

# **Press of the Woolly Whale Collection CARCSC.023**

**Finding aid prepared by Sandra Markham**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

October 02, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Cary Graphic Arts Collection  
2010-2013  
RIT Libraries  
The Wallace Center  
90 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York, 14623  
(585) 475-2408  
skgtwc@rit.edu

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u> .....	5
<u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....	5
<u>Arrangement note</u> .....	6
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	6
<u>Related Materials</u> .....	7
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	7
<u>Book</u> .....	8
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	9
<u>Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941</u> .....	9
<u>Series II: Other Papers, 1933-1972</u> .....	24
<u>Oversize</u> .....	26

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Cary Graphic Arts Collection
<b>Creator</b>	American Institute of Graphic Arts.
<b>Creator</b>	Butler, Alban B., ((Alban Bernard)), b. 1891
<b>Creator</b>	Cary, Mary Flagler
<b>Creator</b>	Cary, Melbert Brinckerhoff, 1892-1941
<b>Creator</b>	Chappell, Warren, 1904-1991
<b>Creator</b>	Dwiggins, William Addison, (W.A.), 1880-1956
<b>Creator</b>	Goudy, Frederic W. (Frederic William), 1865-1947
<b>Creator</b>	Kredel, Fritz, 1900-1973
<b>Creator</b>	National Orchestral Association (U.S.).
<b>Creator</b>	Press of the Woolly Whale.
<b>Creator</b>	Van Vechten, George, d. 1962
<b>Title</b>	Press of the Woolly Whale Collection
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1928-1941
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1928-1972
<b>Extent</b>	3.0 Linear feet 9 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box

**Location note** Cary Stacks

**Language** English

**Language of Materials note** Majority in English, some in German.

**Graphic materials [Box]** 1-10

**Abstract** The Press of the Woolly Whale Collection primarily consists of ephemera issued by the Press of the Woolly Whale between 1928 and 1941, including prospectuses, booklets, invitations, broadsides, holiday cards, certificates, and programs, among other items.

**Preferred Citation note**

Press of the Woolly Whale Collection, Cary Graphic Arts Collection, RIT.

## Biographical/Historical note

---

The Press of the Woolly Whale was founded by Melbert B. Cary Jr. (1892-1941), a New York businessman and prominent figure in the fields of typography and private printing during the second quarter of the twentieth century. The press was in operation in New York City between 1928 and 1941 and produced limited edition volumes, works related to printing and typography, and a variety of ephemera that reflected the interests, professional relationships, and humor of Cary and his friends. Two exhibitions profiled the press's achievements: at the Grosvenor Library (now Buffalo and Erie County Public Library) in 1939, and Rochester Institute of Technology in 1972; the catalogs from those exhibitions contained bibliographies which were superseded by the press checklist published in Melbert B. Cary, Jr. and the Press of the Woolly Whale (Cary Graphic Arts Press, 2002). George W. Van Vechten Jr., the printer at the Press of the Woolly Whale, was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, attended Carnegie Institute of Technology, and died in Metuchen, New Jersey, in 1962, at age 55. He produced private and limited edition works for thirty-five years with Frederic W. Goudy at the Village Press, with Melbert B. Cary Jr. at the Press of the Woolly Whale, and from 1941 to 1962 at his own Van Vechten Press in Metuchen. Van Vechten's production files for certain of the Woolly Whale publications were acquired from the Chiswick Book Shop in 1972.

---

## Scope and Contents note

---

The Press of the Woolly Whale collection primarily consists of ephemera issued by the Press of the Woolly Whale between 1928 and 1941, including prospectuses, booklets, invitations, broadsides, holiday cards, labels, certificates, programs, etc., most of which were drawn from the stock of the press when it was donated in 1969 to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University; books printed by the press were also received but were cataloged separately. The collection is organized into two series: I. Publications and Production Files; and II. Other Papers. Series I, Publications and Production Files, is arranged according to David Pankow's bibliography in Melbert B. Cary, Jr. and the Press of the Woolly Whale (Rochester, 2002); the publications were listed chronologically, with ephemera following the major titles in each year. Accompanying some of the publications are production files kept by George Van Vechten Jr., the printer at the Press of the Woolly Whale. These files may include original and carbon typescripts, paper samples, title page designs, dummies, page proofs, corrected galleys, notes, receipts, and some correspondence with Cary, Frederic Goudy, and others. Some files also contain original drawings by Alban B. Butler, Warren Chappell, and Fritz Kredel; number 58, *The Treasure in the Forest*, has two original gouache paintings by W.A. Dwiggins, as well as a set of stencils he used to create one of the illustrations. Filed at the end of the series is a range of ephemera produced for the American Institute of Graphic Arts and National Orchestral Association. Mary Flagler Cary (Mrs. Melbert B. Cary Jr.) was president of the latter organization, and those items were not individually listed in Pankow's

