

**Cameron O. Smith Collection
RC.2014.5**

**NORMAN
ROCKWELL
MUSEUM**

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Summary Information

Repository	Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection
Title	Cameron O. Smith Collection
Date	1943-1945
Extent	1.0 Linear feet
Contact	Norman Rockwell Museum Archival Collections The Norman Rockwell Museum 9 Glendale Road Route 183 Stockbridge, MA 01262 413-931-2251 Venus@nrm.org
Language	English

Preferred citation

Cameron O. Smith Collection, Norman Rockwell Archives, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Historical Note

The Four Freedoms were painted by Norman Rockwell during the height of World War II. Like many artists and writers, he supported the war effort by creating work inspired by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's January 1941 State of the Union address outlining four basic human liberties: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. The Saturday Evening Post commissioned the Vermont artist to create the paintings for reproduction in their enormously popular weekly magazine. The four images achieved instant and widespread recognition. In four weeks during the spring of 1943 they reached millions of American living rooms through the pages of the Post.

Rockwell's images immediately became inseparable from Roosevelt's Four Freedoms in the public consciousness. Within days of their appearance in the Post, government officials adopted Rockwell's images to publicize the Second War Loan Drive. The U.S. Department of the Treasury partnered with the Post to send the paintings on a national tour. During the several war loan drives that helped finance the war's military operations, millions of Americans purchased government war bonds, raising much needed funds for the war effort.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains one bound volume along with assorted photos and ephemera. The bound volume contains four copies of the Saturday Evening Post, each containing an illustration for one of Norman Rockwell's "Four Freedoms." The dates of these issues are: February 13, 1943; February 20, 1943, February 27, 1943; and March 13, 1943. Only four of these bound volumes were made. One volume, owned by Rockwell, was destroyed in a studio fire in May 1943. Rockwell was then gifted a second volume.

The collection also contains assorted tearsheets, notes from Rockwell friend, M.S. Slocum, as well as photos of Rockwell and fellow illustrator, Clyde Forstythe.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection 2015

Access

This collection is open to researchers by appointment.

Copyright

Norman Rockwell Museum abides by US copyright law. Even though Norman Rockwell personally contributed his paintings and archival materials to the Museum, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), publicity/personality rights to his name and likeness belong to the Rockwell family, managed by the Norman Rockwell Licensing Company. Some materials in both collections created prior to 1923 are considered to be in the public domain.

The collections are in the legal care and custody of the Museum and its staff, and are governed by an independent Board of Trustees. There is no legal affiliation between the Museum and various intellectual property rights holders of materials kept by the Museum or with Rockwell's family.

Regarding copies or other reproductions, NRM reserves the right to refuse a copying request if in its judgment fulfilling that request will violate copyright law (Title 17, United States Code). It is the legal responsibility of the researcher to secure permission to publish from the institution with custody of the material as well as the owner of copyright.

Provenance

Gift of Cameron O. Smith

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Norman, Rockwell

Subject(s)

- Saturday Evening Post