

University of Memphis

## University of Memphis Digital Commons

---

Special Collections Finding Aids

Special Collections

---

6-3-2021

### MSS0327. Edwin G. Frank collection finding aid

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-findingaids>

---

#### Recommended Citation

"MSS0327. Edwin G. Frank collection finding aid" (2021). *Special Collections Finding Aids*. 10.  
<https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-findingaids/10>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at University of Memphis Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collections Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of University of Memphis Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [khggerty@memphis.edu](mailto:khggerty@memphis.edu).

**University of Memphis Libraries**  
**Preservation and Special Collections Department**

126 Ned R. McWherter Library

Memphis, TN 38152 - 3250

Phone: (901) 678 - 2210

E-mail: lib\_sc@memphis.edu

## **Edwin G. Frank collection**

**Title:** Edwin G. Frank collection

**Collection No:** MSS.327

**Extent:** 0.45 cubic feet

**Inclusive Dates:** circa 1890-2016

**Abstract:** The collection comprises various items collected by Edwin G. Frank, former Curator of the Preservation and Special Collections Department at the University of Memphis Libraries.

**Processed by:** Gerald Chaudron, 2015-2017.

**Access:** Open to all researchers.

**Language:** English, German

**Preferred Citation:** Edwin G. Frank collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** August 2017

---

## Scope and contents

The collection includes a number of unrelated items, mostly publications, including a late nineteenth century German book of song lyrics from the Napoleonic wars imported by J. Gruenewaelder of St. Louis, Missouri; a box of 60 illustrated cards on Chinese maxims published by Joseph Tuck of New York in 1938; a program of actress Sarah Bernhardt's performances in Memphis in 1906; a copy of "Yank Talk", a French publication of humorous anecdotes and stories sold to American troops in 1919, and an interior view of the Horner and Company store in Obion, Tennessee, in 1954. A map of the United States with illustrations of folklore and legends from around the country produced by Esso in the early 1960s is also included, along with various road maps of Memphis, Tennessee and the South.

A group of materials, mostly clippings, concern Memphis actor, artist and TV personality Harold Lee Miller and his wife Bernice (1923-2016). Born in Memphis on November 4, 1923, Hal Miller was the son of Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Miller. As a young man, Hal studied dance and performed with the Memphis Open Air Theatre in Overton Park. In the fall of 1941 he enrolled as a freshman at Northwestern University's School of Speech but his education was interrupted two years later when he went to serve in World War II. Miller married Bernice Eger, a fellow Northwestern student from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, in 1944. He finished his education at New York University after the war and he returned to Memphis with his family in 1951. He auditioned successfully for a new children's show that the local ABC-TV affiliate was developing in 1952 and Happy Hal was born. The Happy Hal Funhouse ran five days a week for the next seventeen years on WHBQ-TV Channel 13 in Memphis. With two sock puppets by his side (Little Bo and Monkey), he introduced a new generation of viewers to The Mighty Hercules, Popeye and The Three Stooges. Miller also continued to act in productions of the Memphis Little Theatre in which Bea was also active. He opened his own retail toy business, Happy Hal's Toy House on Lamar in 1955 which he ran with his wife until 1970. They opened Happy Hal's Toys and Gifts on Beale Street as an import business, which closed on his retirement in 1986. Hal Miller died of cancer on November 28, 1997.

Bea Miller was elected president of Memphis Little Theatre's Stage Set in 1967, and president of Theatre Memphis in 1975. She served as president of the American Community Theatre Association in 1973 and was founder and first president of the American Association of Community Theatres in 1986.

---

## Provenance

The collection includes items collected by Edwin Frank, former Curator of the Preservation and Special Collections Department at the University of Memphis Libraries, and a letter collected by Dr. Mark Danley, Cataloger at the University of Memphis Libraries.

---

## Subject terms

American Junior Red Cross.  
Bernhardt, Sarah, 1844-1923.  
Miller, Bernice, 1923-2016.  
Miller, Harold Lee, 1923-1997.  
Molasses industry—Tennessee.  
Tennessee--Maps, Tourist.  
Tennessee—Memphis—Maps.

