

**THE JOHN DEPOL COLLECTION**  
**MSS. 19**  
1.75 ft

**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
  
- II. Exhibition materials and correspondence**

# JOHN DEPOL COLLECTION DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

## I. WORKS BY DEPOL

### Box 1 Folder 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:

Ram's Head Gallery. Wood engravings of John DePol. August 9, 1958.  
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  
Club of Odd Volumes--January 1958 meeting. John DePol speaker.  
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

#### Miscellaneous:

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

### Folder 2 Christmas cards, 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.



Press of Appletree Alley, 1986.[Barnard C. Taylor, proprietor]Illustrations: title page, First Island, Second Island, Third Island, three half-page illustrations and portrait vignette. Copyprint of prospectus.

- 1 11 *My Two Oxfords* by Willie Morris.  
Blackwell North America, Inc. 1993.Two two-color illustrations: Oxford, England, and Oxford, Mississippi. [See bound volumes for the book itself.]
- 11a *Stories of Liam O'Flaherty*.  
Devin-Adair Company, 1956. [Information from the piece, not from DePol]  
"The Wedding" from "Two Lovely Beasts." Signed. 1950/65. Accompanied by photocopy of the book's review in the NEW YORK TIMES, illustrated with the same engraving.
- 12 *The Yalu Flows* by Mirok Li.  
Michigan State University Press, 1956.Eight illustrations from the original fourteen, printed for Ken Milford. [See accompanying letter.]

### **Folder 13 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.

### **Folder 14 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.

## Folder 15

### 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.  
Harvard Medical School. Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine. 1965.  
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  
The Library. 1993. Signed.  
St. Thomas Church, New York  
Susquehanna University  
The Library and Landes Gateway  
Ulster Railroad Station  
Williams College  
Chapin Library in Stetson Hall

## Folder 16

### Illustrations relating to printing

A Book's Many Forms. Illustration for front cover of APHA Journal 17. Signed and limited to 100 copies.  
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  
Kelmescott Goudy Press [Note by John DePol: without Liberty Bell]. February 1984/25.  
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  
Johann Gutenberg [Note by John DePol: for Harold Berliner]. 7/25/86/110.Signed.  
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

## Folders 17-22      Keepsakes

- 17 "Five Homes of the Yale University Press to bring you New Year's greetings on our Fiftieth Anniversary, 1908-1958"  
Johann Gutenberg's Printing Press; hypothetical reconstruction. Keepsake from an exhibition to celebrate the rise and spread of printing at the Pierpont Morgan Library, printed at the Stone House Press. Limited edition of 150 copies with facsimile signature.  
"John DePol blows out eighty candles while engraving a block." Birthday tribute to John DePol printed at South Street Seaport Museum for the Typophiles, September 15, 1993. Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Six wood engravings in honor of the sesquicentennial: 1812-1962.  
[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.  
Theatre of Liberty: Boston's Old State House. Booklet by Sinclair and Catherine F. Hitchings containing a loose engraving by John De Pol. To commemorate the Centennial of the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, 1875-1975.
- 18 Pandick Press keepsakes  
Faneuil Hall. September, 1977.  
Intersection. September, 1978.  
The Old Manse. July, 1977.  
The Portland Head Lighthouse. August, 1977.
- 19 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.  
Tribute to Robert M. Jones, Typophile, 1913-1993. A reproduction of his 1963 typophiles keepsake, reduced somewhat from its original size and printed from a line engraving at the Yellow Barn Press by Neil Shaver as a Typophiles keepsake for Christmas 1993. Accompanied by photocopy of text from festschrift.  
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.
- 20 U.S. Banknote Corporation Keepsakes  
Homeward Ferry. July, 1975.  
Hudson River Pier. November, 1974.  
Washington Irving. August, 1974.  
The Lower Hudson River from the Erie-Lackawanna Pier in Hoboken. October, 1975  
John Marshall, "The Great Chief Justice," 1755-1835. September, 1974  
Noah Webster. September, 1974.  
West Side--Manhattan. November, 1975.  
West Side Market--Demolition. July, 1974.

