juarez, 61.5 x 82.1</td>
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<th>Map Folder 6</th>
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<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong> 7 posters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Urge un tratado de Paz, 56 x 86.4; Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, 60 x 81; Ultrahe a Mexico, 61 x 81.5; 1ro. de Mayo, 82 x 82.5; Exposicion Puerto Rico, 61.5 x 81.3 [2 copies]; American Continental Congress, 61 x 80.5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congreso continental Americana, 61 x 80.5; Unidad obrera en torno al, 60 x 80.5; 50 Aniversario, 62.5 x 67.3; 1910 - 1964, 56 x 87.6; Libertemos a los presos politicos, 93.2 x 67.8; Ayuda a impedir este crimen, 40.5 x 60.5; Asamblea de Registro, 61 x 40.5; 20 Aniversario, 46.7 x 72.5; A Siqueiros, al partir, 45.5 x 69.9; Exigimos la construccion de la Escuela Nacional, 61 x 81; Llamamiento, 81 x 61.</td>
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<th>Map Folder 8</th>
<th>Posters n.d.</th>
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<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong> 1 poster</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitucion, 72 x 106.</td>
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Map Folder 9

**Posters n.d.**

*Physical Description:* 10 posters

*Scope and Content Note*

Frente unico de trabajadores, 64 x 49.2; No olvidemos!, 67.5 x 94; Paremos la Agresión, 95 x 70 [2 copies]; Conasupo Mexico, 65.8 x 95; Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, 60 x 81; IV Congreso de la C.T.A.L, 70.7 x 95; 1ro. de Mayo, 82 x 82.5; Instituto Regional de Bellas Artes de Cuernavaca, 92.3 x 67.2; Lazaro Cardenas, 68.5 x 94.5.

Box 2, Folder 1

**Various Posters n.d.**

*Physical Description:* 36 Posters

*Scope and Content Note*

Esto se acabo coche de Diputado, 14.2 x 21 [2 copies]; Esto se acabo 10 cantinas, sindicatos, concesionarios 13.9 x 21.0 [3 copies]; Esto se acabo coche de Diputado, 14.2 x 21 [2 copies]; Esto se acabo camara de Diputados, 14 x 21; La Llorona de San Carlos, 22.6 x 27; Himno Nacional Mexicano, 30.3 x 40.2; Corrido de Diego Rivera, 30.5 x 40.6; La expropiacion de la Industria del Petroleo, 22.5 x 34.3; El taller de grafica popular, 23 x 33.3; Vivir con honr y progresar con Independencia, 23.1 x 34.7; Maestro tu estas solo, 23 x 34; Con una piedra se matan muchos pajaros, 23.2 x 33.8; Campesino de Jalisco, 23.4 x 33.5; Derecho de huelga, 24.5 x 34.3; En nombre de Cristo, 24.5 x 35.5; Oratorio menor en la muerte de Silvestre, 23 x 33.5 [2 copies]; A correr galinas, 20 x 30.6; Campanero: Adjunto enviamos a usted, 23 x 34; [5 copies]; Los canones de los fusiles de la reaccion, 23 x 33.9; Corrido de Don Chapulin, 23 x 33.5; Toda la tierra para los campesinos, 23 x 32.3; Corrido del comunismo mexicano, 31.1 x 33.5; Seria el politiquero del pri?, 13.7 x 21.7 [2 copies]; Feliz ano 1955, 23.1 x 17.2; Mitin popular de respaldo, 17.8 x 23.6; Homenaje, en su dia a David, 13.2 x 25; Corrido del voto de la mujer, 17.2 x 21.3; Para que quiere ser diputado, 17 x 21.2 [ 3 copies]; Hombres trabajando, 23 x 17; Lazaro Cardenas, 23 x 17; Tractor, 23 x 17; Siempre paz y felicidad, 23 x 17; Expropiacion petrolera, 23 x 17; Exposicion de Estampa del taller de grafica, 35.2 x 47.