

# Guide to the Collection of Bookplates by Robert Osmond

BKP 130



Compiled by Nathaniel Dolquist

April 2014

Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu

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

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Bookplates by Osmond, 1906-1945 .....	5
Series II: Bookplates by Other Artists, 1898-1927 .....	6
Series III: Sketches, undated .....	7
Series IV: Correspondence and Ephemera, 1906-1961 .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	9

---

## 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:** BKP 130

**CREATOR:** Osmond, Robert, 1874-1959

**TITLE:** Collection of bookplates by Robert Osmond

**DATES:** 1898-1961

**BULK DATES:** 1900-1930

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains bookplates by the English engraver Robert Osmond (1874-1959).

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.bkp.0130>

---

## 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.bkp.0130>.

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

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired from John Rutherford Osmond, 1960.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

---

## Preferred Citation

Collection of Bookplates by Robert Osmond, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

---

## Processing Information

Original files were labeled "Osmond proofs, materials, & letters."

These materials were separated from the filing cabinets which housed the Pearson-Lowenhaupt Collection of English and American Bookplates.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Robert Osmond (1874-1959) was born in Islington, North London. At the age of 14, he was apprenticed to the engraver William R. Corke, whose gold- and silversmith business was located in Northampton Square, Clerkenwell. Osmond received numerous awards for his designs and engravings, which Corke had submitted to exhibitions and competitions. After a seven-year apprenticeship, Osmond headed the engraving branch of W. R. Corke located in the West End of London.

In 1905 Osmond began designing and engraving bookplates for John & Edward Bumpus Ltd. He eventually left Corke and set up his own business on nearby Warwick Street. William Phillips Barrett (1861-1938) was also an employee of Bumpus, but Barrett was responsible for bookplate orders rather than the engraving. Nevertheless, Barrett's initials appear on hundreds of bookplate designs produced by the Bumpus firm. Many of the W.P.B. designs may in fact be the work of Osmond or other engravers associated with Bumpus (including J.A.C. Harrison, John Edward Syson, Charles Bird, and George Ernest Vize). By 1910, Osmond seems to have been the exclusive in-house engraver for Bumpus bookplates. He had a long and prolific career, including numerous works exhibited at the Royal Academy.

Reference: Lee, Brian North. *Bookplates by Robert Osmond*. London: The Bookplate Society, 1998. ALSC Call Number: Z996.O86 L44 1998 (LC)

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection contains bookplates, original sketches, and proofs by the English engraver Robert Osmond (1874-1959). It also includes additional bookplates that may or may not be the work of Osmond as well as some related correspondence and ephemera.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Bookplates by Osmond. II. Bookplates by Other Artists. III. Sketches. IV. Correspondence and Ephemera.

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Bookplates by Osmond, 1906-1945

This series includes Osmond bookplates that have been identified in the catalog published by Brian North Lee, *Bookplates of Robert Osmond* (London: The Bookplate Society, 1998).

Arranged alphabetically by the patron's last name.

b. 1, f. 1	Adams – Bois <i>12 Items</i> Bookplates for Beckett and Blacker are mounted together.	1906-1927 undated
b. 1, f. 2	Boldero – Charlton <i>22 Items</i>	1919 undated
b. 1, f. 3	Clerk – Eaton <i>14 items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 4	Edgar – Fraser <i>14 items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Garrett – Hambro <i>15 items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 6	Harmsworth – Kenyon <i>20 Items</i>	1923 undated
b. 1, f. 7	Kaye – Macneill <i>17 Items</i> Bookplates for Landauer and Stromberg are mounted together.	1928 undated
b. 1, f. 8	Mary – Norris <i>17 Items</i>	1906 undated
b. 1, f. 9	Paget – Sauer <i>27 Items</i>	1920-1945 undated
b. 1, f. 10	Sawbridge – Trotter <i>19 Items</i>	1908 undated
b. 1, f. 11	Tufton – Yorke <i>10 Items</i>	1914 1930 undated

**Series II: Bookplates by Other Artists, 1898-1927**

This series contains unsigned bookplates as well as those signed by W.P.B., which may in fact have been designed and/or engraved by Osmond.

Arranged by artist and then alphabetically by patron's last name.

b. 1, f. 12	Unsigned bookplates <i>64 Items</i>	1908-1927 undated
b. 1, f. 13	WPB bookplates <i>16 Items</i>	1898-1907 undated
b. 1, f. 14	Bookplates by other artists <i>2 Items</i>  Includes the bookplate of James Willcox Alsop signed by Alf. J. Downey (1922) and the bookplate of Aug. F. Ammann signed Inv. F.G.H. and J.A.C.H. [John Augustus Charles Harrison] Sc. (1907).	1907 1922

**Series III: Sketches, undated**

This series contains original sketches by Osmond for bookplate designs as well as other vignettes, etc.

b. 1, f. 15	Sketches <i>25 items</i>	undated
-------------	-----------------------------	---------

---

**Series IV: Correspondence and Ephemera, 1906-1961**

This series includes autograph and typewritten letters mostly addressed to Osmond, such as requests from bookplate patrons as well as collectors.

b. 1, f. 16	Correspondence <i>19 Items</i> Arranged chronologically.	1926-1961 undated
b. 1, f. 17	Ephemera <i>29 Items</i> Includes examples of other graphic works by Osmond, such as letterhead, genre scenes, etc.	1906-1912 undated



## **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**

Bookplates, British

### **Genres / Formats**

Bookplates

Correspondence

Sketches

### **Names**

Osmond, Robert, 1874-1959