

Frank Stack Collection

Stack, Frank. b. 1937. Papers, 1957-

MU Ellis Special Collections Comic Collection 2

1/2 linear feet

Scope and Contents Note

The collection contains material published from Stack's college days, through the early underground comic book period, and to the publication of our Cancer Year in 1995. An extensive collection of letters from Gilbert Shelton, William Helmer, the Rip Off Press and others is included. Continuities by Harvey Pekar for which Stack prepared art work are in the collection.

Provenance

The material in the collection was originally donated by Frank Stack, with several subsequent additions. Photocopies of articles about the artist and his work have been made for inclusion in the collection.

Restrictions on Access

Most of the collection is available to all researchers, however, permission to use Folders 32-34 must be obtained from Frank Stack. Permission to publish material in the collection must be obtained from the Head of Special Collections. Selected items may also require permission from Frank Stack. Inquire with Special Collections for details.

Biographical Sketch

Frank Stack was born October 31, 1937 in Houston, Texas. He was educated at the University of Texas (B.F.A.), University of Wyoming (M.A.) and received additional training at the School of Art Institute of Chicago and Academie Grande Chaumiere of Paris.

Stack was editor of Texas Ranger magazine 1957-1959 while at the University of Texas.

Stack names his biggest creative influences as Gustave Dore, Roy Crane and V.T. Hamlin (for drawing comics); Edgar Allen Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Mark Twain, James Thurber and Al Capp (for writing); Laurel and Hardy, Superman, Phantom and Lone Ranger (for movies and radio).

His early work includes Adventures of Jesus, Feel Good Funnies, Amazon Comics, Frank Crankcase Stories, and Dorman's Doggie. He has contributed to Rip Off Comix, National Lampoon, Snarf, Drawn and Quarterly, Zero Zero, American Splendor, Comics Journal and Blab! In 1995 he published a non-fiction graphic novel, Our Cancer Year, with Harvey Pekar. Stack was editor of Kitchen Sink's Alley Oop reprints and serves on the editorial board of Inks, Ohio State University's comics journal.

Stack has been on the faculty of the University of Missouri since 1963/1964: 1963/1964 to 1967/1968, Instructor of Art; 1968/1969 to 1974/1974, Assistant Professor of Art; 1974/1975 to 1977/1978, Associate Professor of Art; and 1978/1979 to date, Professor of Art.

[Most of the above information was taken from Comic Book Superheroes (Krause Publications, 1993 pp. 200-201)]

Series Outline

SERIES ONE: NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT STACK

SERIES TWO: REPRODUCTIONS AND REVIEWS OF STACK'S COMIC ART WORK

SERIES THREE: CORRESPONDENCE WITH ASSOCIATES

SERIES FOUR: SYNDICATE PROOFS AVAILABLE FOR THE CASE OF DR. FEELGOOD AND DORMAN'S DOGGIE

Inventory

Box 1

SERIES ONE: Newspaper articles about Stack

FF 1. Articles about Stack (photocopies)

Mayer, Olivia. "Frankly Speaking." Scene Magazine (Columbia Daily Tribune). September 27, 1990, cover and pp. 10-11.

"50 Plus Spotlight: Frank Stack." Columbia Daily Tribune. August 13, 1992 (suppl. p. 7).

"Frank Stack." Comic Book Superstars. Kraus Publications, 1993, pp. 200-201.

"Sketchbook." Comics Journal, #162, October 1993, pp. 115-119.

Pekar, Harvey. "Frank Stack, an appreciation." Inks. February 1996, p. 24-29.

"The Authoritative Frank Stack, or, Foolbert Sturgeon on Jesus, Crumb and Cancer." Comics Journal, #189, August 1996, pp. 92-110.

SERIES TWO: Reproductions and review of Stack's comic art work

FF 2. Texas Ranger (University of Texas) March 1957.

"The Smartest Gun alive." p. 21-22.

"We Defend Our Right to be No Damn Good." p. 18-19.

"Arise." p. 6

"You Are No Damn Good." p. 2.

FF 3. Texas Ranger (University of Texas) November 1958.

Illustration [football]. p. 4.

Illustration. p. 6.

"The Aggies are Coming!" [written and illustrated by Stack]. p. 25-27.

Cartoon ["Boy, that Darryl Royal's always got something up his sleeve."].
p. 41.

Cartoon ['Good shot, Little John! ...]. p. 44.

FF 4. Cartoons and comic strips by Stack (photocopies)

"The Lying Zur." p. 19.

"The Dog Messiah." Photocopy of original and photocopy as it was published
in City Moon (Lawrence, KS).

"The Bush League." Contributed and accepted to Now? but inexplicably
not included.

"Jesus hates winter driving..." (Black Hole Motel). 1985.

"I hear you run a real bad place..." [Black Hole Motel continued]. Not
published. 1985.

"Jesus visits Hell" by Foolbert Sturgeon. [revision of cartoon above,
"I hear..."]. To be published, 2 p. c. 1988.

