King Lear Archive

Preparatory Materials for an Illustrated Edition of King Lear



Rare Book and Special Collections Division Library of Congress Washington, D.C. 1999

Contact information: <u>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbc.contact</u>

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Finding Aid Prepared by Meredith Shedd-Driskel

Finding aid encoded by Special Materials Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, 1999 Revised 2005-05-12

Collection Summary

Title: King Lear Archive, Dates: 1984-1986 Call No.: Z232.J36 K56 1984 Creator: Van Vliet, Claire. Extent: ca. 965 items Language: Collection material in English Location: Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/92162930 Summary: Preparatory materials for an edition of Shakespeare's *King Lear* published by Theodore Press with illustrations printed at the Janus Press.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Alpert, Michael. Lear, King of England (Legendary character)--Drama. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616. King Lear. 1986. Van Vliet, Claire

Organizations

Janus Press. Janus Press. King Lear Archive (Library of Congress) DLC Theodore Press.

Subjects

Book design--United States--History--20th century--Sources.

Form/Genre

Artists' proofs. Book designers' mock-ups (Publishing) Corrected proofs (Printing) Wood blocks. Woodcuts.

Occupations Book designers--Vermont.

Provenance

Purchase from Joshua Heller Rare Books, 31 Jan. 1991.

Access and Restrictions

The records of the King Lear Archive are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Rare Book and Special Collections Division reading room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Cite as: King Lear Archive, Rare Book and Special Materials Division, Library of Congress.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of woodcuts, drawings, correspondence, proofs, book designers' mockups, and woodblocks for an edition of Shakespeare's *The Tragedie of King Lear* published by Theodore Press in 1986 with illustrations by Claire Van Vliet. The publication is based on the 1623 first folio text of the play, and was produced in a limited edition of 160 copies, each signed by Claire Van Vliet. The woodcuts include several proofs of each illustration, most of which are images of characters in the drama. The collection also includes preliminary pencil drawings for each of the woodcuts, as well as a complete set of the original wood blocks. Correspondence relating to all aspects of the project during 1985 and 1986 is chiefly by Claire Van Vliet, founder of Janus Press, and Michael Alpert, owner of Theodore Press. The collection was assembled and arranged by Claire Van Vliet.

Organization of the Papers

Organized in 13 containers: 1-5. Woodcuts; 6. Drawings; 7. Letters; 8. Trial proofs; 9. Dummies; 10. Corrected proofs; 11. Paste-up; 12. Mock-up; 13. Wood blocks.

Container List

Container	Contents
	Woodcuts
CONTAINER 1 FOLDER 1	Gonerill
COMMINER I FOLDER I	(6 items)
FOLDER 2	Regan
FOLDER 2	(11 items)
FOLDER 3	Cordelia
FOLDER 5	(19 items)
FOLDER 4	Lear
TOLDER 4	(35 items)
FOLDER 5	Gonerill & Regan
FOLDER J	(14 items)
FOLDER 6	Edmund
FOLDER	(12 items)
FOLDER 7	Fool
FOLDER /	(12 items)
FOLDER 8	Lear Enraged
FOLDER 0	(8 items)
CONTAINER 2 FOLDER 9	Gloucester angry
CONTAINER 2 FOLDER 9	(6 items)
folder 10	Gloucester grief
FOLDER 10	(21 items)
FOLDER 11	Kent in stocks
FOLDER II	(2 items)
FOLDER 12	Lear commanding Gloucester
FOLDER 12	(22 items)
FOLDER 13	Lear "How is that?"
TOEDER 15	(6 items)
folder 14	Cruel Gonerill
TOLDER 14	(15 items)
FOLDER 15	Cruel Regan
TOEDER 15	(19 items)
folder 16	Lear in the Storm
TOEDER TO	(14 items)
CONTAINER 3 FOLDER 1	
CONTAINER 5 FOLDER I	(11 items)
FOLDER 18	The Storm
FOLDER 10	(4 items)
folder 19	Gloucester seized
	(5 items)
FOLDER 20	Gloucester blinded
I OLDER 20	(3 items)
FOLDER 21	Edgar finds blind Gloucester
FULDER 21	(25 items)
	(23 1101115)

