

Modern Fine Printing Collection Collection Development Policy

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I. Introduction

The Modern Fine Printing Collection is a part of the History of Printing Collection. The collection provides support to BYU programs in history, graphic arts, English, editing, and related areas, as well as to researchers, faculty and visiting scholars. It also complements other portions of the History of Printing Collection by showing the modern application of earlier printing and publishing techniques.

Modern fine printing stands within the tradition of the best printing since earliest times, emphasizing high quality materials (often including handmade papers) and workmanship (often including hand binding and usually including hand presswork) and often including original artwork, in contrast to machine produced books. Fine press books and ephemera are usually issued in limited editions of 100-400 or less. The period covered by the modern fine press movement includes the late nineteenth century revival of fine printing (including William Morris and the Kelmscott Press, the Doves Press, and the Ashendene Press) and continues into the twenty-first century.

A complete list of presses that have been collected will be found at <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/cataloging/department-manual/catalog-records/3-4-instructions-and-policies/3-4-5-special-collections-cataloging-policies/3-4-5b-list-of-presses-in-the-fine-print-collection/>

II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

The Curator of Fine Presses; this position may be shared by more than one curator.

III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The Modern Fine Printing Collection collects examples of the best modern fine printing of all types, but emphasizes:

- Literary works, especially works of new or little-known authors
- Works about books and book production
- Works produced by certain classes of presses
 - Utah or LDS printers, including
 - Tryst Press
 - Red Butte Press
 - Grant Dahlstrom
 - Presses in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific regions, including
 - Press of the Palace of Governors
 - Barbarian Press
 - Press at Colorado College

- Student programs, including
 - Scripps College Press
 - University of Alabama (Parallel Editions)
- Prominent North American fine presses and publishers of fine printing, including
 - Grabhorn, Hoyem, and Arion Press
 - Bird & Bull Press
 - Book Club of California
 - Limited Editions Club
- Works produced by or featuring the work of prominent artists working in book-related media (e.g., wood engraving, lithography), including the work of
 - Barry Moser
 - Gaylord Schanilec
- Presses important to the history of fine printing, including
 - Kelmscott Press
 - Doves Press
- Selected works produced in other parts of North America, in Western Europe (especially England), and elsewhere
- Works of regional interest, including those treating the West, and travel literature about Utah and surrounding states

IV. Priorities and Limitations

a. Priorities

i. Areas of Specialization

- Utah and regional presses
- Works about books and book arts (such as wood engraving, etc.)
- Presses important to the history of fine printing from the late 19th century fine press revival to the present, including individual presses and artists as outlined above under Scope and Focus (III)

b. Limitations

Artists' books, or *livres d'artiste*, are books that tend to push the boundary of what a book is (at the extreme, they can sometimes only be described as "book-like objects"), and the emphasis is usually on "artist" rather than "book." While Special Collections does collect some examples of these in the Modern Fine Printing Collection, we do not collect them extensively.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

The fine press collection seeks to support undergraduate and graduate-level teaching and research in history, graphic arts, English, editing, and related areas.

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Collected at a research level: Fine printing.

ii. Physical Format

Collected at a research level: Monographs, serials, and ephemera.

iii. Date

Collected at a research level: Late 19th century to the present.

iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a research level: United States and Great Britain.

Collected at a representative level: Fine printing from other areas of the world.

v. Subject Emphasis

See above under Scope and Focus (III)

As delineated there, collected at the research level.

vi. Languages

Most fine printing is in English, but language is not a collection development consideration.

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

The Curator of Fine Presses may present a proposal to deaccession material to the Harold B. Lee Library's Special Collections Coordinating Committee. Materials may be deaccessioned if they do not comply with this collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Individuals

The Curator of Fine Presses collaborates with other Special Collections curators to acquire fine printed materials which fall under the scope of their collecting areas.

VIII. Revisions

Collection Development Policy for the Modern Fine Printing Collection in Special Collections (Jan. 12, 2007)