

# **Norman Rockwell Record Albums: 1st and 2nd uses**

## **RC.2011.24**

**Finding aid prepared by Venus Van Ness**



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Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection
<b>Title</b>	Record Albums: 1st and 2nd uses
<b>Date</b>	1959-1981/unknown
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection contains 11 LP records featuring sleeves with Rockwell artwork.

### Preferred Citation

Norman Rockwell Record Albums Collection, Norman Rockwell Archives, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

## Biographical note

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Norman Percevel Rockwell, son of Jarvis Waring and Anne Mary 'Nancy' Rockwell, was born on February 3, 1894 at the corner of 206 West 103rd Street in New York City. When Rockwell was nine years old, he and his family moved to the nearby suburb of Mamaroneck, New York. He was enrolled at Mamaroneck High School, but left after his sophomore year to attend at the National Academy of Design, followed by two years spent at the Art Students League.

Still in his teens, Norman Rockwell produced his first published illustrations for Fanny E. Coe's 1912 young adult book, *Founders of Our Country*. He continued to find success with issuers of youth literature as in "Tell Me Why" *Stories and Boys' Life* magazine. In 1916, Rockwell traveled to Philadelphia where he presented his work to Saturday Evening Post editor-in-chief, George Horace Lorimer. The experience was a triumph and he quickly became a regular contributor to the publication.

Steady income from the popular weekly periodical supported Rockwell's decision to wed Irene O'Connor and leave the confines of his parents' boarding house quarters. However the union would not last, and was ended by divorce in 1929. Shortly thereafter, Rockwell was introduced to Mary Barstow, a California schoolteacher, and within weeks of meeting, the couple was wed in 1930. They made their home together in New Rochelle, New York and started a family, becoming parents to three sons—Jarvis, Thomas, and Peter. In 1939, the Rockwells relocated to Arlington, Vermont, a rural community which proved to be the ideal setting for some of the artist's most enduring images of American life, including the 1943 *Four Freedoms* series.

The family moved again in 1953, settling in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Six years later, heart failure unexpectedly took Mary Rockwell's life. In collaboration with his son Thomas, Rockwell published his autobiography, *My Adventures as an Illustrator*, in 1960.

On the advice of friend and analyst Erik Erikson, Rockwell remarried to Molly Punderson, a retired teacher, in the fall of 1961. His last cover for *The Saturday Evening Post* was published two years later, in 1963. Seeking a venue for more socially conscious illustrations, Rockwell began generating artwork for *Look* magazine in 1964, an association which continued for ten years. In 1973, Rockwell established a trust to preserve his artistic legacy by placing his works in the custodianship of the Old Corner House Stockbridge Historical Society, later to become the Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge. The trust now forms the core of the Museum's permanent collections. In 1976, Rockwell became concerned about the future of his studio. He arranged to have the structure and its contents added to the trust. In 1977, Rockwell was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In his eighties, his pace slowed with the onset of cataracts and emphysema. Years of smoking his signature pipe had taken its toll, and on November 8, 1978, Rockwell passed away at home.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains several albums including those by Mike Bloomfield and Al Kooper, Mahalia Jackson, Fred Waring, Mitch Miller, as well as the soundtrack to the movie "Stagecoach."

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## Arrangement

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The collection is arranged alphabetically by last name of the creator

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection

### Access

This collection is open to researchers by appointment.

### Copyright

Collections are subject to copyright law. Consult Archives staff for information regarding copyright related to a particular recording.

### Provenance

Materials gifted by various donors

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Personal Name(s)

- Bloomfield, Michael, 1944-1981
- Jackson, Mahalia, 1911-1972
- Kooper, Al, 1944-

- Waring, Fred, 1900-1984