

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Collections
Collection #064-04-02
Collection of Tattoo Trade Cards & Business Cards
c.1906-c.1960; c.1980-c.2019

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 064-04-02

Title: Collection of Tattoo Trade Cards & Business Cards

Creator: Providence Public Library

Dates: c.1906-c.1960; c.1980-c.2019

Quantity: 1 container, 0.5 linear feet

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Purchased, 2018-2020.

Accruals: Accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Materials collected by the Library.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Jessica Rogers-Cerrato in 2021.

Conservation: None.

Language: Materials are in English.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item number], [item title], Collection of Tattoo Trade Cards & Business Cards, Special Collections, Providence Public Library, Providence, R.I.

Property Rights: Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection. Consideration of the copyrights is the responsibility of the researcher.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material Items were split from various accessions and cataloged separately by format. Accession numbers from which materials in this collection derive

064-04-02, Collection of Tattoo Trade Cards & Business Cards 2

include: 2018-07-17-002, 2019-07-22-001, 2019-09-06-001, 2020-05-003.

Published description Not applicable.

Location of originals Not applicable.

Location of copies Not applicable.

Publication note Not applicable.

Subject headings LCSH:
Tattoo artists
Women tattoo artists
Tattooed people
Tattooed women
Body marking
Circus performers
Sideshowes

AAT:
tattoos
tattooing
tattoo artists
body modification
body arts (discipline)
body art (visual works, adornment)
advertising cards
business cards

SEE ALSO

- Eddie Pofertl Tattoo Collection, 064-02-01, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.
- Jeff Towns Collection on the History of Tattooing, 105, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.
- Tattoo Ephemera Collection, 064-04-01, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.
- Tattoo Flash & Artwork Collection, 064-04-03, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.
- Tattoo Photograph Collection, 064-03-01, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Providence Public Library's Collection of Tattoo Trade Cards & Business Cards incorporates materials from various acquisitions and purchases related to the art, history, and culture of tattooing, as well as materials on the tattoo industry. The Collection of Trade Cards & Business

Cards includes the cards of some very well-known tattoo artists such as D.E. Hardy (also known as Don Ed Hardy or Ed Hardy), E.W. Liberty of Boston, Mass., Sailor Moses of Biloxi, Miss., George “Doc” Webb, and a handwritten card from travelling performer Sailor Al Barry (here filed under Colorado, the state where the Sells-Floto Circus began, though Barry maintained a shop in Texas for many years).

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The Providence Public Library’s Collection of Tattoo Trade Cards & Business Cards includes business cards from tattoo artists, tattoo shops, and suppliers primarily located in the United States, though there are also a small number of international tattooists represented as well. Two separate and distinct time periods are portrayed: items from the early to mid 20th century (c.1906-c.1960) and items from the late 20th to early 21st century (c.1980-c.2019).

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Materials are subdivided by the time periods identified above and then within those time periods they are arranged alphabetically by the state in which the tattooist or tattoo shop is located. The inventory below lists the states represented within the collection. International cards appear at the end of each section, followed by cards whose local origins are unknown.

INVENTORY

c.1906-c.1960

California	Ohio
Colorado	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Rhode Island
Indiana	Texas
Massachusetts	Unknown
New York	

c.1980-c.2019

Alabama	Connecticut
Arizona	Delaware
California	Florida
Colorado	Georgia

064-04-02, Collection of Tattoo Trade Cards & Business Cards 4

Hawaii	Texas
Illinois	Virginia
Indiana	Washington
Iowa	Washington (D.C.)
Kansas	Wisconsin
Maine	International
Maryland	Austria
Massachusetts	Canada
Michigan	France
Minnesota	Germany
Mississippi	Great Britain
Missouri	Italy
Montana	Japan
Nevada	Netherlands
New Hampshire	Poland
New Jersey	South Africa
New Mexico	Switzerland
New York	Venezuela
North Carolina	Unknown
North Dakota	
Ohio	
Oklahoma	
Pennsylvania	
Puerto Rico	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	