

# Monmouth

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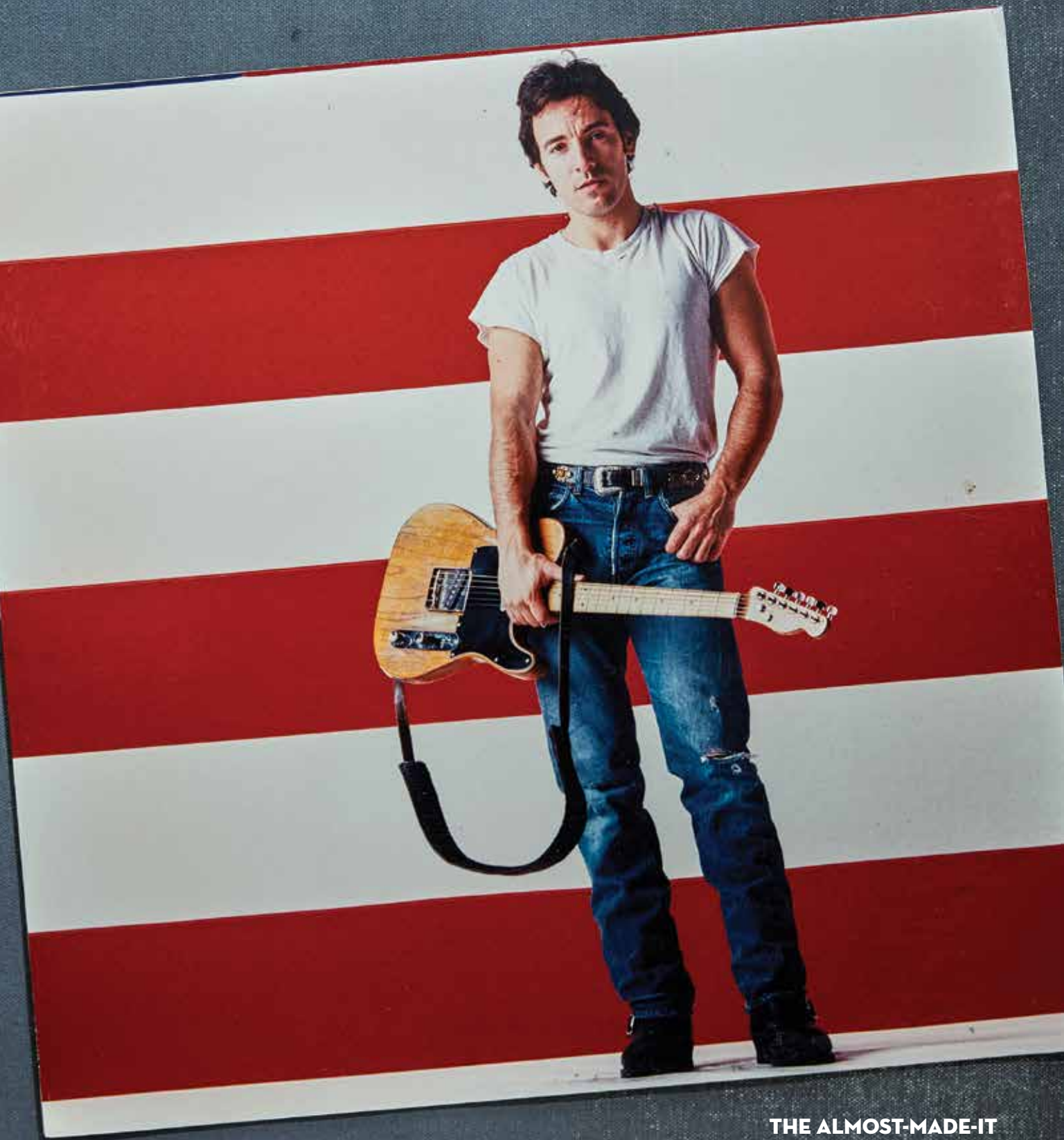
**No. 128\***

...and other rarities and artifacts in the Springsteen Collection

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\*A ticket to show 128 of the Born in the U.S.A. Tour—closing night of the European leg—is one of many treasures in the collection.





