

Carnival Floats

Coloring Packet

Carnival parades have rolled in New Orleans for more than 160 years. Today, dozens of parades take place in the weeks leading up to Mardi Gras. Most parades follow a theme that changes each year, and every float in the parade supports that theme. Masked krewe members ride the elaborate floats and throw beads, toys, and trinkets to the crowds.

On the following pages, you can add your own colors to some of the historical float designs from the Louisiana State Museum's collection. Then plan a visit to the Presbytère to see the permanent exhibition *Mardi Gras: It's Carnival Time in Louisiana!* The exhibition includes costumes, jewelry, float designs, and the history of this world-famous celebration.





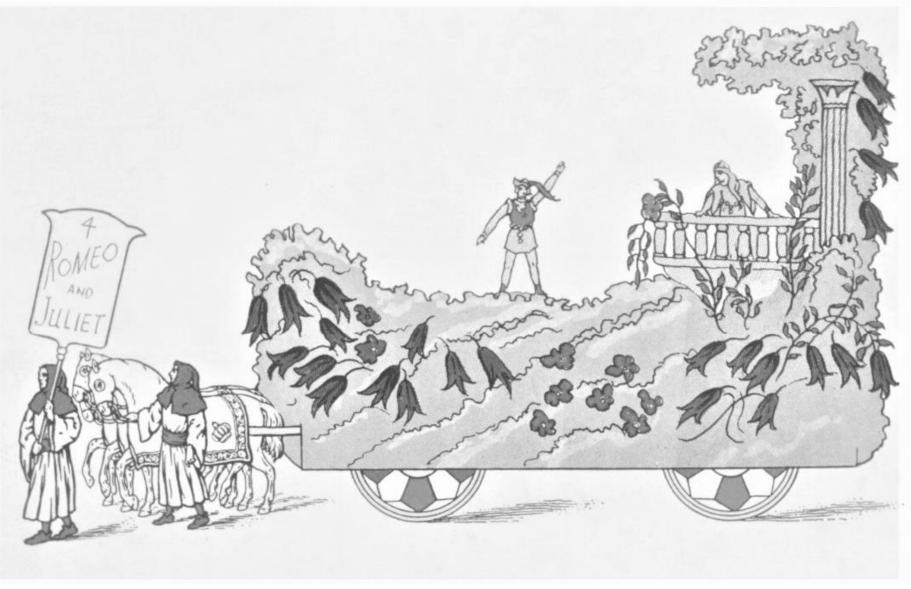






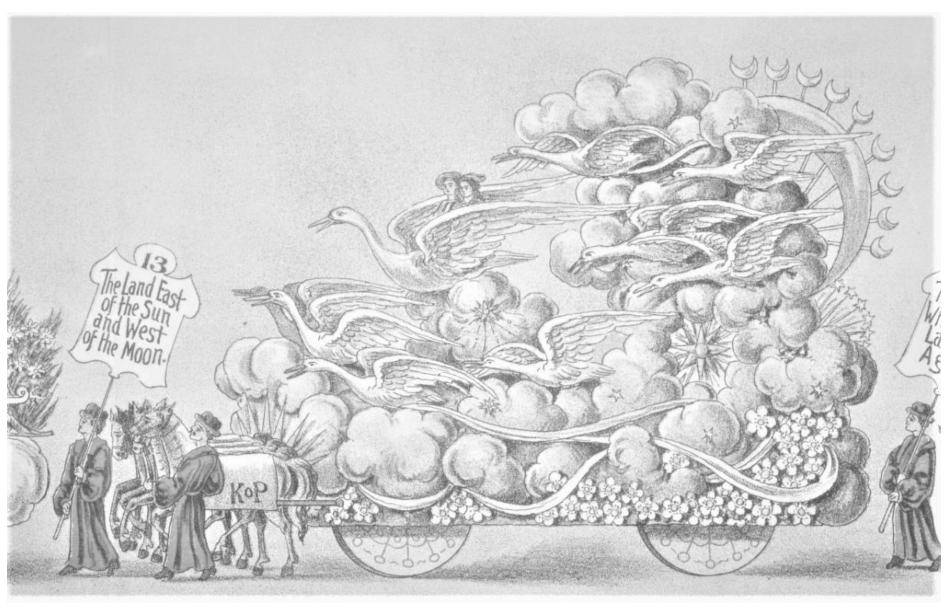






