

Bob Montana Collection, 1938-2013

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 3
Collector:	Haverhill Public Library
Title:	Bob Montana Collection, 1938-2013
Dates:	1938-2013
Size:	3 linear feet (3 boxes)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	A collection of materials about Bob Montana (1920-1975), the creator of <i>Archie</i> comics.

Biographical Sketch

Robert William Montana was born on 23 October 1920, in Stockton, California, to Ray Montana (1876-1935) and Roberta Pandolfini (1898-1975). Ray performed banjo on the vaudeville circuit and, as a result, Bob Montana traveled extensively as a child. As a young teenager, he lived in Boston's Theater District. The family spent summers in Meredith, New Hampshire, where his father owned a farm and ran a restaurant. After his father's death and his mother's remarriage, his family moved to Haverhill, Massachusetts, his stepfather managing a theatrical costume shop in Bradford.

He attended Haverhill High School from 1936-1939, where he kept a diary of news stories. He played on the track, football, and golf teams, in addition to captaining the fencing team. He was elected to class office and drew the cartoons in the yearbook *Brown and Gold*. The faculty and students of Haverhill High inspired the *Archie* Comic Strip that he would later develop. Before he completed his degree at Haverhill High School, his family moved to Manchester, New Hampshire, where he graduated from Central High School in 1940. Upon graduation he moved to New York City, where he studied, first at the Phoenix Art Institute, then at the Art Students League, and got a job working for MLJ Magazines.

While freelancing at True Comics and Fox Comics, Montana created an adventure strip about four teenage boys and tried to sell it without success. Montana was a 21-year-old illustrator for the MLJ comic house in 1941, when he was assigned by publisher John Goldwater to develop an All-American teenaged character along the lines of Andy Hardy. Archie made his debut in the December 1941 edition of Pep Comics and was such a hit he was given his own comic book. *Archie*

No. 1, drawn by Montana, was released in November 1942. Montana was soon drawing the *Archie* comic strip, doing both the daily and Sunday strip, which over the next 35 years ran in over 750 newspapers.

Montana served in the Army Signal Corps during World War II. He drew coded maps throughout the war and also painted Red Cross posters. During his time in the Signal Corps, Bob also worked on training films with William Saroyan and cartoonists Sam Cobean and Charles Addams. In 1944, while stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, he met Army secretary Helen Peggy Wherett (1927-2003) and they married in 1946.

After Montana returned in 1946 from wartime service, he took over the daily and Sunday *Archie* strip for MLJ, which changed its name to Archie Comics and launched a line of *Archie* comic books, penned by other artists, that sold 2 million a month. Montana and his wife returned to Meredith, New Hampshire, in the summers, and in 1950, he bought a farm. There he and Peggy raised their four children, Paige, Lynn, Ray and Don. When Montana was not at his drawing board, he was designing stage sets and program covers for the school plays, writing and directing amateur theatrical productions, performing in a jug band and raising money for local charities. He would sail on Lake Winnepesaukee or cross-country ski near his home. Sometimes he and his family would take extended visits to Rome, England, and Mexico.

Montana, who continued to publish *Archie* throughout his life, died of a heart attack while cross-country skiing in Meredith, New Hampshire, on January 4, 1975.

Scope and Content Note

This collection provides information about Bob Montana, creator of the *Archie* comic strip. Series one contains biographical information about him, a copy of his high school diary, issues of *Brown and Gold*, information about an exhibit held in Haverhill in 1989, photographs, as well as newspaper clippings. Series two consists of large format comic panels and series three contains two video cassette recordings of programs about Bob Montana.

Arrangement

Series 1: Bob Montana Information and Archie Exhibit

Subseries 1.1: Articles, Journal, and Other Information about Bob Montana, 1991, undated

Subseries 1.2: Bob Montana High School Comics from 1938-1939, undated

Subseries 1.3: Photographs and Photocopies, 1940-1941, undated

Subseries 1.4: Bob Montana and *Archie* Exhibit Information, 1989, undated

Subseries 1.5: Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1938-1939, 1946-1954, 1970-1991, 2013, undated

Subseries 1.6: *Archie* Ephemera, 1969, 1991, n.d.