#### THE ALMOST-MADE-IT

One of several alternate photos considered for the *Born in the U.S.A.* album cover. The now-iconic red hat that's shoved into Bruce's back pocket on the actual cover is also part of the Special Collection.


# ROCK RELIQS



THE BRUCE  
SPRINGSTEEN  
SPECIAL  
COLLECTION,  
WHICH IS HOUSED  
AT MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY,  
IS LIKE THE  
PROMISED LAND  
FOR FANS OF THE  
BOSS.

PHOTOS BY MATT FURMAN





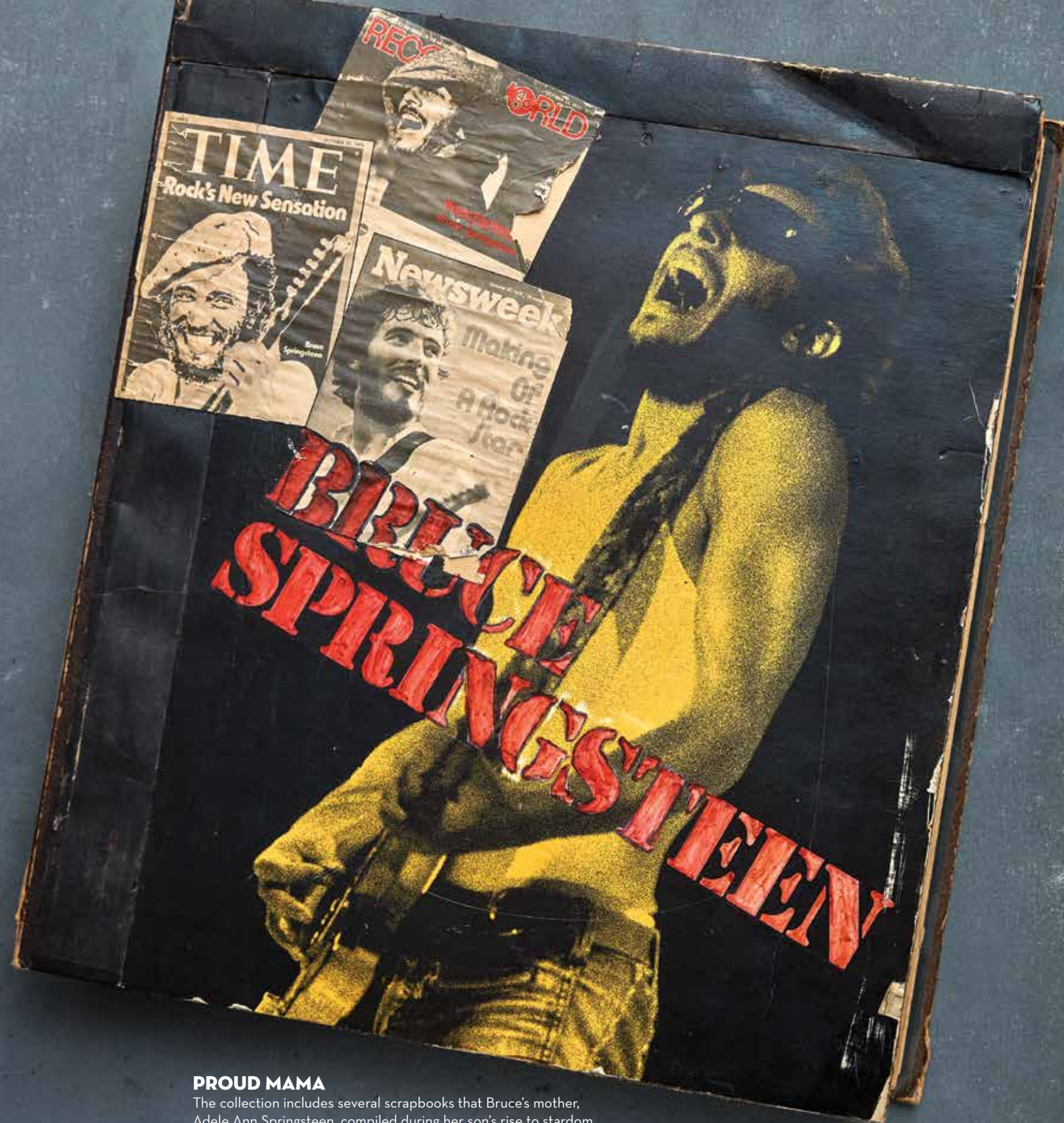
When Monmouth University announced plans for its collaborative partnership to establish The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, global interest in the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection skyrocketed.

