

**Guide to the Chandi Singer Venetian Gondola Collection,
1865–2011
MS0522**

**The Mariners' Museum Library
at
Christopher Newport University**

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Processed by Bill Barker, 2011/2012

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: Chandi Singer Venetian Gondola Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1865-2011

Catalog number: MS0522

Physical Characteristics: Four boxes and one oversize folder of postcards, photographs, sheet music, periodicals, ephemera, clippings, watercolors (paintings), lithographs, paintings (visual works), sound recordings, record covers, a cut-paper work, and a giclée print.

Languages: English, Italian

Creator: Singer, Chandi

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

With a background in history and a love of libraries and museums, Chandi Singer worked at The Mariners' Museum from 1996 to 2000, first as a researcher for collections and then as the assistant curator for small craft. In 2000 she joined the staff at the College of William and Mary in Swem Library Special Collections Research Center and retired from the College in 2011.

Her work at The Mariners' Museum included participating in the restoration of the museum's Venetian gondola (1950.1.1) in 1997-1998. As the small craft curator on the project, Singer was sent to Venice, Italy in March of 1998 to pack and secure the gondola for transportation back to the museum.

Upon returning to Virginia, Singer was enchanted with Venice and the gondola. She began collecting gondola related material, with books and ephemera as the main focus of her personal collection. In 2011 Singer donated her gondola-related book and ephemera collection to The Mariners' Museum and continues to collect and donate items on gondolas to the museum.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of written and graphic depictions of Venice and Venetian gondolas in a variety of media that were collected by Chandi Singer over a period of several years. The collection is rich in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century visual representations of the subject matter, and includes a number of images of iconic buildings and bridges throughout Venice.

One of the strengths of the collection is found in the photographs. The earliest photograph, a carte-de-visite of the Rialto Bridge by Carlo Ponti, dates to circa 1865. Also of note are the two cabinet cards by Paolo Salviati and the seventeen stereographs. Among the stereographs are works by the Keystone View Company, T.W. Ingersoll, B.W. Kilburn, Underwood and Underwood, World Series, and H.C. White.

The collection is organized into eight series: postcards, photographs, sheet music, periodicals, ephemera, clippings, prints and original art, and sound recordings and record covers. It is arranged by size and general research interest of the series.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession Number

TL.2011.33

Accession Dates

2011 and 2012

Restrictions

The collection is open to all researchers.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Other finding aids

An inventory of the books donated is maintained in the donor files of the library. Full records and electronic reproductions of the original photographs in this collection can be found in Museum's photograph database.

Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

RELATED MATERIALS

In addition to the archival materials described herein, Ms. Singer donated a large number of books relating to the history of Venice and the Venetian gondola.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1: Postcards, 1900–2010

Organized into sleeves and arranged by size, this series consists of eighty-five postcards of Venice and the gondolas that plied the Venetian canals. Sizes represented include the miniature postcard (1¾ x 5¼"), the standard size postcard (3½ x 5½"), and the continental size (4 x 6"). The series includes photo postcards and postcards with illustrations or reproductions of fine arts prints. Many of the postcards have been used, and have stamps and postmarks. Others have not been used.

Series 2: Photographs, 1865–2010

Organized into six folders and one oversize folder and arranged by type of material, this series consists of stereographs, cabinet cards, a carte-de-visite, gelatin silver prints, a booklet of photographs, and a View-Master® wheel. Of note is the carte-de-visite of Ponte di Rialto, illustrated and discussed in William C. Darrah's *Cartes de Visite in Nineteenth Century Photography*, on page 93.

Series 3: Sheet Music, 1898–1958

Organized into folders and arranged chronologically, this series consists of four pieces of sheet music.

Series 4: Periodicals, 1913–2009

This series is organized into 12 folders and one oversize folder and arranged chronologically. It consists of magazines that either speak to the history and culture of Venice, or contain illustrations and/or photographs relating to gondolas.

Series 5: Ephemera, 1948–2011

The ephemera are organized into one folder and one oversize folder and are arranged by type of material. Advertisements featuring gondolas comprise the bulk of the series. Other materials in the series include an invitation, a program and concert ticket, a bookmark, a product label and bag. Accruals include a flip book and two gondola themed greeting cards.

