

JOHN HOWELL  
 *for Books*

California Fine Press  
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John Howell for Books  
John Howell, member ABAA, ILAB, IOBA  
5205 ½ Village Green, Los Angeles, CA 90016-5207  
310 367-9720

[www.johnhowellforbooks.com](http://www.johnhowellforbooks.com)  
[info@johnhowellforbooks.com](mailto:info@johnhowellforbooks.com)

**THE FINE PRINT:**

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All items are guaranteed as described. Items may be returned within 10 days of receipt for any reason with prior notice to me.

Prices quoted are in US Dollars. California residents will be charged applicable sales tax. We request prepayment on the part of customers new to us. Institutional requirements can be accommodated.

Shipping and handling additional. All items shipped via insured USPS Mail. Expedited shipping available upon request at cost. Standard domestic shipping \$ 5.00 for a typical octavo volume; additional items \$ 2.00 each. Large or heavy items may require additional postage.

We actively solicit offers of books to purchase, including estates, collections and consignments. Please inquire.

This list contains 10 items of California fine printing. Most from the private collection of Alastair Johnston, with an emphasis upon the Grabhorn Press.

**1 BRETTEVILLE, Sheila Levrant de** (b. 1940), designer. **KING, Susan** (b. 1947), printer. *Life in L.A.: A Portfolio of Women's Writing*. [Santa Monica, CA]: Paradise Press, 1983. Oblong Paper Portfolio. 11 9/16 x 16 inches. 11 poems each printed on its own sheet of Kozo paper; text clean, unmarked. Inner wrapper of printed Tatsuta paper wraps around the loose sheets; minor creases and folds to the extremities of the inner wrapper. All contained in a gray printed Rives BFK folded paper portfolio; soiling and shelf wear to the portfolio, dent on front cover. PROVENANCE: from the private collection of Poltroon Press founder Francis Butler (1940-2024), who was an instructor at the Women's Graphic Center in the 1970s and 80s, without distinguishing marks. AJ226-003. Very Good

\$ 1,500

LIMITED EDITION of 75 copies, of which 50 were for sale. Printed with handset Futura type by Carol Chen on Kozo paper, Tatsuta wrapper, and the cover is Rives BFK. The 11 poems are "Breaking Loose" by Aleida Rodriguez (b. 1953); "Terra Firma" by Amy Gerstler (b. 1956); "Other Than Mexican (Living in L.A.)" by Carol Lem (circa 1953/4-2004); "Maroni on the Mormon Temple," by Eloise Klein Healy (b. 1943); "Margedda's Hair" by Judy Grahn (b. 1940); "Nones" by Linda Hulbert; "Native Californians" by Martha Ronk Lifson (b. 1940); "Carbon Canyon" by Nancy Hoskins; "Beautiful Woman Who Sings" by Paula Gunn Allen (1939-2008); "War Games" by Susan Anderson; and "Alley, Movie" by Terry Hunter." This portfolio of 11 poems by 11 different women authors was designed by Sheila Levrant de Bretteville. In 1973, Levrant de Bretteville left CalArts to start the Women's Building in Los Angeles with Judy Chicago and Arlene Raven. The idea was to focus on women who knew there was something lacking in their story and who wanted to survive and thrive together. In this cooperative environment, women learned about social organizing, starting with each woman telling her own history and the ways she had felt disregarded. This tradition is continued in this piece, 10 years on from the founding of the Women's Building, where 11 women were given space on paper to express their own stories. Quite a few of these 11 women have gone on to distinguished careers as writers. This portfolio of women's poetry was printed by Susan King at her Paradise Press. See: Women's Studio Workshop online, below. PROVENANCE: Francis Butler was a contemporary and peer of the Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and Susan King, and taught classes at the Woman's Building in Los Angeles in the early 1980s. REFERENCES: Erin Knutson, "Interview: Graphic Designer, Artist, and Educator Sheila Levrant de Bretteville on Legacy," at: <https://archive.pinupmagazine.org/articles/interview-sheila-levrant-de-bretteville-graphic-design-yale#20>; Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheila\\_Levrant\\_de\\_Bretteville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheila_Levrant_de_Bretteville). On Susan King see: <https://wsworkshop.org/artists/susan-king/>. 19 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6250>

**2 CARPENTER, Kenneth** (1916-1999), compiler. *Collector's Choice: An exhibit of representative examples from the collection of members of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco held in the Palace of the Legion of Honor on the occasion of the joint meeting of the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles & Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, September 17-18, 1960.* San Francisco, CA: Roxburghe Club, 1960. 8vo. 8 x 5 5/16 inches. 49, [1 blank] pp. Printed throughout in black and red inks, title page vignette, elaborate borders, running heads in red; text clean, unmarked. White stiff wrappers, various historical printer's devices in red on the covers; binding tight, covers toned and lightly soiled (internally fine). JL226-010. Very Good.