A portion of the collection, composed of Springsteen's written works, photographs, periodicals, and artifacts, had been on loan to Monmouth since 2011. In 2017, it was formally gifted to the university for inclusion in the Archives by The Friends of the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection Inc., a nonprofit organization established to help preserve the history of the singer and his music.

"When Bob Crane and I started this collection more than 15 years ago, we imagined something big: something impressive, permanent, and unique, an unparalleled resource of use to fans, students, and scholars around the world," said Christopher Phillips, publisher and editor of the Springsteen fanzine, *Backstreets Magazine*, and former president of the Friends, which formally disbanded in January 2018.

"Given the importance of Bruce Springsteen's work in our own lives, we wanted to preserve and consolidate all this material before it faded away. But I don't think either of us imagined how much the collection would grow—thanks to the dedication, labor, and generosity of fans worldwide—and that we'd eventually find such a perfect home. As a founder, I couldn't be more pleased to have discovered a partner in Monmouth University to preserve and expand the collection for future generations."

The collection originated in 2001 when *Backstreets* organized a fan-to-fan campaign to collect and organize essential documents from each phase of Springsteen's career, ensuring that the historic record would be publicly accessible to all. Originally housed in the Asbury Park Public Library, the collection today contains more than 35,000 items from 47 countries. And it's still growing, as fans—and the Boss himself—continue to donate to it. We asked Eileen Chapman, who oversees the collection for Monmouth, to give us a peek at what's inside.