Container List

FOLDER 22 Curran and Gonerill (9 items) FOLDER 23 Cordelia searching for Lear (29 items) FOLDER 24 Curran and Regan (7 items) FOLDER 25 Dover (8 items) FOLDER 25 Dover (18 items) FOLDER 26 Mad Lear (7 items) FOLDER 27 Lear recognizes Gloucester (13 items) FOLDER 28 Cordelia kisses sleeping Lear (3 items) FOLDER 28 Cordelia kisses sleeping Lear (9 items) FOLDER 29 Lear awakens (19 items) FOLDER 30 Edmund (6 items) FOLDER 31 Lear takes Cordelia to prison FOLDER 32 The Sisters (2 items) FOLDER 33 Gonerill and Regan dead (5 items) FOLDER 34 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 35 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 34 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 35 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 36 Lear dying (9 items) FOLDER 36 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 36 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 37 Gonerill and Regan dead (3 items) FOLDER 36 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 37 Gonerill and Regan dead (3 items) FOLDER 36 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 37 Gonerill and Regan dead (3 items) FOLDER 36 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 37 Gonerill and Regan dead (3 items) FOLDER 36 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 37 Gonerill and Regan dead (3 items) FOLDER 36 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 37 Gonerill and Regan dead (3 items) FOLDER 38 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 39 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FOLDER 30 Cordelia and Lear (3 items) FO	Container	Contents
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FOLDER 4 MacGregor, Katie, 1985	FOLDER 4	
(17 items)		
FOLDER 5 Van Vliet, Claire, 1984-1986	FOLDER 5	
(53 items)		
FOLDER 6 W. Thomas Taylor (Firm), 1985-1986	FOLDER 6	
(9 items)		(9 items)

Container List

Container	Contents
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FOLDER 7	"A-Z" miscellany, 1985, n.d.
	(7 items)
CONTAINER 8	Trial Proofs
	(95 items)
	Xeroxed copy of Nonesuch edition of King Lear, with annotations in pencil and ink
	(51 items)
	Xeroxed copy of Norton facsimile of First Folio edition of King Lear with annotations in pencil
	(27 items)
	Trial proofs
	(17 items)
container 9	Dummies
	(32 items)
	2 sheets of paper folded into 72 rectangles with text and illustrations indicated
	(1 item)
	Sample sheet of "Joanna Western Buckram"
	(1 item)
	Two reduced xeroxed paste-ups with preliminary pencil sketches for illustrations, in paper chemises, one with 12 numbered signatures; the second with 12 numbered and 3 unnumbered signatures
	(27 items)
	Miniature flat mock-up of binding (birch board and pigskin) (1)
	(1 item)
	Two full-size samples of birch binding boards, one decorated and one plain (2)
	(1 item)
container 10	Corrected proofs
	(86 items)
	Proofs
	(68 items)
	Notes from Lorene Burman (proofreader) to Michael Alpert with pages
	(6 items)
	Letters written by Lorene Burman to Michael Alpert
	(12 items)
CONTAINER 11	Paste-up
	Bound volume with 39 woodcuts pasted in
CONTAINER 12	Mock-up
	Miniature mock-up of bound volume in case
CONTAINER 13	Wood blocks
	(42 items)

Bibliography

Fine, Ruth. *The Janus Press, 1981-1990: Catalogue Raisonné.* Burlington, Vt.: University of Vermont Libraries, 1992. Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedie of King Lear.* Bangor: Theodore Press, 1986. Taylor, W. Thomas. "Claire Van Vliet's Janus Press," *American Craft* 47 (February/March 1987): 52-59.