

**Wells College
Archives and Special Collections**

Victor Hammer Collection

Quantity: 1 linear foot

Containers: 1 Archival boxes; 2 binders

Processed: November 12, 2010

By: Philip Garrett

Finding Aid: November 12, 2010

Prepared by: Philip Garrett

Edited by: Molly Brown, Heidi Webb

Prepared for Web:

By:

Funding:

Access: There is no restriction on access to the Victor Hammer Collection for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from the Victor Hammer Collection should be directed to the Archives and Special Collections. It is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and satisfy the holders of all copyrights.

INTRODUCTION

Biographical Note:

Victor Hammer was born in Vienna on September 9, 1882. Fifteen years later he began his apprenticeship in architecture, and a year after that he transferred into the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. In 1922 Hammer moved to Florence where he set up a printing press. In 1939 Victor Hammer fled Europe and the Second World War and came to America with his wife Rosl Hammer. They moved to Aurora, New York where Victor Hammer taught art at Wells College. While at Wells, Victor Hammer set up the Wells College Press and his personal Hammer Press. During this time he cut the Aurora and American Uncial typefaces. Upon mandatory retirement from Wells College, Hammer moved to Lexington, Kentucky in 1948 where he worked as Artist-in-residence at Transylvania College until he retired from there in 1953. Shortly after moving to Kentucky, Hammer married his second wife Carolyn Reading Hammer after his first wife passed away. Victor Hammer died on July 10, 1967 at the age of eighty-four.

Related Material:

Two (2) binders of photographs

One box from the Book Arts Center opening.

Page Smith Bigelow collection.

Carolyn Hammer Gift collection.

Items about Victor Hammer

Bigelow, Charles A. *Fine Print*. San Francisco: Bedford Arts, 1989.

Duncan, Harry. "My Master Victor Hammer." *Kentucky Review* Vol. IV no. 2 (1983); 27-39.

Graves, Joseph. *Victor Hammer: Calligrapher, Punch-Cutter, Printer*. Charlottesville: Charlottesville Bibliographic Society of the University of Virginia, 1954.

Hammer, Victor. *Was Bedevtt uns Die Moderne Kunst?* [1939?]

Hammer, Victor. *A Theory of Architecture*. New York: Wittenburn, Schultz, Inc., 1952.

Holbrook, Paul. *An Introduction to Victor & Carolyn Hammer: with a listing of the books printed at their several presses*. Lexington: Anvil Press, 1995.

Victor Hammer Collection

Kent, Norman. "The Art of Victor Hammer." *American Artist* issue 196 (1956); 44-50.

Koch, Rudolf. *Wer ist Victor Hammer?* Lexington: Gravesend Press, 1952.

McLain, Raymond. *Requiem for Victor Hammer (9 XII 1882-10 VII 1962): burial service/ read by Raymond McLain, Pisgah Church graveyard, Woodford County, Kentucky.* New York: Spiral, Press, 1967.

North Carolina Museum of Art. *Victor Hammer, a retrospective exhibition.* [Raleigh, 1965?]

Rothenstein, John. *Victor Hammer: Artist and Craftsman.* Boston: David R. Godice, 1968.

Swartzburg, Susan Garretson. Victor Hammer's Enduring Contribution. *Wells Express*, March 1994 p16-17.

Transylvania University. *Victor Hammer.* Lexington: Transylvania University, 1970.

Victor Hammer: Artist Printer. Lexington: The Anvil Press, 1981.

Wells College. Hammer Press Reintroduced, *Wells Express*, Fall 1992 v8 n3 p4.

Wells College. Hammer in a Strange Land. *The Express*. January 2000, v16 n5 p14.

Wells College. Hurry! *Wells College Alumnae News*, March 1941 p10.

Wells College. The Wells College Press. *Wells College Alumnae News*, December 1940 p9.

Wells College Trustees. *Victor Hammer and the Wells College Press.* Aurora: Wells College Press, 1993.

Items printed at Wells College Press

Antonio de Alacon, Pedro. *Three Cornered Hat.* NYC: Bittner & Company, Printed at Wells College Press, 1944.

Armour, Richard, ed. *Young Voices.* Aurora: Wells College Press, 1941.

Blair, William. *An Opium-Eater in America and the Fratricide's Death.* Aurora: Wells College Press, 1941.

Davis, Herbert. *Charles Doughty, 1843-1926,* Aurora: Wells College Press, 1945. (Aurora Series VII).

Victor Hammer Collection

Fiedler, Konrad. *Nine Aphorisms from the Notebooks of Konrad Fiedler*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1941.

Guillen, Jorge. *Paso a la Aurora*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1944. (Aurora Series V)

Leger, Alexis. *Briand*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1943 (Aurora Series III)

Lewis, Janet. *The Earth Bound*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1946.

Peguy, Charles. *Le Mystere de la Charite de Jeanne D'Arc*. Pantheon Books Inc. NYC; printed Aurora: Wells College Press, 1943.

