



# ArchivesSpace

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## Karl Hubenthal image morgue index13849955

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Hubenthal, Karl, 1917-
<b>Title:</b>	Karl Hubenthal image morgue index
<b>ID:</b>	13849955
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1963
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1949-1998
<b>Physical Description:</b>	588 Megabytes 2 multi-page tiff files
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Karl Hubenthal Image Morgue; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Karl Hubenthal (1917-1998) was an editorial and sports cartoonist for nearly fifty years, primarily in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, but also syndicated in Hearst newspapers. He was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize five times (although he didn't win), and received twenty-five Freedom Foundation medals, among a host of other awards and recognition.

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## Content Description

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Hubenthal kept a meticulous morgue, or image library, for reference purposes. In hundreds of folders, clearly labeled by topic, he collected drawings, illustrations, cartoons, advertisements,

and more. This was the "technology" that all cartoonists and illustrators used before Google Images, but Hubenthal's is remarkable for its organization and its breadth. Animator J.J. Sedelmaier notes that in thirty-five years in advertising he has "seen various morgue applications, and this is the EPITOME - even beyond - of what an artist/designer's morgue was; a totally lost element of our culture, and getting more 'loster' every day." Many of the drawings are Hubenthal's own, for a variety of clients, and there are many other 20th-century cartoonists' work included as well.

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## Scope and Contents

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In a separate box, there is a collection of wire-service photos, many with visible air-brushing, and with dated descriptions attached. These run the gamut from Chancellor Adolf Hitler reviewing the troops in the mid-'30s to child actress Jane Withers, dressed as a clown, in a carriage drawn by a hippopotamus.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists of digitized versions of two notebooks that serve as indexes to the morgue—one in the numerical order of the files, the other in subject order. Each item in the collection—both the photos and the reference drawings—is labeled with the number of its folder, either by stamp or in red ink.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Conditions Governing Use**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located on-site.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Bob Staake, 2018.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Collection closed until processed.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Caricatures and cartoons

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## **Collection Inventory**

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**Image morgue index**

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