\$ 30

FIRST EDITION. Printed by the Grabhorn Press. Foreword by Oscar Lewis. 44 collectors share from 1 to 3 books selected for an exhibition organized for a joint meeting of the Roxburghe and Zamorano clubs in September 1960. A total of 123 books were on display. There was no comprehensive theme for the exhibition, other than members were allowed to select items from their own collections that gave them the most pleasure or inspiration. Members whose books are featured include H. Richard Archer, William Barlow, Paul Bennett, Edwin H. Carpenter, both Grabhorn brothers, and Warren Howell among many others. The last page of text includes a list of 10 Roxburghe Club members who sponsored this keepsake. Kenneth J. Carpenter was a librarian first at the University of California, and later at the University of Nevada. He was head of Special Collections in Nevada and with his wife, Patricia, founded the Black Rock Press in 1964. Carpenter operated his own private presses, including the Quenian Press (Berkeley) and the Black Rock Press at the University of Nevada, Reno, founded in 1965 using an 1837 Columbian hand press. 59 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6240>

**3 [Chaucer] MUSCATINE, Charles** (1920-2010). *The Book of Geoffrey Chaucer. An Account of the Publication of Geoffrey Chaucer's Works From the Fifteenth Century to Modern Times.* (San Francisco, CA): The Book Club of California, 1963. Series: *Book Club of California Publication* No. 113. Folio. 14 1/8 x 10 1/8 inches. [xii], 64, [4 blank] pp. Color frontispiece shows a page from the Ellesmere ms., title page vignette, text printed in red and black inks, 23 figures reproduce pages or illustrations from editions of Chaucer's works from the manuscript era to the nineteenth century, an original leaf from the 1561 edition of Chaucer's Works shows folio CXXIX, which includes 1 2-line and 3 3-line initials, chronological checklist of printed editions of Chaucer, bibliography; text clean, unmarked. Gilt-stamped red cloth; binding square and tight. PROVENANCE: from the private collection of Alastair Johnston without distinguishing marks. Fine. **WITH:** 2 copies of the Prospectus. **WITH: MUSCATINE, Charles** (1920-2010). *Two Chaucer Leaves.* [Cover Title]. Berkeley, CA: Tamalpais Press, 1965. Two early printed leaves of sixteenth-century black-letter folios tipped into a printed bifolium. Folio. 14 x 10 inches. The leaf from the undated edition (circa 1551) measures 11 3/4 x 7 3/4 inches, has 4 decorative initials (3 6-line and 1 8-line) is Folio CCXXXV, on the subject of Boethius. The second

leaf, from the 1561 edition, measures 12 1/4 x 8 1/2 inches and has 3 8-line decorative initials. Bifolium printed in black and red with explanatory text; the bifolium with minor soiling. PROVENANCE: from the private collection of Alastair Johnston without distinguishing marks. AJ226-001. Very Good.

\$ 500

4 items offered as a lot. Item number 1: LIMITED EDITION of 450 copies, designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy for the Book Club of California. Takes us on a jaunty tour of all the editions of Chaucer's works, from the manuscript era to the nineteenth century. With a leaf from the 1561 edition of Chaucer's Works with additions by John Stow; printed by John Kingston for John Wight and Henry Bradshaw. Harlan writes: "This description and analysis of the several manuscript and printed editions of Chaucer's masterpiece has become something of a classic in its own right. A notice in the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, in commending the matching of the skill of the printer and the erudition of the author, concluded by raising in general the standards of scholarship and book publication of the Club which it describes as equal to the best in the Americas. Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club)." Items number 2 and 3 are Prospecti for Item number 1. Item number 4: is a LIMITED EDITION of 88 copies, printed as a Keepsake by Duncan H. Olmsted and Roger Levenson at Levenson's Tamalpais Press for presentation to members of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco and other friends. The text on the bifolium, "adapted by Duncan H. Olmsted from Charles Muscatine's *The Book of Geoffrey Chaucer*," explains the sources of the leaves and their typographical and historical significance. Charles Muscatine was an American academic specializing in medieval literature, particularly Chaucer; his work transformed Chaucer studies by turning attention to the French models for Chaucer's poetry. REFERENCES: Item Number 1: De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, Checklist No. 140. p. 124; Harlan, *The Two Hundredth Book*, No. 113. Item Number 4: De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, Checklist No. 140. OCLC: Item Number 1: 146 copies; Item Number 4: 19 copies.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6244>

**4 [Ed Grabhorn] HART, James David** (1911-1990). *A Tribute to Edwin Grabhorn & The Grabhorn Press*. (San Francisco, CA): The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 1969. 12mo. 7 1/8 x 4 3/4 inches. [vi], (26) pp. Grabhorn printer's device in red on the title page, decorative initial highlighted in red, black-and-white photographs, tailpiece in red; text clean, unmarked. Blue paper over boards, printed paper wrap-around label, plain white paper dust-jacket; binding square and tight, jacket lightly soiled, lower corner bumped, internally fine. Gift inscription reads, "For Roger Levenson from Jim Hart, 1/2/70." Prospectus laid in. JL226-011. Very Good.

