University of Delaware Library Special Collections
Selected Manuscript Collections
Art and Art History

MSS 097 Diaries, Journals, Ship Logs Collection

Item 006 Charles Boss, Daily report of Charles Boss: life and adventures on the frontiers, composed in field, jail, and escapes, prairie, mountains, rivers, Indians, pioneers, robbers, and murder stories, theft and desertion, District of Territories Expeditions from 1869-1876, 1877; 1 vol.

The title of Charles Boss's work aptly describes the scope and spirit of his account as an "Indian fighter" in the U.S. Infantry. This volume, written later than 1884 when Boss was discharged, was based on "papers" he had kept during his service. His more-than-probably embellished memories are certainly mindful of penny thrillers and dime novels, and his text is presented with dramatically calligraphied captions.

Item 030 George Arthur Gray, To China & Back, being a journal of what occurred on board of the Barque Dorchester on the passage out, also giving an account of the manners and customs of the Chinese. A Description of the country, cities, &c. and the return passage on board Barque Nabob, a period of three years 1 month; March 29, 1863 - April 15, 1866; 4 vol. Gray's title neatly summarizes his travel narrative, an illustrated two-volume journal which he hoped to publish.

Item 038 Frederick A. Hodge, Log of H.M.S. Minotaur kept by F.A. Hodge, February 14 - December 21, 1881 ... Log of H.M.S. Swiftsure ... June 26 - November 20, 1885; 2 vol.

Midshipman Frederick Hodge's logs are works of art. They include the standard log records of date, course, distance, wind, barometer and thermometer readings, and remarks; but Hodge has enhanced his record keeping with pencil drawings, pen and ink sketches, and hand-colored illustrations. He drew plans and sections of each ship on which he served, details of ship parts such as rudders or guns, charts and maps of voyages, nautical flags, anchors, buoys, sketches of ports or landscapes, and passings ships.

Item 117 Harriet S. Crothers, Journal, August 18 - November 22, 1846; 1 vol.

Harriet Crothers, apparently from Philadelphia, kept this detailed travel diary on a honeymoon tour of continental Europe with her "dear husband Willy." Their full intenerary included most major cities in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and Czechoslovakia. Her lengthy daily entries reflect typical tourist activities such as visiting churches, galleries, and musuems, with great, rich descriptions of music heard, paintings seen, and local histories summarized.
Manuscript and Archival Collections

**MSS 106 Lloyd and Edith Havens Goodrich Albert Pinkham Ryder Archive**

This collection is the working archive of Lloyd Goodrich and William Homer compiled in the course of their progress toward a catalog raisonné of the American romantic painter Albert Pinkham Ryder.

**MSS 125 George Handy Bates Samoan Papers**, 1869 - 1916 (bulk dates 1880 - 1899); 2 linear ft.

The papers comprise correspondence, documents, memoranda, clippings, photographs, and other material relating to George Handy Bates's tenure as a special investigator into Samoan affairs beginning in 1886, and as a commissioner to the 1889 Berlin Conference on Samoan Affairs. Of particular interest are nearly 150 photographs representing the use of the medium for cultural and ethnographic documentation.

**MSS 149 and 198 Gertrude Käsebier Papers and Collection**, ca. 1865 - 1951, l.3inear ft.

Concerning the career of the noted Photo-Secession and later pictorialist photographer, Gertrude Käsebier (1852-1934), these two small collections provide biographical information as well as a small sample of photographs and periodicals in which her work appeared. The University of Delaware Gallery holds a substantial collection of Käsebier's photographs.

**MSS 211 Lester Douglas Collection**, 1915 – 1961; 4.6 linear ft. (ca. 1,200 items)

As Director of Art and Printing for the Chamber of Commerce of the United States for 25 years, Lester Douglas was responsible for the design of all of the organization's publications, including the magazine, *Nation's Business*. Douglas was also a leading American book designer and an authority on typography. The collection yields examples of his work as well as theory on presentation of print.