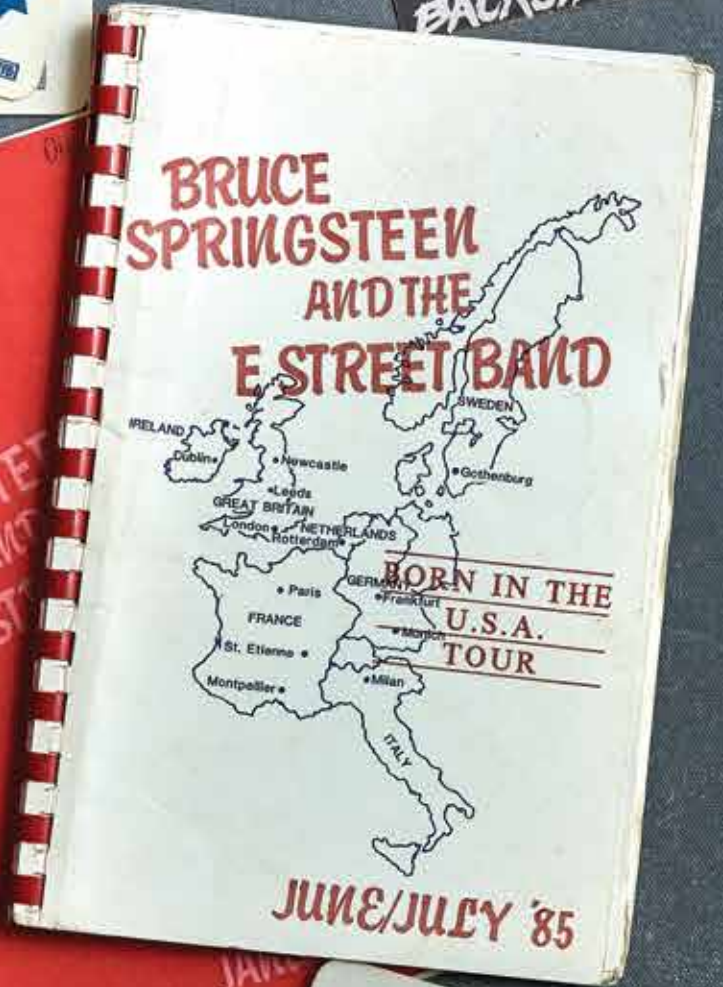


#### PROUD MAMA

The collection includes several scrapbooks that Bruce's mother, Adele Ann Springsteen, compiled during her son's rise to stardom, one of which includes original copies of *Time* and *Newsweek* from October 1975, when Bruce became the first musician in history to simultaneously appear on the covers of both magazines.



# BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

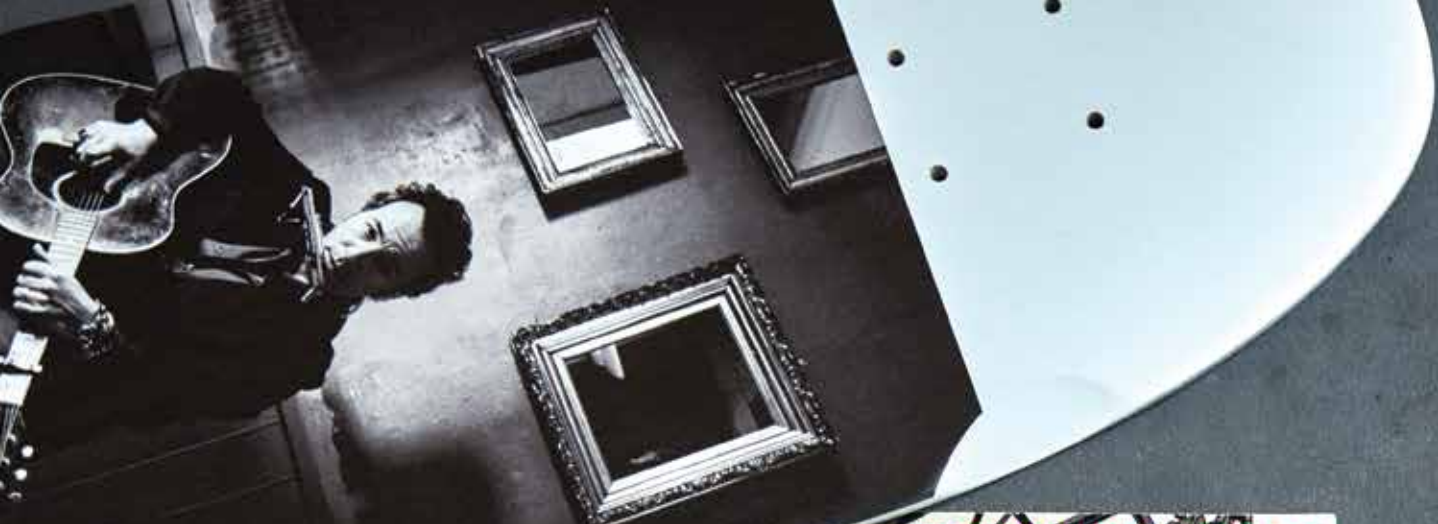


**ALL ACCESS**  
There's in—and then there's in. Lucky fans might score a backstage pass, but only tour staffers received itinerary books (left), which list hotels, local amenities, timetables, and contact info for each stop on that leg of the tour.



