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Spring 2009

Modern American Poets and Their Printers

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Recommended Citation

Dickinson, Sally, "Modern American Poets and Their Printers" (2009). *Watkinson Publications*. 14.
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/exhibitions/14>



Modern American Poets and Their Printers

An Exhibition at the Watkinson Library

February 2 to June 15, 2009

The Raether Library and Information Technology Center
Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut

A YOUNG BIRCH



ROBERT FROST

Modern American Poets and Their Printers

*I too, dislike it: there are things that are important
beyond all this fiddle.*

*Reading it, however, with a perfect contempt for it, one
discovers in it after all, a place for the genuine.*

So begins Marianne Moore's poem in which she explores the values of poetry. Moore was part of a tremendous flowering of creativity in the arts that was linked to modern life and, more specifically, new ways of writing poetry in the 20th century. This exhibition focuses on a selection of poets who broke away from the Romantic traditions of the 19th century. It also explores the independent, literary publishers who printed innovative writing because it was their passion. The exhibition begins with the expatriate writers in Paris of the 1920's, who exuberantly lived and wrote in an avant-garde style, making it difficult for them to get work published by established firms. Instead, they were befriended, supported and printed by small publishers dedicated to helping new voices be heard. One of the printers of the expatriates was William "Bill" Bird, a Trinity graduate, who eventually sold his collection of these writers to the college. Similarly, the Beat poets of the 1950's and 60's and other independent American poets of the 70's and after have been published by small literary presses.

Many of the presses in the exhibition shared the desire to print the work of promising yet largely unknown writers, an approach requiring a discerning ear for poetry and a willingness to take risks. Some of the presses were even run by the poets themselves. Other selections in the show are by established poets published in special editions by major fine printers, such as the Robert Frost holiday cards produced at the Spiral Press. And finally, toward the end of the century, some printers ventured into work that married text and image in a collaborative effort between artist, printer and poet.

Checklist

Publishing in Paris—the 1920's

1. Robert McAlmon, 1896-1956. **A Hasty Bunch.**
[Paris: Contact Editions, 1922]. First edition.
Inscribed: "To Bill Bird from Bob McAlmon, Seville, June 2, 1923."
2. Ernest Hemingway, 1899-1961. **Three Stories & Ten Poems.**
Paris: Contact Publishing Co., 1923. First edition. 300 copies printed.
Copy 1 is the author's autographed presentation copy to William Bird, annotated by Bird.
Copy 2 has the original printed wrappers.
3. William Carlos Williams, 1883-1963. **Spring and All.**
Paris: Contact Publishing Co., 1923. First edition.
"Printed at Dijon by Maurice Darantiere, M.CM.XXIII."
4. **Contact Collection of Contemporary Writers.**
Paris: Contact Editions, Three Mountains Press, 1925.
"Printed at Dijon by Maurice Darantiere, M.CM.XXV."
Bookplate: William Bird, Paris.
5. **Printer's Notice from Three Mountains Press**
6. Ezra Pound, 1885-1972. **Indiscretions, or, Une Revue de Deux Mondes.**
Paris: Three Mountains Press, 1923.
Copy is no. 118 of 300. Hand printed at Paris by William Bird, amateur printer, with the collaboration of Roger Dévigne. *Indiscretions* was the first book printed at the Three Mountains Press.
7. Ernest Hemingway, 1899-1961. **In Our Time.**
Paris: Printed at the Three Mountains Press and for sale at Shakespeare & Company ..., 1924. First limited edition.
Copy is no. 66 of 170. Woodcut portrait by Henry Strater.
"to robert mcalmon and william bird publishers of the city of paris ... this book is respectfully dedicated."
8. Ezra Pound, 1885-1972. **Imaginary Letters.**
Paris: The Black Sun Press, 1930.
Copy is no. 266 of 350. "This first edition printed ... under the supervision of and for Caresse Crosby ... to be sold at the bookshop of Harry F. Marks ... New York City and at the Black Sun Press, Paris."

9. Ezra Pound, 1885-1972. **A Draft of XVI Cantos of Ezra Pound.**
Paris: Three Mountains Press, 1925.
90 copies printed. Copy 1 is copy E on Japan paper, signed Ezra Pound.
Copy 2 is no. 58 of 70 on Roma paper with variant binding.
10. Laura (Riding) Jackson, 1901-1991. **Twenty Poems Less.**
Paris: Hours Press, 1930. First edition.
“200 copies of this book [were] set by hand and privately printed
on a hand-press. Each copy has been signed by the author.”

