
Book, Writing, and Photographic Artifacts collection

Finding aid prepared by Jessica Geiser, Collections Management Librarian, and Robin M. Katz, Primary Source Literacy Librarian.

Special Collections & University Archives

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Book, Writing, and Photographic Artifacts collection

Date (inclusive): circa 1840-2000

Collection Number: MS 417

Extent: 11.67 linear feet(11 boxes)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.

Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: The collection, created primarily as a teaching collection, consists of materials meant to be actively used to illustrate the history and techniques of various writing and print systems across the globe, including reproductions, souvenirs, and original specimens of printing and writing tools and instruments, as well as various formats of book and manuscript binding. The collection also includes examples of various photographic prints meant to demonstrate historical photographic processes. Materials in the collection were collected by Special Collections staff to aid with instruction on the history of the book and various writing, print, and photographic technologies and processes.

Languages: The collection is mainly in English, with some artifacts also containing writing in other scripts.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright Unknown: Some material in this collection may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction, and/or commercial use, of some materials may be restricted by gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing agreement(s), and/or trademark rights. Distribution or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. To the extent other restrictions apply, permission for distribution or reproduction from the applicable rights holder is also required. Responsibility for obtaining permissions, and for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [date if possible]. Book, Writing, and Photographic Artifacts collection (MS 417). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information

The collection was created by Special Collections staff over time through a variety of sources, some with unknown provenance.

Processing History

Processed by Jessica Geiser, Collections Management Librarian, and Robin M. Katz, Primary Source Literary Librarian, 2018.

Collection Scope and Contents

The collection, created primarily as a teaching collection, consists of materials meant to be actively used to illustrate the history and techniques of various writing and print systems across the globe, including reproductions, souvenirs, and original specimens of printing and writing tools and instruments, as well as various formats of book and manuscript binding. The collection also includes examples of various photographic prints meant to demonstrate historical photographic processes.

Materials in the collection were collected by Special Collections staff to aid with instruction on the history of the book and various writing, print, and photographic technologies and processes.

Items in the collection include early writing artifacts such as a cuneiform tablet, various seals, a wax tablet and samples of paper, papyrus and vellum; book formats such as a scroll, palm leaf manuscript, bamboo book, and printed books; and various printing techniques including moveable type, woodblocks, and various types of printing plates. The collection also includes two cased daguerreotypes.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following five series as follows:

- Series 1. Writing and printing surfaces, undated
- Series 2. Writing technologies, undated
- Series 3. Book formats, undated
- Series 4. Printing technologies, undated
- Series 5. Photographic processes, circa 1840-1860

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Book design -- History
Photography -- History
Printing -- History -- Origin and antecedents
Printing -- Specimens
Writing materials and instruments -- History

Genres and Forms of Materials

Paper (fiber product)
Daguerreotypes (photographs)
Papyrus (fiber product)
Printing Blocks (Printings Surfaces)
Printing Plates
Replicas

Series 1. Writing and printing surfaces undated

Series Scope and Contents

The series consists of various samples of writing surfaces, including paper, vellum, and papyrus. The papyrus samples also include some with writing, including Greek and Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

Series Arrangement

The series is arranged topically.

Box 1, Folder 1
Box 1, Folders 2-3
Box 1, Folder 4
Box 2, Items 1-3
Box 2, Item 4

Papyrus samples undated

Papyrus samples - Greek script undated

Papyrus samples - Egyptian hieroglyphs undated

Paper samples undated

Vellum sample undated

Series 2. Writing technologies undated

Series Scope and Contents

The series consists of various replicas of early writing tools and instruments, including Sumerian and Cuneiform tablets, wax and clay seals, and a wax tablet with a Roman stylus.

Series Arrangement

The series is arranged topically.

Box 2, Item 5
Box 3, Item 1
Box 3, Item 2
Box 3, Item 3
Box 3, Items 4-5
Box 3, Item 6
Box 3, Item 7

Parchment with three clay seals undated

Bulla impression from Hyksos period scarab seal undated

Sumerian pictographic tablet - Replica undated

Cylinder seal - Replica undated

Cuneiform envelope contract - Replica undated

Roman stylus - Replica undated

Wax tablet - Replica undated

Series 3. Book formats undated

Series Scope and Contents

The series consists of various examples and souvenir versions of different historic formats of books and manuscripts, including a bamboo book, palm leaf manuscript, a Chinese printed book, and a book with marbled edges and endpapers.

Series Arrangement

The series is arranged topically.

Box 4, Item 1

Papyrus scroll undated

Box 4, Item 2
Box 4, Item 3
Box 4, Item 4
Box 5, Item 1

Palm leaf manuscript - Unknown origin undated
***Art of War* bamboo book - Souvenir copy undated**
Book with marbled endpapers and edges undated
Book on the Han dynasty undated

Series 4. Printing technologies undated

Series Scope and Contents

The series consists of various samples of different printing technologies, including various types of printing plates, four Chinese woodblocks, a moveable type block and a piece of linotype.

Series Arrangement

The series is arranged topically.

Box 6, Item 1
Box 7, Item 1,
Box 10, Items 1-3
Box 7, Item 2
Box 8, Item 1
Box 8, Item 2
Box 9, Item 1
Box 9, Item 2
Box 9, Item 3

Chinese movable wood type undated
Chinese woodblocks undated

Copper photoengraving plate undated
Lithograph stone plate undated
Linocut plate undated
Stereotype printing plate undated
Woodcut undated
Linotype piece undated

Series 5. Photographic processes circa 1840-1860

Series Scope and Contents

The series consists of photographs that serve as examples of historical photographic processes.

Series Arrangement

The series is arranged topically.

Box 11, Item 1
Box 11, Item 2

Daguerreotype - Cased portrait of man circa 1840-1860
Daguerreotype - Cased portrait of woman [missing cover] circa 1840-1860