

Gift of Rick Simon  
April 2007

This donation is a complete archive of the graphic design work of Rick Simon, dating from 1968 to the present. The archive includes an example of each finished, published piece, as well as, in many cases, preliminary designs or progressive proofs. The collection comprises all of the work Rick Simon has done independently, and for which he has been responsible for the entire job – from design, to setup and production. Graphic design work done for Coach House, in collaboration with others, has not been included here.

The timespan covered includes his two periods of employment at Coach House (1968-1978 and 1993 to the present). He left Toronto in 1978 after receiving an offer from the Banff School to take up a teaching position, but early in 1980 there was a disastrous fire there in which he lost twelve years worth of photographs. After the fire Rick spent time in Edmonton, in Japan, and then back in Toronto before re-joining Coach House in 1993.

The work is divided into several series:

A. Literary posters, flyers

Includes progressive proofs or sample proofs for:

- Canadian Forum literary evening, [1984]
- Eclectic Typewriter Revue, [1975] (a proof copy is also at LAC; <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/2/17/h17-223-e.html>); this work started out as separate cards; one of these ended up as a poster; Rick said this was his homage to American artist Ed Ruscha, and Heavy Industry Publications
- New Wave Canada exhibition poster, 1997
- 1975 Canadian Writers Tour; inspired by working with UofT computer graphics group; made on the pen plotter, overlaid with different colours
- Toronto Small Press Fair, 2002
- miscellaneous items (4)

B. Revue/Theatre/Tour posters, flyers

Includes progressive proofs or sample proofs for:

- Rolling Landscape : Photography Underground in TTC Subway Car 5780, 1978; Rick used black and white film with filters; this was an innovative project using an actual subway car as a venue for an art exhibition
- Theatre Passe Muraille, Cheap Thrills, undated
- Great Theatre of Oklahoma, undated; again shot as 35mm black and white negative, and making use of a film grain technique that involved hardening the grain and then transferring to high contrast film
- A Wake for the Dead of Winter, undated
- Tarragon Theatre, 18 Wheels; based on 4 black and white photos, coloured; Rick says this was inspired by the work of Bobbe Besold, photographer/artist and

activist who was a founder of the Toronto based avant-garde performance group  
The Hummer Sisters and the touring company Video Cabaret

- Great Canadian Bicycle Rally, 1989
- Hart House Jazz Festival, undated
- miscellaneous items (12)

subseries (labelled F): Michael Hollingsworth's VideoCabaret  
Rick Simon was involved in all their productions from 1970 on

- includes Hollingsworth's The History of the Village of the Small Huts, first produced at Factory Lab Theatre, 1985-1999 (parts 1-2, 5-11 are represented in the collection (i.e. lacking 3, 4, 12)
- remounted at the Cameron House in 15 parts, 2000-? (parts 1-6 are represented in the collection)

C. Toronto Island posters

- Island Phone Book covers (dates)

E. Compositions

- includes some invitations announcements for exhibitions by Rick Simon, including one for show following the Banff fire in which Rick lost 12 years worth of photos
- self-portrait 'Burning Beard', 12 colour lithograph

G. Book and Magazine covers

in pamphlet box:

H. Stamps

I. Letterhead

J. Postcards (75); designed by Rick Simon for various personal and public events; some recent postcards illustrating his use of direct scanning

K. Toronto Island phone books, 1993-2007; small and large formats

L. Booklets (4)