Shows Jesus saying, "I've been around a long time." 1988. Used as a
Rop Off cover.

Unpublished Jesus cartoons, 3.p.

FF 5. Dorman's Dog (photocopies)

Review. Unidentified source.

Review. Booklist. September 15, 1990 (uncorrected copy).

[Doorman's Doggie]. Snarf, #14, March 1990, pp. [1-2].

FF 6. "Risible Rag." #1, April 1984, p. 5 (photocopy).

"Adult Comics: An Introduction" by Rober Sabin [review], Inks, v.1 #2,
May 1994, pp. 42-43 [photocopy].

"Pilgrimage Palestine." #1-5 by Joe Sacco [review], Comics Journal, #166,
1994, pp. 51-53 (photocopy).

FF 7. "At Home with Jesue." Snarf, #12, June 1989, p. 9-14.

FF 8. "Cutey and Tommy." Snark, #13, December 1989, p. 6.

FF 9. Our Cancer Year reviews (photocopies)

Levin, Adele and Bob Levin. "I can't Get No... No, No, No." Comics Journal, #177, May 1994, pp. 37-41.

Hatfield, Charles. "Our Cancer year." Inks. May 1994, pp. 40-42.

Grigsby, Mary. "Illustrating a year of one couple's fight with cancer." Ideas (Columbia Missourian), July 23, 1994, P. 8.

Ritter, Naomi. "Serious Comics." Columbia Daily Tribune. April 16, 1995, p. E1.

Ottaviani, Jim and Steve Lieber. "Another Survivors' Tale." Hogan's Alley, #4, 1997, pp. 117-125.

FF 10. Original ink sketches done for Chicago Comics Con 1992.

FF 11. Our Cancer Year continuity

February 19, 1993, 163 p. With letter from Four Walls Eight Windows to Joyce Brabner.

See also Our Cancer Year manuscript in the Comic Art Collection.

FF 12. Hey Kids It's..." Comics Journal, #200, December 1997, p. 112.

"Dear Sparky" [tribute to Charles Schulz]. Comics Journal, #200. December 1997, pp. 62-64.

Naked Glory (brochures).

SERIES THREE: Correspondence with associates

FF 13. Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File: 1961 to September 1963 .

Letter to Stack from DeWitt C. Reddick.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (3)

Letters to Stack and Robbie Stack from Lynn Ashby (2).

Letters to Stack from Ashby (2).

Letter to Stack from L.L. Edmonds, Jr.

Letter to Stack from William Helmer.

Letters to Stack and Robbie from Helmer (2).

Letter to Stack and Robbie from Chuck Alverson.

FF 14. Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File: October 1963 to 1964.

Letter to Stack from Alverson.

Letters to Stack and Robbie from Chuck Alverson (2).

Letter to Bill, Lynn, Frank, and Gilbert from Alverson.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (5).

Letters to Stack and Robbie from Ashby (2).

Letter to Stack and Robbie from Pat and Rudy.

FF 15. Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File: 1965 to 1968.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (11).

Letters to Stack from Helmer (2).

Write-up about Zap Comics by Stack.

Letter to Stack from Alverson.

Letter to Stack and Robbie from Leonard [?].

FF 16. Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File: 1969 to 1970.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (10).

Letter to Stack from Fred Todd.

Letter to Stack from J. David Moriaty.

FF 17. Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File: 1974 to 1984.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (4).

Letter to Shelton from Stack.

Tear sheets by Shelton (3).

Letter to Stack from Texas Ranger Magazine.

Letters to Lora Fountain from Stack (2).

FF 18. Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File: 1987.

Letters to Stack from Fountain (3).

Letter to Stack from Shelton and Fountain.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (3).

Letter to Larry Kanter from Shelton.

FF 19. Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File: 1988 to 1989.

Letters to Fountain from Stack (2).

Letter to Stack and Robbie from Shelton and Fountain.

Letters to Stack from Fountain (3).

Letters to Stack from Shelton (4).

FF 20. Articles in Gilbert Shelton Correspondence File.

Ashby, Lynn. "Earthly Comics." Houston Post, January 24, 1973.

Gibson, Michael. "Even Poor Art Offers Valuable Insights." International Herald Tribune, November 10 to 11, 1984.

Meisler, Stanley. "Adult Comics-Tres Chick in France." Times. March 7, 1985.

Baron-Carvais, Annie. Que Sais-Je? La Bande Dessinee. Bibliographie Sommaire, pp. 126-127.

FF 21. Letters to Frank Stack and others from William Helmer sent to Stack August 1991 by Jay Kennedy (photocopies)

Letter to Stack from Kennedy re his guide to underground comics and prepared facsimile edition of The Adventures of Jesus (August 30, 1991).

Letter to Stack and Kennedy from William L. Helmer re The Adventures of Jesus and identifying the earliest copies (August 26, 1991).

Photocopy of The Adventures of Jesus, 7 p. [Stack has originals]

"Dear Gilbert." Undated comic strip, 1 p.

