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Vance Gerry (1929-2005) was born in Pasadena, California. As a teenager Vance worked at Grant Dahlstrom’s Castle Press “when there were jobs practical for boys to do.” After service in the Korean War in the United States Army, Vance used the GI Bill to study commercial art at the Chouinard Art Institute. In 1955, Vance became an assistant in-between at Walt Disney Studios. Over his career, Vance contributed to Disney’s *101 Dalmatians*, *The Sword in the Stone*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Aristocats*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *The Lion King*, among others. In the meantime, Vance ran his own private printing press under various names, but the Weather Bird Press was the longest-lived. Vance’s printing was done more for the love of it, rather than for commercial purposes, and his editions were typically limited to 50 copies or thereabouts. He produced many books, including cook books, narratives about the history of books, printing in Los Angeles, and Christmas greetings, all of which were illustrated with woodcuts, linocuts, or pochoir illustrations all in Vance’s distinctive style.


LIMITED EDITION of 200 copies, printed with handset Linotype Falcon type on Mountie wove offset paper. Reproduces 7 Bradley decorations, ornaments and initial letters. Jane Apostol’s fascinating story of Will Bradley (1868-1962), showing how Bradley, like Benjamin Franklin, failed mathematics and dropped out of school. Bradley went on to develop a style of illustration and typography that commanded the attention of collectors when he was barely into his thirties. Grant Dahlstrom had become close to Bradley in Bradley’s last years, and provided much of the illustrative material shown in this pretty work which was printed on a large hand-cylinder press. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in *Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press*, No. 35; Gerry, *Twenty-five Years*, No. 26.


FIRST EDITION, printed in Janson types on wove paper. This keepsake was “compiled for the occasion of the first public showing of this Common Press at the Eleventh California Antiquarian Book Fair in Los Angeles, February, 1978.” The text explains
that Ernest and Harriet Lindner “negotiated a contract with skilled craftsmen in England and Ireland to make, by hand, a duplicate of the English Common Press, known as the Franklin Press. It is constructed of oak, ash, mahogany and other woods as well as brass and polished iron. The thickest pieces of oak used in the press are those which bear the impression of printing, and these were cut from timbers removed from buildings in England and Ireland, built in the 1600s and 1700s. This was necessary because naturally dried woods in large beams, oak in particular, are not available in the modern market.” The resulting press is a facsimile of a press used by Benjamin Franklin in the eighteenth century. It now resides at the International Printing Museum in Carson, CA. REFERENCE: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & the Weather Bird Press, No. 40.


LIMITED EDITION of 200 copies. These letters belonged to Eliot Fay (1902-1954), who was a professor of Romance languages at Cornell University. In preparation to write his book about D. H. Lawrence, *Lorenzo in Search of the Sun* (1953), Fay corresponded with three women who were close to D. H. Lawrence in his later years. Eliot Fay’s wife was Vance Gerry’s aunt. Vance Gerry writes: “An aunt offered these letters concerning *Lorenzo in Search of the Sun*, her late husband Eliot Fay’s book. The press, apprised that there can never be enough Lorenziana, published the letters. Be they of marginal interest the project was, nevertheless, fulfilling. Printed on the Miele Vertical.” *Twenty-five Years.* Dorothy Brett was an Anglo-American painter. She was born into an aristocratic British family, and studied at the Slide School of Art, where she associated with the Bloomsbury group, including D. H. Lawrence. Lawrence invited Brett to Taos New Mexico, where she moved in 1924. She remained there for the rest of her life, becoming an American citizen in 1938. Emma Maria Frieda Johanna Frelin, Baroness von Richtofen was the wife of D. H. Lawrence. She was also a writer, and translator of German-language literature into English. Beginning in 1930, Frieda moved to New Mexico where she lived on a ranch with her third husband, Angelo Ravagli. Mabel Dodge Luhan was a wealthy American patron of the arts, who was particularly associated with the Taos art colony. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist,” in *Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press*, No. 45; Gerry, *Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press*, No. 36.


LIMITED EDITION of 300 copies, this is copy number 28, set in Monotype Janson and printed letterpress on Frankfurt Cream paper by Patrick Reagh and Vance Gerry; this is one of 100 copies bound by Max Adjarian. The leaf in this copy has 3 5-line initials hand colored in blue. This leaf comes from the *Editio Princeps* of the *Letters of St. Jerome* (347-430). The Letters of St. Jerome were widely distributed throughout the fourth-century Roman Empire because of his advice for living the Christian life. Sixtus Riessinger (1440-1505) was a German priest and typographer, who is known for introducing the printing press to Rome and Naples. Some believe Riessinger’s *Letters of St. Jerome* was the first book printed in Rome, but the exact date remains disputed. Vance Gerry writes: “This book was jinxed. Editors, printers, binders, all had trouble, and the publishers not the least of it. The title page went through many
versions and may be a bit heavy. After a great deal of typographic handwork, the whole book was printed flawlessly by Pat.” REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist,” in Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press, No. P13; De Hamel and Silver, Disbound & Dispersed, No. 170; Gerry, Weather Bird Number Eight, p. [6].


