

Gudrun Zapf von Hesse Papers 1934-2019

2 boxes
Flat files
Digital files

The Gudrun Zapf von Hesse papers were
donated in 1991 and 2007.

Processed by Nicole Pease
Project Archivist
2019

RIT Cary Graphic Arts Collection
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, New York 14623-0887

Finding Aid for the Gudrun Zapf von Hesse Papers, 1934-2019

Summary Information

Title: Gudrun Zapf von Hesse papers

Creator: Gudrun Zapf von Hesse

Collection Number: CSC0134

Date: 1934-2019 (inclusive); 1936-1998 (bulk)

Extent: Approx. 2 linear feet

Language: Materials in this collection are in English and German.

Abstract: The Gudrun Zapf von Hesse papers document von Hesse's professional career as a bookbinder, calligrapher, and typographer in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Repository: RIT Cary Graphic Arts Collection, Rochester Institute of Technology

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use: This collection is open to researchers.

Conditions Governing Access: Access to realia (the bone folder) is at the discretion of the archivist and curator as it is fragile.

Custodial History: The Gudrun Zapf von Hesse papers were donated in 1991 and 2007.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact Dr. Steven Galbraith at skgtwc@rit.edu for access inquiries.

Physical Location: Collection materials are stored in the Cary Collection stacks, range 17A (box 1) with oversize materials stored in the Graphic Design Archives cage range 10A, shelf 10A-31 (box 2). Flat file materials are in the Cary Collection stacks flat file case 4.

Preferred citation for publication: Gudrun Zapf von Hesse papers, Cary Graphic Arts Collection, RIT.

Processed by: Nicole Pease, April 2019

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Controlled Access Terms

Personal Names

- Zapf von Hesse, Gudrun, 1918-
- Zapf, Hermann

Corporate Names

- Berthold Type Foundry
- D. Stempel AG Typefoundry
- Rochester Institute of Technology

Subjects

- Book design
- Broadsides (notices)
- Calligraphy
- Design
- Exhibition catalogs
- Type and type-founding
- Type designers
- Type specimens

- Typefaces (type forms)
- Typographers
- Typography

Biographical Note

“In my opinion, the best foundation for creating new alphabets is an intensive study of calligraphy.”

- Gudrun Zapf von Hesse

Gudrun Zapf von Hesse was born on January 2, 1918. She served a bookbinding apprenticeship with Otto Dorfner, finishing with a Master’s Diploma in 1940 after which she pursued an independent course of studies on calligraphy and letterforms, concentrating on the work of Rudolf Koch and Edward Johnston. After World War II, she opened her own book bindery, and learned punchcutting at the Bauer type foundry in Frankfurt, with the support of Georg Hartmann.

From 1946 to 1954, von Hesse taught lettering at the Städelschule in Frankfurt. After attracting notice at an exhibition of calligraphy, she was commissioned by the Stempel foundry in Frankfurt to design typefaces, and went on to a successful career as a typographer with Stempel. She married Hermann Zapf, Stempel’s art director and prolific typeface designer, on August 1, 1951.

In 1991, Hesse was the second woman to receive the prestigious Frederic W. Goudy award, given by the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. In 2001, she was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Friends of Calligraphy. She turned 100 in January 2018, whereupon Monotype released the titling typeface Hesse-Antiqua to mark the occasion:

“Gudrun Zapf von Hesse... is a woman of many talents: She would emphasize that she is a trained bookbinder first, but she was also active as a lettering artist, she has produced work in the graphic arts – and she is a typeface designer. As she turns 100 on this day, her first alphabet design is finally released after 70 years.”¹

Hesse-Antiqua (2018, Monotype, with Ferdinand Ulrich) joined von Hesse’s other notable typefaces which include Christiana (Berthold), Diotima (Stempel), Nofret (Berthold), Shakespeare (Hallmark), and Smaragd (Stempel).

[Adapted from Wikipedia², edited by Nicole Pease]

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Gudrun Zapf von Hesse papers contain materials from 1934 to 2019, with the bulk of the papers dated between 1936 and 1998.

This collection contains materials related to Gudrun Zapf von Hesse’s professional career as a bookbinder, calligrapher, and typographer. Materials include correspondence, speeches, printed material, photographic material, administrative materials, digital material, and realia.

