

ONE BY ONE

Once again AFAD would like to thank Xena Prop House for joining forces with us to bring you another fascinating feature! Possibly the hardest category to define in the world of Xenabilia collecting is that of 'one-off' items. From props to original artwork to charity auction items, here's a peek into the world of Xena Rarities. Much love & thanks to Barbie Arms, Chris Clogston, Andrea Hause & Xena Prop House readers for their pictures & info.



Prop collector & editor of Xena Prop House, Barbie Arms, starts us off with some facts about how to decide whether your treasured item is, indeed, a one-off.

“Back in the July Volume 2 issue of Xena Prop House, the Black Wolf had this to say about one-off items:

“You must realize that only making one-off props for series like these is a dangerous predicament for the on-set standby props. If the “one-off” prop was lost or damaged & is being shot in two scenes not on the same day, this could be a huge loss for the production company as far as story goes. So most things that are “Hero Props” & are easily seen we would have made more than one.”

Ok, so we are still hopeful that the items that were seen in one episode & for a very limited time could be a one-off. Until another surfaces, we can relish in the thought that we have a one-off! The wolf did say that multiples of the swords were made; 30 to 40 of each style in resin & foam, and 3-4 in metal with some minor exceptions.”

Now, if any readers of either AFAD or Xena Prop House have any props, wardrobe, production material or any other Xena item that you believe to be a one-off, please send us details & pictures so that we can build on this introductory feature & attempt to compile a list of one-offs! Hopefully this will be a subject to revisit. Remember, however, as Barbie points out:

“Please know that your item could be challenged by another reader as being a one-off if they know someone else who also has the item. I would like to put that on the table in advance to avoid any hurt feelings if this should become an issue.”

Both our publications are intended to not only provide a guide to collecting Xena, but to also as a means for us to learn as much as we can about the stuff out there; in our case, Xenabilia in general, & for Prop House readers, props & wardrobe. In addition to the items already mentioned, there are other possible items that could fall into the one-off category. Over to Barbie:



“Original drawings or original production material would strongly fall under this category, as a drawing or artwork cannot be exactly duplicated unless printed copies are made. So if you have any original drawings please let us know, they will be featured! Also, the very large props or props that dominate a scene like the Trojan horse from “Greeks Bearing Gifts”, the Titan’s foot from “The Titans” etc would most definitely be one offs. We would love to know if anyone has any large props!”

Other one-off items can also include items created by the stars for charity auctions, such as Lucy's original Starship drawings or the undeveloped camera & its photos that went on eBay. Similarly, while Renee has produced prints of her paintings, the lucky eBayers who won her original prints would have also gained themselves one-off pieces. Charity auctions such as Adrienne's recent eBay fest also hold plenty of one-off opportunities, but these are moving out of the realm of the Xenaverse as most of the items were the actress's personal belongings or props from other acting work.



Many thanks to all those who have contributed their items so far! We start with a very cool item indeed; the sun & moon crown from *The Bitter Suite*, designed & created by Jasmine Watson. Barbie explains:

"A collector that I know very well has a one-off crown Lucy wore in the infamous *Bitter Suite* episode. Jewellery maker Jasmine Watson actually made the crown, & Ngila Dickson the dress & wardrobe. There was a picture of the crown on Jasmine's website so I thought she may own that one which meant there would have been two. So to verify this I emailed her & was not sure I would get a response since she is very busy. She still designs jewellery for movies, most recently the *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. Anyway, she did contact me & verified that this was a one-off - the only one she made!!!!!!"

CROWNING GLORY

Known as "Lady of the Rings", Jasmine Watson is the talent behind many fascinating

jewellery pieces & crowns designed for Hercules: The Legendary Journeys & Xena: Warrior Princess. Jasmine went on to design for numerous productions, most famously "The Fellowship of the Ring", & the other two films of the LOTR Trilogy. Jasmine expertly designed & crafted the Sun & Moon Crown that Lucy wore as the high priestess in the Xena episode "The Bitter Suite".

Kimba, the present owner of the crown, always knew it was a one off wardrobe piece. Barbie Arms, as you know, decided to email Jasmine Watson about the crown.

Jasmine mailed back & confirmed that she designed & made that piece, & that there was only one. Kimba's adventure in how she acquired the crown makes this item even more interesting. After Turner's Auctions hit, many of the props went on eBay for sale. Kimba recognized this crown right away - & bid. The reserve wasn't met, even when someone else had bid higher. As it just so happens, Kimba was on her way to NZ to pick up items from the Turner's auctions, as a friend had bid on her behalf so it all now had to be picked up. Kimba contacted the seller of the crown, asking the reserve, agreeing on a price, & telling him she would meet him in

Auckland to pick it up. There was a very small window in which to meet to receive the crown, & even with a layover in Fiji due to bad fog in Auckland, they still managed to get together. Kimba carried that crown all over NZ picking up other items on the trip. Anyone would be very proud to own this beautiful & special one off item!

