THE JOHN DEPOL COLLECTION
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION 19

SCOPE AND CONTENTS
The John DePol Collection consists of 1.66 linear feet of Christmas cards, menus, announcements, prints, illustrated books and other engraved materials done by John DePol between the years of 1947 and 1993 along with some biographical material about DePol and some correspondence between him and Dr. Frank Piskor. The collection came to St. Lawrence University through separate gifts from John DePol, Frank Piskor and Saxon Industries.

Biographical Note
Born in 1913 in Greenwich Village, NY, John DePol taught himself to draw while still a teenager. During World War II he was stationed in Ireland, where he took time to study lithography at the Belfast College of Art. However, it was not until 1947 that he began to teach himself the art for which he was to become famous—that of wood-engraving.

DePol spent most of his working life as a printer and designer at the L. F. White Company. It was through this connection that he met a number of private press enthusiasts, and soon he was spending many of his “free” hours engraving designs for limited-edition books and pamphlets. Although for much of his life his art was a spare-time pursuit, he was extremely prolific, creating more than 400 wood engravings for the Franklin Keepsakes alone.

Over the years he experimented with many different genres of wood engraving, but his small “chiaroscuro” portraits of eighteenth-century printers and statesmen, and his series of engravings of printing presses are particularly fine. He has also specialized in architectural renderings, producing impressionistic images of New York City, and a series of engravings of college buildings and libraries which have an almost photographic clarity. But perhaps his most remarkable achievement is the Printing Week Library of Benjamin Franklin Keepsakes.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

I. Works by DePol
   A. Individual Pieces
      1. Announcements and advertisements
      2. Christmas cards
      3. Illustrations for books
      4. Menus
      5. Portraits
      6. Buildings
      7. Illustrations relating to printing
      8. Keepsakes
      9. Miscellaneous
   B. Works in Periodicals
   C. Monographs
      1. Individual titles
      2. Franklin Keepsakes
   D. Correspondence

II. Material about John DePol
JOHN DEPOL COLLECTION
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

I. WORKS BY DEPOL
A. Individual Pieces

1 1

1. Announcements and advertisements
Advertisement designs:
John DePol's own advertisements and cards (6)
Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg. Signed. 6/1957/47.

Illustrations for advertising the drug Thorazine for Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, Philadelphia, 1958:
O'Halloran's Swing & Hammock for the Insane
    Obstetrical Chair of the Sixteenth Century
    The Bath of Surprise (1)
    The Bath of Surprise (2)
    English Coffin

Birth Announcements:
    Patricia Anderson
    Patricia Gail DePol

Book prospectuses--Yellow Barn Press

Exhibitions:
Williams College. Collector's Choice: an Exhibition Featuring Items from the Personal Collections of Alumni, Faculty and Students of Williams College. 10 October-15 November 1958.

Notices of meetings, classes, performances and lectures:
Art and Technique of Wood Engraving--class taught by John DePol at University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1985
King Library Press--apprenticeship opportunity
Jose Limon and Dance Company
Hugh Palmer lecture
Paper & Book Intensive, Texas 1993
South Street Seaport Museum schedule of school programs 1993-4

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Miscellaneous:
    Book Craftsmen Associates--card and notice of new address
    Winterthur Gift Certificate

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[In Mss Oversize Box 19 ]
Exhibitions of work by DePol:
    Rochester Institute of Technology--May and June, 1988.
University of Alabama--January 15 through February 25, 1989.
University of Iowa--November and December, 1993.

Notices of lectures, workshops by DePol:
South Street Seaport--November 3, 1982. Workshops.
South Street Seaport--November 2, 1983. Workshops.

