

Civil War Pictorial Envelope

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c.1861-1865



Title Statement

Civil War Pictorial EnvelopeCivil War Pictorial Envelope, c. 1861-1865 Ms.2008.088

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2008.088

Unit Date

c.1861-1865

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains an American Civil War period envelope with lithograph of Union soldiers on horseback fending off Confederate soldiers on foot. It was published by Charles Magnus of New York.

Creator

Magnus, Charles

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Civil War Pictorial Envelope was purchased by Special Collections in 1991.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Civil War Pictorial Envelope commenced and was completed in November 2008.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Civil War Pictorial Envelope, Ms2008-088, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Charles Magnus was born in 1826 and emigrated from Elberfeld, Germany to the United States around 1848. Magnus worked in New York from 1850 to 1899 as a publisher, artist, and map dealer, among other print-related occupations. He utilized lithography and hand-coloring in his work. During the American Civil War, he published approximately 700 pictorial envelopes. Civil War envelopes began appearing before the war due to increasing sectional tensions and were published until shortly before the cessation of hostilities. Commonly depicted scenes on Magnus's envelopes include battlefields, American eagles, and the star-spangled banner. Charles Magnus died in 1900.

External source: Charles Magnus Collection, Col. 123, The Winterthur Library, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware, <http://library.winterthur.org:8001/lib/item?id=chamo:26699>.

Scope and Content

The Civil War Pictorial Envelope is an American Civil War-era paper envelope with a hand-painted lithograph on one side depicting Union soldiers on horseback fending off Confederate soldiers on foot. Drawn swords and muskets appear in the illustration. The envelope was published by Charles Magnus of New York and has his name and the location of his business on the bottom left corner.

Related Archival Materials

Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives also has the Bird's Eye View of Alexandria, Va., Map.0144, which is attributed to Charles Magnus.

See also the Charles Magnus Collection, Col. 123, at The Winterthur Library, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware, and the Charles Magnus Collection of Prints and Illustrated Lettersheets, PRI3749, at the New York State Library, Albany, New York.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

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Description of Subordinate Components

Description of Subordinate Components

Envelope

Unit Date c. 1861-1865

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