

**Finding Aid for  
Caroly Wilcox Collection  
Nancy Staub Puppetry Research Library  
Center for Puppetry Arts  
Prepared by Ted Davis, 2021**

**Collection Summary**

**Title:** Caroly Wilcox Collection

**Span Dates:** 1969-2018

**Bulk Dates:** 1970-1990

**Creator:** Caroly Wilcox

**Accession:** 1992.001

**Fonds:** 1992.001.008

**Extent:** 2 Boxes

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Nancy Staub Puppetry Research Library, Center for Puppetry Arts

**Abstract:** Contains a collection of photographs, sketches, brochures, promotional ephemera, news clippings and letters organized and compiled by Caroly Wilcox, concerning her career as a puppet builder, puppet designer, and puppeteer on Jim Henson productions at the Manhattan Muppet Workshop.

**Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** This collection contains materials donated to the Center for Puppetry Arts Nancy Staub Puppetry Research Library from Caroly Wilcox.

**Copyright Status:** Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

**Access and Restrictions:** The records of the Nancy Lohman Staub Archives collection are open to research by appointment only. The library and archives are open Tuesday-Friday from 9:00 to 3:00. It is suggested that researchers call a week in advance to set up an appointment.

**Preferred Citation:** Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information Folder Title, Series Title, Collection Title, Nancy Staub Puppetry Research Library, Center for Puppetry Arts.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Caroly Wilcox collection comprises a thematically arranged compilation of personal and professional mementos pertaining to Wilcox's work on numerous Jim Henson television series, television specials, and films productions. The materials enclosed herein, which include photographs, sketches, letters, periodical clippings, and award certificates, document Wilcox's professional contributions work on Jim Henson's television series, *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*, and television specials, *The Great Santa Claus Switch* (1970), *The Muppet Musicians of Bremen* (1972) *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* (1977). The collection includes sections dedicated to these productions as well as sections dedicated to Caroly's colleagues and friends. The collection's breadth of materials, which includes photographs, sketches, letters, periodical clippings, and award certificates, exhibit the vital importance of Caroly's creative and technical contributions to classic Jim Henson

productions as well as the environment of collegial good humor in which these television programs and films were produced.

### **Organization of Papers**

*Note:* Wilcox's collection was originally arranged in four sections, three of which were in binders. The four sections have been given names, which are descriptive of the contents enclosed, while the subsections and their enclosed contents remain in the original arrangement. The titles of these subsections in quotation marks transcribe the original titles Wilcox created for these subsections, which however do not always accurately or fully summarize the full range of contents included therein. To transcribe her handwritten titles, the symbol "/" denotes a line break.

### **BOX 1**

#### **Series: Jim Henson Company People (1969-1994)**

Folder: Jim Henson (1977- 1994)

- Museum special exhibition ephemera.
- Publicity photo portraits of Jim and group photos including Jim and the cast of *Hey, Cinderella*
- Muppet postage stamps.
- Jim Henson Memorial materials: periodical gag cartoon and comics strip memorial tributes to Jim, memorial service booklet, and condolence letter to Caroly from Don Reardon Jr.

Folder: Don Sahlin (1977-1981)

- Informal portrait photos.
- Drawings and photocopies of drawings.
- Photos of Don with puppets including Emmet Otter and his Jupiter marionette.
- Obituary news clippings.

Folder: Kermit Love (1969-1988)

- Holiday greeting card to Caroly with sketch by Kermit, photos of Kermit with Don and Caroly.

Folder: Faz Fazakas (1976-1988)

- Workshop production photos of Faz.
- Transcribed collection of quotations attributed to Faz.

Folder: Caroly (1969-1988)

- Workshop production photos of Caroly working on puppets for *The Muppet Movie*, *The Muppet Show*, and *Sesame Street*, Photos of Caroly posing with puppets from *The Muppet Show: Sex and Violence* (AKA *The Muppet Nonsense Show*).
- On-set production photos of Caroly on set of *Sesame Street*, *Muppets Take Manhattan*, and *Fraggle Rock*.
- Informal portrait photos of Caroly.
- Humorous ink and pencil sketches by Caroly.
- Periodical articles profiling Caroly.
- Premade fan-mail response by Caroly.
- Photos of Caroly with Leslee Asch, Ed Christie, Duncan Kenworthy, Rollie Krewson, Kermit Love, John Lovelady, Joscelyn Stevenson, photos of puppets in progress from Muppet Shop.
- Photos of Tim Miller and Bob Payne without Caroly.

Folder: Workshops (1986-1987)

- Photos of Caroly leading 1986 RISD puppet demo.
- Photos of Caroly and Jim at UNIMA Charleville- Mézières demo.
- Charleville- Mézières postcards.

**Series: Muppet Show, Television Specials, and Films (1970-1987)**

Folder: Ed Sullivan Shows Workshop 227 E. 67<sup>th</sup> St. (1970-1978)

- Workshop *Sesame Street* production photos Don Sahlin in workshop with Sesame Street puppets.
- Photos of Caroly in workshop posing with Sesame Street puppets.
- Photos of Caroly in workshop posing with *Ed Sullivan Show* puppets.
- Photos of Sesame Street puppets in workshop.
- Photos of Caroly with Mahna Mahna puppets for Las Vegas Nancy Sinatra show.
- Photos of *Ed Sullivan Show* puppets, Glutton, Beatles, and Flattop.