\$ 75

FIRST EDITION, LIMITED to 1,000 copies using Franciscan type, the private type of the Grabhorn Press, designed by Frederic Goudy. The text is adorned with numerous photographs of the Grabhorn Press print shop, take by Marjorie Farquhar (1903-1999) in 1936. This overview of the Grabhorn Press was delivered on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition "Fifty Years of the Grabhorn Press: A Tribute to Edwin Grabhorn, presented at the main library of the San Francisco Public Library April 24, 1969. James D. Hart was an American literary scholar and professor at the University of California, Berkeley for 54 years, serving as director of the University Bancroft Library from 1969 to 1990. PROVENANCE: Roger Levenson (1901-1994). Levenson founded and operated the Tamalpais Press, 1955-1976, and taught a course entitled "The History of the Book" at the University of California, Berkeley, for 12 years. From Alastair Johnston's private collection. 177 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6241>

**5 [Edwin Grabhorn] MAGEE, David Bickersteth (1905-1977). GRABHORN, Robert (1906-1973) and HOYEM, Andrew (b. 1935), printers. *In Memoriam. Edwin Grabhorn, 1889-1968.* (San Francisco, CA): The Grabhorn-Hoyem Press, 1968. Folio. 16 x 11 5/8 inches. Unpaginated. [22] pp. Elaborate initial "A" at head of text, 3-page introductory remarks by David Magee, 2 black-and-white photographs of Edwin Grabhorn by Marjorie Farquhar (1903-1999), 8 leaves from books printed at the Grabhorn Press, 2-page chronology of Ed Grabhorn's life; text clean, unmarked. Green cloth spine, plain flexible boards, printed paper spine label; binding tight, boards a bit bowed, boards soiled. From the private collection of Alastair Johnston without distinguishing marks. AJ225-004. Very Good.**

\$ 125

LIMITED EDITION of 150 copies printed from handset Franciscan types at the Grabhorn Press for members of the Roxburghe Club. Includes 8 specimen leaves from books produced at the Grabhorn Press, some color, with identifying captions printed in red ink. 46 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6248>

**6 [Robert Grabhorn] HOYEM, Andrew (b. 1935). *666: On the Occasion of M. Robert Grabhorn's Birthday in the Year 1966.* [San Francisco, CA: Grabhorn-Hoyem, 1966. Broadside. 18 3/4 x 11 1/2 inches. [2] pp. Printed on the recto only. Minor soiling and toning, else fine. From the private collection of Alastair Johnston without distinguishing marks. AJ226-005. Very Good.**

\$75

No Limitation Stated. OCLC records under the subjects Printer, Biography; Printers, Poetry; Broadside, Specimens. A jolly celebration of Robert Grabhorn's personality written by his business partner, Andrew Hoyem, who went on to found the Arion

Press. The Grabhorn-Hoyem Press was founded in 1966 and operated until 1973 when Robert Grabhorn passed. OCLC: 2 copies, University of Iowa Library; Princeton.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6245>

**7 HILDRETH, Don** (1942-1991). *Requiem for a Short Prick: A Comic Erotica & Woodcut*. San Diego, CA: The Private Press of Don Hildreth, 1991. Small 4to. 6 1/4 x 5 1/4 inches. Unpaginated. [16] pp. Hand-colored frontispiece woodcut, title-page printed in green, black, and purple inks with a printer's device in black, Note to the Reader, tailpiece in green ink; text clean, unmarked. Half brown leather, sides covered in textured leather, ornaments rules to covers, blind-stamps on the corners, 3 raised bands, spine titled in gilt, brown decorative paper end-leaves, binding square and tight. SIGNED by Don Hildreth on the colophon. RARE. BCRS824-002. Fine.