FIRST EDITION, thus. Copyright information on the verso of the title page. The text of this little pamphlet in the Weather Bird Press Food & Drink Series tells how plum pudding was made in Della Lutes’s household when she was a child. The recipe was read aloud (and printed here in full) by her father from an old newspaper whilst the mother prepared the dish. But this brief description does no justice to the beauty of the writing. Della Thompson Lutes was an American writer, editor, and expert on cooking and housekeeping. Her 1936 memoir and cookbook The Country Kitchen (from which this excerpt is taken) won a National Book Award for Nonfiction. See: Wikipedia. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 63[6]; see: Gerry, Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 48.


LIMITED EDITION of about 150 copies, printed by Patrick Reagh, with Linotype Janson on wove paper. The text consists of a “checklist of the major pieces printed from November 1980 to February 1982 when Patrick Reagh and Vance Gerry combined their letterpress printing efforts. Some copies were bound in grey covers and titled ‘Books Printed by Patrick Reagh, Printers’ (Butcher).” Vance further remarks “Some of these were given to Zamorano and Roxburghe Club members when they visited Pat’s shop in 1982.” Gerry, Twenty-five Years. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 67; Gerry, Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 56.

$ 115

LIMITED EDITION of about 150 copies, printed by Patrick Reagh, with Linotype Janson on wove paper. The text consists of a “checklist of the major pieces printed from November 1980 to February 1982 when Patrick Reagh and Vance Gerry combined their letterpress printing efforts. Some copies were bound in grey covers and titled ‘Books Printed by Patrick Reagh, Printers.” (Butcher). Vance further remarks “Some of these were given to Zamorano and Roxburghe Club members when they visited Pat’s shop in 1982.” *Twenty-five Years*. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in *Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press*, No. 67; Gerry, *Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press*, No. 56.


$ 75


$ 450

LIMITED EDITION of 200 copies printed by Patrick Reagh in Linotype Janson on Mohawk Letterpress wove paper. This is one of 150 bound in buff printed card covers and printed cream wrappers - the 150 were also bound variously in striped blue
thin boards. “Davies, in his retirement, did a number of works on Los Angeles printers and the press was fortunate to get this one to publish. The imprint is Pasadena, but Pat Reagh did the presswork in Glendale and the binding was done in Fallbrook and Pasadena.” Gerry. Edward Emanuel “House” Olson (1901-1963) was a talented printer and typographer whose career in Southern California began in 1923. This work explores his life and his contributions to southern California printing history. David Davies held three PhDs, in history, library science, and education. He was the first Head Librarian at Honnold Library at the Claremont Colleges, Claremont, CA. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 72; Gerry, Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 57.

“First Serious Application of Pochoir.” Vance Gerry


LIMITED EDITION of 125 copies, this copy is out of sequence, printed in Linotype Janson on Rives buff wove paper, bound by Bela Blau. This book contains Vance Gerry’s first extensive use of pochoir in one of his books. The Standing and the Waiting is M. F. K. Fisher’s recollection of a trip to Europe in 1935 when she traveled with Dillwyn Parrish (1894-1941) and his mother to France aboard the luxury liner Hansa. There they visited Paris, Provence, Languedoc, the French Riviera, and Dijon. The text served as the centerpiece of her Serve it Forth, her first book, published in 1937. Accompanied by Vance Gerry’s colorful, sensitive, and beautifully rendered pochoir illustrations. “Mrs. Fisher supported the project and signed the books in spite of her ailments.” Gerry. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 79; Gerry: Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 62.


LIMITED EDITION of 200 copies printed with Linotype Scotch on Rives buff wove paper, illustrations by Edward Ardizzone, bound by Bela Blau. “Unlike his
contemporaries, Bawden, Freedman and Ravilious, Ardizzone was not touched by
cubist influence and, by comparison, their sophisticated styles make his work appear
to be almost naive or quant. Ardizzone’s work is always warm with classicism and
touches of Rowlandson, and somehow seems familiar to us.” From Vance Gerry’s
Introduction. Edward Jeffrey Irving Ardizzone was an English painter, print-maker
and war artist, and the author and illustrator of books, many of them for children.
Gerry, Twenty-five Years, No. 63.