As you can see from the picture, this is a truly beautiful item to own. And it had such a fantastic story behind it that we just had to expand on the details. Thank you to Barbie Arms for writing the mini-feature on the left.

Time for another gorgeous prop now. As Barbie explains below, much of time we don't know whether an item is truly a one-off unless another one turns up.

"Often, collectors will think they have a one off only because they have not seen another around. But as we know there are oodles of prop & wardrobe just sitting in trunks & boxes all over the world. Some are left forgotten by a charged up collector from 10 years ago, who then lost their energy for it, or by employees from the set that were unauthorized to remove them & now cannot be revealed.

Here is a picture & screen capture (below) of a dagger owned by Mike Burnaugh. He said he has seen a similar shaped dagger in other episodes, but not with jewels or paua on the sides like this one, so we both believe it to be a one-off. It was seen very quickly in this one scene, & was used by the Amazon Mayem, who holds the



dagger to Hercules neck in "Prodigal Sister"



(Hercules Season 4, Episode 7)

And keeping with the prop theme, here are some more superb gems from both Hercules & Xena courtesy of Barbie's readers:

"If you are looking for the bizarre & humorous, here is the "Chimpules" costume seen in the Hercules episode "Yes Virginia, There is a Hercules". The chimp was seen for only a few seconds in the episode so we believe it would be the only one made. This is also owned by Michael Burnaugh, who had it mounted under glass as you can see from this great picture (right, along with its accompanying screen grab)."



The final items in the one-off prop selection are these beauties below. Barbie says:

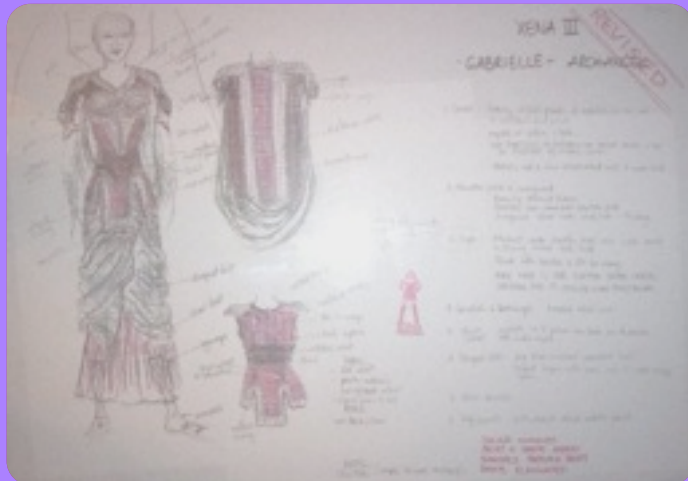
"We believe these two items to be a one-off. Lucy's metal mask/helmet as Saba in "The God You Know", & Artemis' metal helmet. These items are owned by Christina Rallo. She actually has a Xena museum – "The Xena Museum & Athenaeum/Stinnish's XMA, C.A. Rallo". Her collection is incredible!!!!!"



Onto the artwork now. Barbie & her readers bring us some amazing original drawings, most of which are original comic art, but we begin with these stunning production drawings from 'Fallen Angel'.

Over to Barbie:

"Here are 2 original drawings leading up to the design of Xena as the devil & Gab as an angel in the episode 'Fallen Angel'. You can see they have the official Xena stamp & have been revised, as they will be many times before they get to the final product. These are original drawings & are one-offs. There were probably many drawings before & after these, but none could be an exact drawing to these."



Before the comic covers become the fantastic art that they are, they begin as original line drawings. First up is this artwork from the new Dynamite comics, owned by the Xena Museum mentioned earlier. Christina Rallo wrote the following on the artwork a couple of months back, before the comic was released:



“Original pen & ink artwork by Aaron Lopresti for the Marvel comic Xena #5, which is due out in December '06. Three additional faces were drawn, & when the comic goes to final print, which has not yet happened, the face will change to one that resembles Lucy a little less due to legal issues. But the comic is currently being advertised with the original face in the interim before publication. I also have the sketched three additional faces, which were used to create an overlay on the original full artwork.”

Barbie has also supplied a picture of what the picture looks like after colour is added (left).



Next, we take a look at some of the incredible collection of Christi Clogston, who has very kindly scanned & sent images of the original comic & magazine artwork she owns.

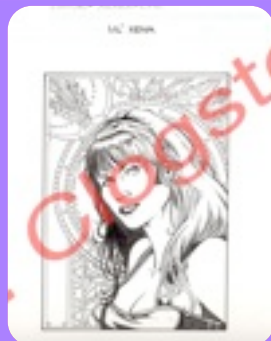
The original drawings, which you will find on the following page, are black & white line images from the comics. Chris says:

“I do have a lot of original X:WP comic book art, including several covers - too much of it to put in a single issue. I also have several original paintings that were used in the Official X:WP magazine & were also later used as some of the X:WP trading cards. I have the original painting of the first X:WP "litho" that was produced & sold by Lightspeed Enterprises. I also have the original art for the X:WP comic that appeared in TV Guide one year.”

