Mort Walker Collection


MU Ellis Special Collections Comic Collection 1

4.7 cubic feet (82 original cartoons, 4 animation cels, 11 posters, 2 lithographs, 4 photographs)

Scope and Contents Note
The focus of the collection is on Mort Walker's visit to the University of Missouri in 1992 as a Scholar-in-Residence. A highlight of the visit was the unveiling of a bronze statue of Beetle Bailey. Prior to that occasion Walker donated original cartoons, animation cels, books, lithographs and posters to the University of Missouri Libraries. Newspaper articles about the visit are in the collection.

Additionally, original cartoons donated by Jean Walker are in the collection.

Also included are reproductions of Walker's work for Showme in 1946 and 1947. Showme was a humor magazine produced by students of the University of Missouri. Walker served as art editor and editor.

Restrictions on Access
The collection is available to all researchers. Permission to publish materials in the collection must be obtained by the head of Special Collections. Additionally, permission to publish original cartoons must be obtained from King Features Syndicate.

Biographical Sketch
[Information provided by Walker]

Addison Morton Walker was born in Eldorado, Kansas in 1923, reared in Kansas City and graduated from the University of Missouri. In World War II he served with the U.S. Army in Italy as a 1st Lieutenant.

At the age of twelve he sold his first cartoon. At thirteen he was selling cartoons regularly and at fifteen he was drawing a comic strip, The Lime Juicers, for the now defunct Kansas City Journal. His earnings as chief designer at the Hallmark Greeting Card Company paid for his college education. After the war and graduation from college Mort moved to New York City to be closer to the magazine markets. His first cartoons were rejected but within a year he became one of the top ten magazine cartoonists in the country. At the top of the magazine cartooning profession Mort decided to enter the comic strip field. Now twenty-six and married, he created Beetle Bailey and sold it to King Features Syndicate. Three years after Beetle's debut, Mort won the coveted Reuben Award of The National Cartoonist Society. Two year later, the Banshees, a famous New York city luncheon club of artists, writers, and editors along with others in the creative field presented him with its "Silver Lady" award for being the outstanding cartoonist of 1955. His fellow cartoonists elected him president of the National Cartoonist Society for
1959-60. Mort was awarded the National Cartoonists Society plaque for best comic strip, 1966, 1969; Il Secolo XIX, 1972; Adamson Award, 1975; Power of Printing Award, 1977; Elzie Segar Award, 1977; Fourth Estate award, American Legion, 1978; and the Jester Award, 1979.

In addition to Beetle Bailey (1950 to date), Walker produced, some in collaboration with other cartoonists, Hi and Lois, 1954 to date; Mrs. Fitz' Flats, 1957-72; Sam's Strip, 1961-63; Boner's Ark 1968 to 2000; Sam and Silo, 1977 to date; The Evermores, 1983-86; Betty Boop and Friends, 1984-88 and Gamin and Patches, 1987-88.

Walker founded the Museum of Cartoon Art in Port Chester, New York in 1974. It was moved to Boca Raton, Florida and opened in 1996 as the International Museum of Cartoon Art.

Walker married Jean Walker and in 1985 Catherine Carty Prentice. His children are Greg, Brian, Polly, Morgan, Marjorie, Neal and Roger. He lives in Stamford, Connecticut. His hobbies are writing, golf and photography.

**Arrangement**

Biographical: Includes information provided by Walker's publicist, Who's Who in America sketch and articles about Walker.

Career: Includes reproductions of Showme artwork, information about Beetle Bailey and The Lexicon of Comicana.

Walker's Visit to the University of Missouri in 1992: Includes a copy of a Beetle Bailey strip prepared in 1989 about Beetle and The Shack; Scholars-in-Residence brochures, programs and mementos; newspaper articles; and information from an exhibit during the visit.

**Inventory**

**Box 1**

**Biographical**

FF 1. Biographical sketches. Information provided by Walker's publicist. Who's Who in America sketch. Also includes a list of awards. (9)

FF 2. Articles about Walker:

"Army salutes comic misfit Beetle Bailey." Columbia Daily Tribune. June 15, 1990 (AP). Also another version of the story from Burrelle's. (2)

"Pentagon honors 'Beetle Bailey' creator." June 15, 1990 (from Burrelle's). (1)

Additional articles are in Box 2 (oversized).

**Career**
FF 3-9. Early work. Showme (University of Missouri humor magazine) (photocopies, see SPEC-M collection for originals)

FF 3. October 1946: 4 cartoons and illustrations
   November 1946: 1 cover illustration, 4 other cartoons and illustrations
   December 1946: 3 cartoons and illustrations

FF 4. January 1947: 5 cartoons and illustrations
   March 1947: 1 cover illustration, 7 other cartoons and illustrations

FF 5. April 23, 1947: 6 cartoons and illustrations

FF 6. May 1947: 1 cover illustration, 9 other cartoons and illustrations
   September 1947: 5 cartoons and illustrations

FF 7. October 1947: 4 cartoons and illustrations
   November 1947: 1 cover illustration, 5 other cartoons and illustrations
   February 1948: 1 cover illustration, 5 other cartoons and illustrations

FF 8. March 1948: 11 cartoons and illustrations
   April 1948: 6 cartoons and illustrations

FF 9. May 1948: 1 cover illustration, 1 article, 4 cartoons and illustrations

FF 10. Beetle Bailey
   "Funnie's Favorite Foul-Up." Paper Collectors Marketplace (date unknown). (1)

Balloons in Desert Storm War Homecoming Parade, Atlanta, GA 1991 (photocopies of 4 photos).