¹ <https://www.fontshop.com/content/hesse-antiqua>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gudrun_Zapf-von_Hesse#Career

The Gudrun Zapf von Hesse papers have been arranged into three series, two of which have been divided into subseries. This collection is housed in 1 archival document box, 1 oversize box, and 1 flat file drawer.

Related Materials

Books and manuscripts referenced by this document and listed below are housed in the Cary Collection and can be found here: <https://albert.rit.edu/search~S3>

Gudrun Zapf von Hesse: bindings, handwritten books, typefaces, examples of lettering and drawings. West New York, NJ: Mark Batty, 2002

Related Collections

For related collections, use the links below or visit the RIT library catalog at <https://albert.rit.edu/search~S3>.

Frederic W. Goudy Award collection and Symposium videotapes
(<https://twcarchivespace.rit.edu/repositories/2/resources/280>)

Hermann Zapf collection (CSC135)

Hermann Zapf Collection at Herzog August Bibliothek (Wulfenbüttel, Germany)

(www.hab.de/de/home/bibliothek/bestaende/sondersammlungen/sammlung-hermann-zapf.html)

System of Arrangement

Series I. Professional work, 1936-1998

Subseries A. Bookbinding, 1937-1957

Subseries B. Calligraphy, 1936-1998

Subseries C. Typography, 1952-2019

Series II. References, 1934-2018

Subseries A. Realia, undated

Series III. Digital files, 1983-2010

Content List

Series I. Professional work, 1936-1998

Scope and Content Note: This series contains correspondence, speeches, photographs, books, calligraphy, manuscripts, type specimens, and printed material. These materials represent von Hesse's professional work in, bookbinding, calligraphy, and typography. Note the pro forma invoice regarding donations which is with correspondence (box 1, folder 1). Speeches (box 1, folder 2) also include working copies of speeches by both von Hesse and Hermann Zapf.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1991 [corresponds to digital files vonHesse-02]
Folder 2 Speeches – Gudrun and Hermann Zapf, 1991

Subseries A. Bookbinding, 1937-1957

Scope and Content Note: This subseries includes photographs and books that exhibit von Hesse's bookbinding work. Note that *Das Honelied Salomos*, which is included in Subseries B. Calligraphy, was also bound by von Hesse.

Box 1

- Folder 3 Photographs of bookbinding work, undated

Books bound by von Hesse [in the RIT Cary Collection]

- Boccaccio, Giovanni Di. *Die Nympe von Fiesole*. Wiesbaden: Im Insel Verlag, 1957. [bound in green Oasis goat, top edge stained; title and ornaments in gilt on spine with blind-stamped horizontal rules]
- Conrad, Joseph. *Die Schattenlinie*. Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1937. [bound in red Oasis goat, top edge silver oxide, with handsewn headbands; cover includes hand-designed lettering]
- De Coster. *Tyll Ulenspiegel und Lamm Goedzak*. Weimar: Eugen Diederichs Verlag Jena, 1936.
- Holderlin. *Hyperion*. Weimar: Insel Verlag Leipzig, 1937.
- von Goethe, Johann Wolfgang. *Von der dreifachen Ehrfurcht*. Frankfurt am Main: Schriftgießerei D. Stemple AG, 1949. [two copies]
- von le Fort, Gertrud. *Plus Altra*. Frankfurt am Main: Fünfter Druck der Trajanus-Presse, 1953.

Subseries B. Calligraphy, 1936-1998

Scope and Content Note: This subseries includes original calligraphy, replications of calligraphy, and manuscripts which exhibit von Hesse's calligraphic work. Note that the original version of "The Talmud" broadside is included with original calligraphy (flat file S-4.6, folder 2) and corresponds to the printed copies in the collection (flat file S-4.6, folder 3).