**TICKETS TO RIDE**  
The collection includes five decades' worth of tickets sent in from around the world.





**THE BOSS GETS TOTALLY RAD, SAVES THE WORLD, AND GRACES DENIM JACKET LAPELS**

A collaboration between Springsteen, photographer Danny Clinch, and skater Mike Vallely, the limited-edition skateboard pictured above was produced for charity in 2016.

Two of the dozens of Bruce-related comics in the collection: "Hey Boss!" and "Transformers," which includes the story, "The Adventures of Brick Springhorn and the Tenth Avenue Band."

Wearable memorabilia in the collection includes promotional jackets, blankets, T-shirts, and pins.



**BASEMENT TAPES**

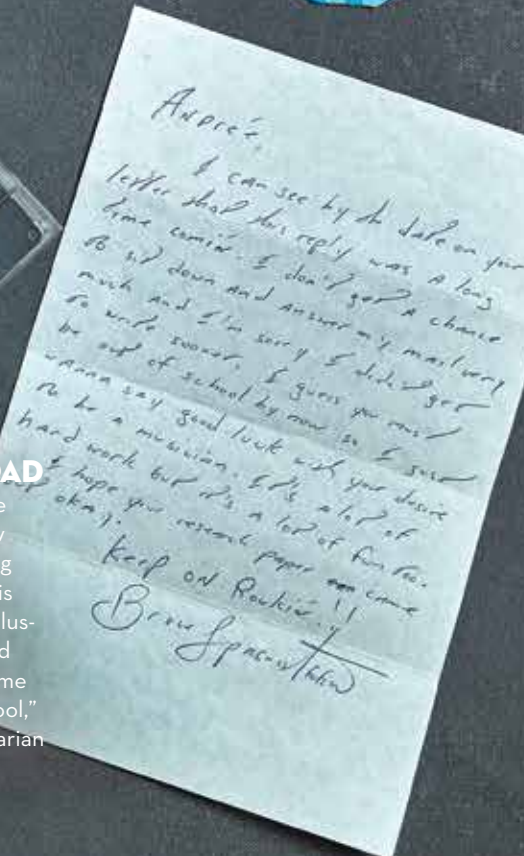
The collection houses a number of live show recordings.

**PROMOS + KEEPSAKES**

A postcard for "Cover Me," the second single off of 1984's *Born in the U.S.A.*

CBS Records produced this 45-rpm picture disc for "Dancing in the Dark" in the shape of the single's B-side, "Pink Cadillac."

One of the badges that got fans into the "Meadowlands Boardwalk" area outside Giants Stadium during the summer 2003 tour.



**LETTERS FROM THE ROAD**

In 1984, Andréé Rathemacher wrote Springsteen to request an interview for a school project she was working on. Several months later, she got this response in the mail. "[It's] a good illustration of how [he] always tried hard to be a 'normal guy,'—he took the time to answer a letter from a kid in school," says Rathemacher, who's now a librarian at the University of Rhode Island.

**CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF AMERICAN MUSIC**

In conjunction with its efforts to promote Springsteen's work, the The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music also aims to highlight the cultural and musical influences of other seminal American music figures such as Woody Guthrie, Robert Johnson, Bob Dylan, Hank Williams, Frank Sinatra, and more. By sponsoring public education events, both on and off campus, the Archives provide opportunities for students and scholars alike to engage fully in the legacy of Bruce Springsteen and other American music giants.

The collection is open to the public. Visits are by appointment only and must be made two weeks in advance. For more information, visit [monmouth.edu/bruce](http://monmouth.edu/bruce).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**The Ties That Bind: Bruce Springsteen's "The River" at 40 Oct. 2-4, 2020 Monmouth University**

Join us for an international scholarly conference devoted to the life, work, and influence of Bruce Springsteen, particularly in relation to his legendary album, *The River*, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. The festivities will include various live acts, as well as keynote addresses by rock critics and figures from the music industry. More information will be available soon at [monmouth.edu/bruce](http://monmouth.edu/bruce).

