Guide to the Adrian Wilson Ephemera

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Guide to the Adrian Wilson Ephemera

Collection number: Wilson

The Book Club of California
San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Adrian Wilson ephemera
Dates: ca. 1947-1998
Collection number: Wilson
Creator: Wilson, Adrian
Repository: The Book Club of California
San Francisco, CA 94108
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
Adrian Wilson ephemera, Wilson, The Book Club of California, San Francisco, CA.

Biography / Administrative History
Wilson, Adrian Adrian Wilson (1923-1988) was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He attended Wesleyan University prior to WWII where he became a conscientious objector and joining the war resistance movement. During the war, he was interned at Camp Angel, Waldport, Oregon, where he met the poet William Everson and learned to print. After the war he and his new wife, Joyce Lancaster Wilson (1914-1996), settled in San Francisco and helped to form the Interplayers Theater and Adrian began his graphic arts career by designing extraordinary programs and posters. For a time, he worked with Jack Stauffacher at the Greenwood Press and he also worked a few years as a book designer at the University of California Press and after leaving their employment, he accepted commissions from them for many years. In 1959, Joyce and Adrian founded The Press in Tuscany Alley in San Francisco and soon Adrian was designing and printing fine limited editions, followed by many commissions for books and catalogs for university presses and art museums, including several volumes for the Book Club of California. Adrian and Joyce collaborated on several large projects, writing and designing scholarly works such as The Making of the Nuremberg Chronicle and A Medieval Mirror. In 1983, Adrian was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Prize. This allowed him to pursue his work as a craftsman, typographer, book designer, and scholar. Joyce wrote, designed, and illustrated several children’s books with her own wood blocks and linoleum cuts and continued to operate the press after Adrian’s untimely death in 1988.

Scope and Content of Collection
Four archives boxes containing 15 file folders

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Private presses--California
Printed ephemera
Letterpress printing
Press in Tuscany Alley
Wilson, Adrian
Wilson, Joyce Lancaster
Fine press--specimens

Box 1 , Folder 1  Biographical material on Adrian Wilson
Box 1 , Folder 2  Book Club of California
Box 1 , Folder 3  Campian Festival
Box 1 , Folder 3  Colophon Club
Box 1 , Folder 4  Exhibit announcements
Box 1 , Folder 5  General printing
Box 1 , Folder 6  Gleeson Library
Box 1 , Folder 7  Greeting cards
Box 2 , Folder 1  Joyce Lancaster Wilson
Box 2 , Folder 2  Keepsakes
Box 2 , Folder 3  Prospectuses
Box 2 , Folder 4  Personal materials
Box 2 , Folder 5  Roxburghe Club
Box 3  Interplayers
Box 4  Book fragments