
Title: Blaine Lewis, M.D. Papers
Date Span: 1914 – 2000
Extent: 6.5 linear feet ; 7 boxes
Language(s): English
Copyright:

Description:

In 2009 the contents of Dr. Blaine Lewis’ letterpress print shop was purchased, from his daughter Susie Owens, by a group of western North Carolina letterpress printers. Dr. Lewis had died several years earlier. The type, presses, cabinets and other printing equipment were divided up among the new owners and put to good use in their individual print studios.

In the packing and removal of the print shop from Dr. Lewis’ basement a number of documents were discovered tucked into drawers, file cabinets, and out-of-the-way locations. The papers were in no particular order. They included many examples of Dr. Lewis’ printing, documents relating to his library of fine print books, and exchanges with other printers and printer organization. Michelle Francis and her husband, Hal Keiner, were two of the individuals in the group who purchased the print shop. At the time, they were both employed as archivists and in that capacity volunteered to bring the papers to their home in Asheville, NC to be organized and later returned to Dr. Lewis’ daughter or, with her consent, to an appropriate repository.

Michelle Francis is responsible for the current organization of the papers. Since the documents were in such a disorganized state a simple alphabetical subject file was created for Boxes 1–4. Boxes 5–7 contain miscellaneous material that needs further work. The materials in Boxes 1–4 were placed in new acid-free folders and then into used archival record center cartons (which should be replaced). The entire collection would benefit from further organization. The initial processing was meant only to
bring enough order to chaos that the value of the collection could be determined and access to its contents provided.

Blaine Lewis was of a generation of amateur printers – many self-taught and many highly skilled. They were interested in the preservation and execution of the craft of letterpress printing and were, for the most part, not commercial job printers. Dr. Lewis printed many of the brochures and meeting programs associated with the various Louisville and Kentucky medical associations he belonged to. As a member of several national printer associations, he printed materials that were part of exchanges that took place among the members of those groups. The collection contains printing examples from fine press printers, such as Lenard Bahr (Adagio Press) and Paul Haden Duensing; as well as a number of passionate, lesser known amateur printers. The collection not only documents Dr. Lewis’ body of work as a printer; but, also gives an important glimpse into the work of others during this important transition period from commercial letterpress printing to what has become a respected art form, in and of itself.

Blaine Lewis’ press was called the Innominate Press and a folder by that name contains several printed historical sketches of the Press. Other information about the founding and work of the Innominate Press can be found in the folder, “It’s a Small World.” Biographical information about Dr. Lewis, including several 1960s era Polaroid snapshots of him in his print shop can be found in the folder, “Biographical and Photos.”

Michelle Francis
Give-A-Hoot Press
Asheville, NC
2013

Susie Owens had previously donated some of Dr. Lewis’s papers to the Kornhauser Library. Kathie Johnson, an archivist there, transferred materials related to printing to the Art Library. When I eventually received 7 boxes of materials from Michelle Francis, I integrated the two collections and produced this version of the finding aid.

Gail Gilbert
Art Librarian
2014
Box 1

1. Abecedarian
2. The Press of the Nightowl
   d. Card dated 1967 from Dwight E Agner to Blaine Lewis.
3. Albert, Ray Allen
4. Alpha Kappa Kappa
5. Amalgamated Printers’ Association
   a. Assorted handouts and ephemera from annual APA meetings
6. American Typecasting Fellowship
   a. Assorted handouts and ephemera from annual ATF meetings
7. American Type Founder
   a. Suggested price list for 1971
8. Anecdotes, Jokes, etc.
a. Cards and notes from Frank J. Anderson

10. Atherton Christmas Cards

11. Babcock, Alfred

12. Babcock, Ralph

   b. Printmaking and typesetting examples from Adagio Press.
   c. Printmaking and typesetting examples from Adagio Press.
   d. Christmas cards from Leonard Bahr to Lewis.
   e. Printmaking and typesetting examples from Adagio Press.


   a. Typesetting catalogs, Christmas cards and invoices from Harold Berliner’s Typefoundry.

16. Biographical and Photos
   a. Ashland Senior High School diploma 1937.
   b. University of Louisville Doctor of Medicine diploma 1943.
   c. List of graduates Univ. of Louisville school of medicine, 1943.
   d. Kentucky State Board of Health diploma, 1944.
   e. State of Texas, Board of Examiners in the Basic Sciences certificate, 1951.
   h. Identification cards from various organizations and clubs.
   i. 10 photographs of Dr. Lewis in his print-shop.

17. Blaine Lewis, Sr.
   a. Advertising blotters for Blaine Lewis Sr.

18. Blue’s Little Grotto

   a. Christmas cards from F. Earl Bonnell

20. Book Marks

21. Book Plates

22. Book Prospectus

23. Books Ordered by Dealer A–B

24. Books Ordered by Dealer C

25. Books Ordered by Dealer D–F
26. Books Ordered by Dealer G

Box 2

1. Books Ordered by Dealer H–K
2. Books Ordered by Dealer L–S
3. Books Ordered by Dealer T–Z
4. Books ordered – lists
5. Broadsides
7. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – Ben Dey images
8. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – College images
9. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – Engraving contracts
10. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – Miscellaneous I
11. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – Miscellaneous II
12. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – Other printer’s/publishers brochures I
13. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – Other printer’s/publishers brochures II
14. Bush–Krebs Co. – Printing Samples – Patriotic images
15. Business Cards
17. “Chap–Book, Bands and Borders”
21. Christmas Cards and Greetings; No Date, 1970s
22. Christmas Cards Received from Companies
23. Christmas Cards Received from individuals
24. Christmas Poems
25. Cleveland ATF Type Sales
26. Clippings
27. Cohen, Herman (Chiswick Book Shop)

