Irwin Hasen: A Legacy Portfolio

2005
10 prints (0.1 linear foot)
Call no.: MS 744

Read collection overview Collection overview

A noted comic illustrator, Irwin Hasen enjoyed a career spanning over five decades, including work as staff artist for a number of classic comic book titles. He is perhaps best remembered as the artist behind Dondi, a strip about a war orphan co-authored with Don Edson, that ran nationally from 1955 to 1986.

Hasen’s Legacy Portfolio includes ten hand-pulled serigraphs signed and numbered by the artist, reflecting artwork from throughout his career. The SCUA portfolio is number 16 of 35 sets in the limited edition, with each print hand separated and printed in collaboration with the master printer Gary Lichtenstein.

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Background on Irwin Hasen

Best known as the artist behind Dondi, a long running comic strip co-authored with Don Edson, Irwin Hasen was born in New York City on July 8, 1918 and grew up on West 110th Street, fascinated with art from a young age. After studying at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League, Hasen worked for a time as a sports artist before being drafted into the army during the Second World War. Too short for combat
duty, he was assigned to Fort Dix, N.J., and worked as editor of
the camp newspaper, the Fort Dix Gazette.

Upon returning to civilian life, Hasen resumed his work in
advertising illustration and comic books, becoming a staff artist for some of the major series of the day, including The Green
Lantern, Wildcat, Wonder Woman, and Detective Comics, along with a host of other publications from DC Comics, Fawcett,
and Bert Whitman Associates. As a member of the National Cartoonists Society in 1955, he was touring Korea on a USO-
sponsored trip when he met Gus Edson and the two immediately hit it off. Edson proposed the idea of comic strip based on
a war orphan, and Hasen soon agreed. For the next 31 years, Hasen drew Dondi, originally described as a World War II
orphan, later as an orphan of the Korean War or Vietnam, with Edson writing the story until his death in 1966, followed by

Hasen received numerous awards for his illustration, including recognition by the National Cartoonists Society as the best
newspaper story strip in 1961 and 1962 and the Silver T-Square Award in 1969 for "outstanding dedication or service to
the Society or the profession." At the San Diego Comicon in 1999, he received the Inkpot Award for lifetime achievement.

Scope of collection

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Hasen, Irwin: Wildcat 1941 1p. 1
Hasen, Irwin: Sergeant Route -- Step O'Malley of the Fort Dix Reception Center Gazette 1944 1p. 2
Hasen, Irwin: Canvas of crime 1947 1p. 3
Hasen, Irwin: The revenge of Solomon Grundy 1947 1p. 4
Hasen, Irwin: Dondi the war orphan 1955 1p. 5
Hasen, Irwin: I'm looking for my buddies 1955 1p. 6
Hasen, Irwin: Dondi plays baseball 1974 1p. 7
Hasen, Irwin: L'apres d'amour 1974 1p. 8
Hasen, Irwin: Goodbye Dondi 1985 1p. 9
Hasen, Irwin: The joy, the laughter, and the tears 2005 1p. 10

Copyright is retained by the artist.


The Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University houses over 3,500 pieces of original artwork from Irwin Hasen as well as the papers of Gus Edson.

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, June 2012.
Search terms

Subjects
- Cartoons and comics

Names
- Hasen, Irwin, 1918-
- Lichtenstein, Gary

Genre terms
- Cartoons (Humorous images)
- Comic strips
- Prints (Visual works)
- Screen prints

Link to similar SCUA collections

Arts and literature

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