

# Preliminary Guide to John O. C. McCrillis Designs and Art Work

AOB 18



Compiled by Susan Brady and Fantasia Thorne

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

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

**CALL NUMBER:** AOB 18

**CREATOR:** McCrillis, John O. C.

**TITLE:** John O. C. McCrillis Designs and Art Work

**DATES:** 1938-2003

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (4 boxes and 1 flat file)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of examples of graphic designs and art works created by John McCrillis, including painting and drawing, relief printing, lettering, and typography. Examples are drawn from his work at the Yale University Press as well as his freelance work and works produced at McCrillis's Penny-Whistle Press.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0018>

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## 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.0018>.

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

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John O. C. McCrillis.

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### Conditions Governing Access

Curatorial permission required before use.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## Preferred Citation

John O. C. McCrillis Designs and Art Work, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

John O. C. McCrillis studied at the Rhode Island School of Design in the 1930s and was one of the first students in the Graphic Design program at the Yale School of Art. After receiving an MFA from Yale in 1952, McCrillis took a position as a typographer with Yale University Press, where he worked until his retirement in 1979. He produced pamphlets, broadsides, keepsakes, greeting cards, and other works at his own Penny-Whistle Press and created works on a freelance basis for many institutions and organizations. In 1993, he published his autobiographical work, *An Airman's Letters: and Other Recollections of World War II, May 18, 1942, to September 18, 1945*, by the Penny-Whistle Press.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of examples of graphic designs and art works created by John McCrillis, including painting and drawing, relief printing, lettering, and typography. Examples are drawn from his work at the Yale University Press as well as his freelance work and works produced at McCrillis's Penny-Whistle Press.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Personal Files, 1947-2002. II. Early Work, 1940-1950. III. Non-Commissioned Work, 1938-2003. IV. Commissioned Work, 1940-1994.

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**Collection Contents****Series I: Personal Files, 1947-2002**

b.1	Writings by and about McCrillis	1970, 1975, 1993-1995
b.1	Announcements of McCrillis exhibitions and talks	1947, 1971, 1999-2002
b.1	Photographic negative	undated

**Series II: Early Work, 1940-1950**

Material also housed in Oversize. See below for the Oversize listing.

b.1	Design	1940
b.1	Painting and drawing	undated
b.1	Relief printing	1945, undated
	Sketchbooks from drawing class with Josef Albers See Oversize Material, Box 4.	1950
b.3	Wood blocks	undated

**Series III: Non-Commissioned Work, 1938-2003**

Material also housed in Oversize. See below for the Oversize listing.

	Greeting cards	
b.1	General	1967, 1970-1988
b.1	Holiday	1938-1945, 1955-1974, 1984, 1991, 2003
b.1	Proofs and color separation	1970, undated
b.1	Lettering	1989, undated
b.1	Painting and drawing	undated
	Penny-Whistle Press	
b.1	Broadsides and keepsakes	1978-1982
b.1	Greeting cards	1978, 1981
b.1	Publications	1978, 2002-2003
b.1	<i>Old Christmas</i> proofs	1978, undated
b.1	<i>The Raven</i> illustrations	undated
b.1	Photos of art works	1985, undated
b.1	Printed books	1989, undated
b.3	Wood blocks	undated
b.1	Works for friends	1963-1971, 1982
b.1	Unidentified	undated

**Series IV: Commissioned Work, 1940-1994**

The material in this series is arranged alphabetically by the name of client for whom the work was created. Works include greeting cards, pamphlets, brochures, logos, corporate identity, lettering, etc.

