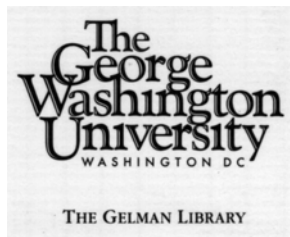




The Gelman Library The Special Collections Department

A GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF PRINTING AND THE BOOK ARTS

This collection consists of books on the history of printing, paper-making, bookbinding, book illustrations, the history of printing in the Americas, type design and book design, book collecting, book collectors, and examples of fine books illustrative of the book arts. The collection's greatest strength lies in the material it contains on the American designers and American presses of the 1930's and 1940's; particularly, works by Bruce Rogers, Frederick Goudy, W.A. Dwiggins and Daniel Updike.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLECTION

This collection was initiated through major gifts of books from Alfred W. Schmidt (1873-1966). Schmidt was the first university librarian of George Washington University, serving from 1906-1931, and the director of the Library Science program from 1927-1938. His donations were augmented by gifts from Henry Gemmil (1917-1994) who was Washington Bureau Chief for The Wall Street Journal. Schmidt's primary interest was the history of printing, and Gemmill's the book arts, including examples of fine press work. Thus, the two major donations complement each other nicely. Both men collected original material from the 1920's and the 1930's. Their gifts have been enhanced by other works donated or purchased by the Special Collections Department in order to form a comprehensive collection of the history of printing, which focuses on the work of American book designers and presses in the 1920's through the 1940's.

THE MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE COLLECTION

The greatest strength of the collection lies in original examples of type design by Daniel Updike (1860-1941), Frederic Goudy (1865-1947), Bruce Rogers (1870-1957), and W.A. Dwiggins (1880-1956). These four men were the most innovative and prolific of all the type and book designers of the 1930's and 1940's. Updike designed for the Merrymount Press in Boston, and Dwiggins for the Mergenthaler Linotype Company in New York. Goudy, who owned the Village Press, was known for adapting letter forms from classical antiquity. Bruce Rogers, a free-lancer, often designed for Rudge or for the Oxford University Press, and sometimes for the Grolier Club.

In addition to original works by the major designers, the collection includes almost every volume published by the Limited Editions Club through 1978. These books were all designed by leading book artists.

Along with the Limited Editions Club, the best known of the American fine arts presses, such as the Kelmscott Press, the Marion Press, the Grolier Club, and the Grabhorn Press, are well-represented in the collection. These are the presses which introduced the American art world to the idea of the book as art work as well as a product of a traditional craft and a vehicle for transmitting information.

These examples of fine press books are complemented in the collection by historical and technical works useful for background research. For instance, Douglas McMurtrie's individual histories of the earliest printing in the colonies and the states are well-represented, as are José Medina's books on the earliest printing in Latin America. Other research tools include periodicals on printing history, rare books, and book collecting, and auction catalogues from Sotheby's, Christie's and Swann's.

RESEARCH POSSIBILITIES

This collection is especially rich for researchers interested in the history of printing and book design in the period of the first American fine book presses. Those interested in the history of book production from the first incunabulum to the fine press work of today will also find basic materials they need for their studies. In addition, scholars who want to learn about the history and biography of rare book collectors, or the field of rare book collecting, or about librarians of rare book collections, or rare book clubs will all find the collection useful.

SELECTED EXAMPLES OF TYPE DESIGNERS

Dwiggins, W.A. Caledonia, A New Printing Type Designed for Mergenthaler. New York: Mergenthaler Linotype Co., 1939.

Call Number: Z 250.5 .C15 D9

Goudy, Frederic W. A Half-Century of Type Design and Typography, 1895-1945. New York: The Typophiles, 1946.

Call Number: Z 232 .G68 G6.

Lewis, Bernard. Behind the Type: The Life Story of Frederick W. Goudy. Pittsburgh: 1941.

Call Number: Z 250 .A2 L48

Rogers, Bruce. The Autograph Edition of the Novels and Stories of Willa Cather.... [New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1937?].

Call Number: Z 232 .R67 H68

Rogers, Bruce. Italian Old Style, a New Type Designed by Frederic W. Goudy.... [Mount Vernon, N.Y.: Printed by Rudge], 1924.

Call Number: Z 250 .G69 R

Updike, Daniel B. In the Day's Work. Cambridge, M.A.: Harvard University Press, 1924.

Call Number: Z 246 .U66

SELECTED EXAMPLES OF FINE PRESS BOOKS: THEIR HISTORY AND THEIR WORK

Grabhorn Press. Pages from Various Books Printed at the Grabhorn Press, San Francisco, 1928-1940. San Francisco: The Press, [c. 1942].

Call Number: Z 250 .G 72 f

Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery. The Work of the Merrymount Press and Its Founder, Daniel Berkeley Updike. San Marino, CA: The Huntington Library, 1942.

Call Number: Z 232 .M57 H4

Nash, John Henry. Cobden-Sanderson and the Doves Press. San Francisco: Printed by John Henry Nash, 1929.

Call Number: Z 232 .C65 N37 f

Printing History--4

Updike, Daniel Berkeley, et. al. Updike: American Printer and His Merrymount Press. New York: The American Institute of Graphic Arts, 1947.

Call Number: Z 232 .M57 U83

Winship, George Parker. The Merrymount Press of Boston: An Account of the Work of Daniel Berkeley Updike. Vienna: Printed for H. Reichner, 1929.

Call Number: Z 232 .M57 W56 f

_____. Daniel Berkeley Updike and the Merrymount Press of Boston, Massachusetts, 1860, 1894, 1941. Rochester, NY: Print House of Leo Hart, 1947.

Call Number: Z 232 .M57 W5

SELECTED EXAMPLES OF HANDMADE PAPER

Wheelwright, William Bond. Printing Papers. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1939.

Call Number: TS 1105 .W515

Worthy Paper Company. Worthy Papers. West Springfield, M.A.: The Company, [1932].

Call Number: TS 1220 .W65 1932.

SELECTED EXAMPLES OF PRINTING HISTORIES FOCUSING ON THE EARLY PERIOD IN THE UNITED STATES

Blumenthal, Joseph. The Printed Book in America. Boston: Dartmouth College Library, 1977.

Call Number: Z 208 .B58

Joyce, William L. Printing and Society in Early America. Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1983.

Call Number: Z 208 .P74 1983

McMurtrie, Douglas. The Delaware Imprints of 1761. Metuchen, N.J.: Privately printed, 1934.

Call Number: Z 209 .D34 M2

_____. The First Known Wisconsin Imprint. Chicago: Privately printed, 1934.

Call Number: Z 209 .W8 M22 f

_____. The Price of Printing in Philadelphia, 1754. Chicago: Privately printed, 1928.

Call Number: Z 245 .A2 1754.

Silver, Rollo Gabriel. Typefounding in America, 1787-1825. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1965.

Call Number: Z 250 .A2 S5

Winterich, John Tracy. Early American Books & Printing. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1935.

Call Number: Z 208 .W79

jak 5/21/96
rev. las 3/22/99