bibliography. Series II, Other Papers, contains copies of the Buffalo and Rochester exhibition catalogs, obituaries for George Van Vechten Jr., a holiday card from Paul Wescott with a trade sign design for the press, and notes made by Mary Flagler Cary about press publications. Folders 175–178 were added to the collection in February 2013, as letters from Warren Chappell to Melbert B. Cary about Woolly Whale business had been found in another RIT Cary Collection location.

---

## **Arrangement note**

---

Press of the Woolly Whale Collection is arranged chronologically by Pankow bibliography number within Series I; and chronologically within Series II.

---

## **Administrative Information**

---

### **Publication Information**

Cary Graphic Arts Collection 2010-2013

### **Revision Description**

Encoded by Amelia Hugill-Fontanel 5/16/13

### **Legal Status note**

The Press of the Woolly Whale Collection is the physical property of the Melbert B. Cary Jr. Graphic Arts Collection, Rochester Institute of Technology Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns.

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open to researchers.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Gift of the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, 1969; purchases from Chiswick Bookshop, 1972; gifts from Judith Kredel Brown, Jerry Kelly, Robert L. Leslie, Mrs. L. Lee Stanton, and others.

Four folders of letters from Warren Chappell to Melbert B. Cary regarding Press of the Wolly Whale business were added to the collection from the Cary Collection's Ephemera Collection in 2013.

### **Processing Information note**

Collection processed by Sandra Markam, 2010.

Finding aid encoded by Amelia Hugill-Fontanel, May 2013.

---

## **Related Materials**

---

### **Cary Special Collections**

Melbert B. Cary Jr. Collection, 1895-1986, CSC 025 Continental Typefounders Association Scrapbooks, 1925-1936, CSC 024 Press of the Woolly Whale Visitor's Book, 1928-1941, CSC 022

---

## **Controlled Access Headings**

---

### **Genre(s)**

- Announcements
- Broad­sides (notices)
- Correspondence
- Dummies (printed matter)
- Ephemera
- Greeting cards
- Invitations
- Mock-ups
- Proofs (printed matter)
- Prospectuses (Bookselling)
- Stencils (tools)

## **Book**

---

D. Pankow et al. "Melbert B. Cary, Jr. and the Press of the Woolly Whale," Rochester, NY: RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press, 2002.



Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

## Collection Inventory

Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941	
	<b>Box-folder</b>
1. Le Chapeau Immortel 1928	7.154+
3. A Poem Written on the Occasion of the Wooden Wedding Anniversary of Mary & Melbert Cary, Jr., Dec. 7, 1928, broadside 1928	1.1
5. War 1928	1.2
6. Behind the Scenes at WEAJ on the Occasion of a Concert by Walter Damrosch 1929	1.3
7. Farewell Luncheon in Honor of Karl Hermann Klingspor 1929	1.4
8. The Press of the Woolly Whale. Anyone who is fortunate...holiday card 1929	1.5
<p>Dwiggins, William Addison, (W.A.), 1880-1956 10. Mademoiselle from Armentieres, Includes original drawings and stencils by W. A. Dwiggins 1930</p>	
Graphic materials	<b>Box- folder</b> 1.6-1.8
Graphic materials	<b>Box- folder</b> 7.155+

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

	<b>Box-folder</b>
11. Help! Request for Missing Verses of Mademoiselle from Armentieres, folder 1930	1.9
12. A Christmas Carol in Prose, announcement, Gift of Newark Public Library, 1970 1930	7.156+
13. Thou hast most traitorously corrupted..., broadside 1930	1.10
16. And It Came to Pass 1930	1.11
17. Knowledge and Faith 1932	7.157+
19. Poverty and Plenty 1932	1.12
20. The Scholar in a Troubled World, Gift of Robert L. Leslie, 1977 1932	1.13-1.16
21. The Sentimental Bloke 1932	1.17
22. A Modern Version of the Night before Christmas 1932	1.18
23. Specimen Pages Reprinted from Some of the Books Made at the Press of the Woolly Whale 1932	1.19
24. The Story of the Village Type 1933	
	<b>Box-</b>
	<b>folder</b>
Graphic materials	1.20
	<b>Box</b>