Material also housed in Oversize. See below for the Oversize listing.

b.1	American Association for State and Local History	undated
b.1	American Association for the History of Medicine	1967
b.1	American Shakespeare Festival	1955
b.1	Association of American University Presses	1966
b.1	Branford Historical Society	1976, 1981-1983
b.1	The Children's Center	1983
b.1	Club of Odd Volumes	1940-1941
b.1	Coggeshall Historical Association	1982
b.1	Colman/Parker	1983
b.1	Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation	1988
b.1	First Baptist Church, Branford, Connecticut	1985, undated
b.1	Garden Club of New Haven	1983, 1988
b.1	Hallmark (not used)	1948, undated
b.1	The Hill-Stead Museum	1966
b.1	John W. Barden Apple Orchards	undated
b.1	The Johnsonians	1973
b.1	Marine Historical Association	undated
b.1	Mattatuck Historical Society	1982
b.1	Michael Boyle, Publisher	1983
b.1	New Haven Bicentennial Commission	circa 1976
b.1	New Haven Colony Historical Society	1975-1988, 1991
b.1	New Haven Festival of Arts	1972
b.1	New Haven Police Department	1961
b.1	New Haven Symphony Orchestra	1966, undated
b.1	Old Sturbridge Village	1965-1966, 1976
b.1	Proprietors of New Haven City Burial Ground	undated
b.1	Redwood Library and Athenaeum	1966



b.1	Rhode Island School of Design	1989, undated
b.1	Saint Thomas More Chapel	undated
b.1	Ticknor & Fields	1980-1983, undated
b.1	Updike	undated
b.1	Walpole Society	undated
b.1	Woman's Seamen's Friend Society of Connecticut	1986
	Yale University	
b.1	A-Y	1958-1972, 1984-1986, 1994
b.1	Beinecke Library	1966
b.1	Elizabethan Club	undated
b.1	Silliman College	undated
b.1	Sterling Memorial Library	1960-1962, 1982
b.1	Yale University Art Gallery	1971, 1982
b.1	Yale University Press	1954, 1963, 1966, undated
b.1	Miscellaneous bookplates	1968, undated
b.1	Miscellaneous letterheads/logos	undated

**Oversize Material**

## From Series II. Early Work

b. 2	Design, painting and relief printing	1949, undated
b. 4	Sketchbooks from class with Josef Albers	1950
b. 3	Wood blocks	undated

## From Series III. Non-Commissioned Work

b. 2	Greeting cards See also Bsd 1.1.	1963, undated
f. 1	Greeting cards See also Box 2.	1963, undated
b. 2	Lettering	1952-1989, undated
b. 2	Painting and drawing, prints, and broadsides See also Bsd 1.1.	1975, 2000, undated
f. 1	Painting and drawing, prints, and broadsides See also Box 2.	1975, 2000, undated
b. 2	Penny-Whistle Press material	1976, 1993, undated
b. 2	Printed works	1974, undated
b. 3	Wood blocks	undated

## From Series IV. Commissioned Work

b. 2	American Association for State and Local History	undated
b. 2	Armstrong Rubber Company	1977
b. 2	Association of American University Presses	1991
f. 1	Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation	1987
b. 2	Garden Club of New Haven	[1983]
b. 2	Houghton Mifflin	undated
b. 2	Joan Kahn Books/Clarion Books	undated
b. 2	New Haven Colony Historical Society	1999
f. 1	New Haven Historic District Commission	undated
b. 2	New Haven Symphony Orchestra	1983
b. 2	Old Sturbridge Village See also Bsd 1.1.	undated

## From Series IV. Commissioned Work (continued)

f. 1	Old Sturbridge Village See also Box 2.	undated
b. 2	Orchestra New England	1999
b. 2	Pilgrim Press	1940
b. 2	Radcliffe Publishing Procedures Course	1966
b. 2	Rhode Island School of Design See also Bsd 1.1.	1939, 1990, 2001
f. 1	Rhode Island School of Design See also Box 2.	1939, 1990, 2001
b. 2	Trinity College, Watkinson Library	1998
b. 2	Yale School of Organization and Management	1981
b. 2	Yale University Library	undated
b. 2	Yale University Press See also Bsd 1.1.	1952-1974
f. 1	Yale University Press See also Box 2.	1952-1974

## **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

### **Genres / Formats**

Drawings (visual works)

Sketchbooks

Watercolors (paintings)

Wood blocks (printing blocks)

### **Names**

McCrillis, John O. C.

### **Corporate Body**

Penny-Whistle Press