

# Woodcut Society Collection (SC45)

## *Introduction*

This collection consists of the majority of special edition folio woodcut prints commissioned twice a year by the Woodcut Society of Kansas City in the 1930s and 1940s. The collection also includes pamphlets, catalogues, member circulars, and publications relating to the society and its operations.

## *Descriptive Summary*

Title: Woodcut Society of Kansas City

Dates: 1932-1945 and n.d.

Size: 1.25 linear feet, 2 boxes

Collection Number: SC45

## *Donor Information*

Originally acquired by the library for the Art and Music Department.

## *Citation Note*

Woodcut Society of Kansas City Collection (SC45), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## *Administrative Information*

Related Collections: Additional information and publications regarding the Woodcut Society of Kansas City are available in Missouri Valley Special Collections local history collections. See pages 3-4 for a listing of these materials.

## *Biographical/Historical Sketch*

The Woodcut Society of Kansas City, Missouri was started by H. Alfred "Fred" Fowler in 1932. Fowler was born in Paola, Kansas in 1889 and came to Kansas City when he was two years old. He grew up in the grain business and started his own grain firm, the Fowler Commission Company, in 1928. Along with his grain business, Fowler also cultivated interests in publishing and the arts. He has been described as a book collector, bookplate connoisseur, authority on woodcuts, and the editor and publisher of over a dozen titles. Additionally, he served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Bookplate Society. Fowler had offices in the Board of Trade and Dwight buildings in Kansas City, and resided at Tranquility House at 3730 Jarboe before moving to Alexandria, Virginia. The Woodcut Society continued to issue prints after Fowler left Missouri, but it how long it operated for is unknown. Alfred Fowler died in 1959.

***Scope and Content Note***

This collection includes folios of prints commissioned by Alfred Fowler for the Woodcut Society. The majority of the prints are in black and white, but a few are in color. Each artist used a block to make 200 prints by hand. The prints were sent to Fowler who placed them in a folio folder and printed a brief article about the artist on the facing page. These folios were then issued to Woodcut Society members. Membership in the society was international in scope and included the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. It is believed that the Kansas City Public Library was one of the original 200 society members. Fowler kept the printing blocks and planned to donate them to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

The collection also contains pamphlets, catalogues, and circulars produced by the Woodcut Society for its members and customers.

The collection is arranged by size, type of material, and date where possible.

***Collection Inventory*****Series 1: Woodcut Society pamphlets, catalogues, and circulars, 1932-1945 and n.d.**

- f. 1 The Story of the Woodcut Society pamphlet, n.d.
- f. 2 The Woodcut Society pamphlets, n.d. (3)
- f. 3 Catalogue Raisonné of the Woodcut Society, 1932-1940
- f. 4 Catalogue Raisonné of the Woodcut Society, 1932-1940
- f. 5 Catalogue Raisonné of the Woodcut Society, 1932-1940
- f. 6 Catalogue Raisonné of the Woodcut Society, 1932-1942
- f. 7 Catalogue of the First Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Woodcuts, 1933
- f. 8 Catalogue of Publications of the Woodcut Society, n.d. (3)
- f. 9 Woodcut print order forms, n.d.
- f. 10 Publications of the Woodcut Society, 1933-1935
- f. 11 Member circulars, 1934-1945

**Series 2: Woodcut prints, 1932-1941**

- f. 12 *Southern Scene* and *Vista Lake* prints, 1932
- f. 13 *St. Francis Preaching to the Birds* and *Phantoms* prints, 1933 and 1934
- f. 14 *Upland Pastures* and *Pheasant and Wisteria* prints, 1934 and 1935
- f. 15 *Manuel of Tesuque* and *The Lost Archer* prints, 1935 and 1936
- f. 16 *Midsummer Vermont* and *Morning* prints, 1936 and 1937
- f. 17 *The Last Trumpet* and *Repose* prints, 1937 and 1938
- f. 18 *The Stock Yard* and *The Forest Pool* prints, 1938 and 1939
- f. 19 *Down Montgomery Way (Vermont)* and *Black Stallion* prints, 1940
- f. 20 *Fox* and *Laguna Cove* prints, 1941

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### ***Related H. Alfred Fowler Publications***

The following materials are available for viewing in Missouri Valley Special Collections.

- The Bookplate Booklet, edited by H. Alfred Fowler, v. 4, March 1911 - December 1911. *MVSC 087 B724*
- Gothic Book-plates, published by H. Alfred Fowler, 1912. *MVSC Q 087 R95*
- The Ex Libran, edited by H. Alfred Fowler, v.1#1 - #4, plus advertising supplement, 1912. *MVSC Q 087 E96*
- The Biblio - edited by H. Alfred Fowler, v.1#1, March 1913 - v.1#4, December 1913. *MVSC 087 B58*
- Lincolniana Book Plates and Collections, published by H.A. Fowler, 1913. *MVSC 92 L736ZF*
- Theatrical Bookplates by A. Winthrop Pope, published by H. Alfred Fowler, 1914. *MVSC 087 P82*
- The Miscellany, edited by H. Alfred Fowler, v.1#1 - v.3#4, 1914-1916, v.1 and 2 published in Kansas City, v. 3 in Cleveland, Ohio. *MVSC 087 M67*
- The First Year Book, American Bookplate Society, Kansas City, 1915. *MVSC 087 B72 1915*

- A Descriptive Catalogue of the Bookplates Designed and Etched by George W. Eve, R.E....by George H. Viner, The American Bookplate Society, Kansas City, 1916. *MVSC 087 V78*
- A Directory of Bookplate Artists with Notes Concerning Their Work, Alfred Fowler, Kansas City, 1919 and 1921. *MVSC 087 D59*
- A Catalogue of Bookplates Designed by Stanley Harrod (The Bookplate Brochures Series Number One), Alfred Fowler, Kansas City, 1919. *MVSC 087 H32*
- The Second Year Book 1920, American Bookplate Society, Kansas City, 1920. *MVSC 087 B72 1920*
- The Bookplate Chronicle, edited by Alfred Fowler, v.1#1, January 1920 - v.2#10, April, 1925. *MVSC 087 B725*
- Bookplates by Henry J. Stock, R.I. by James Guthrie, Alfred Fowler, Kansas City, 1920. *MVSC 087 G98s*
- J.J. Lankes: Painter-Graver on Wood by Bolton Brown, Alfred Fowler, Kansas City, 1921. *MVSC 761 B87*
- The Bookplate Annual For 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, edited by Alfred Fowler, Kansas City, Missouri. *MVSC Q 769.52 B724*
- Bookplates for Beginners by Alfred Fowler, Kansas City, 1922. *MVSC Q 087 F78*
- The Golden Galleon, (First issues called The Galleon) Alfred Fowler, Kansas City, v.1#1, January 1924 - v.2#3, Summer, 1925. *MVSC 810.8 G61*
- The Romance of Fine Prints, edited by Alfred Fowler, The Print Society: Kansas City, 1938. *MVSC Q 760 F78R*

**Reprocessed by Special Collections Librarian Kate Hill, February 2013.**