**MSS 218 Edward A. Fulton Letters**, 1860 - 1877 (bulk dates 1860 - 1863); 43 items

The Civil War letters of Edward A. Fulton to his mother, Mary Fulton, of Wilmington, Delaware, were written when he served with the 72nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. He wrote to his mother from various camps in Virginia, describing battles fought near Harper's Ferry and Winchester. Many of his letters and envelopes are decorated with the patriotic emblems of the Union.
MSS 297 John De Pol Collection, 1837 – 2004 (bulk dates 1935-2001); 55 linear ft. and oversize

These personal papers and an additional extensive book collection trace the evolution of John DePol’s craft from his early experiments in lithography during his military service in Ireland, England, and Europe, to his apprentice years with Lewis White Company, on through his prolific career as a wood engraver for commercial firms and fine press printers which continued into the twenty-first century. During this period John DePol has collaborated with some of the most important individuals in the world of printing, including Lewis and Dorothy Allen (The Allen Press), John Anderson (The Pickering Press), John Fass (Hammer Creek Press), the Typophiles, Arthur Rushmore (The Golden Hind Press), Robert M. Jones (Glad Hand Press), Barnard Taylor (Press of Appletree Alley), Steve Miller (Red Ozier Press), Morris A. Gelfand (The Stone House Press), Jan and Crispin Elsted (Barbarian Press), Neil Shaver (Yellow Barn Press), and a host of others. During his long career DePol also continued to produce commercial work, keepsakes, invitations, booklets, and illustrations for countless magazines, corporations, publishers, foundations, and academic institutions.

MSS 298 Fridolf Johnson Papers, 1950-1985, (bulk dates 19601985); 10 linear ft.

Correspondence, photographs, greeting cards, broadsides, prospectuses, printing ephemera, books, serials, clippings, articles, pamphlets, programs, keepsakes, exhibition announcements, catalogs, and bookplates – source material related to Johnson’s career as a printer, calligrapher, and writer, reflecting his interest in lettering, italic handwriting, and the fine and graphic arts.

MSS 278 Thornton Oakley Diaries, 1908, 1919 – 1953; 36 items

The illustrator Thornton Oakley (1881- 1953) was a student of Howard Pyle, founder of the Brandywine School, in Wilmington. From 1914-1936, Oakley taught at the Department of Illustration at the Philadelphia Museum's School of Industrial Art, now the Philadelphia College of Art. Like Pyle, Oakley illustrated numerous popular magazines and books.

MSS 304 Rockwell Kent Letters to David Wesley, 1951 – 1969; .6 linear ft. (272 items)

Rockwell Kent, born June 21, 1882, in Tarrytown, New York, is best remembered today for the large and varied body of artwork he left behind, including paintings, drawings, illustrations and woodcuts. Among other pursuits, Kent wrote several books, explored remote and isolated regions of the globe, took a passionate and active interest in politics, designed his own house and, for over 40 years, ran a 200-acre farm near Au Sable, New York.

Book designer, typographer and printer John Anderson (born 1915), has established himself among the foremost of small press proprietors continuing the tradition of handset type. Anderson embarked on his first commercial enterprise in 1934 at the age of 19, when he founded Bantam Press in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He soon realized, however, that his enthusiasm for printing outstripped his experience, and in 1936 accepted a two-year apprenticeship with Peter Beilenson of Peter Pauper Press and the Walpole Printing Office in Mt. Vernon, New York. Anderson further developed his skills at a number of Philadelphia-area businesses, including Royal Typographers of Philadelphia, Sharp & Dohme, Westcott & Thomson, and Lanston Monotype Machine Company. During this period, in 1946, Anderson founded Pickering Press, the imprint under which he continued to print throughout his career, which he named for the nineteenth century printer, William Pickering.

MSS 319 Paulette Greene Paper Collection, 1669 - 1987 (bulk dates 20th century); 1.6 linear ft.

