

Bookplate Collection

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California State University, Los Angeles

5151 State University Drive

Los Angeles, California 90032-8300

<http://www.calstatela.edu/library/>

2019

Descriptive Summary

Title: Bookplate Collection

Dates: 1772-1937

Collection Number: 2015.010

Creator/Collector:

Extent: 5.42 linear ft.

Repository: California State University, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California 90032-8300

Abstract: Bookplates, or ex libris, are labels with a printed design intended to show ownership, usually pasted inside the front cover of a book. Sizes of bookplates vary from folio to very small. They are printed on white or colored paper, vellum, or leather. Bookplates are produced by various means such as woodcut, wood engraving, line engraving, etching, lithography, and modern photographic reproduction. The custom originated in Germany around the 15th century by Albrecht Dürer. Many different types of bookplates exist. The early ones represented armorial types that consisted of a simple shield. In the 17th century, bookplates contained more elaboration of cartouche like shields, encircled by wreaths, festoons, and ribbons. In the 18th century, the appearance of carved work emerged surrounding the shield. Overall, countries varied in their designs. In Germany, designs tended to be purely simple, while in France they were more decorative. France was also famous for allegorical bookplates during the mid-18th century. In the late 1700's, there was a return to a simpler, semi classical motif. Pictorial plates had also been used from comparatively early times. Toward the end of the 19th century, German designers began to include nude figures as a major motif of bookplate design. This fashion was followed in Europe and the United States as bookplates began to be adopted all over the world. In general, bookplates signify a reflection of history; emulating the influence of the eras in art, furniture, and architecture.

Language of Material: English

Access

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Preferred Citation

Bookplate Collection. California State University, Los Angeles

Scope and Content of Collection

Our collection of 1,530 bookplates contains a wide variety of designs, designers, and subject matter. The collection includes designs of universities and colleges, clubs and organizations, and Gothic designs by H. Alfred Fowler.

Indexing Terms

Designer

International

Library

Medical

ex libris

Bookplates

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