Steiner, Herbert. *Begegnung mit Stefan George*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1942. (Aurora Series I)

Steiner, Herbert, ed. *Mesa, Number 1*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1945.

Steiner, Herbert, ed. *Mesa, Number 2*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1946.

Steiner, Herbert, ed. *Mesa, Number 3*. Aurora: Wells College Press, 1947.

Wilder, Thornton. *James Joyce, 1882-1941*. Aurora, Wells College Press, 1944. (Aurora Series IV).

Wilmot, John, Earl of Rochester. *A satire against mankind and other poems*. New Directions, Norfolk, CT, printed Wells College Press, 1942.

Items printed at Hammer Press

Hammer, Victor. *A Dialogue on the Uncial Between A Paleographer and a Printer*. Aurora: Hammer Press, 1946.

Hammer, Victor. *The Psalter, or Psalms of David*. Aurora: Hammer Press, 1947.

Hammer, Victor. *A theory of Architecture*. George Wittenborn, Shultz, Inc., New York City, 1952.

Hammer, Victor. *Type design in relation to language and to the art of the punch cutter*. Aurora, Hammer Press, 1946.

Hauptmann, Gerhart. *Die Finsternisse*. Aurora: Hammer Press, 1947.

Von Hofmannsthal, Hugo. *The little theatre of the world*. Trans. Walter Rather Eberlein. Aurora: Hammer Press, 1945.

Victor Hammer Collection

Kredel, Fritz. *Blutiger Kehraus*. Aurora: Hammer Press, 1948.

Steiner, Herbert, ed. *Mesa*, Number 4. Lexington: Hammer Press, 1952.

Steiner, Herbert, ed. *Mesa*, Number 5. Lexington: Hammer Press, 1955.

Items printed at Anvil Press

Hammer, Victor. "*Those visible marks...*": *the forms of our letters: A B C D E F H I L M O P T V U X G W Q R K S J Y Z*. Lexington: Anvil Press, 1988.

Merton, Thomas. *Four Poems*. Trans. Rupert E. Pickens. Lexington: Anvil Press, 1996.

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. Lexington: Anvil Press, 1993.

Items printed at Stamperia del Santuccio, Italy

Hammer, Victor. *OESTERR BLAETTER*. Austria: 1936.

Milton, John. *Samson Agonistes: A dramatic poem*. Florence, Italy: Stamperia del Santuccio, 1930/1931.

Items printed at Stamperia del Santuccio, Lexington

Fiedler, Conrad. *Three Fragments*. Trans. Victor Hammer. Lexington: Stamperia del Santuccio, 1951.

Other

Griswold, Berneice. *College Women Train and Work for Victory. The family dollar: a journal of consumer economics*. Consumer Credit Institute of America, Inc. NYC. Vol.3 No.6 p.704-707. June 1942. Located in Print Files: World War II

Hammer, Victor. Evelyn Rusk. *Portrait*. Located in the Art Archives.

Hammer, Victor. *Faculty Data Sheet*. Wells College. Located in the Faculty and Data administration sheets.

Victor Hammer Collection

Hammer, Victor. Various punches, matrices, type settings.

Hammer, Victor. American Uncial matrices. Located in Art Archives.

Photo of Rosl Hammer playing piano during a voice lesson. Located in Photo file: Faculty and students 1940 – 1959.

Sedulius. *Opus Paschale de quator Evangelistis. Eng & Lat. Coelli Sedulli De quator Evangelistis ex Libro primo Operis Paschalis, vulgati circa annum CCC XXX IV (334).*

Smith College Museum of Art. *Italian Drawings 1330-1780*. Cover design by Victor Hammer. Smith College Museum of Art, 1941.

Victor Hammer Collection

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains correspondence, both written by and to Victor Hammer and by his 2nd wife Carolyn Hammer; other correspondences include those of his close friends and requests for information sent to the school. There is additionally a small collection of his print work from his time at Wells College. The collection contains a wide variety of articles and newsprint materials from Hammer's life time as well as more contemporary work. Also included are: bibliographic information on Hammer, information on exhibitions of his work, photographs of Hammer, and information on and works from the Anvil Press. Tangential materials included in the collection contain the products of the Wells College Press, which uses Hammer's press, and information on the Wells Books Arts Center.