Series 6: Clippings, 1872–2011

This series includes cartoons from a variety of publications that put gondolas in a humorous light as well as miscellaneous clippings from books and periodicals. The miscellaneous clippings include entire articles as well as illustrations. This series is organized into two folders and one oversize folder and is arranged by genre.

Series 7: Prints and Original Art, 1895–2011

Included in this series are watercolors, process prints, lithographs, a giclée print, a paper cut, an acrylic painting, and a poster, all of which depict Venetian scenes or gondolas. They are organized into one folder, three oversize folders and in flat storage, and are arranged by size.

Series 8: Sound Recordings and Record Covers, 1920–1960

The series is organized into sleeves and arranged by accession date. The sound recording series includes five 33 1/3 rpm stereo recordings, four album covers, and a printed insert of liner notes. The recordings and the liner notes have been removed from the album covers for preservation purposes. A 78 rpm recording was added in the 2012 accrual.

FILE GUIDE**Box 1****Series 1: Postcards**

Folder 1 65 postcards (62 standard size and 3 miniature postcards)

Folder 2 20 continental size postcards

Series 2: Photographs

- Folder 3** 17 stereographs
“14646 The Campinale, Doge’s Palace and the Prison, Venice” [MS 522.01.03.01]
“899 View Down Rio San Josephine, Venice, Italy [MS 522.01.03.02]
“457 Grand Canal, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.03]
“147 Rio di St. Andrea, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.04]
“10835 View from the Grand Canal, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.05]
“3 Festival Hall” [MS 522.01.03.06]
“6 Ponte del Sospri or Bridge of Sighs, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.07]
“116 Bridge of Sighs, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.08]
“846 Down the Rio di Mester and Bridge, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.09]
“895 Down the Rio del Remedo and Gondolas, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.10]
“899 View Down Rio San, Josephine, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.11]
“857 Ponte di Rialto and Grand Canal, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.12]
“803 Rio Del Canaletto from Basin Orseolo, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.13]
No title [MS 522.01.03.14]
“Venice from Campanilo, Italy [MS 522.01.03.15]
“145 Rio San Josephie, Venice, Italy” [MS 522.01.03.16]
“146 Feeding the Pigeons, Plaza San Marco, Venice” [MS 522.01.03.17]
[Note: MS 522.01.03.16 and MS 522.01.03.17 are printed on two sides of the same card stock]
- Folder 4** 2 cabinet photographs
Bird’s eye View, Plaza San Marco, by P. Salviati [MS 522.01.04.01]
Plaza San Marco, by P. Salviati [MS 522.01.04.02]
- Folder 5** 1 Carte-de-Visite. Ponte de Rialto, by Carlo Ponti, c. 1865 [MS 522.01.05.01]
Reproduction photograph of Carlo Naya, c. 1999 [MS 522.01.05.02]
Reproduction photograph of canal scene, c. 2003 [MS 522.01.05.03]
- Folder 6** 12 gelatin silver prints with product package
“Venezia 20 Impressioni dal vero,” plus 7 additional gelatin silver prints from a different set
- Folder 7** 1 View-Master® wheel with sleeve, “Venice, Italy, # 1606”
- Folder 8** Booklet, “Ricordo di Venezia, 64 Vedute.” A hard-covered booklet with 64 photographs of Venice from c. 1920. The photos are attached accordion-style, and each has a description in Italian, French, English and German on the verso.
- Box 3**
- Folder 1** Matted, signed color photo by Kallo [MS 522.03.01.01]
Albumen print, “Venezia, Palazzo Pisani” [MS 522.03.01.02]
Albumen print, “Palazzo Be...” [MS 522.03.01.03]
- Box 1**
- Series 3: Sheet Music**
- Folder 9** *Un Giorno in Venezia*, by Ethelbert Nevin, published by John Church Co. 1898.
- Folder 10** *O Sole Mio (My Sun)*, by E. Di Cadua, arranged for piano solo by Franz Kalbert, Boston Music Company, 1922.

Folder 11 *In My Gondola*, words by Bud Green, music by Harry Warren, published by Shapiro, Bernstein and Co., 1926.

Folder 12 *A Day in Venice (Un Giorno in Venezia)*, by Ethelbert Nevin, simplified and arranged for piano by Ada Richter, published by John Church Co., 1958.