Series 2: *Archie* Comic Panels, 1953-1971

Series 3: Bob Montana Audio and Visual Material, 1995-1998

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Bob Montana Records, <i>Reference Code</i> , Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Much of the material was acquired from the creator. The Haverhill Public Library also collected materials from the creator.
Acquisition Information:	Some material came from Bob Montana's spouse, Peggy, including a photocopy of his high school journal. Edmund Miller provide some additional materials, as did Rita Walker. The photograph of the <i>Archie</i> comic prototypes in folder 14 was donated by Barney Gallagher in 2002. The Archies Coloring Book in folder 43 was donated by Dennis J. Sweeney in 1993. The bulk of the materials were acquired by the Haverhill Public Library.
Processing Information:	Processed by Erik R. Bauer, 2017. Reprocessed by Erik R. Bauer, 2019. Updated by Tamara Gaydos, 2021.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research. Photocopies of Bob Montana's journal 1937-1938 cannot be made for patrons or other institutions due to restrictions set by his widow.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	The Haverhill Public Library may not have a VHS player to play visual materials.
Copyright:	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
Related Material:	Edmund G. "Ted" Miller Collection, 1926-1989
Separated Material:	None.
Conservation Notes:	Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper. Paperclips and staples were removed.
Subjects:	Archie Comic Publications, Inc. Archie Comics Clippings (books, newspapers, etc.) Comic books, strips, etc. Comic strip artist Haverhill (Mass.)—History Montana, Bob, 1920-1975

Walker, Rita, 1924-2013
 Wherett, Helen, 1927-2003

Related Collections

Please see the appendix for a list of *Archie* and other comic books from 1969 to 1994, available in the Haverhill Public Library's print collection.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Bob Montana Information and Archie Exhibit, 1938-1989

Subseries 1.1: Articles, Journal, and Other Biographical Information, 1991, undated

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Bob Montana Biographical Information, undated	1	1
List of Bob Montana's Neighbors in Haverhill, undated	1	2
<i>Meet Bob Montana</i> [article], undated [circa 1989]	1	3
<i>Bob Montana: The Artist Who Brought Archie to Life</i> [article], undated	1	4
Bob Montana Hangouts and Information, undated	1	5
High School Journal, 1937-1938 [Photocopy], undated	1	6
High School Journal, 1937-1938 [Photocopy], undated	1	7
Letter to Rita Walker, 1966 [photocopy], undated	1	8
<i>Archie</i> Characters Information, 1991, undated	1	9
King Features Syndicate Biography of Bob Montana, undated	3(OS)	4

Subseries 1.2: Bob Montana High School Comics from 1938-1939, undated

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Bob Montana High School Comics from 1938-1939 [photocopies], undated	1	10

Subseries 1.3: Photographs and Photocopies, 1940-1941, undated

"Choklit Shop" photograph [photocopy], undated	1	11
Bob Montana [photocopies], undated	1	12
Bob Montana Photographs [copies], undated	1	13
Other Photographs, 1940-1941, undated	1	14

Subseries 1.4: Bob Montana and Archie Exhibit Information, 1989, undated

<i>Archie</i> Exhibit and Bob Montana Newspaper Clippings, 1989	1	15
<i>Newsweek</i> Article about <i>Archie</i> Exhibit, 1989	1	16
<i>Archie</i> Exhibit Postcard, 1989	1	17
<i>Archie</i> Exhibit Flyer, 1989	1	18
<i>Archie</i> Exhibit Floor Plan, undated [circa 1988-1989]	1	19
<i>Archie</i> Exhibit Program, 1989	1	20
<i>Archie</i> Exhibit Artwork [Copy], 1989	1	21

Subseries 1.5: Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1938-1939, 1946-1954, 1970-1991, 2013, undated

<i>Brown and Gold</i> , 1938	1	22
<i>Brown and Gold</i> , 1939	1	23
Bob Montana Newspaper Clipping, 1946	1	24
Bob Montana Newspaper Clipping, 1954	1	25
Bob Montana Newspaper Clipping, 1970	1	26