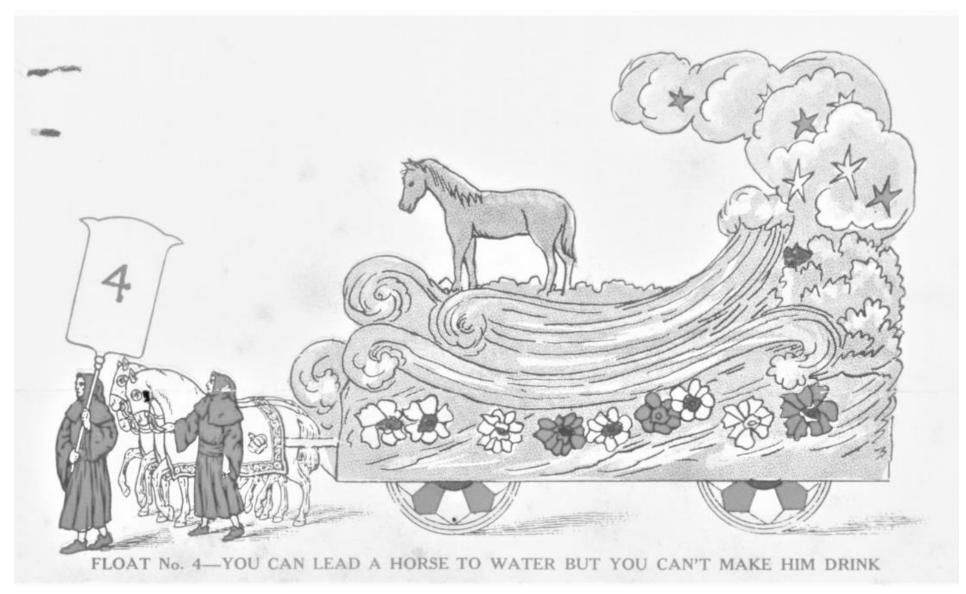
Knights of Momus, "Romeo and Juliet," Operas of Yesteryear parade bulletin (detail), 1937. T0164.1997.





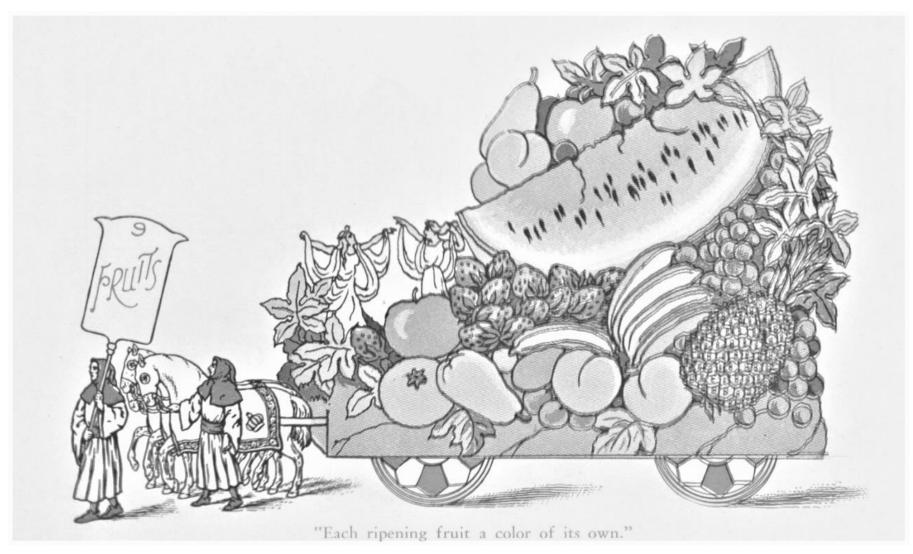
Krewe of Proteus, "The Land East of the Sun and West of the Moon," *The Earthly Paradise* parade bulletin (detail), 1917. Gift of David C. White, 1988.009.3.





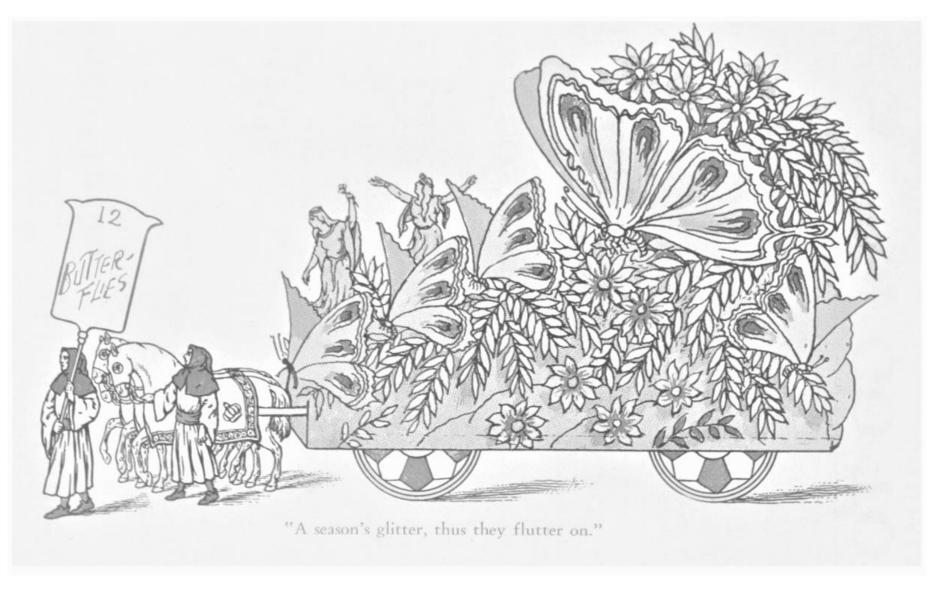
Knights of Momus, "You Can Lead a Horse to Water but You Can't Make Him Drink," *Sayings We Learned in Childhood* parade bulletin (detail), 1940. T0165.1997.





Mistick Krewe of Comus, "Fruits," From Nature's Paint Pot parade bulletin (detail), 1937. T0049.1997.





Mistick Krewe of Comus, "Butterflies," From Nature's Paint Pot parade bulletin (detail), 1937. T0049.1997.





Rex, "Freja," Illustrations from Literature parade bulletin (detail), 1894. I.1993.0239.