1986. Narrow 8vo. 8 1/2 x 4 9/16 inches. [x], (14 last blank) pp. Half-title, title-page vignette, 4
illustrations in the text; text clean, unmarked. Quarter black cloth, patterned paper over boards, sewn
head-bands, spine titled in gilt, in archival mylar; binding square and tight, LACKS the jacket. SCARCE.
Bookplate of James Strohn Copley. SBT224-007. Very Good.

LIMITED EDITION of 200 copies printed with Linotype Scotch (supplied by Richard
Hoffman) on Rives buff wove paper, illustrations by Edward Ardizzone, bound by
Bela Blau. “Unlike his contemporaries, Bawden, Freedman and Ravilious, Ardizzone
was not touched by cubist influence and, by comparison, their sophisticated styles
make his work appear to be almost naive or quant. Ardizzone’s work is always warm
with classicism and touches of Rowlandson, and somehow seems familiar to us.”
From Vance Gerry’s Introduction. Edward Jeffrey Irving Ardizzone was an English
painter, print-maker and war artist, and the author and illustrator of books, many of
them for children. PROVENANCE: James Strohn Copley (1916-1973) was a San Diego
newspaper mogul and collector, active in conservative politics and close associate of
Republican politicians. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist,” in Vance Gerry & The
Weather Bird Press, No. 80; Gerry, Twenty-five Years, No. 63.

Castle Press,” In: Matrix, Number 6, Winter 1986, pp. 28-37. Manor Farm,
Andoversford, Glouchestershire: The Whittington Press, 1986. 4to. 11 1/4 x 8 inches. [vi],
(184) pp. Gerry’s article include a large folding “A Map of the Castle Press, Circa 1943, As it is
sentimentally if not accurately remembered by a printer's devil. Not Drawn to Scale,” 4 Gerry
illustrations in the text; text clean, unmarked. Plain stiff-paper wrappers with printed dust-jacket;
binding square and tight, spine lightly faded, corners of the binding lightly bumped, as they extend
over the text-block yapp-style. PD123-001. Very Good.

LIMITED EDITION of 900 copies, this is copy number 630 of 800 copies in wraps, set
in 12-point Monotype Caslon, printed at the Whittington Press on Sommerville Laid
and Zerkall Halbmat papers. Half-title with an engraving by Vance Gerry. Vance
Gerry’s article first appeared as a Weather Bird Press publication in 1968 in an edition of 50 copies. It is among several reminiscences of Grant Dahlstrom from whom Gerry apprenticed as a printer in the 1940s, that Gerry published over the years. In addition, this issue of Matrix contains 25 other articles on all aspects of the book arts by such contributors as Roderick Cave, John Dreyfus, Miriam MacGregor, Sebastian Carter, John Bidwell, Brooke Crutchley, Ruari McLean, and others.


LIMITED EDITION of 960 copies, this is one of 850 copies in wraps, set in 12-point Monotype Caslon, printed at the Whittington Press on Sommerville Laid and Zerkall Halbmatt papers. For this observer, the most interesting article in this issue is the John Randle article on the Miriam Macgregor Bird’s Eye View. This illustrates how printers and artists in different countries can inspire and provoke one another to exciting work. Randle writes: “We were so intrigued with Vance Gerry’s ‘A Map of the Castle Press circa 1943, as it is sentimentally if not accurately remembered by a printer’s devil’ which appeared in his Weather Bird no. 7 in 1981, that we reprinted it in Matrix 6 to illustrate his article ‘Some Fond Reminiscences of a Boy Printer at the Castle Press.’ We have now gone one stage further and taken a leaf out of Vance’s book by doing the same thing for the Whittington Press. It took some persuasion to get Miriam Macgregor to agree to do it. Vance’s easy (but accurate) line makes the job seem deceptively simple. But finally, after much talk of perspective and vanishing points, and balancing precariously on stools, Miriam succeeded in recording the Press at one instant in its life. I would rather she had been a little less literal (tidier floor and emptier waste-paper baskets) but she has preferred to show it warts and all. It was originally drawn as a keepsake for our trip to America in May, but then we thought it would also be of interest to those readers of Matrix who have hot had the opportunity to visit the Press.” p. 164. In addition, this issue of Matrix contains 24 other articles on all aspects of the book arts by such contributors as Simon Lawrence,
Christopher Skelton, Sebastian Carter on Victor Hammer, Roderick Cave, John Dreyfus, Brooke Crutchley; on the distaff side we find Edwina Ellis, Fiona Ross, and Enid Marx, among others.


