

Preliminary Guide to the Bradbury Thompson Collection

AOB 19



Compiled by Susan Brady and Fantasia Thorne

2006

Arts Library Special Collections

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New Haven, CT 06511

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<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections
Arts Library Special Collections
180 York Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-432-1712
haasalsc@yale.edu
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

CALL NUMBER: AOB 19

CREATOR: Thompson, Bradbury

TITLE: Bradbury Thompson collection

DATES: 1943-1990

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Bradbury Thompson Collection consists of examples of Thompson's graphic design work including postage stamps, logos, and book, magazine, and corporate publication designs. The majority of the collection consists of Thompson designs that were a part of the Westvaco-sponsored exhibit, "Bradbury Thompson: Innovative Designer," which was exhibited at Yale's Sterling Memorial Library in 1992.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0019>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0019>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Bradbury Thompson, Wetvaco Corporation and Louis Silverstein, 1980-1992.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

Preferred Citation

Bradbury Thompson Collection, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

Associated Materials

Bradbury Thompson Papers (MS 1794), Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Bradbury Thompson (1911-1995) was a graphic designer and art director who had a distinguished career in positions with the Westvaco Corporation, for whom he designed the American Classic Book Series and *Westvaco Inspirations for Printers*; *Mademoiselle* magazine; *Art News*; and *Smithsonian* magazine. He designed the limited edition *Washburn College Bible*, which was published by Oxford University Press in 1979, and designed over 100 United States postage stamps. He was an adjunct professor of graphic design in the Yale School of Art from 1956 to 1995. His autobiography, *The Art of Graphic Design*, was published by Yale University Press in 1988. He received many awards, including the American Institute of Graphic Arts gold medal for lifetime achievement.

Scope and Contents

The Bradbury Thompson Collection consists of examples of Thompson's graphic design work including postage stamps, logos, and book, magazine, and corporate publication designs. The majority of the collection consists of Thompson designs that were a part of the Westvaco-sponsored exhibit, "Bradbury Thompson: Innovative Designer," which was exhibited at Yale's Sterling Memorial Library in 1992. Many of the designs in the exhibition were from the serial publication *Westvaco Inspirations for Printers*. The exhibit had previously been mounted at other venues, including the Frick Gallery in Pittsburgh and the ITC Gallery in New York City.

Arrangement

Arranged by type of material.

Collection Contents

Box Listing

b.1	Articles, brochures, and essays about Bradbury Thompson	1979-1989
	Thompson design examples	
b.1	Postage stamps See also Oversize Box 6.	1963-1990
b.1	Corporate identity (logos, etc.)	undated
b.1	Magazines and corporate publications See also Oversize Box 6.	1944-1989
	Material relating to Westvaco exhibit, "Bradbury Thompson: Innovative Designer"	
b.1	Exhibit slides from Frick Gallery, University of Pittsburgh and ITC Gallery, International Typeface Corp., New York	undated
b.1	Extra wall and display captions (preservation photocopies)	undated
	Exhibition panels arranged by exhibit themes	undated
b.2	Exhibit sign	undated
b.2	"A Love of Books"	undated
b.3	"A Love of Books," cont'd.	undated
b.3	"A Fascination of Magazines"	undated
b.4	"Corporate Publications"	undated
b.5	"Photography and Typography"	undated
b.5	"Alphabet as Graphic Design"	undated
b.5	"Classic Art as Modern Graphics"	undated
b.6	"Westvaco Inspirations Selections From Issues 142 to 217, 1943-1962"	undated
b.6	Miscellaneous corporate identity design examples	undated

Oversize

Thompson design examples

b. 6	Postage stamp: America's Libraries	undated
b. 6	Issue of <i>Printing News</i> , Volume C, No. 4, January 28, 1978	1978
b. 6	<i>Washburn Bible</i> presentation brochure	1979

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Graphic arts
Graphic design (Typography)

Names

Thompson, Bradbury

Corporate Body

Westvaco Corporation