OS Box 2

- Folder 1 Original calligraphy and hand-lettering, 1953, undated (folder 1)
Folder 2 Original calligraphy and hand-lettering, 1967, 1996, undated (folder 2)

Flat File Drawer S-4.6

- Folder 1 Broadsides, 1970, 1998, undated
Folder 2 Original calligraphy, 1996, undated
Folder 3 Prints of calligraphy, 1995, undated

Manuscripts [in the RIT Cary Collection]

- Das Honelied Salomos*, 1936 [written and bound by von Hesse]

Gelchrieben, 1954 [dedicated to Paul and Stella Standard, calligraphy by Gudrun Zapf]

Subseries C. Typography, 1952-2019

Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains type specimens and books all related to von Hesse's typographic work and typefaces. Note that the typographic examples (box 1, folder 4) contain materials using von Hesse typefaces including a book proof, ads, and a book cover.

Box 1

- Folder 4 Typographic examples (von Hesse typefaces), 1953-1988, undated
- Folder 5 Foundry type specimens (von Hesse typefaces), 1952-1987, undated
- Folder 6 Type specimens, A-Ch, 1989-1991, undated
- Folder 7 Type specimens, Co-H, 1991, 2019, undated
- Folder 8 Type specimens, N-S, 1991, undated

OS Box 2

- Folder 3 Typography work – specimens, examples, proofs, 1952-1956, undated

Flat File Drawer S-4.6

- Folder 4 Goethe excerpt using Hallmark-Shakespeare Roman typeface, undated

Books with von Hesse typefaces [in the RIT Cary Collection]

Pacovska, Kveta. *Der kleine Blumenkonig*. Austria: Verlag Neugebauer Press, 1991. [Diotoma typeface]
Zwenger, Lisbeth and O. Henry. *Das Geschenk der Wissen*. Austria: Verlag Neugebauer Press, 1982.
[uncredited]

Series II. References, 1934-2018

Scope and Content Note: This series contains printed material, photographs, periodicals, brochures, realia, and inventories. These materials represent supportive material in this collection including biographical pages (which also relate to both RIT exhibits in 1991 and 2018) and exhibition-related material. Note that the original calligraphy signs for the Goudy Award exhibition were not done by von Hesse, but possibly Marisa Ryan.

Box 1

- Folder 9 Biography pages, undated
- Folder 10 Photographs of G. Zapf von Hesse, 1992, undated
- Folder 11 Periodicals with content on von Hesse, 1988-2005
- Folder 12 Copied texts regarding Christoph Sauer in Germantown, PA, 1934, 1948
- Folder 13 "Gudrun Zapf von Hesse" book brochures, 2002
- Folder 14 Exhibition brochures, 1970, 1998
- Folder 15 Goudy Award exhibition labels and printed material, 1991
- Folder 16 Cary Collection exhibit labels, 2018
- Folder 17 Collection administrative file [inventories], circa 2000s [corresponds to digital files vonHesse-01]

Flat File Drawer S-4.6

- Folder 5 Original calligraphy signs for Goudy Award exhibition, circa 1991³
- Folder 6 Exhibit broadside, 1970

³ The calligraphy on these signs may have been done by Marisa Ryan, then spouse of David Pankow.

Subseries A. Realia, undated

Scope and Content Note: This subseries includes a bone folder made of wood that represents the realia in this collection.

Conditions Governing Access: The bone folder has deteriorating leather (red rot) on the handle and should be handled with care.

OS Box 2

Object 1 Wood bone folder with embossed leather handle, undated

Series III. Digital files, 2010-2019

Scope and Content Note: This series contains digital files that were compiled in April 2019. Provenance files were scanned from correspondence documents (box 1, folder 1) and from provenance records in the Hermann Zapf collection in 2019. The collection inventory was created digitally in 2010 and corresponds to paper copies in the collection administrative file (box 1, folder 17).

Conditions Governing Access: The majority of the files are images, text files, and PDFs that can be opened with Microsoft Word, image viewers, and Adobe Reader. Digital files are available for access with permission from the curator or archivist.

Location of digital materials can be found at \\twcfileserver.main.ad.rit.edu\Staff\Department_Business\Cary\Cary_Archive_Processing\CSC finding aids\CSC0134_Zapf_Von_Hesse_G\Digital records with some content also on Cumulus.

Digital Series

vonHesse-01 Collection inventories, 2010, 2018
vonHesse-02 Provenance records, 2019
vonHesse-03 Photographs of collection material, 2018
vonHesse-04 Photographs of Gudrun and Hermann Zapf, 2018