

Bill Scovill collection
RC.2011.6

Finding aid prepared by Venus Van Ness



Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection
Processed in 2011

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Summary Information

Repository	Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection
Creator	Scovill, Henry W. "Bill", II, 1915-1996
Title	Bill Scovill collection
Date	1953-1995
Extent	9.0 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
Abstract	This collection documents much of the work of photographer Bill Scovill during the ten year period that he worked for Norman Rockwell. The collection is heavy in photographs, both candid and posed, and also contains clippings, billing records, and correspondence.

Preferred Citation

Bill Scovill Collection, Norman Rockwell Archives, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Biographical note

Henry William (“Bill”) Scovill, II, was born in 1915 in Madison, New Jersey. He graduated from Drew University and later worked at Bell Laboratories for several years. Following that, as a graduate student, he studied psychology at Yale. In 1948 he moved to Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Scovill was Rockwell’s first photographer in Stockbridge. He was teaching photography at Austen Riggs at the time Rockwell asked him to work for him. From 1953 to 1963, Scovill took photos of models and props that were used by Rockwell as an aid in his process of creating his paintings.

Scovill’s contribution to Rockwell’s work was substantial; he did the photography for at least 160 published Rockwell images, each image requiring as many as 25-100 photos. Some of the well known images photographed by Scovill are “Art Critic,” “After the Prom,” and “Golden Rule.”

In addition to the commissioned photography for specific paintings, Scovill also took numerous documentary photos of Rockwell in and around his studio. These photos have been used extensively by both researchers and museum staff to get a better understanding of Rockwell’s working process and daily life in his studio.

Bill Scovill died in April 1996 at the age of 82.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains several categories of items including photos and photographic materials, correspondence, clippings, and billing records.

The bulk of the material consists of photos which document model sessions, Rockwell in his studio, and the move of Rockwell’s studio in 1986 to its current location on the museum grounds. Also included are billing records from Scovill to Rockwell which detail the specific works that Bill was commissioned to photograph, along with the dates that the photos were taken.

Arrangement

Materials have been sorted and boxed by media type. Within each box, there is no specific arrangement of items.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Access

This collection is open to researchers by appointment.

Copyright

While the museum owns the copyright to many photographic images of Rockwell, the Scovill family retains an interest in the personal photos taken by Bill during his time working with Rockwell. Credit should be given to Bill Scovill whenever photos taken by him are published.

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

Materials generously donated by Michael and Judy Beresford.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Norman Rockwell, 1894-1978

Subject(s)

- Artists' models
- Photography