

John R. Fischetti Collection, 1945-1980

By FBE

Collection Overview

Title: John R. Fischetti Collection, 1945-1980

ID: 1000/02/RG1000.02

Creator: Fischetti, John R. (1916 - 1980)

Extent: 5.0 Cubic Feet

Arrangement: This collection has been arranged chronologically and into six series:

Series 1: Sketchbooks and Sketches, 1961-1980

Series 2: Punch Magazine, 1950s-1960s

Series 3: Projects and Ideas, 1945-1979

Series 4: Personal Material, 1960-1970

Series 5: Other Artists Work, 1950s-1970s

Series 6: Finished Editorial Cartoons, 1963-1980

Date Acquired: 10/00/2005.

Subject Index: editorial cartoons

Genres/Forms of Material: personal papers

Languages: [English](#)

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The collection contains sketchbooks, original drawings, and photomechanically reproduced drawings by editorial cartoonist John Fischetti. A small amount of work by other artists is also in the collection, including: Pat Oliphant, Bill Mauldin, and Walt Scott.

Writing on his editorial cartoon sketchbooks in his autobiography, Fischetti stated "Before 1961 I used to doodle ideas on the backs of envelopes, scraps of paper and yellow copy paper... Since even half-formed ideas are invaluable, I decided to use layout pads for the gestating periods. By dating each page, it turned out to be a sort of log of historical and personal events." (Zinga, Zinga, Za!)

The collection strength lies in the working notebooks as these illustrate Fischetti's creative process.

Biographical Note

John Fischetti was born in Brooklyn in 1916 and died in Chicago in 1980. After graduating from Pratt Institute, he went to work for Disney Studios as an animator and later moved to Chicago where he was an illustrator for the Chicago Sun. He entered the U.S. Army in 1942 where he worked for Stars & Stripes. He also moonlighted at the Paris Post. After his return from Europe in 1946, he went to New York to do freelance work for advertising agencies and magazines. Between 1951 and 1962, he worked with the Newspaper Enterprise Association in New York as an editorial artist. In 1962, Fischetti joined the New York Herald Tribune where he popularized the horizontal cartoon format with grey tones, now a standard of the field. With the demise of the Herald Tribune in 1967, Fischetti returned to Chicago to work as a political cartoonist for the Chicago Daily News. When that paper folded in 1978, he worked for the Chicago Sun-Times. Fischetti was the recipient of the National Headliners Club medal in 1951, two awards from Sigma Delta Chi society of professional journalists in 1956 and 1958, and four consecutive awards from the National Cartoonists Society from 1962 through 1965. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for the body of cartoons he drew in 1968. By the time he died in 1980, his cartoons had appeared in publications such as the Chicago Sun, Chicago Daily News, Chicago Sun-Times, The New York Times, The New York Herald Tribune, and Stars and Stripes. He also illustrated several books, a number of them for children, and his non-editorial work appeared in The Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Woman's Home Companion, Cosmopolitan, and Punch.

Administrative Information

Accruals: Additional materials purchased at auction October 2005
Additional gift of completed cartoons from the executor

Access Restrictions: Materials available for research

Use Restrictions: Materials are the property of Columbia College Chicago. Intellectual property rights of artwork belong to the College Archives at Columbia College Chicago. Intellectual property rights of artwork not created by Fischetti belong to the original creators.

Acquisition Source: Gift

College Archives Manuscript Webpage:
<http://www.colum.edu/archives/collections/manuscripts/john-fischetti.php>

Other Note: Fischetti Editorial Cartoon Competition Awards

Held annually, this competition features the work of professional editorial cartoonists, with one chosen as a winner. The signed, original work is auctioned to replenish funds to the student scholarship award, the Fischetti Fund at Columbia College Chicago.

Other URL: <http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Journalism/Fischetti/>

Box and Folder Listing

Series 1: Sketchbooks and Sketches, 1961-1980

Contains Fischetti's editorial cartoon and travel sketchbooks. The cartoon sketches span his professional work 1961 through 1980 and represent the most complete collection of his sketchbooks held in any repository. The travel sketchbooks include drawings from his travels abroad as well as within the United States and date from 1945 until 1979.

Box 1: Sketchbooks- Travel

Folder 1: 1945 Brittany (France)

One ink drawing, one watercolor sketch

Folder 2: 1948 New York, NY (USA)

Framed drawing of "little Italy" in Brooklyn, NY that appears on page 4 of Fischetti's autobiography "Zinga Zinga Za!"