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

## Graphic materials

8

Chappell, Warren, 1904-1991 25. Digressions for the Traveller in England, Includes original drawings by Warren Chappell 1933

Graphic materials

**Box-  
folder**

7.158+

**Box-  
folder**

2.21-2.25

Graphic materials

**Box-folder**

26. Patriotism versus Welfare 1933

2.26-2.28

30. Bank Holiday Luncheon, folder 1933

2.29

31. Meine amerikanische Reise, folder 1933

2.30

32. Quinquennalia, 1928-1933; Fifth Birthday Party, Woolly Whale 1933

2.31

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Gift of Jerry Kelly, 1999

34. The Bastard King of England 1933

2.33

35. 25 Yrs.; A Dinner Will be Held..., broadside invitation 1933

2.34

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

2.35

36. Mr. and Mrs. Melbert B. Cary, Jr., request the pleasure..., invitation 1933

39. *Ars Typographica* 1, no. 4 1934

Graphic materials

**Box-  
folder**

7.159+

**Box-  
folder**

2.36-2.41

Graphic materials

**Box-folder**

3.42-3.45

39. *Ars Typographica* 1, no. 4 1934

40. Extract from the Enemies of Books 1934

3.46

41. Mademoiselle from Armentieres, vol. 2 1934

Graphic materials

**Box-  
folder**7.160 -  
7.161+**Box-  
folder**

3.47-3.54

Graphic materials

**Box-folder**

3.55-3.56

42. Warmest Greetings to Dr. Walter Damrosch, birthday greeting 1934

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

43. Mademoiselle from Armentieres, prospectus 1934	3.57
44. Gentle Reader..., order form 1934	1.58-1.59
45. <i>Ars Typographica</i> , prospectus 1934	2.60
46. <i>Ars Typographica</i> , order form 1934	2.61
48. The Early Art Training of B.R. at Purdue University 1935	2.62

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Rogers, Bruce, 1870-1957

49. Sir Frederic, flask in hand 1934	2.63-2.64
50. Patriotism versus Science 1935	

	<b>Box- folder</b>	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	4.65-4.66	
		<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials		7.162+

51. An Exhibition of the Work of Rudolph Ruzicka 1935
---

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

Graphic materials	<b>Box- folder</b>	7.163+
Graphic materials	<b>Box- folder</b>	4.67-4.69

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Ruzicka, Rudolph, 1883-1978

## 52. Jonah and the Woolly Whale Were Breakfasting 1935

Graphic materials	<b>Box- folder</b>	7.164+
Graphic materials	<b>Box- folder</b>	4.70-4.71

**Box-folder**

53. Merry Christmas from Two Mao Tzu, holiday card 1935	4.72
55. Some New Light on the Genesis of the Ampersand 1936	4.73
56. To the Yearly Meeting 1936	4.74-4.77

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

Dwiggins, William Addison, (W.A.), 1880-1956 58. The Treasure in the Forest  
(Drawings and Stencils by W. A. Dwiggins) 1936 4.78

59. Announcing a Typographic Divertissement by Mwano Masassi 1936 4.79

62. The First Days of the Village Press 1937

	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	4.80-4.81
	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	7.165+

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Corporate Name(s)

- Village Press .

#### Box-folder

64. Index [to War Cards] 1937 4.82

65. Announcement [for War Cards] 1937 4.83

66. Gabrilowitsch Memorial Concert, announcement 1937 4.84

67. May Meeting, 1937, The Club of Odd Volumes, invitation 1937 4.85

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

68. The Press of the Woolly Whale, broadside 1937

4.86

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Corporate Name(s)**

- Press of the Woolly Whale.

**Subject(s)**

- Private presses -- United States -- Periodicals

69. Excerpts from the Work of The Press of the Woolly Whale 1937

4.87-4.98

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Corporate Name(s)**

- Press of the Woolly Whale.