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	
Bob Montana Obituary, 1975	1	27	
<i>Brown and Gold</i> , 1978	1	28	
<i>Brown and Gold</i> , 1978 [photocopy of Archie article], undated	1	29	
Bob Montana Newspaper Clipping, 1983	1	30	
<i>Electric Company Magazine</i> (The Archie edition), 1987	1	31	
Bob Montana Newspaper Clippings, 1987	1	32	
<i>Boston Globe Magazine</i> article [clipping], 1988	1	33	
Bob Montana and Archie Exhibit Newspaper Clippings, 1989	1	34	
Bob Montana Newspaper Clipping, 1990	1	35	
<i>Entertainment Weekly</i> article on "Archie," 1991	1	36	
Bob Montana Newspaper Clipping, 1996	1	37	
Bob Montana Newspaper Clipping, 1997	1	38	
Article on Cancelled Archie Comics, 1998	1	39	
Article on Bob Montana Biography, 2013	1	40	
Mrs. Montana Rodman Newspaper Clipping, undated	1	41	
"Riverdale, Massachusetts" <i>Boston Sunday Globe</i> , 1988	3(OS)	1	
"From Riverdale to the big time" <i>Greenwich Time</i> , 1988	3(OS)	2	
"Archie and Betty are heading to the Prom" <i>Boston Sunday Globe</i> , 1997	3(OS)	3	
Subseries 1.6: Archie Ephemera, 1969 - 1991			
The Archies Coloring Book, 1969	1	42	
Archie 50 th Anniversary notepad, 1991	1	43	
Archie doll, 18", by Presents by Hamilton Gifts, 1987		4(OS)	Item
Betty doll, 18", by Presents by Hamilton Gifts, 1987	5(OS)		Item
Reggie doll, 18", by Presents by Hamilton Gifts, 1987		6(OS)	Item
Veronica doll, 18", Presents by Hamilton Gifts, 1987	7(OS)		Item
Archie Fingertronic Puppet Theatre Puppet, 1988	8		Item

Series 2: Archie Comic Panels, 1953-1971

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<i>Archie Strip, June 2, 1953</i>	3(OS)	5
<i>Archie Strip, June 3, 1953</i>	3(OS)	6
<i>Archie Strip, November 24, 1953</i>	3(OS)	7
<i>Archie Strip, November 26, 1953</i>	3(OS)	8
<i>Archie Strip, March 3, 1955</i>	3(OS)	9
<i>Archie Strip, August 18, 1955</i>	3(OS)	10
<i>Archie Strip, June 19, 1960</i>	3(OS)	11
<i>Archie Strip, July 19, 1964</i>	3(OS)	12
<i>Archie Strip, July 13, 1965</i>	3(OS)	13
<i>Archie Strip, September 4, 1965</i>	3(OS)	14
<i>Archie Strip, June 20, 1968</i>	3(OS)	15
<i>Archie Strip, September 8, 1969</i>	3(OS)	16
<i>Archie Strip, July 3, 1971</i>	3(SO)	17

Series 3: Bob Montana Audio and Visual Material, 1995, 1998

New Hampshire Crossroads – Bob Montana, 1995	2
“Haverhill as Riverdale”, 1998, WCVB Channel 5 Chronicle	2