Publishing in London—the 1920’s

11. Marianne Moore, 1887-1972. **Poems.**
London: The Egoist Press, 1921. First edition.
Printed red and black wrappers. Inscribed by the author: “Mr. H.B.
Collamore’s copy of *Poems* Marianne Moore, April 8, 1952.”
12. Marianne Moore, 1887-1972. **The Pangolin and Other Verse.**
London: The Brendin Publishing Co., 1936.
120 copies printed at the Curwen Press, Plaistow, London. Drawings
are by George Plank. Inscribed: “For Mr. Bacon Collamore, signed
with considerable wonder! Marianne Moore, November 7, 1953.”

The Beat Poets

13. Lawrence Ferlinghetti, 1919- **Pictures of the Gone World.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, c1955, 16th printing.
Pocket Poets series, No. 1.
14. Allen Ginsberg, 1926-1997. **Howl and other Poems.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, c1956, 20th printing.
Pocket Poets series, No. 4.
From the collection of Robert Kirschbaum.
15. Denise Levertov, 1923-1997. **Here and Now.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1957.
Pocket Poets series, No. 6.
16. Gregory Corso, 1930-2001. **Gasoline.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, c1958, 12th printing.
Pocket Poets series, No. 8.

17. Allen Ginsberg, 1926-1997. **Kaddish and Other Poems, 1958-1960.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, c1961, 13th printing.
Pocket Poets series, No. 14.

18. Frank O'Hara, 1926-1966. **Lunch Poems.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, c1964, 3rd printing.
Pocket Poets series, No. 19.

19. Bob Kaufman, 1925-1986. **Golden Sardine.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1967.
Pocket Poets series, No. 21.

20. Allen Ginsberg, 1926-1997. **The Fall of America: Poems of These States, 1965-1971.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1972.
Pocket Poets series, No. 30.

21. **City Lights Journal.**
San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1963-1978.
No. 1-2. Lawrence Ferlinghetti, editor.

22. Allen Ginsberg, 1926-1997. **Howl: for Carl Solomon.**
San Francisco: Grabhorn-Hoyem, 1971.

23. Allen Ginsberg & Richard Eberhard, 1904-2005. **To Eberhart from Ginsberg: A Letter About Howl, 1956.**
Lincoln, Mass.: Penmaen Press, 1976.

Copy is no. 107; signed by the authors. Relief etchings by Jerome Kaplan.

24. Imamu Amiri Baraka, 1934- **Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note.**
New York: Totem Press in association with Corinth Books, 1961.
First edition.

25. Diane di Prima, 1934- **L.A. Odyssey.**
New York: Poets Press, 1969. First edition.

Printed in an edition of 100 signed, numbered copies.
Cover by George Herms.

The 1970's

26. Creeley, Robert, 1926-2005. **Mary's Fancy.**
New York: Bouwerie Editions, [1970]. First edition.
No. 13 of 100 signed copies. Rubberstamped and photographed by William Katz. "[*Mary's Fancy* was] written at the house of the same name January 13th, 1970 on Saint Maartens in the Dutch West Indies."
27. Robert Creeley, 1926-2005. **Thirty Things.**
Los Angeles: Black Sparrow Press, 1974. First edition.
Monoprints by Bobbie Creeley.
28. Edward Dorn, 1929-1999. **Gunslinger.**
Los Angeles: Black Sparrow Press, 1970, c1968.
29. Diane Wakoski, 1937- **Greed, Parts 5-7.**
Los Angeles: Black Sparrow Press, 1971.
30. Diane Wakoski, 1937- **The Magellanic Clouds.**
Los Angeles: Black Sparrow Press, 1971.
31. Diane Wakoski, 1937- **Smudging.**
Los Angeles: Black Sparrow Press, 1972.
32. Ntozake Shange, 1948- **For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide, When the Rainbow Is Enuf.**
San Lorenzo, Calif.: Shameless Hussy Press, 1975. First edition.