**Subject(s)**

- Private presses -- United States -- Periodicals

70. Devices from [& by] Many Typophiles 1937

4.90

71. Greetings, folder 1937

4.91



## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

## 72. A Bibliography of the Village Press 1938

	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	5.92
	<b>Box</b>
Graphic materials	8

**Controlled Access Headings****Corporate Name(s)**

- Village Press .

## Kredel, Fritz, 1900-1973 74. Schnitzelbank 1938

	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	5.93-96
	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	7.166+

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Gift of Judith Kredel Brown, 1987

**Box-folder**

## 75. A Bibliography of the Village Press, announcement 1938

5.92

Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

---

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Corporate Name(s)**

- Village Press .

76. A Bibliography of the Village Press, 1903-1938, announcement 1938

5.98

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Corporate Name(s)**

- Village Press .

77. Addenda to A Bibliography of the Village Press, folder 1938

5.99

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Corporate Name(s)**

- Village Press .

78. Village Press, keepsake 1938

5.100

79. In Memoriam: James Howell Post, 1859-1938 1938

---

**Box-  
folder**

Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

Graphic materials	5.101
	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	7.167+

**Box-folder**

81. Notes on Baleana Lanigera, 1928-1938 1938

5.101-5.102

82. The Savor of the Feast. 1938

5.104

Rogers, Bruce, 1870-1957 83. Progressive layouts for "On Dry-Cow Fishing," as  
Designed by Bruce Rogers 1938

5.105

84. May your Horizons be Bright with Future Happiness, holiday card 1938

Graphic materials

**Box-  
folder**

7.168+

**Box-  
folder**

Graphic materials

5.106

85. Willi's Wishful Thinking 1939

Graphic materials

**Box-  
folder**

7.169+

**Box-  
folder**

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

## Graphic materials

5.107-5.109

**Box-folder**

86. My Little Dachshund 1939	6.110
87. The Black Art 1939	6.111
90. Rules of the Library, broadside 1939	7.170+
91. Willi's Wishful Thinking 1939	6.112
92. To the Members of the Institute 1939	6.113
93. The Work of Bruce Rogers 1939	6.114

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Rogers, Bruce, 1870-1957

94. Some Facts Concerning the Invention of Printing 1939	6.115
95. The Club of Odd Volumes Presents an Exhibition 1939	6.116
98. The Missing Gutenberg Wood Blocks 1940	6.117

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

99. Gutenberg and the Strasbourg Documents of 1439, prospectus 1940	6.118
American Institute of Graphic Arts. 100. Extract from the News Letter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, prospectus 1940	6.119
101. Songs for a Printers' Wayz Goose 1940	6.120
102. Harsh Words 1940	6.121
103. There has just been distributed... 1940	6.122
104. A Miscellany, comprising those books... 1940	6.123
105. Take Heed, America 1941	6.124
106. A Technique for Dealing with Artists 1941	6.125-6.126
107. This House of Havoc 1941	6.127
Typophiles (New York, N.Y.) . 108. A Greeting to Frederic W. Goudy from All the Typophiles 1941	6.128

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Goudy, Frederic W. (Frederic William), 1865-1947

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

110. An Invitation to a Kaffeeklatsch circa 1935	6.129
111. The Oldest Stencil Known circa 1935	7.171+
Goudy, Frederic W. (Frederic William), 1865-1947 112. Other Publications Concerning Frederic W. Goudy circa 1935	6.130
113. Restauration circa 1935	6.131
114. The Press of the Woolly Whale Presents its Woolly Compliments circa 1935	6.132
115. Presenting Some Goudy Publications circa 1935	6.133
<b>Controlled Access Headings</b>	
<b>Personal Name(s)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goudy, Frederic W. (Frederic William), 1865-1947</li> </ul>	
116-122.1. The Institute of Graphic Arts ephemera circa 1939	6.134
123. You are Invited to Attend an Intimate Tasting 1935	6.135
124. The Oath of Hippocrates circa 1935	7.172+
125. Melbert B. Cary, Jr. circa 1935	6.136

