



**Special Collections and University Archives**

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**Robert F. Boerstler Collection  
Manuscript Group 29**

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Last Modified February 26, 2019**

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**Robert F. Boerstler Collection, Manuscript Group 29**  
**Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives**  
**7 boxes; 7 linear feet**

**Biographical Note**

A native of Johnstown, Robert F. Boerstler (February 9, 1929-February 19, 1987) graduated from Indiana State Teachers College (later became IUP) in 1950 with a BS in Education. He was the son of George and Olga Boerstler (-1955). In 1978, Robert F. Boerstler was teaching in the Ferndale Area School District in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He passed away in Windber, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

**Scope and Content**

The Robert F. Boerstler collection is housed in seven archival boxes. The collection contains three scrapbooks from 1946-1950 and a freshman dink from Boerstler's years at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC), and an IUP Centennial Anniversary Plate from 1975. The collection also contains limited edition Flash Gordon comic books, pewter figurines, lantern slides, Bicentennial memorabilia from the U.S. Historical Society, and a Civil War era cavalry sword that were donated by Robert F. Boerstler.

**Provenance**

Unknown.

**Restrictions**

None.

**Processor**

Spring 2001; records rearranged and inventory rewritten by Special Collections Staff.

**Container List**

**Box 1 (3 scrapbooks)**

1-3. Scrapbooks that contain information about Robert Boerstler's life, 1940s

**Box 2 (4 items)**

1. ISTC Freshman dink (maroon felt cap), circa 1946-1947
2. "The People of Colonial America" pewter
3. The Franklin Mint pewter figurines Reference Guide
4. IUP Centennial Plate (pewter), circa 1975 (on display)

**Box 3 (1 item)**

1. Wooden box that contains Franklin Mint pewter figurines, there is a reference guide identifying the figurines in Box 2, Item 3: The Franklin Mint pewter figurines Reference Guide

**Box 4 (Glass Lantern Slides, circa 1900s-1940s) (above Photograph Storage Cabinet)**

1. Songs: Sing Song Slide Company
  - a. Holy Holy Holy
  - b. The First Nowell

- c. Holy Spirit, Truth Divine
  - d. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
  - e. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
  - f. Thanksgiving Prayer
  - g. Consider and Hear Me (2 Slides)
  - h. Send Out Thy Light (3 Slides)
  - i. Hear Our Prayer (2 Slides)
  - j. Oh Come, All Ye Faithful
  - k. Palm Branches
  - l. America the Beautiful
  - m. Hear My Cry Oh Lord! (2 Slides)
  - n. Star Spangled Banner (2 Slides)
  - o. Onward Christian Soldiers (2 Slides)
  - p. Fight Song by Hal Thomas
  - q. Fight Song: Indiana's Glory (2 Slides)
2. Images: Soule Art Publishing Company (Boston, Massachusetts) (4 Slides)

**Box 5 U. S. Historical Society Bicentennial Collection (5 items)**

1. Documentation of the Lord Cornwallis Sword, the Sword of Napoleon, and the George Washington Presentation Dagger created by the U. S. Historical Society in Richmond, Virginia, 1976
2. Replica Bronze Medallions from 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century United States of America:
  - a. George Washington
  - b. Horatio Gates
  - c. Daniel Morgan
  - d. Nathaniel Green
  - e. George Washington mounted equestrian
  - f. John Paul Jones
  - g. Anthony Wayne
  - h. King George II
  - i. U. S. Grant, 1871
  - j. Rutherford B. Hayes
  - k. Major General Andrew Jackson
  - l. Major General William Henry Harrison
3. Replica of a forged steel tomahawk from the American Revolution
4. Replica of Wooden Cup and Gall Game from the American Revolution
5. Replica of a Native American peace pipe (no identification)

**Box 6 Replica Sword and Civil War Cavalry Saber (2 items)**

1. 1976 "The Sword of Napoleon," recreated by the U. S. Historical Society in Richmond, Virginia, for the American Bicentennial, 1976
2. Civil War era Model 1860 Cavalry Saber (light cavalry saber) made by Emerson and Silver in Trenton, New Jersey. Stamped on the pommel cap is C. E. W. (Charles E. Wilson), the inspector who accepted the saber for the federal government. Possibly dating from 1864 (verified as authentic in 2014)



**Box 7 Oversized Comic Books donated by Robert F. Boerstler (4 Publications)**

Flash Gordon comic strips were created by Alex Raymond (1909-1956) in 1934, see also *Flash Gordon and the Tyrant of Mongo* (1941) Call Number: PN 6728 .F55 R387 1941 (Special Collections):

1. Raymond, Alex. (1977). *Flash Gordon: La Compagnia dei Ladri* (The end of Brazor). Sunday newspaper (1944). Call Number: Oversize PN 6728 .F55 R57 1977 (Special Collections)
2. Raymond, Alex. (1977). *Flash Gordon: Ritorno Sulla Terra (Return to Earth)*. Sunday newspaper (1944). Call Number: Oversize PN 6728 .F55 R57 1977 (Special Collections)
3. Raymond, Alex. (1977). *Flash Gordon: Fuga nel Deserto (The Usurper)*. Sunday newspaper (1944). Call Number: Oversize PN 6728 .F55 G86 1977 (Special Collections)
4. Raymond, Alex. (1977). *Flash Gordon: Gundar il Predone del Deserto (Gundar the Hawk of Tropica)*. Sunday newspaper (1944). Call Number: Oversize PN 6728 .F55 G86 1977 (Special Collections)