2. Christmas cards
   a. Titled

"Commerce Street, Showing New York's Narrowest House"
"Domjulien, Haute Vosges, France"
"Eighth Street from MacDougal Alley"
"The 'Eleuthera House', Lyford Cay, Bahamas"
   "Evening at Deepdene; an essay by Frederic W. Goudy, a Wood-engraving by John DePol.
Card of the Lanston Monotype Company.
"The Gate to St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, Eire"
"GI Stove" Signed.
"In Northern Ireland"
"The Lower Hudson River from the Erie Pier in Hoboken"
"The Mark Twain House"
"The Monastery at Parey-sous-Montfort, Haute Vosges, France"
"The Monastery Church, Parey-sous-Montfort, Haute Vosges, France"
"Monastery--Parey-sous-Montfort--Haute Vosges"
"The Nativity"
"The Old Distillery at Ballyronan, Northern Ireland"
"Old-fashioned Christmas"
"Old Type Cases and Composing Stick"
"Printers' Composing Room"
"The Railroad Station, Park Ridge, New Jersey" Inscribed to Dr. Frank Piskor.
"The Square, Belfast, Northern Ireland". Signed.
"Station on the Ninth Avenue Elevated"
"The Virgin of Guadalupe, Mexico"

3. Untitled

3. Illustrations for books

   [The information in these annotations was provided by John DePol]

1. Christopher Columbus by Charles Bertin

5. Father Abraham by William Faulkner
   Random House, 1984. Illustrations: two full page (Melee and Encounter); chapter opening in two colors; three half page (horses, trees, and clothesline) with two spots (birds). Copyprints of New York Times and Fine Print articles.[See bound volumes for the book itself.]
6. *Fisherman of Galilee* by Aileen Fisher  

7. *Four Stories* by Alexander Pushkin  

8. *The Life of Dante*  

   John C. Winston Co., 1959. For a dust jacket.


11a. *Stories of Liam O'Flaherty.*  

12. [In Mss. Oversize Box 19]  
    *Under Open Sky: Poets on William Cullen Bryant.* Edited by Norbert Krapf.  

    Michigan State University Press, 1956. Eight illustrations from the original fourteen, printed for Ken Milford. [See accompanying letter.]

14. 4. *Menus* [arranged chronologically]  
   - Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, Inc. 10/14/55  
   - Society of American Graphic Artists 40th anniversary dinner. 4/12/56  
   - Ninth annual printing week banquet. 1/14/58.  
   - International League of Antiquarian Booksellers dinner. 9/25/59.

15. 5. *Portraits*  
   - "Dante Alighieri, 1265-1321, Italian Poet" for the magazine Horizon  
   - "John Archer--America's First Medical School Graduate" for University of Pennsylvania [Pickering Press]  
   - "Sir Francis Bacon, 1561-1626, English Philosopher and Lord Chancellor" for the magazine Horizon
"John Baskerville, 1706-1775, English Typographer" for Pickering Press
"Samuel Colt"
"Charles Dickens, 1812-1870"
"Tolbert Lanston, 1844-1913, Inventor"
[Dr. Robert Lincoln Leslie on his 100th birthday] for the Typophiles and the New York Club of Printing House Craftsmen. Signed.

Series for Lycoming College, Williamsport PA:
"The Lycoming Asbury--a portrait of Francis Asbury, 1745-1816"  
"The Lycoming Thomas Coke--a portrait of Thomas Coke, 1747-1814"  
"The Lycoming Charles Wesley--a portrait of Charles Wesley, 1707-1788"  
"The Lycoming Wesley--a portrait of John Wesley, 1703-1791." Signed.

"Mrs. Samuel Wesley
"Philippe Pinel, 1745-1826, French Physician" for Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, Philadelphia
"Edgar Allan Poe, 1809-1849"
"Paul Revere, 1735-1818, Craftsman and Patriot"
"Elton Stephens" for Steve Miller, U. of Ala. Signed. 11.15.93/LX.
"Noah Webster, 1758-1843" at the Thistle Press [Clarke & Way, Inc.] for the N.Y. Public Library.

6. Buildings

  Bucknell University
    Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library
    Daniel C. Roberts Hall
    Observatory
  Connecticut College
    Plant House. Signed edition limited to 165.
    Domjulien, Haute-Vosges, France. Signed. 1971 10/140
    Factory District, Belfast
  Fairleigh Dickinson University
    The Library. Signed edition limited to 225.
    Francis A. Countway, Esq. of Boston
    Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine
    Lahey Room
    Stairwell
  Javelin House
  Juniata College
    The Cloisters
    Ellis Hall
    Founders Hall
    L.A. Beeghly Library
    Oller Hall
    Swigart Hall
  Phillips Exeter Academy
  St. Thomas Church, New York
  Susquehanna University
    The Library and Landes Gateway
  Ulster Railroad Station
  Williams College
    Chapin Library in Stetson Hall
7. Illustrations relating to printing

