

# Political cartoons: Papers of Bruce Shanks, 1970-1995, undated

## Administrative Information

### Creator

Shanks, Bruce

### Call Number

RBR Illus .S464 1970-1995

### Extent

1 oversize box (1.6 linear feet)

### Repository

Rare Book Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

### Abstract

Collection of political cartoon artwork created/collected by cartoonist Bruce Shanks. Also includes drawings gifted to Shanks and his wife Louise by cartoonists Bill Crawford, Dan Dowling, Bruce Russell, and Pulitzer Prize winner Charles Werner.

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*Political cartoons: Papers of Bruce Shanks* is open for research.

### Reproduction of Materials

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### Preferred Citation

[Description and dates], Box/folder number, *Political Cartoons: Papers of Bruce Shanks*, Central Library: Rare Book Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

### Acquisition

*Political cartoons: Papers of Bruce Shanks* was donated to the Rare Book Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library by Shanks' grandniece Jeanne Diehl in two accessions, September and October, 2008.

### Biographical Note

Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist Bruce McKinley Shanks was born in 1908, and served for 23 years as political cartoonist for *The Buffalo News*. The following was adapted from "Bruce Shanks Dies; News Cartoonist Won Pulitzer Prize," *The Buffalo Evening News*, April 13, 1980, pp. A1:

“Born in Buffalo of Scottish descent, Mr. Shanks received his schooling at School 38 and Lafayette High School. He credited the head of the Lafayette art department, Miss Elizabeth Weiffenbach, with encouraging him in sketching and starting him on what was to be his real career.

He cut short his schooling in 1927 to take a job as a copy boy for the *Buffalo Express*....Even while he was ‘running copy,’ he began drawing cartoons. As he recalled later, he was the most surprised person in the office when the *Express* began running some of his cartoons. He later joined the former *Buffalo Times* as a regular cartoonist. In 1933, he moved across Main Street to what was to become his permanent home at *The [Buffalo] News*.....

In 1951, he was named *The News* editorial page cartoonist, and he quickly won an international reputation....He won a large number of awards and honors, capped by the 1958 Pulitzer Prize for a cartoon, ‘The Thinker’.... He received 12 of the annual Freedom Foundation awards for cartoons. His 11 Page One awards of the Buffalo Newspaper Guild became almost an annual event.”

Mr. Shanks retired from *The News* in April of 1974 and moved to Boca Raton, Florida. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage, April 12, 1980.

## Scope and Content

The collection consists of six drawing mechanicals of political cartoons, mainly created using pencil, ink, and gouache. One drawing is by Shanks. Others were gifted to Shanks and his wife Louise by cartoonists Bill Crawford, Dan Dowling, Bruce Russell, and Pulitzer Prize winner Charles Werner of the *Indianapolis Star*; these are inscribed and signed by each cartoonist. The collection also includes one reproduction print of a Shanks cartoon, “You’re the boss- vote tomorrow!”

## Arrangement

Alphabetical by cartoonist.

## Container List

- 1.1 Bill Crawford, undated; contains drawing “Present but not voting.” Inscribed to Shanks and signed by Crawford. [30.5 x 37.5 cm; ink, pencil, gouache]
- 1.2 Dan Dowling, undated; contains “What’s our next move?” Inscribed to Louise Shanks and signed by Dowling. [34 x 41 cm; ink, pencil]
- 1.3 Bruce Russell, undated; contains “Like stepping on the flag.” Inscribed to Shanks and signed by Russell. [40 x 51 cm; ink, pencil, gouache]
- 1.4 Bruce Shanks, 1970-1971; contains “You’re the boss- vote tomorrow!” [print, 16 x 20.5 cm]; “The pen would be mightier!” [30.5 x 38 cm; ink, pencil, gouache]

- 1.5 Charles Werner, undated; contains “Old Bill Bones gets the blackspot!” [25 x 28.5 cm; ink, pencil, gouache]; “Defense of an old battleground” [28 x 29.5 cm; ink, pencil, gouache] Both drawings inscribed to Shanks and signed by Werner.

### **Related Materials**

NC1429 .S5 [Buffalo Collection, Grosvenor Room]

*1964 Cartoon Review*

Bruce Shanks

1964

NC1429 .S5 1972 [Buffalo Collection, Grosvenor Room]

*Cartoon Review of '72*

Bruce Shanks

1972

RBR Illus. S464 1959-1963

*Bruce Shanks cartoons*

Includes seven prints with caption titles: Hold everything!! (03/16/1963); Grist (05/31/1963); Mars, Venus, Jupiter? Saw when masters! (08/10/1959); Same Earth signals we get every August (08/11/1959); On the prowl for th' fowl! (11/27/1959); The last 'offensive' weapon? (12/12/1962); I just hopes dey don't replace 'im! (08/08/1959). Some drawings created for publication in the Buffalo Evening News.

Bruce Shanks

1959-63

NC1429 .S52 1968 [Buffalo Collection, Grosvenor Room]

*Shanks for the Memories: Cartoon Review of 1968*

Bruce Shanks

1968

RBR Illus. S464 1959-1960 [Rare Book Room]

*Seven Original Cartoons by Bruce Shanks*

Includes seven prints with caption titles: We can always go to New York and go on relief (03/24/1960); The prophecy (09/24/1960); Columbus had a cinch (10/12/1959); Not everyone is worried about taxes (02/11/1959); The original Grandma Moses (10/31/1959); Manhattan (09/19/1960); You won't know the place! (06/18/1959); Bruce Shanks name logo.

Bruce Shanks

1959-60

RBR Illus. S464 1961 [Rare Book Room]

*"If y'want anything done right, do it yourself"* [drawing: pen, ink]

Bruce Shanks

1961

RBR Illus. S464 1961a [Rare Book Room]

*Holiday Punch* [drawing: pen, ink]

Bruce Shanks

1961

RBR Illus. S464 1979

*Another Waste of Energy* [drawing: pen, ink]

Bruce Shanks

1979

## **Search Terms**

### **Authors**

700 Shanks, Bruce

700 Crawford, Bill, 1913-1982

700 Dowling, Dan, 1940-

700 Russell, Bruce, 1903-1963

700 Werner, Charles George, 1909-

### **Subject terms**

651 United States—Politics and government—Caricatures and cartoons

651 United States—History—Caricatures and cartoons

### **Genre terms**

655 political cartoons

655 drawings (visual works)