This collection was compiled between 1962 and 1987 by Paulette Greene, a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America, whose business was located in Rockville Center, New York. Greene collected watermarked, handmade, and decorated papers, including endpapers from books; and individual sheets by contemporary paper artists. Along with these samples, she gathered a small body of information on the represented paper processes. Greene corresponded with some of the paper artists whose work she collected, most notably the papermaker Douglass Howell, whom she once visited in his studio in Westbury, Long Island.

MSS 338 Letters from Calligraphers to Sidney Feinberg and George Grady, 1938 – 1976; .3 ft. (59 items)

While stationed in England during World War II, American book designer and calligrapher Sidney Feinberg began his interest in calligraphy. Several of the letters in this collection are responses from noted American or British calligraphers to Feinberg's inquiries about their work and how he might develop his calligraphic skills. Feinberg's interest in and practice of calligraphy became a life-long avocation. George Grady founded the George Grady Press, a New York City firm which was noted for private and fine printing.

MSS 412 W. Russell Hood Collection related to Typography and Graphic Design, 1569 – 1970 (bulk dates 1950 - 1969); 1.3 linear ft. and oversize

The collection is a working reference file of original and reproductive lettering and design from the sixteenth to the twentieth century, as well as articles and clippings on typography and design spanning the dates 1950-1969. The files were created by W. Russell Hood, a Philadelphia-based industrial designer.
MSS 382 Brian Coffey Papers, 1930 – 1995; 11.5 linear ft., and oversized material

Avant-garde Irish poet Brian Coffey was born in Dublin on June 8, 1905. As early as 1924, while earning advanced degrees in mathematics, physics, and chemistry at University College, Coffey began writing poetry. Coffey moved to Paris in the early 1930s to continue his studies in physical chemistry under Jean Perrin. However, a developing interest in philosophy led Coffey to transfer in 1933 to l'Institut Catholique de Paris where he worked with the noted French philosopher Jacques Maritain. During this time, Coffey also became acquainted with other Irish literary expatriates, including Thomas MacGreevy and Samuel Beckett, both of whom encouraged Coffey to continue writing. Decades later, Coffey attended printing classes and established his own press, Advent Books, which began publishing limited editions of poetry with a special emphasis on typography and jacket design. Consistently avant-garde and strongly influenced by French surrealism, Coffey's poetry also reflects deeply religious and philosophical sentiments. Each series illuminates Coffey's role as a student, scholar, scientist, philosopher, poet, artist, writer, publisher, critic, teacher, translator, mentor, friend, husband, father, and grandfather.

MSS 431 Frederick G. Nixon – Nirdlinger Scrapbook, 1909; 1 volume (.3 linear ft.)

The one-volume scrapbook contains ephemera, menus, tickets, receipts, telegrams, handbills, newspapers, souvenir programs, train schedules, broadsides, advertisements, postcards, pamphlets, maps, trade cards, and calling cards about the Nixon-Nirdlingers' travels in the spring and summer of 1909. The scrapbook records various aspects of the early twentieth-century travel business, and is particularly rich with theatrical ephemera. On April 28, 1909 the Nixon Nirdlingers sailed on the White Star Line’s S.S. Adriatic from New York to Paris. The cruise line had an extensive itinerary to France, Spain, Morocco, Italy, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and Hungary.

MSS 474 Frank W. Tober Manuscript and Early Printed Leaf Collection. 12TH - 19TH Centuries; 1 linear ft.

This study collection comprises representative leaves from manuscripts and from early printed books. It includes pages from books printed in England, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland and that date from the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries. The manuscript pages in the collection include specimens in Latin, German, Arabic, and Indian.
The papers of the extended Morris, Harrington, Littell, and Winslow families of Pennsylvania and Delaware include numerous commonplace books, copy books, and scrapbooks. The volumes created by the three Morris Sisters of Germantown are particularly striking for the quality of the original botanical illustrations and other artwork, the penmanship, and consideration of the source material for the many nineteenth-century engravings found in the scrapbooks.