Box 3

1. Correspondence
2. Craw, Freeman
3. Crescent Hill Woman’s Club
4. Dale Guild Type Foundry
5. Davis & Geck, Inc.
6. Detroit Type Foundry
8. The Dickson Company
9. Dietch, Alan
11. Duensing, Paul Haden
12. Duensing, Paul Haden
13. Eager, Fred and Joanne
14. Falls City Bindery
15. “Festival of Fine Print”, 1977
16. Fick, Al and Alma
18. The Foster Manufacturing Company
19. Fusfeld, Robert D. and Rosella H.
20. Globe Printers Supply
21. Graham Paper Company
22. Greenlee, Robert G., 4
23. Greer, David F.
24. Greeting Cards
25. Harmon, J. Hill, Whippoorwill Press
26. Hancock, J. Duffy, “The Big Four”
27. “Handy Pocket Guide for the Trivialist”
29. Hardy, Thomas, “The Oxen”
30. Haywood, William
31. Heft, Caren, The Arcadian Press
32. Hitt, John Y.
33. Hopkins, Richard and Lynda, Hill & Dale Private Press and Type foundry
34. Hudson, Bill
35. Hunter, Dard, “Papermaking by Hand in American” [photocopy]
36. Hutchinson, Willis and Dorothy Gale
37. Innominate Press, “ABC”
38. Innominate Press, “Book as Art”
40. Innominate Press, “Bruce Rogers Ornaments”
42. Innominate Press, History of
43. Innominate Press, Miscellaneous and Unidentified
44. Innominate Press, “My Star”
45. Innominate Press, “Ornamenta”
46. Innominate Press, “Papermaking”
47. Innominate Press, “Printers Protest” and “Souvenir de la Guerre”
49. Innominate Press, Type and Ornament Samples
50. Innominate Press, “Type Inventories, Orders, etc.

Box 4

1. The Innominate Society of Louisville
2. The Innominate Society of Louisville
4. Jefferson County Chapter, Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians
   a. Programs for the Annual A.O. Good Dinner and Lecture for ’77.
5. Jefferson County Medical Society
   a. Copy of Bylaws; and these items printed by Lewis for which I have dups if you want them: Hobby and Talent Show 1960, "A Doctor as a Person” 1965, “The Physician as a person” 1980, Monte Carlo Night, 1977
6. Kentucky Calligraphers Gild
7. Kentucky Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Society
   a. Programs for ’70, ’75, ’77, ’79
8. Kentucky Surgical Society, No Date and 1950–2001 (5 folders)
9. King Library Press
10. Kingsley ATF Type Corporation
11. Lieberman, Ben and Elizabeth, Herity Press
12. Letterpress Printed Forms, etc.
13. Lord’s Prayer Type
15. Louisville Society of Internists
16. Louisville Society of Medicine
a. Constitution and Bylaws; postcards announcing meeting and programs
17. Louisville Surgical Society
18. Louisville Surgical Society, 1957–1959
23. Machinery Manuals
24. MacKenzie & Harris, Inc.
25. McDowell House and Apothecary
26. McGrew, Mac, Press of the Licorice Cat
27. Methodist Evangelical Hospital
28. Miscellaneous Presses and Type Foundries

Box 5

1. Miscellany and Keepsakes
2. Midwest Printer’s Supply
3. Moitoret, Victor A.
5. NA Graphics
7. Out of Sorts Letter Foundry
9. Peat, David, Letterpress Calendars,
11. Phi Delta Epsilon National Convention, 1967
13. Printed Items, most likely by Lewis
14. Printing Samples – unknown source
15. Recipes
16. Rimmer, Jim
17. Robb–Smith, A. H. T.
19. Savage, Toni and Harris, Patricia, Offcut Press
20. “Selections”
21. Sheldon, Gale
22. Segal, Harold
24. Southern Surgeons Club
25. Spencer, Leonard and Alnora, Gladstone Press
27. St. Anthony Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky
28. St. Joseph Infirmary
29. Stephenson Blake and Company, Ltd.
30. T. J. Lyons Memorial Press, “Treasure Gems”
31. The Twombly Press
32. Trans-Atlantic Competition, Short Story Category
33. Transylvania Medical Society
34. Turnbaugh Printers Supply, Co.
35. Twin Quills Press
36. Type and Press
37. Typecrafters
38. Typefounders of Chicago
39. Typography Catalogs
41. The Underground Tractarian Society

Box 6

1. University of Louisville, Department of Surgery, Residents’ Dinner
2. University of Louisville, Kornhauser Health Sciences Library
3. University of Louisville, Miscellaneous
6. Warner, Jake, Boxwood Press
7. Wasserman, Rosanne, “Pomes by Zanne”
8. Wesson, Sheldon and Helen
9. Woman’s Auxiliary to the Jefferson County Medical Society
10. Woman’s Auxiliary to the Kentucky Medical Association
11. Woman’s Auxiliary of St. Joseph’s Infirmary
12. Printing examples by Dr. Blaine Lewis
13. Printing examples by Dr. Blaine Lewis
14. Printing examples by Dr. Blaine Lewis
15. Printing examples by Dr. Blaine Lewis
16. Christmas Cards 1960–1979 by Dr. Blaine Lewis
17. Christmas Cards 1980–2000 by Dr. Blaine Lewis
18. Four 9.25”x 6.25” scrapbooks compiled by Dr. Lewis

Box 7

1. Broadsides from various presses and advertising sheet probably printed by Lewis.
2. 31 Printing blocks, for Midget Knight and the Innominate Press.
3. University of Louisville Golden Alumni award