Appendix

List of Available Comic Books

Archie, 1959-1976, undated

Archie, Number 100, April 1959

Archie, Number 146, June 1964

Archie, Number 150, November 1964

Archie, Number 170, February 1967

Archie, Number 188, February 1969

Archie, Number 201, July 1970

Archie, Number 255 August 1976

Archie, No Number, undated

Reggie and Me, 1967, 1974

Reggie and Me, Number 25, August 1967

Reggie and Me, Number 75, December 1974

Archie's Pals 'n' Gals, 1971, 1974

Archie's Pals 'n' Gals, Number 67, December 1971

Archie's Pals 'n' Gals, Number 84, April 1974

Archie's TV Laugh-Out, 1974

Archie's TV Laugh-Out, Number, December 1974

Archie at Riverdale High, 1974

Archie at Riverdale High, Number 13, February 1974

Little Archie, 1972, 1975

Little Archie, Number 74, 1972

Little Archie, Number 98, 1975

Archie's Christmas, 1974-1975

Archie's Christmas, Number 228, 1974

Archie's Christmas, Number 230, 1975

Archie's Christmas, Number 240, 1975

Archie's Christmas, Number 241, 1975

Archie and Me, 1974

Archie and Me, Number 66, July 1974

Betty and Veronica, 1973-1975

Betty and Veronica, September, Number 213, 1973

Betty and Veronica, October, Number 214, 1973

Betty and Veronica, August, Number 224, 1974

Betty and Veronica, October, Number 226, 1974

Betty and Veronica, December, Number 229, 1974

Betty and Veronica, January, Number 229, 1975

Betty and Veronica, February, Number 230, 1975

Betty and Veronica, March, Number 213, 1975

Betty and Veronica, April, Number 232, 1975

Betty and Veronica, May, Number 233, 1975

Betty and Veronica, June, Number 234, 1975

Betty and Veronica, July, Number 235, 1975

Betty and Veronica, August, Number 236, 1975

Betty and Veronica, December, Number 241, 1975

Jughead, 1967-1974

Jughead, Number 140, January 1967

Jughead, Number 143, April, 1967

Jughead, Number, 165, February 1969

Jughead, Number 177, February 1970

Jughead, Number 178, March 1970

Jughead, Number 179, April 1970

Jughead, Number 180, May 1970

Jughead, Number 180, May 1970

Jughead, Number 181, June 1970

Jughead, Number 182, July 1970

Jughead, Number 182, July 1970

Jughead, Number 183, August 1970

Jughead, Number 184, September 1970

Jughead, Number 185, September 1970

Jughead, Number 186, November 1970

Jughead, Number 187, December 1970

Jughead, Number 188, January 1971

Jughead, Number 189, February 1971

Jughead, Number 190, March 1971

Jughead, Number 191, April 1971

Jughead, Number 192, May 1971

Jughead, Number 193, June 1971

Jughead, Number 194, July 1971
Jughead, Number 195, August 1971
Jughead, Number 196, September 1971
Jughead, Number 197, October 1971
Jughead, Number 198, November 1971
Jughead, Number 199, December 1971
Jughead, Number 200, January 1972
Jughead, Number 201, February 1972
Jughead, Number 202, March 1972
Jughead, Number 203, April 1972
Jughead, Number 204, May 1972
Jughead, Number 205, June 1972
Jughead, Number 206, July 1972
Jughead, Number 207, August 1972
Jughead, Number 209, October 1972
Jughead, Number 210, November 1972
Jughead, Number 211, December 1972
Jughead, Number 212, January 1973
Jughead, Number 213, February 1973
Jughead, Number 214, March 1973
Jughead, Number 215, April 1973
Jughead, Number 216, May 1973
Jughead, Number 217, June 1973
Jughead, Number 218, July 1973
Jughead, Number 220, September 1973
Jughead, Number 221, October 1973
Jughead, Number 223, December 1973
Jughead, Number 224, January 1974
Jughead, Number 226, March 1974

Jughead, Number 228, May 1974

Jughead, Number 230, July 1974

Jughead, Number 231, August 1974

Jughead, Number 232, September 1974

Jughead, Number 233, October 1974

Jughead, Number 234, November 1974

Jughead, Number 235, December 1974

Jughead, 1970-1974

Jughead, May, Number 180, 1970

Jughead, September, Number, 184, 1970

Jughead, January, Number 200, 1972

Jughead, February, Number 201, 1972

Jughead, March, Number 202, 1972

Jughead, April, Number 203, 1972

Jughead, May, Number 204, 1972

Jughead, June, Number 205, 1972

Jughead, July, Number, 206, 1972

Jughead, August, Number 207, 1972

Jughead, September, Number 208, 1972

Jughead, November, Number 210, 1972

Jughead, December, Number 211, 1972

Jughead, January, Number 212, 1973

Jughead, February, Number 213, 1973

Jughead, April, Number 215, 1973

Jughead, May, Number 216, 1973

Jughead, June, Number 217, 1973

Jughead, July, Number 218, 1973

Jughead, September, Number 220, 1973

Jughead, October, Number 221, 1973

Jughead, December, Number 223, 1973

Jughead, January, Number 224, 1974

Jughead, March, Number 226, 1974

Jughead, May, Number 228, 1974

Jughead, July, Number 228, 1974

Jughead, August, Number 231, 1974

Jughead, September, Number 232, 1974

Jughead, October, Number 224, 1974

Jughead, November, Number 235, 1974

The World of Jughead, 1969, 1970

The World of Jughead, Number 161, February 1969

The World of Jughead, Number 172, February 1970

Special Issues, 1986, 1994

Archie – Ham Radio Adventures, 1986

Literacy Awareness in Mississippi, 1994