Series 4: Periodicals

Folder 13 *Mentor Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 27, August 18, 1913. "Venice, The Island City," by Dwight L. Elmendorf.

Folder 14 *V.F.W. Magazine*, Vol. 43, No. 8, April 1956. Cover illustration by Phillip Vessels of two U. S. sailors in a gondola.

Folder 15 *Réalités*, No. 134, January 1962, "A Winter's Tale of Venice," by Pier Antonio Gambini, pp. 16-21.

Folder 16 *Horizon*, Vol. 5, No. 4, March 1963. "Venice Possessed," by James Morris, pp. 14-25.

Folder 17 *Travel & Leisure*, Vol. 14, No. 8, August 1984. "The Fantasy Hotels of Venice," by George Lang, cover illustration and pp. 50-57.

Folder 18 *American Artist*, Vol. 54, Issue 579, October 1990. "Achieving Vibrancy with a Palette Knife," by M. Stephen Doherty. Cover illustration of Howard Behren's "Venice" and article, pp. 44-49.

Folder 19 *Timeline*, Vol. 12, No. 6, December 1995, "From the Ohio River to the Grand Canal: American Artists in Venice," by James M. Keny. Cover illustration and pp. 22-39.

Folder 20 *Colors*, Number 33, August –September 1999. "Venice – How Much?"

Folder 21 *Smithsonian*, Vol. 33, No. 6, September 2002. "Turning the Tide," by Joseph A. Harriss," pp. 76-88 and cover "Venice Rising."

Box 2

Series 4: Periodicals

Folder 1 *American Art Review*, Vol. 13, No. 2, April 2006. "American Impressionism: Variations on a Theme," by Melissa Wolfe, pp. 104-119. Painting of gondola by R. Blum, 1889 on page 105.

Folder 2 *Winged Nation* Vol. 15, Spring 2008. Cover photograph, "Venice by Gondola," by Stephanie Burton signed by photographer on cover of magazine.

Folder 3 The Private Library, Sixth Series, Vol. 2, No. 2, Summer 2009. "Liberia 'Acqua Alta'" by David Chambers, pp. 93-100.

Box 3

Folder 2 *The Etude Music Magazine*, Vol. L, No. 7, July 1932. Cover illustration of two gondolas, by Wilmer S. Richter.

Box 2

Series 5: Ephemera

Folder 4 Advertisement, *Time Magazine*, 1948, "Reserve a Gondola for Two." (American Export Lines advertisement)

Invitation, Exhibit Opening, The Grolier Club, November 19, 2003, "On the

Road: American and English Women in Italy, 1776-1914.” Features photo illustration from c. 1900 of women in a gondola.
Advertising Card, no date, Pauly and Cie. Features color lithograph of canal in Venice on obverse and glass blowing on reverse.
Bookmark, no date, with Venetian canal scene.
Advertisement, music performance by Venice Dawn, October 2001.
Program and Ticket, “The Gondoliers” performed by Sinfonicron January 21-23, 2010.
Bag, no date, Venetian Resort Hotel, Las Vegas.
Product label, no date, Venice Safety Matches.
Photographic flip book “Traghetto do Rialto” by Wiebke K. Folsch, 2009.
two unused greeting cards with gondola images

Box 3

Folder 3

Advertisement, *Life Magazine*, “I tried to drive a gondola down a Venice street.” (Canadian Club Whisky advertisement)
Advertisement, *Life Magazine*, 1953, “I dreamed I rode in a gondola in my Maidenform bra.”
Advertisement, *Life Magazine*, c. 1965, “In Venice, too ... Sign of good Taste.” (Coca-Cola advertisement; illustration by Jack Potter)

Box 2

Series 6: Clippings

Folder 5

Cartoons
“Canal Rage,” by Scott Arthur Masear in *Reader’s Digest*, August 2001.
“Rebel Gondolier and His Old Lady,” by Bizarro, no date.
“Mr. Bush Visits the Queen,” by Jeff Danziger, *New York Times*, July 22, 2001.
“The Back Page,” by Michael Crawford, *The New Yorker*, August 5, 2001.
“What, I’m not allowed to be in the mood for Mexican food?” by Dave Coverly, *Parade*, January 17, 2010.