FF 11. Lexicon of Comicana (Published in 1980)

Walker’s Visit to the University of Missouri in 1992
FF 12. Beetle Bailey strip for June 18, 1989. Issued prior to his visit. Names carved in The Shack booth include those of University of Missouri Chancellor and Mrs. Haskell Monroe (Haskell and Jo).

Solicitation for Shack Memories Fund.

FF 13. Scholars-In-Residence Brochures (4), invitation (1), biographical sketch from banquet program (1) and planning committee memos (2).

FF 14. Newspaper articles (photocopies)
Beetle Bailey comic strip (remembering The Shack as "the good old days.")


"Beetle Bailey is back home at Mizzou." Mizzou Weekly. v. 14 #10, October 28, 1992, p. 3.


Case, Darcy. "Beetle Bailey sculpture may grace center." Columbia Missourian (not dated).

"Beetle Born at 'Fort MU'" Mizzou, v. 85 #1, Fall 1996 p.44

"Book Buddies" Columbia Missourian, July 6, 1998 [photo only]

[Photo of Beetle Bailey statue being moved] Columbia Daily Tribune May 6, 2000, "Our Town" supplement, p. 80


For other articles see Box 4, Folder 1

FF 15. Exhibit at Reynolds Alumni Center


FF 17. List of original cartoons, posters, cels and books donated to the University of Missouri Columbia.

List of original cartoons donated by Mrs. Jean Walker, 1995 and 1996.

List of original strips/drawings donated by Mrs. Maxine Gordon 2001


FF 20. Beetle Bailey status (MU) photos

**Beetle Bailey 50th Anniversary**


FF 22. Beetle Bailey anniversary press coverage – articles printed from databases

FF 23. Beetle Bailey anniversary press coverage – articles printed from databases

FF 24. Beetle Bailey anniversary press coverage – articles printed from databases


See also Box 2A (Beetle Bailey anniversary bank and salt & pepper shakers) and additional articles in Box 4 (Oversize)

**Box 2**


**Box 2A**

Beetle Bailey tee shirt and button, MU 1992

Beetle Bailey Ceramic Bank (Enesco Licensee, King Features Syndicate Inc., c1999)

Beetle Bailey Salt & Pepper Shakers (Enesco Licensee, King Features Syndicate Inc., c1999)


**Box 3 (Oversize)**
Original Sunday and daily strips of Beetle Bailey, Sam's Strip, Boner's Ark, Gamin and Patches, Hi and Lois and Betty Boop. See Box 1, Folder 17 for a list. (84)

Beetle Bailey cartoon (10/27/1968) presented to "Mr. and Mrs. Oop" (V.T. and Dorothy Hamlin) and given to the Libraries' Collection by Teddy Hamlin DeWalt in 1991.

Small original drawing (head) of Beetle Bailey signed and inscribed "To John Arnold with best wishes."

Proof copy of 12/15/1982 strip with letter from Walker to Special Collections, MU.

Original gag cartoon likely done for Humorama Publishing Co, NY (7/1965?) Gift of Maxine Gordon

Original Hi and Lois strip (undated). Gift of Maxine Gordon


**Box 4 (oversize)**

FF 1. Newspaper articles. See also Box 1, Folder 14


"Beetle is crawling away. The statue is moving to the front of the Reynolds Alumni Center." Columbia Missourian, May 27, 1999 p.1

"Beetle marches on. For 50 years, Mort Walker has been making cartoon readers laugh with his indolent private, Beetle Bailey. Columbia Daily Tribune, June 18, 1999, Section A, p.11.


"Beetle Bailey at 50, Still Lazy after all These Years" Columbia Missourian, September 10, 2000 p. C1, C6.


FF 2. Animation cels for unreleased 1990 Beetle Bailey TV special (4)

FF 3. Original models for the Hi and Lois family during Beetle's first trip home on furlough, early 1950's. (1)

FF 4. Museums

"Cartoon Museum Director" (article about Barbara Hammond, director of Museum of Cartoon Art in Rye Brook, NY, founded by Walker) Woman. May 1990, p. 20. (1)


Architectural sketch and full color brochure of International Museum of Cartoon Art, Boca Raton, FL (4)

FF 5. Posters (9)

"Beetle Bailey" (1982)

"Next Time, When it's Heavy and it's Important..." (Federal Express, 1986)

"Some of Our Best Friends Wear Masks"

"Beetle's Back at Mizzou"


FF 11. Beetle Bailey, The Old Army Game (Milton Bradley Co. #4424) Gift of Maxine Gordon


**Extra Large Folder**

Signed color Beetle Bailey lithographs:

"Orders from the General..." (With alternate frame and punch line. Some editors took offense with the last frame. An alternate frame and punch line were provided.) Artist's proof #395 (1990)

"Miss Buxley Hasn't Come in Yet?" Artist's proof #16 (1991) Poster: 1987

Crayola National Coloring Contest (portrays Beetle, Betty Boop, Hi and Lois, Gamin and Patches) (1987)

Four images from MU Exhibition 2000: Miss Buxley, Beetle, Sarge, General Halftrack


Books by Walker, including the titles donated by him are in the Comic Art Collection. Consult [MERLIN](#), the University of Missouri's online catalog.