Iron Hand Presses [all signed]:
- Columbian Press 12/July 1987/50
- Couillard Press 10/28/87/70
- Foster Press 29 August 1987/50
- Hohner Press, for Neil 6/18/93/XL
- Ruggles Press 29 August 1987/50
- Rust Washington Press 10/28/87/70
- Ruthven Press 2-16-88/65
- Stanhope Press August 1986/110
- Tufts Press 29 August 1987/50
- Union Press 12 July 1987/50
- Wells Press 12 July 1987/50
Old Printing Office
Wooden Hand Presses [all signed unless otherwise indicated]
- Ben Franklin's Press. Unsigned.
- Common Press. 1982/150
- Franklin's Press 10/20/90/XL
- Goodman Press Mar.1991/LXX
Press at Landis Valley Museum, Lancaster, Penna. For APHA Journal 28. 6/15/92/L

8. Keepsakes [In Mss Oversize Box 19]


"Five Homes of the Yale University Press to bring you New Year's greetings on our Fiftieth Anniversary, 1908-1958"
[Mergenthaler Linotype Company--to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the invention of the linotype machine.] April, 1961.
Noah Webster, 1758-1843. Printed (belatedly) at the Thistle Press in honor of Webster's Anniversary and the completion of the Skeel-Carpenter Bibliography of the Writings of Noah Webster for the New York Public Library. Signed.


20 Pandick Press keepsakes

21 Typophile keepsakes
   Martin Antonetti. For Typophiles meeting on December 15, 1993. Accompanied by proof signed "For the typophiles, Christmas 1993. 12.8.93/XL"
   La Casa del Libro. For Typophiles meeting on June 16, 1993. Accompanied by proof signed "Casa del Libro/Typophiles. 6.3.93/L"
   Edward Colker. For Typophiles meeting on June 17, 1992.
   David Pankow. For Typophiles meeting on March 17, 1993.
   Michael Peich. For Typophiles meeting on September 15, 1993.
   Stephen Stinehour. For Typophiles meeting on September 25, 1991.

22 U.S. Banknote Corporation Keepsakes
   The Lower Hudson River from the Erie-Lackawanna Pier in Hoboken. October, 1975

2 23 9. Miscellaneous

   [Baby in cradle]. For Caitlin James. Signed. 10/6/93/30
   [Four quotations in different type faces with two wood engravings] Signed.
   "Hudson River Waterfront"
   [Man and woman reading together]. For Pentagram Press. Signed. 7/14/93/XL
   The Meeting of the Waters of Hudson & Erie. Broadside printed at Bowne & Co., South Street Seaport Museum.

2 23 Old Flask. Signed.
   The President's Report to the Alumni of Yale University, 1956-57. Cover illustration by DePol.
   Red Ozier Press items

B. Works in Periodicals


C. Monographs

1. Individual titles

Between - Hours Press
The Christmas Tree Auction
Father Abraham
A Franklin Calender
The Ghost Ship
How to Build a Poor Man's Morgan Library
In Appreciation
My Two Oxfords
Places + Things
Printing : Then and Now
The Seasons
The Symbols
Three Wise Men from the West
A Visit from St. Nicholas
William Bulmer and the Shakspeare Press
Years of Twenty

2. Ben Franklin Keepsakes [shelved at the end of the collection]


1975 Admiral Franklin ? Yes, Admiral Franklin
1967 Apology for Printers
1955 Art of Virtue
1966 Articles of Belief (signed)
1956 B. Franklin, 1706-1790
1961 B. Franklin - Innovator (signed)
1960 B. Franklin - Inventor
1957 B. Franklin, Wit
1983 Benjamin Franklin: Anecdotes and Eulogies
1982 Benjamin Franklin: The Diplomat
1974 Benjamin Franklin: Printer at Work
1981 Benjamin Franklin: The Printer at Work
1970 Le Bon Docteur Franklin. The Toast of Paris
D. Correspondence

II. MATERIAL ABOUT JOHN DEPOL

[Arranged chronologically]