Folder 6

Miscellaneous Clippings
“The City of the Sea,” from *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*, September 1872. Illustrated article from pages 481-501.
“Venice, Painted by Antonio Canale,” from undetermined publication, story and illustration, pp. 165-168.
Illustration, “Fishing Boats, Venice,” from a drawing by Clara Montalba, no date, undetermined publication.
Illustration, “Gondola with a Single Rower,” from a story titled “The City on the Sea,” from an undetermined publication.
Photo illustration, “Palace of the Doges, Venice, Italy,” from an undetermined publication.
“Venice: Canaletto and his Rivals,” *Washington Post Magazine*, Feb. 20, 2011.
“Building Gondolas”, by Bill Scott, *Winds*, 2003.

Box 3

- Folder 4** Illustration, "A Greeting on the Water: A Scene on the Grand Canal," by Harold Speed, from *The Graphic*, Nov. 5, 1898.
"What Lurks Below the Surface," by Jessica Dawson, *Washington Post*, Feb. 2, 2011.
Illustration, "H. Bohrdt. SR. Majestat des Deutschen Kaisers Yacht 'Hohenzollern' in Venedig, 1894," *Moderne Kunst*, n.d.

Drawer A31:B1

- Folder 1** "Venice As Art," Anne Chalfant, Daily Press, April 7, 2002.
"Ignore Venice – Concentrate on Canaletto's Art," by Philip Kennicot, *Washington Post*, Feb. 20, 2011.

Box 2

Series 7: Prints and Original Art

- Folder 7** Two untitled watercolors by Anne Axford dated 2005.
Untitled process print.
Lithograph, "Palace at Venice," after Canaletto.
Giclée print, untitled (Pug in Gondola) by David F. Rogers, c. 2011.

Box 3

- Folder 5** Lithograph, "A Landscape in Venice," by G. Vivian, 1895
Chinese Paper Cut, no date
- Folder 6** Acrylic Painting, "240/Venice," by Bill Heath, 2004.

Drawer A31:B1

- Folder 1** Poster, "Babar in Venice." From the Laurent De Brunhoff book *Babar's World Tour*. (New York : H.N. Abrams, 2005).
Untitled print on canvas by Barry Ross, © 1975 The Nestle Company, Inc.

Box 4

Series 8: Sound Recordings and Record Covers

- Folder 1** 33 1/3 RPM Stereo recording, *I Gondolieri*, the gondoliers of Venice singing of their beloved city, London International, n.d.
- Folder 2** Album Cover, *I Gondolieri*, the gondoliers of Venice singing of their beloved city, London International, n.d.
- Folder 3** 33 1/3 RPM Stereo recording, *Two in a Gondola: The Romantic Music of Venice* with Dino Olivieri, c.1958.
- Folder 4** Album Cover, *Two in a Gondola: The Romantic Music of Venice* with Dino Olivieri, c.1958.
- Folder 5** 33 1/3 RPM stereo recording, *Zieli Holiday Cruise*, n.d.
- Folder 6** Album Cover, *Zieli Holiday Cruise*, Note: Cover is autographed by the performers.
- Folder 7** 33 1/3 RPM stereo recording, *The Gondoliers or The King of Barataria*, by William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. The Pro Arte Orchestra and the

- Glyndebourne Festival Chorus conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargeant. Circa 1951, Angel Records. Sides 1 and 4.
- Folder 8** 33 1/3 RPM stereo recording, *The Gondoliers or The King of Barataria*, by William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. The Pro Arte Orchestra and the Glyndebourne Festival Chorus conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargeant. Circa 1951, Angel Records. Sides 2 and 3.
- Folder 9** Album cover, *The Gondoliers or The King of Barataria*, by William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.
- Folder 10** Printed insert to *The Gondoliers or The King of Barataria*, by William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. Includes cast and song lyrics.
- Folder 11** 78 RPM recording (damaged), *In My Gondola* by Max Terr and his Orchestra, Perfect Record Company.

SOURCES CONSULTED

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- Reilly, James M. *Care and Identification of 19th-Century Photographic Prints*. Rochester, NY: Eastman Kodak Company, 1986.
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SUBJECTS

- Gondolas-Italy-Venice
Gondolas in art
Venice (Italy)-Civilization
Gondoliers-Italy-Venice