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Frank Bara Collection15570720

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Bara, Frank
Title:	Frank Bara Collection
ID:	15570720
ID:	MS#2054
Date [inclusive]:	1980s to 1990s
Physical Description:	4 Linear Feet 2 document boxes, one flat box & 1 mapcase folder
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Frank Bara Collection; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Frank Bara started making jigsaw puzzles in 1972. From a *New York Sun* article (<https://www.nysun.com/on-the-town/living-breathing-and-working-as-santa-all-year/6069/>): His puzzles, the pieces of which are so delicate that they need to be handled with tweezers, take between three months and a year to make. He hand paints and wood-burns each piece and spells words by carving intricate series of letters out of the wood itself. Mr. Bara's largest puzzle, commissioned by the Dance Theater of Harlem, was 9-feet long and had 4,000 pieces. "It has the names in it of everybody who was associated with the theater for its first 20 years," said Mr. Bara. "There are paintings and sculptures in it. There are two miniature grand pianos." He started off making the puzzles as opening-night gifts for theater friends, but as his work became better known, so did his clientele. Mr. Bara has puzzled for Bob Fosse, Luciano Pavarotti, and Stephen Sondheim.

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Content Description

This small collection is related to the Arthur Mitchell Collection, and consists mainly of Dance Theater of Harlem publications, performance history, and Frank Bara's drawings and other materials that he used to create the Dance Theatre of Harlem 20th Anniversary Puzzle. Including some of Bara's original drawings and mock-ups for the DTH Puzzle, a digital copy of the VHS tape made when he presented it to Arthur and members of the DTH company in 1991, a DVD on the Biographical Luciano Pavarotti Jigsaw Puzzle made by Bara, and a DVD of the work of David and Abraham Roentgen and the Marie-Antoinette automaton filmed for the Metropolitan Museum by Bara's partner Marvin Hayes, artist, innovative videographer and software designer. The collection also include Hayes' etchings for his 1977 project, "God's Images."

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Boxes 1 & 2 of this collection are located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

[Arthur Mitchell Collection.](#), Columbia University Libraries.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Puzzles
- Performing arts
- Mitchell, Arthur, 1934-2018
- Dance Theatre of Harlem

Collection Inventory

Series I: Manuscripts relater to the Dance Theatre of Harlem

Title/Description	Instances
Dance Theatre of Harlem Awards, 1951-1989	box 1 folder 1

Scope and Contents

List updated 9/22/1989

List of dancers, 1968-1977 <u>Physical Description:</u> 8 pages	box 1	folder 2
Dance Theatre of Harlem Oral History Project, 1968-1988 <u>Physical Description:</u> 35 pages	box 1	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
Compiled by: Donna Walker-Collins & Lorenzo James, 24 January 1989		
Astrological Chart for the Dance Theatre of Harlem (produced by Astrological Consultant Services) <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 page	box 1	folder 4
Dance Theatre of Harlem Yearly Listing of Performances, Lecture/Demonstrations. Draft copy, 26 September 1989 <u>Physical Description:</u> 22 pages	box 1	folder 5
Descriptions of DTH productions (87 cards) Scope and Contents Printed descriptions attached to 5" x 3" pieces of paper	box 2	
Dance Theatre of Harlem Repertory, 1969-1989	mapcase 15- H-20	

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Series II: Puzzle

Title/Description	Instances	
Drawing of figure	box 1	folder 6
5 Games (count of number of pieces)	box 1	folder 7

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Series III: Dance Theater of Harlem Plans and Designs

Scope and Contents

Floor layouts and decorative designs for the Dance Theater of Harlem

Title/Description	Instances	
Plan/Design: North-East-West-South (Karen Pauld)		

<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 sheet	mapcase 15-
<u>Physical Description</u> : 31"x 17"	H-20
Plans: Layouts	mapcase 15-
<u>Physical Description</u> : 6 Sheets	H-20
Designs/Floorplan (with names) in Yellow	mapcase 15-
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 sheet	H-20
<u>Physical Description</u> : 31" x 17"	
Design: Boarder colored in Yellow	mapcase 15-
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 sheet	H-20
<u>Physical Description</u> : 31" x 17"	
Design with cut-out figures	mapcase 15-
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 Sheets	H-20
<u>Physical Description</u> : 41" x 17" and 42" x 17.5"	
Plan with names	mapcase 15-
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 sheet	H-20
<u>Physical Description</u> : 31" x 17"	
Letter designs (4); photograph (b&w) of dancers at the Guggenheim; design for skylight at DTH	mapcase 15-
<u>Physical Description</u> : 6 items	H-20

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Series IV: Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Church of the Master photographs (6)	box 1	folder 8
HSA Theatre photographs (2)	box 1	folder 9
Dance Theatre of Harlem building photographs (6)	box 1	folder 10
St. James Community House photographs (2)	box 1	folder 11
Morningside Avenue and 122 Street street sign photograph	box 1	folder 12
9 Mile from N. York stone marker photograph	box 1	folder 13
Photographs (31) of DHT dancers	box 1	folder 14
<u>Conditions Governing Use:</u>		

Conditions Governing Use

Many copyright of photogrpaher.

Puzzle photograph	box 1	folder 15
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Scope and Contents

Size: 14" x 8.5"

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Series V: CDs

Title/Description	Instances
The Biographical Luciano Pavarotti Jigsaw Puzzle Designed and Cut by Frank Bara <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 compact disks	box 2
David Roentgen: Marie-Antoinette. Filmed by Marvin Hayes <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 compact disks	box 2
Columbia University Libraries. Demo of the DTH Puzzle <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 compact disks	box 2

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Series:VI Printed Material

Title/Description	Instances
Review of DTH's first New York Public Performance (at the Guggenheim), 10 January 1971	box 1 folder 16
Dance Theatre of Harlem letterhead	box 1 folder 17
City Center clipping (heavily highlighted), 1989	box 1 folder 18
Dance Theatre of Harlem School Catalog (2)	box 1 folder 19
Dance Theatre of Harlem Fall Newsletter, 1988	box 1 folder 20
Dance Theatre of Harlem. Brochures, pamphlets, and advertisements, 1989	box 1 folder 21
Dance Theatre of Harlem. Presentation Folders (2)	box 1 folder 22

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Series VII: Etchings by Marvin Hayes

Physical Description: 0.3 linear feet

Scope and Contents

Two sets of etchings for Hayes' 1977 masterwork, "God's Images." The series illustrates the Bible through 53 etchings. They were published as "God's images : the Bible, a new vision" , with text by poet-novelist James Dickey. Poet and artist have depicted in etchings the men and women of the Bible.

Title/Description	Instances
"God's Images" etchings, 1977	flatbox 3
Hayes: Biographical and bibliographical information	flatbox 3

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