LIMITED EDITION of 150 copies printed and SIGNED by Vance Gerry. The San Pasqual Press was the brain child of Glenn Schoefer, President of the Security Title Insurance & Guarantee Company of Los Angeles. The San Pasqual Press issued 22 outstanding trade publications, well-chosen and well-designed, between 1936 and 1942. Supplement printed in Intertype Waverley on Dampened Ingress Antique laid paper; this is one of 70 copies accompanying the original San Pasqual Press publication. Supplement includes additional information and an updated checklist with nine extra titles.” Butcher. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist,” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 81; Gerry, Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 64; Supplement: Butcher, “Checklist,” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 87; Gerry, Twenty-five Years of The Weather Bird Press, No. 67. This is the first time this cataloger has seen the two together.

17 GERRY, Vance (1929-2005). An Imaginary Map of the Cookery Book World, Presenting the Greatest of the World’s Early Cookery Books. N. P.: V. Gerry: The Weather Bird Press, [1988]. Broadside. 15 x 22 1/4 inches. Linocut map printed in grey-green ink, with headings printed in orange ink, at the rear of the board is a printed piece of paper with text “Andre L. Simon, Old Cookery Books,” which explains the characters on the map, small woodcut illustration of old books at the head of the text; shrink-wrapped against stiff board, plastic coming up at the corners, some very minor soil at the corners where the plastic is weak, lower right corner bumped. SIGNED by Vance Gerry. BC224-001. Else Fine.

FIRST EDITION, number 28 of 40 numbered and SIGNED copies, printed in Janson on Arches wove paper. “The map incorporates scenes of cookery in England, France and Italy and details of eight early cookery books.” Butcher. “Reading M. F. K. Fisher's various adventures into early cookery books inspired this master stroke of
imaginary vision. The vision has, however, received slight attention.” Gerry.
REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist,” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 84; Gerry, Twenty-five Years, No. 65b.


LIMITED EDITION of 125 copies, this is number 103, printed by Patrick Reagh, Printers on Rives heavyweight paper in Fournier types, binding by Bela Blau in Japanese paper wrappers. Gerry notes “Powell instigated this excerpt from his novel The Blue Train, and the press considered itself honored to publish it. Patrick Reagh set the type and did the presswork and the press willingly picked up the tab in anticipation of notoriety but not fortune.” Gerry. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press, No. 90; Gerry, Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 70.


LIMITED EDITION of 125 copies, this copy is out of sequence, printed by Patrick Reagh, Printers on Rives heavyweight paper in Fournier types, binding by Bela Blau in Japanese paper wrappers. Gerry notes “Powell instigated this excerpt from his novel The Blue Train, and the press considered itself honored to publish it. Patrick Reagh set the type and did the presswork and the press willingly picked up the tab in anticipation of notoriety but not fortune.” Gerry. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press, No. 90; Gerry, Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 70.

(pseudo.). [Pasadena, CA]: The Weather Bird Press, 1993. 8vo. 10 1/4 x 6 3/4 inches. [Un-paginated]. [44] pp. [including the colophon and the last blank]. Half-title, title page printed in terra cotta and black inks, including a woodcut cityscape vignette, 13 illustrations in a variety of media including woodcuts and linocuts and a couple of which are sample title pages some color, 4 samples of various media included patterned papers and a color illustration from a miniature book, 2 plates - 1 with a pochoir illustration from Dan Strehl’s The Spanish Cook which forms a conjugate stub upon which is mounted a folding plate which contains a large line drawing of disassembled hand-printing presses being restored by Ernest Lindner; text clean, unmarked. Blue cloth spine, patterned paper over boards, spine title in blue, dust-jacket in archival mylar; binding square and tight. SCARCE. SBT224-011. Fine.

LIMITED EDITION of “100 copies of which 20 are DE-LUXE.” Colophon. This is an un-numbered copy. Describes 77 items printed by Vance Gerry at his Peach Pit Press and his Weather Bird Press between 1967 and 1993. Printed with Linotype Scotch type on Curtis Rag paper, bound by Mariana Blau. Entry number 77 of this volume is the description of this book; here Vance states that 125 copies were printed, which of course contradicts the colophon. “Accumulation of the press’ efforts, good and bad, presented for the edification of the dubious as well as the consolation of patrons and friends.” Gerry. REFERENCES: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press, No. 103; Gerry, Twenty-five Years of the Weather Bird Press, No. 77.