K.K. Merker and the Windhover Press

33. W. S. (William Stanley) Merwin, 1927- **Signs: A Poem.**
Iowa City: The Stone Wall Press, 1971.
Graphics by A.D. Moore.
34. Charles Olson, 1910-1970. **Charles Olson in Connecticut: Last Lectures, as heard by John Cech, Oliver Ford, Peter Rittner.**
Iowa City: The Windhover Press, 1974.
35. Charles Wright, 1935- **Colophons: Poems.**
Iowa City: The Windhover Press, 1977.
36. Dana Gioia, 1950- **Daily Horoscope.**
Iowa City: The Windhover Press, 1982.
200 copies printed; signed by the author.
Linoleum cut by Thomas Kovacs.

37. Warren Slesinger, 1933- **With Some Justification: Nine Poems.**
Iowa City: The Windhover Press, 1983.
38. **Letter from Kim Merker to Trinity College Library**
39. James Laughlin, 1914-1997. **The Deconstructed Man.**
Iowa City: Windhover Press, 1985.
Illustration from: Vesalius' *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*.
40. Joseph Duemer. **The Light of Common Day: Eleven Poems.**
Iowa City: Windhover Press, 1986.
41. Jeffrey Harrison. **The Singing Underneath: Ten Poems.**
Iowa City: Windhover Press, 1986.
Illustrated by Jeremy Harrison, the author's brother. Designed and printed by Candie Jamerson, Cathleen Micheaels & Renee Sager under the instruction of Kim Merker.
42. Robert Dana, 1929- **Blood Harvest.**
Iowa City: The Windhover Press, 1987.
43. James Tate, 1943- **Bewitched: Four Poems
(pirated in a way) from the Works of James Tate.**
Iowa City: Windhover Press, 1989.
Illustrated by Kim Merker.
44. Gregg Hodges. **A Music.**
Iowa City: Windhover Press, 1990.
Woodcuts by Bridget O'Malley.
45. Kathleen Peirce, 1956- **Divided Touch, Divided Color: XII Poems.**
Iowa City: Windhover Press, 1995.
Woodcuts by Peggy Fitzgerald. Binding designed by Pamela Spitzmueller.

Biography/Special Editions

46. Una Jeffers, 1884 or 5-1950. **Where Shall I Take You To: The Love Letters of Una and Robinson Jeffers.**
Covelo, Calif.: Yolla Bolly Press, 1987.

47. Donnan Call Jeffers. **The House That Jeffers Built.**
Covelo, Calif.: Yolla Bolly Press, 1993. 2 v.
Copy is no. 116 of 175.
48. Denise Levertov, 1923-1997. **The Double Image.**
Waldron Island, Wash.: Brooding Heron Press, 1991.
49. Marianne Moore, 1887-1972. **Eight Poems.**
New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1962.
Copy is no. 30 of 195; signed by the author & artist.
Hand-colored drawings by Robert Andrew Parker.
50. Marianne Moore, 1887-1972. **A Face.**
Cummington, Mass.: Printed at the Cummington Press, 1949.

Marianne Moore Keepsakes:

51. **Silence**
52. **A Talisman**
Cambridge, Mass.: Lowell House Press, Harvard Yard, 1965.
Gift of H. Bacon Collamore.
53. Hart Crane, 1899-1932. **Voyages: Six Poems from *White Buildings*.**
New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1957.
Copy is no. 681 of 975; signed by the artist. Designed, illustrated and printed by Leonard Baskin at the Gehenna Press, Northampton, Massachusetts. The first printing of *White Buildings* was by Boni & Liveright, 1926.

Recent Fine Printing

54. José Montoya, 1932- **El Sol y los de Abajo.**
Sherman Oaks, Calif.: Ninja Press, 1992.
Copy is no. 179 of 195. Drawings by the poet.
55. Stewart, Susan (Susan A.), 1952- **The Elements: A Poem.**
Wallingford, Pa.: ELM Press, 2002.
Copy is no. 35 of 45. Lithographs by Enid Mark.
56. Rene Ricard, 1946- **Trusty Sarcophagus Co.**
New York – Rome: Inanout Press, 1990.
From the collection of Robert Kirschbaum.

57. Tess Gallagher. **The Valentine Elegies: Poems.**
Fairfax, Calif.: Jungle Garden Press, 1993.
200 copies designed, printed and bound by Marie C. Dern.
Drawings by Carl Dern.

