Guide to the Edmund B. Thompson / Hawthorn House Collection, ca. 1920s-1984

Collection number: Printers Mss 19

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Edmund B. Thompson / Hawthorn House Collection,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1920s-1984
Collection Number: Printers Mss 19
Extent: .8 linear feet (2 document boxes)
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010
Physical Location: Del Sur
Language: English.
Access Restrictions
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Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information

Biography
Edmund B. Thompson (1897-1974) began his career with William Edwin Rudge in the 1920s. In 1929 he joined Peter Beilenson as a partner in the Walpole Printing Office (New Rochelle) but in 1932, suffering from poor health, he moved to the quiet of Windham, Connecticut where he set up Hawthorn House in his home. There he and his wife set type by hand, printing for others and publishing Thompson’s own works such as A Printer's Common-place Book (1937).

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection contains material relating to Edmund B. Thompson and his printing career, mainly at his Hawthorn House (Windham, Connecticut). Included are checklists, correspondence, photographs, and printing specimens (mainly by Hawthorn House).

Additional copies of Hawthorn House imprints have been cataloged separately and can be searched on Pegasus, the UCSB Libraries online catalog.

Related Thompson/Hawthorn House material also may be found in the Hobart Oliver Skofield Collection (Printers Mss 1).

| Box 1: 1 | Biographical/Historical, n.d. |
| Box 1: 2 - 4 | Checklists, ca. 1960s-1984 |
| Box 1: 5 - 8 | Correspondence |
| Box 1: 5 - 7 | EBT - to/from Hobart O. Skofield, 1928 - 1973 |
| Box 1: 8 | Mrs. EBT [Jess] - to/from Hobart O. Skofield, 1974 - 1977 |
| Box 2: 1 | The Log - Willimantic State Teachers College, 1939 |
| | Abstract: [printed by Hawthorn House; photocopy] |
| Box 2: 2 | Meriden Gravure - facsimile of the 1809 A Specimen of Metal Ornaments, reproduced as a keepsake, n.d. |
| Box 2: 3 | Peter Pauper Press - Prospectus and “Beautiful Books” announcement, n.d. |
| Box 2: 4 - 6 | Printing Specimens, ca. 1920s-1940s |
| | Abstract: [announcements, bookplates, chapbooks, Christmas greetings, invitations, keepsakes, lists, prospectuses, and other examples of printing, mainly by Edmund B. Thompson] |
| Box 2: 7 | Rudge - Prospectus for Adventures in Americana, 1927 |
| Box 2: 8 | Type Founding in the United States - typescript essay, n.d. |
| Box 2: 9 | Walpole Society - printed sheets for the Walpole Society Notebook (1939 meeting) and other printed ephemera, ca. 1930s-1940 |
| Box 2: 10 | Photographs - mainly black/white prints of Hawthorn House, 1937 |