LIMITED EDITION of 100 copies printed in Linotype Monticello and Scotch No. 2 italic types on Zerkall wove paper. Recipes and illustrated guide for the making of tamales. Diane Martin was a docent at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and the Huntington Library herb gardens and contributed to several publications of the Weather Bird Press. Dan Strehl, series editor. REFERENCE: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press, No. 117.

LIMITED EDITION of 75 copies, binding by Mariana Blau. The text of this volume was written by Wanda Gág circa 1940. She writes that she was unable to write a personal reply to all the fan mail she received, but instead wrote this short piece, explaining her family and educational background, where she lived and how she pursued her work in her rural home, and gives her opinion on how best to pursue a career as an author of children's books and as an illustrator. Wikipedia states that “Wanda Hazel Gág was an American artist, author, translator, and illustrator. She is best known for writing and illustrating the children's book Millions of Cats, the oldest American picture book still in print. Gág was also a noted print-maker, receiving international recognition and awards. Growing Pains, a book of excerpts from the diaries of her teen and young adult years, received widespread critical acclaim. Two of her books were awarded Newbery Honors and two received Caldecott Honors. REFERENCE: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & the Weather Bird Press, No. 126.


LIMITED EDITION of 100 copies, set in Linotype Baskerville and Scott and printed on Tweedweave laid paper. Contains a short biographic introduction by Dan Strehl, although the heart of the volume is the double-page fold out plate, with Vance Gerry’s imaginative rendering of all the items in Mrs. Beeton’s list of Not To Be Forgotten Items. Today, a picnic might be a family affair, or an activity for a dating couple. Mrs. Beeton’s list makes one feel like one should have an entire Victorian household staff to organize the items, and a horse drawn carriage to haul all the stuff. REFERENCE: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press, No. 131.

24 WINTER, Don (1920-1946), GERRY, Vance (1929-2005), compiler. L. A. Type: A Concise History of Los Angeles Type Founders, Inc. Compiled by Vance Gerry from a University of California, Los Angeles Oral History Program Interview with Don Winter. Pasadena, CA: The Weather Bird Press, 2000. 8vo. 9 1/2 x 6 3/8 inches. (44) pp. Half-title, title page printed in orange and black inks with a bell vignette in orange, color portrait of Walter Gebhard tipped-in, color and black-and-white illustrations of printing samples and specimen sheets on plates, folding plate of rule specimens, the “Technical Notes” at the rear include some cuts of printing presses and line drawings of matrices, “Patrick Reagh supplied much of the pictorial material shown as well as technical information,” p. (7); text clean, unmarked. Blind-stamped olive-
drab cloth, printed paper spine label, dust-jacket in archival mylar; binding square and tight. SIGNED by Vance Gerry. SBT224-014. Fine.

LIMITED EDITION of 100 copies. Donald David Winter first went to work for Los Angeles Type Founders., Inc., in 1937, five months before he graduated from high school. Following the death of the Owner, Walter Gebhard, Winter became the General Manager of the firm, a position he held until the year 1985, when Winter sat for this interview for the UCLA Oral History Program. Los Angeles Type Founders produced hot metal type fonts for the secondary type market. This volume gives a succinct history of the decline in the use of hot metal composition during the course of the twentieth century. REFERENCE: Butcher, “Checklist” in Vance Gerry & the Weather Bird Press, No. 132a.


LIMITED EDITION of 235 copies, this is copy number 135 of 155 “C” copies set in 13-point Poliphilus with Ariston display types, printed at Whittington on Zerkal mould-made paper, pochoir reproductions and black-and-white images are printed digitally by Promprint. The text of this volume is based on interviews Vance Gerry gave at the University of California in 1989, together with a selection of his letters from then until his death in 2005 to fellow printers and booksellers, and a few personal reminiscences from those who knew him well. Also included is a checklist of Vance Gerry’s publications produced over a period of more than forty years compiled
by David Butcher. The book is designed as a tribute to a printer who was held in the highest regard, but who is too little known even in his native California. If Vance was little known, it was because of his temperament. Always creative, Vance Gerry worked professionally in the Animation Department at the Walt Disney Company. His printing he did mostly for his own personal pleasure, and at first, for family and friends. I first met Vance in the 1990s, working for one of the book sellers who sold his work to avid collectors who were aware of Vance’s understated, beautifully printed, and ravishingly illustrated books that Vance produced with such lightness of touch. A large run of a title for Vance might be 50 copies, and the booksellers would always offer to distribute Vance’s work exclusively. But Vance only doled out a few copies at a time to each of the dealers he worked with. He wasn’t in it for the glory; but glory he achieved amongst those in the know. This is a loving, and fitting, tribute to a true character whose personality manifested itself in his quietness of speech, easy-going humor, and modest demeanor.