Folder: Great Santa Claus Switch taped Sept. 1970 (1970)

- On-set production photos of "Great Santa Claus Switch" featuring Fran Brill, Art Carney, Jim Henson, Kermit Love, Jerry Nelson, Don Sahlin, Danny Seagren, Ed Sullivan, and Caroly Wilcox.
- Photos of Thig and Nancy Sinatra at Las Vegas Convention Center for a Nancy Sinatra performance.

Folder: The Frog Prince (1971-1972)

- Press kit poster and captioned glossy still for *Tales of Muppetland: The Frog Prince*.
- Photos of Sweetums in workshop.
- Playboy gag cartoon riffs on the Grimm's fairytale, "The Frog Prince".

Folder: *Tales from Muppetland: The Muppet Musicians of Bremen* (1973)

- Photocopies of Bonnie Erickson drawings: character designs for villains of *Muppet Musicians of Bremen*, and puppet cast and production crew.
- On-set *Muppet Musicians of Bremen* production photos featuring Bonnie Erickson, Louis Graydon, Jim Henson, François Klanfer, Don Sahlin, Danny Seagren, Caroly Wilcox.
- *Muppet Musicians of Bremen* workshop Production photos featuring Caroly Wilcox and Bonnie Erickson.

Folder: NBC Saturday Night 1976 'Scred' / drawn by Michael Frith / Puppet Design + Build-C.W. (1976)

- 1976 *Time Magazine* article clipping on SNL Muppets.
- photos of Scred puppet in progress and photos of completed Scred puppet.

Folder: *The Muppet Show* (1976-1978)

- Photos of puppets from *Muppet Show: Sex and Violence*,
- Photos of various *Muppet Show* muppets in workshop and on-set.
- Photocopies of Michael Frith character designs of Sopwith Camel.
- Workshop and on-set *Muppet Show* episode 312 production photos of Sopwith Camel puppet.
- Workshop *Muppet Show* episode 314 production photos featuring Caroly Wilcox and Janet Kuhl, and Faz Fazakas and their work on African mask puppets in various stages of development.

Folder: Emmett Otter Special 1977 (1977)

- *Emmett Otter's Jug Band Christmas* production photos of featuring Louis Graydon.
- Photos *Emmett Otter's Jug Band Christmas* puppets displayed in workshop.

Folder: Muppet Films, Specials and Muppet Show (1979-1987)

- Promo-kit posters for *The Muppet Movie* (drawn by Drew Struzen), *The Great Muppet Caper*, and *Muppets Take Manhattan*.
- *Muppet Family Christmas* (1987) promotional kit greeting card and photo glossy.
- On-set *The Muppet Movie* production photos featuring James Frawley, Jerry Nelson, Bob Payne, Orson Welles, Steve Whitmeyer, Caroly Wilcox.
- On-set production photos for *Rocky Mountain Holiday* featuring tech crew, John Denver, Caroly Wilcox.

- Workshop production photos of Betsy Betos in in Betsy Bird body puppet costume (for *Muppet Show* Season IV).
- *Great Muppet Caper* production photos of submersible Miss Piggy costume tests at Hunter College pool featuring Caroly Wilcox.
- Photos of *John Denver and the Muppets A Christmas Together* nativity puppets displayed together.
- Invitation cards to 1986 “The Muppets a Celebration of 30 Years” and 1988 birthday party for Rudolf Nureyev.

Folder: Designs and Prototypes

- The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly was a shadow puppet used in episode 205 of *The Muppet Show* – Four prototypes
- Cat and Dog string prototypes possibly from the *Muppet Show*
- *The Muppet Musicians of Bremen* – Cat Gut, Donkey, Rover Joe, TR Rooster

## **BOX 2**

### **Series: Sesame Street (1969-2018)**

- *Sesame Street* publicity photos and ephemera(postcards, greeting cards, posters).
- Clippings of periodical articles extolling *Sesame Street's* and announcing the founding of Jim Henson Archives.
- Gag cartoons depicting Ernie and Bert.
- Cardstock print of Al Hirschfeld caricature of human and puppet cast of *Sesame Street*.
- On-set *Sesame Street* production photos featuring Fran Brill, Kevin Clash, Ed Christie, Jim Henson, Richard Hunt, Maria Macnamara, Jerry Nelson, Frank Oz, Bob Payne, Don Sahlin, Danny Seagren, Caroly Wilcox.
- On-set *Big Bird In China* production photos featuring Ouyang Lienzi, Brian Meehl, Caroly Wilcox.
- On-Set *Follow That Bird* production photos.

### **Series: Awards and Periodicals (1970-1992)**

- Emmy Nomination and Emmy Award Certificates from Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and National Academy of Arts and Sciences Emmy nomination conferred to Caroly individually and as contributor to *Sesame Street*.
- Peabody Award Certificate honoring Muppet Show.
- Handwritten notes of appreciation from Jim Henson to Caroly Wilcox regarding Peabody Award.
- Periodical clippings and complete periodical articles.