---

## Inventory

### Box 1

#### Folder

- 1 Program: Sarah Bernhardt performances of “La Dame Aux Camelias” and “La Sociere”, Hopkins Grand Opera House, Memphis, 1906 March 7.
- 2 “Yank Talk: A Review of A.E.F. Humor – Trench and Billet”, Paris: Paul Dupont, 1919.
- 3 *Illustriertes Volksliederbuch, eine Sammlung der schönsten, beliebtesten und bekanntesten Volks-, Jäger-, Liebes-, Soldaten-, Studenten-, Trink-, Wander-, Opern-, und Gesellschaftslieder. Mit zahlreichen Original-Bildern von A. v. Werner, Georg Bleibtreu und Ludwig Burger*, Lahr, Germany: Moritz Schauenburg, circa 1890.
- 4 *Illustrated Chinese Maxims or Known as Family Rules of Conduct*, New York: Joseph Tuck, 1938. 60 illustrated cards.
- 5 American Junior Red Cross, “Yours for Victory”, A Schools at War Bulletin prepared by Education Section, War Savings Staff, Treasury Department in collaboration with the American Junior Red Cross, 1943.
- 6 Letter: L.S. Montgomery, Sales Manager, Penick & Ford Ltd., Memphis, Tenn., to Fowler Bros. Company, Knoxville, Tenn., 1921 August 9. Gives prices on Penick Syrup.
- 7 Photograph: View of interior of Horner and Company food store, Obion, Tennessee, 1954.  
Harold “Happy Hal” and Bernice “Bea” Miller:
- 8 Clippings, 1940-2011.
- 9 Clippings, 1940-2016 (photocopies).
- 10 Photographs: Harold Miller, undated.
- 11 Happy Hal Toys and Gifts. Business card, invoice, envelope.
- 12 Miscellany, 1944, 1953 and undated. Includes Harold and Bernice’s wedding announcement; *The Memphis Little Theatre News*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 1953 October, re: production of “The Happy Time” in which Hal Miller performed; and a page from a WHBQ Channel 13 promotional packet

featuring a drawing of the station building.

**OS** Maps:

Memphis:

- “Graphic’s 1954 Edition Map of the City of Memphis”, Graphic Publications, Memphis, Tenn. Printed for Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts, 2862 Summer Avenue, Memphis.
- “Memphis, Map and Visitors Guide, Memphis Chamber of Commerce, circa 1955.
- “Esso Standard Oil Company 1958-59 Map of Memphis”, General Drafting Co., N.J., 1957.
- “Graphics Map of Memphis”, Graphic Publications, circa 1960.
- “Esso Memphis and Vicinity Map and Visitor’s Guide”, Humble Oil & Refining Company, General Drafting Co., N.J., 1964.
- “Memphis”, Union Planters National Bank of Memphis, Graphic Publications, 1969.
- “Memphis”, Union Planters National Bank of Memphis, Graphic Publications, 1972.
- “Graphic’s New All-In-One Map Memphis and East Shelby County”, Graphic Publications, 1990.
- “Graphic’s New All-In-One Map Memphis and East Shelby County”, Graphic Services, 1994.

Tennessee, etc.:

- “Texaco Touring map: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Kentucky Tennessee”, Rand McNally & Co., circa 1938.
- “Socony-Vacuum Oil Company Kentucky Tennessee and Southeastern United States”, Rand McNally & Co., circa 1948.
- “Travel Map of Tennessee, Kentucky”, Humble Oil & Refining Company, 1962.
- “Kentucky Tennessee”, Lion Oil Company, H.M. Gousha Company, 1963.
- “American Oil Company Kentucky Tennessee”, Rand McNally & Co., 1964.
- “Standard Oil Kentucky Tennessee Road Map”, H.M. Gousha Company, 1968.
- “Gulf Alabama and Kentucky, Tennessee Tourguide Map”, Rand McNally & Co., 1970.
- “Tennessee Official 2006 Transportation Map”, Tennessee Department of Transportation, 2006.
- “Tennessee Official 2008 Transportation Map”, Tennessee Department of Transportation, 2008.
- “Tennessee Official 2011 Transportation Map”, Tennessee Department of Transportation, 2011.

Other:

- “Official Highway Map State of Alabama 1941”, Alabama State Highway

Department, 1940.  
“Arkansas State Highway Map”, Arkansas State Highway and  
Transportation Department, 1979.  
“1957 Official Kentucky Department of Highways Road Map”, Kentucky  
Department of Public Relations.  
“A Special Esso Map of Folklore and Legends of Our Country: with a  
guide to the Treasuries of Americana, plus a trip-planning road  
map of the U.S.A”, Humble Oil & Refining Company, 1962.  
“Texaco Georgia with Special Map of Southeastern United States”, Rand  
McNally & Co., 1964.  
“Mississippi Official State Highway May 2011-2012”, Mississippi  
Department of Transportation, 2011.  
“Georgia Official Highway and Transportation Map 2008”, Georgia  
Department of Transportation, 2008.  
“Shell USA Travel Guide”, San Jose, Ca.: H.M. Gousha Company,  
undated.

---

## **Separated materials**

The following materials have been separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:

“Literary Masterpieces of Ancient China: Romance of the Three Kingdoms”, 5th set,  
1998.

Transferred to Special Collections stamp collection.