

# Guide to the W. A. Dwiggins Collection

AOB 67



Compiled by Jae Rossman

2008

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

**CALL NUMBER:** AOB 67

**CREATOR:** Dwiggin, W. A. (William Addison), 1880-1956

**TITLE:** W. A. Dwiggin Collection

**DATES:** 1919-1950

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The W. A. Dwiggin Collection contains examples of graphic design by William Addison Dwiggin, who worked from the early to mid-20th century. The materials range from original drawings to both business and personal designs.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0067>

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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.0067>.

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 Ruth E. Adomeit, 1994, and collected by Arts of the Book Collection curators.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## Preferred Citation

W. A. Dwiggins Collection, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

William Addison Dwiggins was born in Martinsville, OH, in 1880. He studied in Chicago at the Frank Holme School of Illustration, where he was influenced, among others, by typographer Frederic W. Goudy. Dwiggins ran his own printing firm in Ohio for a short time, but in 1904 he moved to Hingham, MA – a community near Boston that had embraced William Morris's Arts and Crafts movement. Goudy himself was a resident at the time, and Dwiggins remained in Hingham until his death in 1956.

Dwiggins worked as a book designer, typographer, illustrator, and writer. He designed and illustrated books for publishers such as Alfred A. Knopf, Random House, and the Limited Editions Club. He also designed a number of typefaces for the Mergenthaler Linotype Company.

Source: Roy R. Behrens, "Dwiggins, William Addison," in Grove Art Online. Oxford Art Online. Accessed 23 Nov. 2010, <http://www.oxfordartonline.com/subscriber/article/grove/art/T098010>.

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## Scope and Contents

The W. A. Dwiggins Collection contains examples of graphic design by William Addison Dwiggins, who worked from the early to mid-20th century. The materials range from original drawings to both business and personal designs.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Design Examples. II. Articles about Dwiggins and Other Design Examples.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Design Examples, 1906-1950

The design examples are sorted by type of material.

b. 1, f. 1	Publication announcements / BPL Dwiggin Collection brochure <i>7 Items</i>	1939 undated
b. 1, f. 2	Small publications designed by Dwiggin <i>8 Items</i>	1906, 1940-1950
b. 1, f. 3	Bookplates <i>19 items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 4	Lettering and Illustration <i>11 Items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Designs for businesses <i>14 items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 6	Designs for personal use <i>11 items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 7	Original drawings used as chapter heads for "Three Score Years and Ten" <i>7 Items</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 8	<i>Three Score Years and Ten: The Story of the Rise of the Society for Savings and Its Progress Through Seven Eventful Decades</i>	circa 1919
b. 1, f. 9	Original drawings <i>8 Items</i>	undated

## **Series II: Articles about Dwiggin and Additional Design Examples**

b. 2                      Photocopies of articles about Dwiggin and additional design examples  
*8 Folders*

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## **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  
Illustration of books

### **Genres / Formats**

Drawings (visual works)