

University of Victoria Special Collections

Fireweed Press

SC381

Title

Fireweed Press fonds

Dates

1968-1989

Extent

1 m of textual records and graphics

Administrative History

Fireweed Press was founded in 1973 (initially under the name "Greentree Press" until 1975) by Wendy Bender [later Morton] and Vernon Bender. By 1978, Wendy Morton was the principal proprietor and printer until Fireweed's demise in the late 1980's. Fireweed used two Chandler & Price 8x10 presses and a Vandercook proof press. Fireweed produced hand set books, broadsides, ephemera, and commercial printings. The printers looked to the masters of the printing art in the pursuit of quality. Favoured typefaces included Centaur, Arrighi, Lutecia and Benedictine Book. The press used fleurons, colour, rag paper, vinyl cuts, linocuts, woodcuts and silk screens. They often enlisted artists for their graphics. There were collaborations with others including Jim Rimmer of Pie Tree Press. Typefoundry produced linocuts for Fireweed's annual calendar broadsides, and Denise Carson of Winter Lily Press collaborated on a broadside. Wendy Morton, in the tradition of other printer/writers, produced a number of her own works including Earth Market (1975) and Earth Market Cookbook (1976) as well as poetry. The printing and literary interests of Fireweed resulted in exchanges with other hand press operators such as Fred Louder of Villeneuve Publications (Montreal), and with poets such as August Kleinzahler, whose first book, *The Sausage Master of Minsk* (1977), was published by Louder.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of 12 Series: Greentree Press; Publications with Related files; Small Format Broadsheets, Cards and Single Leaf Printings; Job Printing including: Publicity Brochures, Menus, Broadsides and Business Cards; Subject Files; Office Files; Fireweed Printing Samples; News Clippings; Photographs; Large Format Broadsheets; Certificate and Event Posters; Linocut Blocks. Correspondence is retained in the associated files.

Finding Aids

Inventory available with series and file level control.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Fireweed Press
SC381
Acc 2001-042; 2002-052; 2004-002

Main Entry

Fireweed Press

Physical Description

1 m of textual records and graphics, 15 photographs, 15 linocut blocks

History

Fireweed Press was founded in 1973 (initially under the name "Greentree Press" until 1975) by Wendy Bender [later Morton] and Vernon Bender at Otter Point in Sooke, B. C. By 1978 Wendy Morton was the principal proprietor and printer until Fireweed's demise in the late 1980's.

Fireweed used 2 Chandler & Price 8x10 presses and a Vandercook proof press. Fireweed produced hand set books, broadsides, ephemera, and commercial printings. In the pursuit of quality, the printers looked to the masters of the printing art. Favoured typefaces included Centaur, Arrighi, Lutecia and Benedictine Book. The press used fleurons, colour, rag paper, vinyl cuts, lino cuts, woodcuts and silk screens. They often enlisted artists for their graphics. There were collaborations with others including Jim Rimmer of Pie Tree Press, and Typefoundry produced lino cuts for Fireweed's annual calendar broadsides. Denise Carson of Winter Lily Press collaborated on a broadside entitled "How Two Printers Made a Salad".

Wendy Morton, in the tradition of other printer/writers, produced a number of her own works including Earth Market (1975) and Earth Market Cookbook (1976) as well as poetry. The printing and literary interests of Fireweed resulted in exchanges with other hand press operators such as Fred Louder of Villeneuve Publications (Montreal), and with poets, notably August Kleinzahler, whose first book, The Sausage Master of Minsk (1977), was published by Louder.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of office files; publications with production files; job printing; correspondence; poetry; broadsides, and linocut blocks.

Box 1

Greentree Press

1.1 Edwards, Jonathan, Jordan River Poems, Sooke: Greentree Press, 1974.

1.2 Legal correspondence, 1975.

Publications with Related Files

- 1.3 Brock, David. A Christmas Alphabet, n.d. (plus paste-up).
- 1.4 Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver British Columbia, Morning Prayer and Sermon at Eleven Thirty, Their Royal highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales in Attendance. The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 4, 1986. Fireweed Press, Sooke, B.C. Designed by Wendy Morton. (publication and paste-up).
- 1.5 Customs of the Chapel, Printed for the Alcuin Society at Fireweed Press, n.d.
- 1.6 Edward Milne Graduating Class of 1980.
Edward Milne Graduating Class of 1982.
- 1.7 Gerwing, Howard. A 46th Birthday Poem, 1978.
- 1.8 Gregson, Tony. Who was Thomas Nolte? 1984. (plus paste-up).
- 1.9 Guthrie, William. Limericks for Kentaro-Kun, 1984. (includes paste-up and unbound book).
- 1.10 Let it Be, 1985 (correspondence, paste-ups and book).
- 1.11 Little, Adam S. The Laughing Kookaburra/No Dogs Allowed, 1983 (typescript, proof with corrections).
- 1.12 McPhee, Wallace, Snow in April, 1975, (drafts).
- 1.13 Morton [Bender], Wendy. Earth Market: Eating Out of Your Garden Twelve Months a Year, 1975.
- 1.14 Morton [Bender], Wendy. Earth Market Cookbook, 1976. (1)
- 1.15 Morton [Bender], Wendy. Earth Market Cookbook, 1976. (2)
- 1.16 To Howard: dancing, June, 1977 8 pp. (unbound pamphlet poem)
- 1.17 Steven's, Lani Miyoshi, Miyo's Anthology, 1969-1979, Or, A Collection of Flowers, 1980, Fireweed Press, 24 pp.
- 1.18 Vernon, Lorraine, Mastectomy: An April Journal, (Draft MS, correspondence, contract, and paste-up of cover) 1980.