## **Box 2 Folder 21 Miscellaneous**

[Baby in cradle]. For Caitlin James. Signed. 10/6/93/30  
[Candlestick with lighted candle]. For Neil Shaver. Signed. 11/15/93/20.  
"The Fan Light Doorway; the Hunt-Morgan House; Lexington, Kentucky".  
Notecard. Signed.  
Floating Crap Game. Signed. 3/1958. Ed. 145  
[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.

Old Flask. Signed.  
The President's Report to the Alumni of Yale University, 1956-57. Cover illustration  
by DePol.  
Red Ozier Press items  
A Show of Hands; Variations on a Pressmark by John DePol. Loose plates in a folder  
from Glad Hand Press. "Woolsthorpe". Notecard.

## **Folder 22 Works in Periodicals**

Hyman, Sidney, comp. "The Presidency as Seen by Presidents," New York Times,  
Sunday magazine section, July 8, 1956, pp. 10-11. Illustrations by DePol.  
O'Faolain, Sean. "St. Patrick's Day: Thoughts about Ireland," New York Times,  
Sunday Magazine section, March 11, 1956. Two illustrations by DePol.  
"Recent Acquisitions," Syracuse University Library Associates Courier, Spring,  
1992, p. 160. Illustration by DePol.  
"Wood Engraving--An Art Revived," NYPEN News, November-December, 1958, pp  
[1-2]. Three illustrations by DePol.

### **Monographs, 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*

## **Folder 23 Correspondence**

## **Folder 24 Material about John DePol**

**Box 3****Ben Franklin Keepsakes**

Ben Franklin series "published as a souvenir of The Celebration of Printing Week in New York, 1957 the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, Printer. Contains engravings by John DePol.

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*  
1959 *Don't Give Too Much for the Whistle*  
1976 *"The Dream" "Benjamin's Dream" and "Benjamin Bicentennial Blast"*  
1979 *Franklin and Women*  
1971 *Franklin of Philadelphia in London*  
1962 *Franklin Was There*  
1980 *How George Washington Got His Gunpowder*  
1977 *My Dear Girl*  
1978 *My Dear Girl II*  
1958 *On True Happiness*  
1972 *A Quart of Oysters*  
1973 *Sheep Will Never Make Insurrections and Some Other Bon Mots...*  
1968 *Silence Dogood Letter*  
1969 *A Silence Dogood Letter II*  
1987 *Thirty* (a selection from the 30 titles which comprise the Benjamin Franklin keepsakes)  
1964 *What Good Is a Newborn Baby?*  
1965 *What Is Serving God?*

**Box 4****JOHN DEPOL EXHIBITION MATERIALS**

John DePol's New York, an Exhibition, South Street Seaport Museum, 1998  
Making a Wood Engraving, An Exhibition: Harper Collins Publishers, 1997  
Three Etchings: Exhibition at Farleigh Dickinson University, 1997  
A Time for Recollection, 1998  
Arthur W. Rushmore and the Golden Hind Press  
An Exhibition of Irish Prints at the Morristown Library, 2000  
About the First Wood Engraving I had Made and, in 1947  
By His Own Labor: The Biography of Dard Hunter, by Cathleen Baker  
Franklin Keepsakes



## Oversize Materials

Exhibitions of work by DePol:

Connecticut College--May through June, 1991.

Phillips Exeter Academy--June 26 through September 30, 1992.

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:

Bucknell University--September 28, 1989. Lecture.

Mills College--November-December, 1987. Lecture and workshop.

South Street Seaport--November 3, 1982. Workshops.

South Street Seaport--November 2, 1983. Workshops.

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts. The 175th Anniversary of its Founding, 1812-1987. Signed.

Beginnings of the Petroleum Industry in Pennsylvania. Keepsake from the Hamilton Division of Security-Columbian Banknote Company on the eve of the centennial of the founding of the petroleum industry in Pennsylvania in 1859. [Note by John De Pol: Printed from original blocks and facsimile signed.] For the Friends of the Book Arts at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Keepsake for a reunion and a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Ruthmae and John Anderson, Maple Shade, NJ, October 17, 1986.

Iowa's Most Famous Barn. Keepsake for meeting of the letterpress craft and its enthusiasts at the Foolproof Press, Minburn, Iowa, June 11, 1988. Signed.

*Under Open Sky; Poets on William Cullen Bryant.* Edited by Norbert Krapf.

Stone House Press, [Roslyn NY] 1986. Title page spread. Signed by John De Pol.