Organization and Arrangement:

The papers are organized into sixteen series

Series Descriptions:

Series 1, Correspondence

Series 2, Articles

Series 3, Newsprint Sources

Series 4, Victor Hammer's Work

Series 5, The Wells College Press

Series 6, Bruce Bennett and the Wells College Press

Series 7, Exhibits (exhibitions?) of Victor Hammer's Work

Series 8, Wells Symposium on Victor Hammer

Series 9, Bibliographies

Series 10, Catalogues including Victor Hammer's Work

Series 11, The Book Arts Center

Victor Hammer Collection

Series 12, Wells Publications

Series 13, Press Releases

Series 14, Faculty Work

Series 15, The Anvil Press

Series 16, Photographs

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-----------|---|
| Series 1 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1932-1964 | Correspondence from Victor Hammer |
| 1 | 2 | 1970-1993 | Correspondence with Carolyn Hammer |
| 1 | 3 | 1990-1995 | Correspondence to Robert Doherty |
| 1 | 4 | 1980-1982 | Correspondence from Chalmers MacCormick to Carolyn Hammer |
| 1 | 5 | 1992-1996 | Correspondence to Robert Haas |
| 1 | 6 | 1940-1948 | Correspondence to Victor Hammer |
| 1 | 7 | 1941-1993 | Correspondence concerning Victor Hammer |
| 1 | 8 | 1961-1993 | Requests for information and responses |
| 1 | 9 | 1984 | Visual and Performing Arts grant to restart Wells Press |
| 1 | 10 | 1932-1994 | Miscellaneous |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Series 2 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1922-1939 | 1920's and 1930's |
| 1 | 2 | 1942-1948 | 1940's |
| 1 | 3 | 1955-1970 | 1950's, 1950's, and 1970's |
| 1 | 4 | 1982-1983 | 1980's |
| 1 | 5 | 1993-1996 | 1960's |
| 1 | 6 | N/D | No Date |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-----------|---------------------|
| Series 3 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1939-1942 | Newsprint 1939-1942 |
| 1 | 2 | 1945-1954 | Newsprint 1945-1954 |
| 1 | 3 | 1967 | Newsprint 1967 |
| 1 | 4 | 1988-1993 | Newsprint 1988-1993 |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-----------|--|
| Series 4 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | N/D | Type prints and galley proofs of Victor Hammer's fonts |
| 1 | 2 | 1947-1991 | Print Examples |
| 1 | 3 | 1941-1944 | Articles and Essays |
| 1 | 4 | N/D | Miscellaneous |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-----------|--|
| Series 5 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1942-1947 | Programs |
| 1 | 2 | 1993 | "Six Selections" |
| 1 | 3 | 1993 | "Cheat Grass" |
| 1 | 4 | 1993 | "Commemorating the 125 th Anniversary of Wells College" |
| 1 | 5 | 1993 | "Five-and-Dime, Late Thirties" |
| 1 | 6 | 1994 | "Two Poems" |
| 1 | 7 | 1997 | "Victor Hammer Speaks" |
| 1 | 8 | | |
| 1 | 9 | N/D | Wells College Press Bibliographies |
| 1 | 10 | N/D | "Typographic Conventions" |
| 1 | 11 | N/D | "To the Winner of the Eugenia Allison Lee Cup" |
| 1 | 12 | N/D | "Selected Works from Elbert Hubbard's Scrapbook" |
| 1 | 13 | 1941-2000 | Miscellaneous |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Series 6 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1995 | "Glimpses of the Master in Aurora" |
| 1 | 2 | N/D | "The Last Time" |
| 1 | 3 | N/D | "The Ballad of Big Bob" |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Series 7 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1977-1983 | University of San Francisco |
| 1 | 2 | 1948 | University of Chicago |
| 1 | 3 | N/D | University of Louisville |
| 1 | 4 | 1993 | Rochester Institute of Technology |
| 1 | 5 | N/D | Rochester Public Library |
| 1 | 6 | 1945 | New York Public Library |
| 1 | 7 | 1944 | Feigl Gallery |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-------|-------------------|
| Series 8 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1993 | General Material |
| 1 | 2 | 1993 | Planning Material |
| 1 | 3 | 1993 | Speeches |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|----------|--------|-------|----------------|
| Series 9 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | N/D | Bibliographies |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|-----------|--------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Series 10 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1945-1977 | Descriptive Catalogs |
| 1 | 2 | 1970-1985 | Catalogs for the purpose of sale |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|-----------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| Series 11 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1993 | Posters and Pamphlets |
| 1 | 2 | 2001 | "The War Prayer" |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|-----------|--------|-----------|---|
| Series 12 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1940-2000 | Publications that mention Victor Hammer |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|-----------|--------|-------|------------------------------|
| Series 13 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | N/D | Director of Public Relations |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|-----------|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Series 14 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1941 | Faculty Work by Victor Hammer |
| 1 | 2 | N/D | Faculty Work Concerning Victor Hammer |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|-----------|--------|-------|--|
| Series 15 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | N/D | "Notes of the Stamperia del Santuccio" |
| 1 | 2 | | |
| 1 | 3 | N/D | Miscellaneous |

Victor Hammer Collection

| Box | Folder | Dates | Description |
|-----------|--------|-------|---|
| Series 16 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | N/D | Photos of Victor Hammer |
| 1 | 2 | N/D | Photos of Victor Hammer's Work and of the Wells Press |