**Controlled Access Headings**

## Series I: Publications and Production Files, 1928-1941

**Personal Name(s)**

- Cary, Melbert Brinckerhoff, 1892-1941

126. Ex Libris. Mary Flagler Cary circa 1935

6.137

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Cary, Mary Flagler

127-134. Press of the Woolly Whale, mailing labels and envelopes circa 1935

6.138

135. Collection of Paul H. Schmidt, bookplate circa 1935

6.139

136. Its friends may now find The Press of the Woolly Whale circa 1935

6.140

137-153. National Orchestral Association ephemera 1935-1940

7.173+

[no number] Title and contents pages for album for Harry Flagler 1934

6.145

[no number] Holiday cards for Anne and Harry Flagler circa 1935

6.146

[no number] Auxiliary Cutter Balkis, invitation 1933

6.147

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

**Series II: Other Papers, 1933-1972**

Gift of Mrs. L. Lee Stanton, 1979

[no number] The Scholarships Foundation 1938

	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	7.174+
	<b>Box- folder</b>
Graphic materials	6.148

**Series II: Other Papers, 1933-1972****Box-folder**

Exhibition catalog, Grosvenor Library, Buffalo, New York 1939	6.149
Exhibition catalog, Rochester Institute of Technology 1972	6-150
Mary Flagler Cary's notes on the Press of the Woolly Whale 1962-1963	6.151
Paul Wescott holiday card with design for press trade sign 1940	6.152
Obituaries for George Van Vechten 1962	6.153

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**



## Series II: Other Papers, 1933-1972

- Van Vechten, George, d. 1962

Proof sheets from 41. Mademoiselle, vol. 2 1934

8

### Conditions Governing Access note

Box 8 is restricted as the proofs are fragile.

Multiple uncut signatures from two publications: 24. The Story of the Village Type (1933), and 76. A Bibliography of the Village Press (1938) 1933-1938

9

Chappell, Warren, 1904-1991 Letters to Melbert Cary from Warren Chappell circa 1933

10.175

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Folders 10.175–178 were added to the collection in February 2013, as letters from Warren Chappell to Melbert B. Cary about Woolly Whale business had been found in another Cary Collection location.

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Personal Name(s)

- Cary, Melbert Brinckerhoff, 1892-1941

Chappell, Warren, 1904-1991 Letters to Melbert Cary from Warren Chappell 1935-1937

10.176

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

**Oversize**

Folders 10.175–178 were added to the collection in February 2013, as letters from Warren Chappell to Melbert B. Cary about Woolly Whale business had been found in another Cary Collection location.

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Cary, Melbert Brinckerhoff, 1892-1941

Chappell, Warren, 1904-1991 Letters to Melbert Cary from Warren Chappell 1938-1941

10.177

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Folders 10.175–178 were added to the collection in February 2013, as letters from Warren Chappell to Melbert B. Cary about Woolly Whale business had been found in another Cary Collection location.

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Cary, Melbert Brinckerhoff, 1892-1941

**Oversize 1928-1941****Box-folder**

1. Le Chapeau Immortel 1928

7.154+

## Oversize

10. Mademoiselle from Armentieres 1930	7.155+
12. A Christmas Carol in Prose, announcement 1930	7.156+
17. Knowledge and Faith 1932	7.157+
25. Digressions for the Traveller in England 1933	7.158+
39. <i>Ars Typographica</i> , vol. 1, no. 4 1934	7.159+
41. Mademoiselle from Armentieres, vol. 2 1934	7.160-7.161+
50. Patriotism versus Science 1935	7.152+
51. An Exhibition of the Work of Rudolph Ruzicka 1935	7.163+
<b>Controlled Access Headings</b>	
<b>Personal Name(s)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruzicka, Rudolph, 1883-1978</li> </ul>	
52. Jonah and the Woolly Whale Were Breakfasting 1935	7.164+
62. The First Days of the Village Press 1937	6.165+
74. Schnitzelbank 1938	7.166+

## Oversize

---

79. In Memoriam: James Howell Post, 1859-1938 1938	7.167+
84. May your Horizons be Bright with Future Happiness 1938	7.168+
85. Willi's Wishful Thinking 1939	7.169+
90. Rules of the Library, broadside 1939	7.170+
111. The Oldest Stencil Known circa 1935	7.171+
124. The Oath of Hippocrates, broadside circa 1935	7.172+
137. National Orchestral Association circa 1935	7.173+
[no number] The Scholarships Foundation 1938	7.173+
Two receipts from Warren Chappell 1937	7.178+