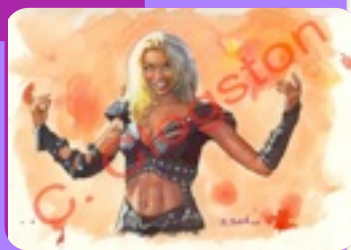
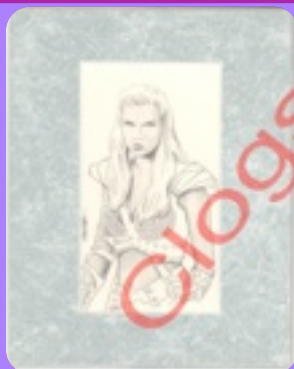
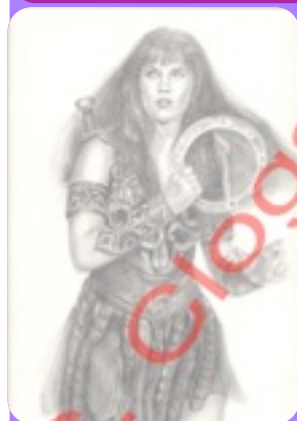
On this page you'll find some of Chris's original paintings. She says: “Most are covers or pinups for Topps or Dark Horse. Some are personal works by the artist.”



"These are from an unpublished X:WP comic book, "Xena and the Spear of Destiny". I have a few pages, some inked and lettered, some just drawn by Claude St. Aubin. I have a cover done by Jim Silke and a painting by Dave DeVries (the 1st painting on the previous page). I wrote a bit about these items and the unpublished comic book on my Xena Stuff blog <http://xenastuff.blogspot.com>

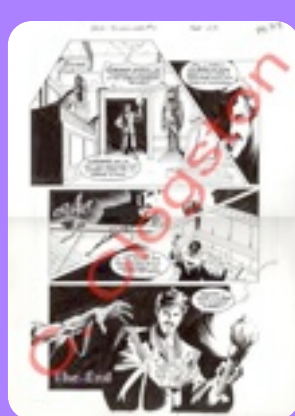


Rick Magyar did a number of proposal pieces to try to score a gig with Topps. This is one of his sample pages (above). Here is another cover painting and personal works by Scott Sava and Rick Magyar (below). Lorraine Bush is an artist who did portraits of Universal's monsters (below).



Other art belonging to Christi:





MORE ONE-OFF ITEMS!

Here are some more very unusual items. Thank you to Leena of Xena Trade Center for these two...

SALT & PEPPER SHAKERS

Very unusual square shakers with Xena title sequence pictures. Not definitely a one-off, but Leena has never seen any others like them. Shaped like mini televisions! Leena sold these on eBay



recently - they fetched \$19.

XENA PEZ

Leena also owns this one-off Xena Pez (sweet dispenser). She describes it on her website as "One of a kind. I think it is custom-made? A lot of work must have went into it. Still in packet."



Generally I won't include custom-made items as this sub-section could run into tons of things... but as this is in a proper packet & it looks cool I thought I would include it! I will also consider other custom-made items for future one-off features if they are unusual - custom-made figures/dolls, for example.



GOLD SWEEPSTAKES SWORD

Not definitely a one-off item as others may exist, but possibly the only one available to the Xena collector. Lucky AFAD member Andrea Hause won the Davis-Anderson sweepstakes back when the DVDs



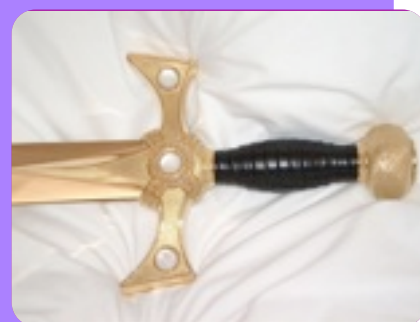
were first released in the USA, & not only won this beautiful gold sword but also got to watch Lucy & Renee record the seasons 4-6 commentary & enjoy a meal with them! (Here they are presenting Andrea with her sword, above) We're not jealous, honest...!

Andrea says, "I couldn't get Davis-Anderson to answer the question of how many exist. All Marcia Anderson would tell me is she flew to Spain to meet with the Marto people & select the gold used to make the sword. I know Lucy didn't get one but I have to wonder if Peter Davis and/or Marcia Anderson have any." Andrea also sent a close up of the hilt to show the work Marto put into the sword (right).



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS...

As I mentioned earlier, anything created by Lucy & Renee that was sold as a one-off original also earns its place in our feature. So, left we have some of Renee's original artwork, plus Lucy's two Starship drawings, & to the right Lucy's charity teapot. Plus items such as Patricia Parker's ACEO original drawing cards are also one-offs (right).



And on that note, here ends the first of our features on One-Off items! Hopefully some more of you out there either own or know of more gems in the Xenaverse that AFAD can feature next time. Please email me if you do! I will also be included custom-made figures & dolls the next time we revisit this subject so any info on these would also be appreciated. Thank you VERY much to all the contributors who helped out this time - battle on!!

