

KENNEDY & SONS, FINE PRINTERS.

Kennedy & Sons collection

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Kennedy & Sons, Fine Printers.
Title: Kennedy & Sons collection
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 908
Extent: 6.5 linear ft. (11 boxes) and 15 oversized papers (OP)
Abstract: Collection of African American commercial printing business Kennedy & Sons, including books and printed material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Purchase, 2001, with subsequent additions.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Kennedy & Sons collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Arranged and described at the folder level by Carrie Hintz, October, 2016.

Collection Description

Historical Note

The African American commercial printing business, Kennedy & Sons, Fine Printers, was founded by Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1995.

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Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr. was born in 1950 in Lafayette Louisiana. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and worked as a programmer and systems analyst at AT&T before leaving that career at age 40 to pursue printing. He studied printing and book design at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with Walter Hamady, earning a Master of Fine Arts in 1997. Kennedy taught graphic design at Indiana University from 1999-2001 before leaving academia to open a print shop.

Kennedy produces both letterpress books, under the Kennedy & Sons name, and runs a commercial printing business called Kennedy Prints! that creates chipboard posters, business cards, bookmarks, and other commercial products. The commercial printing business was originally opened in York, Alabama under the name York Show Prints.

Kennedy moved his studio to Akron, Alabama, working in association with Auburn University's Rural Studio. In 2008 he moved to Gordo, Alabama, to join a community of artists in Gordo centered around Glenn House and Kathy Fetters. In 2013 Kennedy again relocated his studio, this time to Detroit, Michigan.

Kennedy was a 2015 United States Artists Glasgow Fellow in Crafts and subject of a 2008 documentary by filmmaker Laura Zinger.

Kennedy has two sons, Amos Kennedy III and Adric Kennedy.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains books and printed material by Kennedy & Sons, Fine Printers from 1990-2015, as well as some business records, promotional material, publicity, and work by other printers.

The majority of the collection is comprised of posters, placards, and small items printed by Amos Kennedy. This includes both commissioned work, often advertisements for community events or art festivals, and Kennedy's own creative work. Kennedy's non-commissioned work often takes the form of bright, irreverent, typographically-focused, posters on brown chipboard. These posters often explore themes of racial and social inequality.

Arrangement Note

Organized into 3 series: (1) Professional Files, (2) Work by Kennedy, (3) Work by Other Printers.

Description of Series

[Series 1: Professional Files, 1990-2015](#)

[Series 2: Works by Kennedy, 1999-2015](#)

[Series 3: Work by Other Printers, undated](#)

Series 1
Professional Files, 1990-2015
Boxes 5,7, OP5

Scope and Content Note

The series consists of business records, correspondence, and publicity and promotional material.

Box	Folder	Content
5	1	Correspondence, 2002-2005
5	2	CV for Tenure Packet, 1998
5	3	Notes from Talks/Lecture, 1994-1995
5	4	Professional Organizations and Activities, 1990-1994
5	5	Professional Organizations and Activities, undated
5	6	Notes
5	7	Articles about Amos Kennedy
5	8	Articles about Amos Kennedy
7	1	Articles about Amos Kennedy
7	2	Articles about Amos Kennedy
7	3	Articles about Amos Kennedy
7	4	Newspaper Clippings
7	5	Appearances and Events
7	6	Publicity and Promotional Material, 2000-2011
7	7	Publicity and Promotional Material, 2000-2011
7	8	Publicity and Promotional Material, 2015
OP5	-	Publicity and Promotional Material
7	9	Cover Art
7	10	Photographs

Series 2**Works by Kennedy, 1999-2015****Boxes 1-4, 6, 8-11, OP1-3, OP5-15****Scope and Content Note**

The series consists is comprised of Kennedy's artistic output, including printed posters, postcards, bookmarks, and ephemera, as well as three dimensional artifacts.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically.

Prints by Kennedy

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Advertisements and Event Posters
1	2	Advertisements and Event Posters
1	3	Advertisements and Event Posters
1	4	Advertisements and Event Posters
1	5	Advertisements and Event Posters
1	6	Advertisements and Event Posters, 2015
OP1	-	African Proverb Posters
OP8	-	African Proverb Posters, 2015
9	1	A.J. Leon Quotes Prints
1	7	Alabama Photobook Series
1	8	Alabama Photobook Series
1	9	Alabama Photobook Series
1	10	Alabama Photobook Series
OP8	-	Angry Gimp Press, 2015
OP13	-	Art Posters
OP8	-	Art Posters, 2015
OP8	-	Art Imperative Posters, 2015
1	11	Bay Saint Louis Promotions, 2015
OP1	-	Be Kind Posters
OP12	-	Be Nice Posters
OP8	-	Be Nice Posters, 2015
1	12	Belle Isle Aquarium, 2015
OP12	-	Bike Detroit Posters
1	13	Birmingham Museum of Art- Rebuild After Katrina Posters
OP2	-	Black Pride Posters
OP13	-	Bliss Posters
OP12	-	Bob Marley Posters
1	14	Books Poster Series