Folder 3: 1949 (Denmark)

One small spiral sketchbook, several small pen sketches on loose pieces of paper.

Folder 4: 1949 (France)

Two ink and watercolor (?) drawings

Folder 5: 1953 (France)

Two ink drawings

Folder 6: 1960 (Italy--1)

One large spiral sketchbook

Folder 7: 1960 (Italy--2)

One large spiral sketchbook

Folder 8: 1960 (Italy--3)

One large spiral sketchbook

Folder 9: 1961 New York, NY (USA)

2 ink drawings

Folder 10: 1961 (Washington, D.C.)

One large spiral sketchbook

Folder 11: 1965 (Denmark)

Two ink drawings

Folder 12: 1965 (France & England)

One medium spiral sketchbook

Folder 13: 1970 Chicago, IL (USA)

ink drawings: Picasso statue (used in autobiography, page 80), sketches of Old Town, Merchandise Mart, Southwest side, Oak Street Beach, bus stop, North Side, Canal Street

Folder 14: 1971 (France)

One ink drawing

Folder 15: 1973 (Austria & Denmark)

One medium spiral sketchbook, one ink drawing (mounted)

Folder 16: 1974 (Mexico)

One ink drawing

Folder 17: 1974 (Portugal)

One large spiral sketchbook

Folder 18: 1976 (France)

One large sketchbook, one ink drawing

Folder 19: 1979 (Greece)

Two large spiral sketchbook, 4 ink drawings

Folder 20: 1979 (Greece--2)

One medium spiral sketchbook, several ink drawings

Folder 21: 1979 (Peru and 'Civil Servants' project)

One large spiral sketchbook. Sketchbook also contains correspondence and notes on a book project called the Civil Servants.

Box 2: Sketchbooks- Editorial

Collection of sketchbooks containing small drawings and ideas for JRF's editorial cartooning work. Arranged chronologically based on date.

From the autobiography, "before 1961 I used to doodle ideas on the backs of envelopes, scraps of papers and yellow copy paper. After working up an idea, I'd crumple the paper and throw it away...Many times I had the germ of an idea which with more work would be usable., but the ideas were thrown out with the scraps of papers. Since even half-formed ideas are invaluable, I decided to use layout pads for the gestating periods. By dating each page, it turned out to be a sort of log of historical and personal events." and "After reading newspapers for about three hours every morning, I jot down the most important topics of the day in a column on the right-hand side of the page...I will go through two, three and sometimes four sheets of doodling thumbnail sketches of people and scenes." (98)

Folder 1: 1960 (1)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 2: 1962 (2)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 3: 1963 (1)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 4: 1963 (2)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 6: 1963 (3)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 7: 1964 (1)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 8: 1964 (2)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 9: 1964 (3)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 10: 1966

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 11: 1967

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 12: 1967 (Sept)

One 9x12 sketchbook; 2nd Half notebook from Summer 1968

Folder 13: 1967 (Dec)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 14: 1968 (Aug)

Numerous small sheets of drawings, loose

Folder 15: 1968 (Aug-Oct)

Folder 16: 1968 (Dec)

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 17: 1969

One 9x12 sketchbook

Folder 18: Jan. 1970 - Mar. 1970

One 9x12 sketchbook
Folder 19: Aug. 1970 - Jan. 1971
One 9x12 sketchbook (missing cover sheet and backing board)
Folder 20: Feb. 1971 - Apr. 1971
One 9x12 sketchbook (missing cover sheet and backing board)
Folder 21: Apr. 1971 - June 1971
One 9x12 sketchbook (missing cover sheet and backing board)
Folder 22: Dec. 1971 - Mar. 1972
One 9x12 sketchbook (missing cover sheet and backing board)
Folder 23: Oct. 1973 - Nov. 1973
Several 5x6.25 sheets of drawings
Folder 24: Jan. 1974 - May 1974
One 9x6 spiral notebook
Folder 25: July 1974 - Oct. 1974
One 6x9 spiral notebook
Folder 26: Nov. 1974 - Dec. 1974
One 6x9 spiral notebook
Folder 27: Mar. 1975 - June 1975
One 6x9 spiral notebook
Folder 28: Aug. 1975 - Oct. 1975
One 6x9 spiral notebook
Folder 29: 1975
Several 8.5x5.5 loose sheets
Folder 30: Jan. 1976 - June 1976
One 6x9 spiral notebook
Folder 32: June 1976 - Nov. 1976
One 9x6 spiral notebook
Folder 33: Nov. 1976 - May 1977
One 9x6 spiral notebook
Folder 34: March 1976 - 1979
One 8.5 x 5.5 pad
Folder 35: Sept. 1977 - Nov. 1977
One 9x6 spiral notebook
Folder 36: Sept. 1978 - Jan. 1979
One 9x6 spiral notebook
Folder 37: Mar. 1979 - July 1979
One 9x6 spiral notebook
Folder 38: Dec. 1979 - May 1980
One 9x6 spiral notebook
Folder 39: Dec. 1979 - June 1980
Several 8.5x5.5 loose sheets
Folder 40: 1956
One 9x12 spiral sketchbook, several loose sheets of drawings