Verse into Type: The APHA Poetry Portfolio.
American Printing History Association, 2006.

58. Deborah Garrison. **I Saw You Walking.**
New York: The Oliphant Press, 2006.
59. Mary Karr. **A Blessing from my Sixteen Years' Son.**
New York: The Oliphant Press, 2006.

The Spiral Press and the Robert Frost Holiday Greetings

60. Robert Frost, 1874-1963.
Holiday greetings series printed by Joseph Blumenthal
and the Spiral Press over the years 1929, 1934-1962:
1934. **Two Tramps in Mud Time.** Inscribed: "To H.B. Collamore
from his friends Elinor and Robert Frost."
1935. **Neither Out Far nor in Deep.** Woodcut by J.J. Lankes.
1937. **To a Young Wretch.** Woodcut by J.J. Lankes.
1938. **Carpe Diem.** (The year of Elinor Frost's death)
1939. **Triple Plate.** First edition. Decorations by Fritz Eichenberg.
1944. **An Unstamped Letter in Our Rural Letter Box.**
First edition.
1945. **On Making Certain Anything Has Happened.**
First edition. Decorations by Armin Landeck.
1946. **A Young Birch.** First edition. Woodcuts by Joseph Low.
1947. **One Step Backward Taken.**
1948. **Closed for Good.** First edition.
Wood-engravings by Thomas W. Nason.
1949. **On a Tree Fallen Across the Road.**
Inscribed "To Charles Green ..." by Frost.
1950. **Doom to Bloom.** First edition.
Wood-engravings by Fritz Eichenberg.
1951. **A Cabin in the Clearing.** First edition.
Decorations by Leo Manso.
1952. **Does No One but Me at All Ever Feel this Way in the Least.**
First edition. Illustrated by Howard Cook.
1953. **One More Brevity.** First edition. Drawings by Philip Grushkin.
Inscribed: "To Charles Green Librarian Emeritus from Robert Frost
as of obligation."

- 1954. **From a Milkweed Pod.** First edition. Wood-engravings by Thomas W. Nason.
- 1955. **Some Science Fiction.** First edition. Decorations by Philip Grushkin.
- 1956. **Kitty Hawk.** First edition. Woodcuts by Antonio Frasconi.
- 1957. **My Objection to Being Stepped on.** First edition. Wood-engravings by Leonard Baskin.
- 1958. **Away!** First edition. Wood-engravings by Stefan Martin.
- 1959. **A-Wishing Well.** First edition. Wood-engravings by Thomas W. Nason.
- 1960. **Accidentally on Purpose.** First edition.
- 1961. **The Wood-Pile.** Wood-engravings by Thomas W. Nason.
- 1962. **The Prophets Really Prophecy as Mystics, the Commentators Merely by Statistics.**

Broadsides

- 61. Clare Rossini. **To the Lilac Bush.**
West Hartford: Stone Dragon Press, 2006.
250 copies printed. Woodcut by Jenni Freidman.
From the collection of Clare Rossini.

American Poets Broadsides.

Cambridge, Mass.: Pomegranate Press, 1972-1975.

- 62. William Stafford, 1914-1993. **Lines for a Girl Named Rosy.**
- 63. Archibald MacLeish, 1892-1982. **Silence.**
- 64. John Crowe Ransom, 1888-1974. **Cloak Model.**
- 65. May Swenson, 1919-1989. **Questions, Answers.**
- 66. Louis Aston Marantz Simpson, 1923- **Mexican Woman.**
- 67. Michael Casey, 1947- **My Brother-in-Law and Me.**
- 68. John Logan, 1923- **Poem for a Very Young Drinking Buddy in Albuquerque.**

Editorial support was provided by Jeffrey Kaimowitz, Head Librarian, Watkinson Library, Peter Knapp, College Archivist, and Kenney Withers, past Director of the University of Southern Illinois Press. The checklist was designed by Rita Law. Publication of this checklist was made possible through the support of the Trinity College/Watkinson Library Associates Fund.

The exhibition was curated by Sally S. Dickinson,
Special Collections Librarian, Watkinson Library.

Unless otherwise noted, items on display
were selected from the H. Bacon Collamore,
Charles R. Green, William Bird and
general collections of the Watkinson Library.



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