1	15	Books Poster Series
1	16	Books Poster Series, 2015
9	2	Books Prints
1	17	Bookmarks
1	18	Business Cards
1	19	Business Cards, 2015
1	20	Carver, George Washington posters
3	2	The Children Don't Care Project Postcards
OP13	-	Children Posters
1	21	Christmas Greetings
1	22	Clara Posters
OP13	-	Coffee Posters
OP8	-	Coffee Posters, 2015
OP8	-	Compliments Poster Series, 2015
1	23	Collaboration Postcards
1	24	Dance Posters [Elena Bertozzi Quotes]
OP1	-	Dance Posters
1	25	Demopolis Public Library Series
1	26	Equality is a Special Privilege for Blacks cards
1	27	Event Posters, 2004-2007
1	28	Event Poster- Freedom Dialog with Joy James and Amos Kennedy, 2007
1	29	Event Poster- Louise Thompson Patterson Film Premiere, 2005
OP7	-	Event Posters, 2004
OP7	-	Event Posters, 2004
OP9	-	Event Posters, Undated, 2002-2007
OP10	-	Event Posters, 2008-2014
OP8	-	Event Posters, 2015
OP7	-	Event Poster- A.P. Kennedy Speaking at Emory University, 2004
4	-	Fans
9	-	Fans
1	30	Fear Eats the Soul Poster, 2015
OP5	-	Fine Printing
OP6	-	First One Hundred Days Poster Series (text of Barack Obama's first inaugural address)
OP1	-	Fishing Posters
OP12	-	Food Culture at the Crossroads Posters,
OP12	-	Food Justice Posters
OP13	-	Foreign Language Posters
OP1	-	Free Scholarship, Open Access Posters
OP11	-	Freedom Posters (many in Dutch)

OP12 - Garden Posters
 OP1 - Gay Pride Posters
 OP8 - Gay Pride Posters, 2015
 OP12 - George Washington Carver Posters
 OP12 - Good Deed Posters
 OP12 - Happy Posters
 OP8 - Health Advisory Poster Series. 2015
 OP12 - Hell Posters
 OP8 - Hell Posters, 2015
 OP1 - Holiday Posters
 1 31 I Am As Southern As... Series
 OP13 - I Am As Southern As... Series Posters
 1 32 I Am As Southern As... Series, 2015
 OP12 - Ideas Posters
 8 1 Individual Events, 2015
 8 2 Individual Posters
 OP15 - Individual Posters
 OP8 - Individual Posters, 2015
 9 6 Individual Prints
 OP8 - Insults, 2016
 OP8 - John Deere Farming Poster Series, 2015
 8 3 Kentuck Postcards
 8 4 Kwanzaa
 2 - Lobby of Memorial Library Project
 3 1 Lobby of Memorial Library Project
 8 5 Map Series
 8 6 Map Series
 8 7 Map Series- Confederate States Flags
 OP2 - Masks Posters and Proofs
 8 8 Misfit Economy Postcards, 2015
 8 9 Mockbee, Sambo Quotes, 2015
 8 10 Mockbee, Sambo Posters
 8 11 Mohawks, Prichard, 2015
 3 3 Murdered in Milwaukee Series, 1996
 OP14 - Murdered in the South (fans)
 8 12 Nappygram Cards
 OP2 - Nappygram Posters on Race
 OP12 - Never Give Up Posters
 OP12 - Okra Posters

OP13 - Organization and Business Posters
 10 1 Packets of Prints
 OP2 - Poetry Broad­sides
 10 2 Political Postcards
 10 3 Political Postcards
 10 4 Postcards, 2015
 OP13 - Principles of American Capitalism Posters
 10 5 Private Residency Cards
 OP8 - Promotional Posters, 2015 (for Kennedy Prints)
 OP5 - Proofs and Test Prints
 10 6 Proverbs
 10 7 Quotes, 2015
 OP8 - Quotes Posters, 2015
 9 3 Race and Racism Prints
 10 8 Racism Postcards
 10 9 Racism Postcards
 OP12 - RealTree Posters
 9 4 Rising Pheasant Farm Prints
 OP1 - Rose Parks Posters
 OP2 - Rose Parks Posters
 10 10 Save Our Forests Posters
 OP11 - Selma to Montgomery March Posters
 OP12 - Sphinx Organization Posters
 OP12 - SisterSai Posters
 OP12 - Smarter Every Day Posters
 OP13 - Special Privilege for Blacks Posters
 10 11 Strange Fruit- Book, Dummies, and Notes, 1994
 9 5 Teachers and Teaching Prints
 10 12 Tee's Lounge Postcards
 OP1 - Tee's Lounge Posters
 OP12 - Three Sisters Posters
 10 13 Vote, 2004
 OP1 - War Posters
 OP7 - York Show Prints Posters

Three Dimensional Artifacts

11 1 Miniature Books
 11 2 Miniature Books
 11 3 Miniature Book
 11 4 Decoupage­d Glue Bottle

6 - Papier mache sculpture

Series 3
Work by Other Printers, undated
Box 11, OP2, OP4

Scope and Content Note

The series consists of material printed by other printers.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Content
11	5	Material Printed by Others
11	5	Material Printed by Others
OP4	-	Material printed by Others at Kennedy Prints
11	6	Blake, Hayward
OP4	-	Click Press- Five Poems
11	7	Fine Press Book Association
11	8	Foolproof Press [Rick von Holdt]
11	9	Four Ducks Press [Bill Jackson]
11	10	Johnson, Sarojini Jha
OP4	-	Kim Ransdell Posters
11	12	Logotype Press [Kevin Horvath]
OP2	-	Posters by Robert Pope
OP4	-	Rural Studio Posters
11	13	Type High Press
