Kennedy & Sons collection

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

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.

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<th>Content</th>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Notes from Talks/Lecture, 1994-1995</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Photographs</td>
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Series 2  
Works by Kennedy, 1999-2015  
Boxes 1-4, 6, 8-11, OP1-3, OP5-15

Scope and Content Note
The series consists 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

<table>
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<th>Content</th>
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<td>Advertisements and Event Posters</td>
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<td>Advertisements and Event Posters, 2015</td>
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<td>OP1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>African Proverb Posters</td>
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<td>African Proverb Posters, 2015</td>
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<td>A.J. Leon Quotes Prints</td>
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<td>Alabama Photobook Series</td>
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<td>Angry Gimp Press, 2015</td>
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<td>OP13</td>
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<td>Art Posters</td>
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<td>Art Imperative Posters, 2015</td>
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<td>Bay Saint Louis Promotions, 2015</td>
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<td>Be Nice Posters</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Be Nice Posters, 2015</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Belle Isle Aquarium, 2015</td>
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<td>Bike Detroit Posters</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Birmingham Museum of Art- Rebuild After Katrina Posters</td>
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<td>OP2</td>
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<td>Black Pride Posters</td>
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<td>OP13</td>
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<td>Bliss Posters</td>
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<td>OP12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bob Marley Posters</td>
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<td>Books Poster Series</td>
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Material Printed by Others</td>
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<td>Blake, Hayward</td>
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<td>Click Press- Five Poems</td>
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<td>Four Ducks Press [Bill Jackson]</td>
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<td>Johnson, Sarojini Jha</td>
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<td>Kim Ransdell Posters</td>
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<td>Posters by Robert Pope</td>
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<td>Rural Studio Posters</td>
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