\$ 350

LIMITED EDITION of 12 numbered and signed copies (7 for sale), this is copy number 1, SIGNED by Don Hildreth. entirely written, illustrated, handset, and letterpress printed by Don Hildreth. In the Note to the Reader, Hildreth tells us that, beginning in 1970, he lived in New York for 15 years. He was able to listen to many of the poets of the beat generation, and sort of made a "shrine" out of the apartment that his hero, Jack Kerouac, lived in, Hildreth would visit there and write poems on the stoop of the apartment building. The 5 poems recorded here were inspired during this period of Hildreth's life. Semi-erotic and semi-gay reflections in the life of the artist in his late 20s and early to mid 30s. Don Hildreth was the proprietor of the Ash Ranch Press as well as this pseudonymous press. PROVENANCE: from the private collection of Rebecca Bingham without distinguishing marks. 0 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6016>

**8 PINEDO, Encarnación** (b. 1848). **STREHL, Dan**, editor. *The Spanish Cook. A Selection of Recipes from Encarnación Pinedo's El Cocinero Español. Edited and Translated by Dan Strehl*. Pasadena, CA: The Weather Bird Press, 1992. Tall Narrow 4to. 10 1/8 x 6 1/2 inches. [12], 32, [6] pp. Half title, title page with horizontal rules and vignette in olive green ink, Introduction, ruled running head, 6 linocuts, index; text clean, unmarked. Black cloth spine titled in gilt, patterned paper over boards, dust-jacket protected with plastic cover; binding square and tight. SIGNED in pencil by Vance Gerry on the colophon. SCARCE. BT326-002. Fine.

\$ 300

LIMITED EDITION of 125 copies, this is an unnumbered copy. Printed with Linotype Original Old Style type by Patrick Reagh on Arches buff laid paper, bound in proprietary decorated paper by Bela Blau. 10 de luxe copies were bound by Allwyn O'Mara; this is the first Weather Bird Press book published with de luxe copies. *El Cocinero Español* was the first Mexican-American cookbook published in the United

States, and is the first record of *Californio* food. It was originally published in San Francisco in 1898. REFERENCES: Butcher, "Checklist" in *Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press*, No. 99; Gerry, *Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press*, No. 73. 36 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6251>

**9 STREHL, Dan**, editor. *One Hundred Books on California Food & Wine*. Los Angeles: The Book Collectors, 1990. 8vo. 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches. [vi], 44, [4] pp. Small vignettes interspersed throughout the text, list of works cited; text clean, unmarked. Plain stiff wrappers, covered with red patterned papers, the title printed on the front cover; binding square and tight. BT326-001. Fine.

\$ 150

LIMITED EDITION of 300 copies, this is 1 of 150 un-numbered copies. Designed by Vance Gerry and printed by Patrick Reagh, Printers. Introductory chapters include Sylvia Vaughn Thompson, "California, ex abundant;" Ward Ritchie, "Publishing Cookbooks;" Marian Gore, "Notes from a California Bookseller;" Charles Heiskell, "Books & Wine, California Style;" and Dan Strehl, "California Food & Wine in California Libraries;" followed by the main bibliographies "Books on Food," and "Books on Wine." Not in Butcher or Gerry. 49 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6249>

**10 [Wynkyn de Worde] GRABHORN, Robert** (1900-1973), compiler. *A Short Account of the Life and Work of Wynkyn de Worde with a Leaf from the Golden Legend Printed by Him at the Sign of the Sun in Fleet Street, London, the Year 1527*. San Francisco, CA: The Book Club of California, 1949. Series: *Book Club of California Publication*, No. 71. Folio. 13 5/8 x 9 11/16 inches. [iv], [ii], 1-(18) pp. Text printed in red and black inks throughout, title page with Wynkyn de Words printer's device, leaf presented on its own page within a red-ruled border, the leave is signed i.i., with a woodcut illustration of "Saint Poule the first heremyte," the double-column leaf with contemporary manuscript notations in the top margin and between the columns, 3 decorative initials by Zena Kavin, reproduction of musical notations, 7 reproductions of Wynkyn de Worde's printer's devices, Grabhorn Press printer's device on colophon; Japanese paper hinges holding the leaf have become loose, upper corner of leaf missing. Brick-red cloth spine, patterned paper over boards, illustrated front cover paper label, printed paper spine label; binding square and tight, lightly rubbed. PROVENANCE: From Alastair Johnston's personal collection without distinguishing marks. AJ226-002. Very Good.

\$ 500

LIMITED EDITION of 375 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press with handset Koch Bible Gotish type on French handmade paper. "A Fitting complement to the Club's publication of an original leaf from Caxton's *Polychronicon*, since Wynkyn de Wore was Caxton's pupil and successor. In less than a month the entire edition was subscribed

for. Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).” *Hundredth Book*. The leaf in this book presents the life of Saint Paul of Thebes (c. 227-341), the first hermit considered the first Christian anchorite. REFERENCES: De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, Checklist No. 100; Magee, *The Hundredth Book*, No. 71; Magee and Magee, *Bibliography of the Grabborn Press*, No. 486. 4 copies OCLC (which surprises me; I would expect this book would reflect more institutional holdings).

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6243>