Series 2: Punch Magazine, 1950s-1960s

Contains material submitted to Punch magazine during the late 1950s and through the 1960s. Some of the material, labeled "Punch Rejects", was not developed further and other material was developed for print.

Box 3: Punch Material

Single panel "gag" cartoons originally submitted to Punch magazine in several formats (copies,

originals, sketches).

Folder 1: Punch Gag Panels- copies

Copies of JRF cartoons

Folder 2: Sketches and Final Versions

Sketches for cartoons, some with editorial comments and suggestions, and copies of the final versions of some cartoons

Folder 3: Punch Gag Panels- Original Order

Photocopies of the cartoons in the order they were housed in a binder

Folder 4: Punch Rejects (1)

Apx. 100+ pages of original sketches by JRF. Title from original envelope.

Folder 5: Punch Rejects (2)

Apx. 100+ pages of original sketches by JRF. Title from original envelope.

Folder 6: Punch Gag Panels- Originals

Apx. 50 cartoons, various sizes

Series 3: Projects and Ideas, 1945-1979

Contains political projects such as the Marshal Petain trial sketches from 1945, Democratic and Republican Convention sketches over time, as well as ideas for book projects.

Box 3

Folder 7: Marshal Henri Petain Trial, 1945

Five original courtroom sketches and one composite copy of the July 1945 trial:

Marshal Petain listens to Gen. Doyan testify; the Big Three of Marshal Petain's defense; President Caous on the stand objecting to an article written by Leon Blum in the French newspaper; General scene at Palais Justice, Paris; Marshal Petain cocks and attentive ear to the proceedings at his trial.

Folder 8: UNICEF, 1969, 1978

Original cartoon done for UNICEF.

Copyright owned by Chicago Sun-Times newspaper.

Folder 9: Republican and Democratic National Conventions, 1956

twenty-four sketches of convention images

Folder 10: Democratic National Convention, 1972

Six sketches from Miami Beach, FL.

Folder 11: Book character sketches and final drawings, 1960s

Seven finished images and four pages of sketches for a book. Character names include: Gotcha the alligator, Toulouse, the Welsh Corgi, The Cat, and Longfellow, the Black Snake.

Folder 12: Book character sketches, 1969

Five pages of sketches of book characters drawn in April 1969.

Folder 13: Book character finished pieces, "Brave Daniel", 1970

Images used in the printing of the book of the character Daniel and of the lion.

Folder 14: Book working ideas, 1972

Two pages of book ideas

Folder 15: Book character sketches, "Civil Servants", 1979

Held within the travel sketchbook for Peru 1979, these pages detail an idea for a book on Chicago politicians.

Series 4: Personal Material, 1960-1970

Contains drawings personalized for people, and photographs and articles about him.

Box 3

Folder 16: Actor Sketches, 1960

two drawings of Kid Eubank and John Dehner

Folder 17: Drawings and sketches, unattributed, 1970s

Sketches and finished pieces not attributed to any publication. Seventeen sketches and three finished, mounted pieces.

Folder 18: Personalized drawings, 1969

three personalized pieces -- one to wife Karen, one to Mor, and one card to Lucy Frost

Folder 19: Biographical Material, 1950s-1970s

articles, photographs, brochures, and award information about John Fischetti.

Series 5: Other Artists Work, 1950s-1970s

Folder 20: Other artists' sketches, 1950s-1970s

Folder contains work of Walt Scott, Pat Oliphant, Bill Mauldin, and others

Series 6: Finished Editorial Cartoons, 1963-1980

Original editorial cartoons developed from his sketches for print.

Box 4: Originals- 1

Large sized, original artwork for editorial cartoons- nine individual cartoons, of various sizes and mounts

Box 5: Originals- 2

Original drawings for editorial cartoons- 27 cartoons, most 14.5x10.75, all un-mounted