"Little Orphan Art Critic." Undated comic strip, 1 p.

Christmas card from Stack to Helmer, sketch by Stack (December 18, 1962).

Letter to Helmer from Tony Bell (undated).

Letter to Helmer from Looing on Texas Ranger letterhead (undated).

Letter to Helmer from G. Shelton (August 26 [?]).

FF 22. Letters to Frank Stack from William Helmer sent to Stack August 1991 by Jay Kennedy (photocopies)

Letter to Helmer from G. Shelton on Texas Ranger letterhead re story and artwork contributions for a Playboy parody by the Texas Ranger (January 21, 1963[?]).

Letter to Helmer and Joe E. Brown from G. Shelton re a request for a story for the Playboy parody (January 17, 1963).

Letter to Helmer from G. Shelton (undated).

Letter to Helmer from Tony Bell and Joe E. Brown.

Letter to Helmer from G. Shelton (June 22, [?]).

Letter to Helmer from G. Shelton on Frontier Hotel stationery, 3 p.

Letter to Helmer from G. Shelton [?], 5 p. [incomplete ?] (August 5 or 6, [?]).

FF 23. Letters from Rip Off Press file: 1970 to 1971.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (7).

FF 24. Letters from Rip Off Press file: January 1972 to September 1972.

Letters to Stack from Todd (3).

Letter to Stack from Bo Fransson (includes 3 drawings by Fransson).

Letter to Fransson from Stack.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (3).

Letter to Stack from Moriaty.

FF 25. Letters from Rip Off Press file: November 1972 to February 1973.

Letter to Stack from Patrick Rosenkranz.

Letters to Stack from Todd (3).

Letter to Stack from Moriaty.

Letter to Stack from Philip K. Hooper.

FF 26. Letters from Rip Off Press file: April 1973 to 1976.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (8).

Letters to Stack from Todd (3).

FF 27. Letters from Rip Off Press file: 1977.

Letters to Stack from Don Baumgart (2).

Letters to Stack from Todd (2).

Letters to Stack from Shelton (2).

FF 28. Letters from Rip Off Press file: undated.

Letter to Stack from Mike Lowrey.

Letters to Stack from Shelton (7).

Letter to "Jesus Freaks" from Neil Diboll.

FF 29. Miscellaneous letters.

From Dwight Macdonald, New Yorker, to Stack (May 13, 1962) (photocopy).

From Mildred Constantine, Swann Foundation for Caricature and Cartoon re a request for original art for an exhibition of Underground Comic Art (December 17, 1981) (photocopy).

From Mitch Cohn to Stack re a story Stack wrote for Cohn (January 24, 1982).

FF 30. Miscellaneous.

Sweeney, Bruce. "Underground Price Guide—Who, What and Why." Comics Scene, #3. Notes that the first edition of The Adventures of Jesus are among the highest priced items (photocopy).

Catalog of the Chicago Academy of fine Arts, 1934 (cartooning classes included).

"L.A. Funnies." February 8, 1984 to February 14, 1984.

FF 31. Continuities by Harvey Pekar. Sent to Stack for art work.

"Jack Dickens' Comic Kingdom." 1987 (photocopy).

"Self-Justification (or, Anticipating the Critics)." 1991 (original and photocopy).

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION (AUGUST 26, 1997). PERMISSION REQUIRED TO USE FOLDERS 32 TO 34.

FF 32. Correspondence between Stack and Andrew M. Feigherty, SPEC Productions, May 4 to August 20, 1997 (email printouts).

FF 33. Correspondence between Stack and Robert Harvey, April 14 to August 13, 1997 (email printouts).

FF 34. Correspondence between Stack and Art Spiegelman, Mary and Jim Woodring, Diana Schutz, Gary Groth, Tom Spurgeon, Thom [Powell?], Ezra [?] (at Fantagraphics), Lora Fountain and Gilbert Shelton. May 14 to August 18, 1997 (email printouts).

FF 35. Personal: Obituaries of Robbie Stack, 1936 to 1998.

SERIES FOUR: A list of syndicate proofs available for The Case of Dr. Feelgood and Dorman's Doggie.

(Shelved in the Underground Press Syndicate Proofs Collection)

"The Case of Doctor Feelgood"

#116 November 8, 1976

#117 November 15, 1976

#118 November 22, 1976

#119 November 29, 1976

"Dorman's Doggie"

#138 April 11, 1977

#140 April 25, 1977

#141 May 2, 1977

#142 May 9, 1977

#144 May 23, 1977

#147 June 13, 1977

#150 July 4, 1977

#151 July 11, 1977

#152 July 18, 1977

#153 July 25, 1977

#154 August 1, 1977

#157 August 22, 1977

#158 August 29, 1977

#166 October 24, 1977

#177 January 9, 1978

#185 March 6, 1978

#222 November 20, 1978

#225 December 11, 1978

Also one undated and unnumbered issue (partial)

Consult MERLIN for other [Frank Stack](#) and [Foolbert Sturgeon](#) works in the libraries' Collections.