Small Format Broadsheets, Cards, and Single Leaf Printings

- 1.19 Beeton, Isabella. Recipe for a Picnic, n.d.
- Chaa, Achan, Live simply, be natural, and watch the mind. (calling card), n.d.
- Cowley, Abraham. I never had any other desire...., Fireweed Press, 1985.
- Dickens, Charles. Prologue: The Pickwick Papers, Fireweed Press, 1986
- Dillard, Annie. Love poem once and for all. n.d.
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo, A weed is a plant....
- Koch, Rudolph. The making of letters in every form...., n.d.
- Morley, Hilda. Canto Jondo
- Oates, Joyce Carol. Sinners in the hand of a righteous god. n.d.
- Postcards of historical printing press and print samples (8) n.d.
- Roosevelt, Eleanor, You gain strength, courage, and confidence...., n.d.
- Stair, Nadine. If I had my life to live over... Fireweed Press, 1983.
- Woolf, Virginia. From The Letters, 1922. n.d.
- 1.20 Morton [Bender], Wendy. The Beginning of Winter, December, 1977.

Morton [Bender], Wendy. The computer called it 498. signed: Wendy Bender 12/8/76.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. Delphinium, primrose rose germanium..., n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. I wanted to write a poem about romance..., n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. "In Afghanistan all you need..." signed: Wendy Bender 12/2/78.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. In memoriam Bob Fischgrund, n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. The knarled , blackened chunk... , n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. A Little Song for 790, Dec. 12, 1977.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. A Letter to a friend, n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. Monday. n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. True Faith, n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. The Wind Blows Insistent..., n.d.
Morton [Bender], Wendy. Winter Arrived Early..., n.d

Job Printing: Publicity, Brochures, Menus, Broadsides and Business Cards

1.21 Miscellaneous

Subject Files

- 1.22 The Book Club of California -- Printers' samples.
- 1.23 Bostwick, Rusty -- Correspondence -- 14 letters.
- 1.24 Harold Berliner's Typefoundry -- Printers samples and correspondence, 1982-1987.
- 1.25 Keefer, James--Blue Teal Press--Correspondence, poetry, misc. printings.
- 1.26 Kleinzahler, August -- Correspondence--1 postcard: 20 letters
(with 2 enclosed poems) (1976-1979).
- 1.27 Kleinzahler, August -- MSS -- 96 leaves of typescript and photocopied poetry; 1 leaf of
autograph poetry (ca. 1975-1979).
- 1.28 Louder, Fred -- Correspondence -- 50 letters
- 1.29 Louder, Fred -- Printings (Villeneuve Publications) -- includes small format poetry
broadsheets,
cards, publicity broadsheets, and job printings.
- 1.30 McPhee, Wallace -- Correspondence -- ca 100 letters.
- 1.31 McPhee, Wallace -- MSS -- 22 leaves.
- 1.32 Metzger, Philip (Crabtree Press) -- Correspondence -- 2 leaves

Box 2

- 2.1 Morton [Bender], Wendy--Blue Peace -- (environmental org.)
- 2.2 Morton [Bender], Wendy--Correspondence outgoing, to Lorraine Vernon
- 2.3 Morton [Bender], Wendy--Correspondence outgoing, miscellaneous.
- 2.4 Morton [Bender], Wendy--Correspondence incoming, miscellaneous.
- 2.5 Morton [Bender], Wendy--Short stories/"ideas in progress"
- 2.6 Roberts, Max--Correspondence & Illustrations--20 leaves.

- 2.7 Upton, Ruth & John,--Correspondence--11 letters.
- 2.8 Winter Lily Press--"How Two Printers Made a Salad"--(file includes correspondence, final broadside and 35 mm negatives of Wendy Morton and Denise Carson at work with press).
- 2.9 Rimmer, Jim -- Pie Tree Press sample folder, 1984.

Fireweed Printing Samples from Binder Scrapbooks

- 2.10 Binder (1). Samples of Fireweed Press printing from 1973 (Greentree Press) to 1979.
- 2.11 Binder (2). Samples of Fireweed Press printing from 1973 (Greentree Press) to 1979.
- 2.12 Binder (3). Samples of Fireweed Press printing, 1980-1985.
- 2.13 Binder (4). Samples of Fireweed Press printing, letterheads, etc. n.d.

Office Files

- 2.14 Book orders, invoices, correspondence, etc.

News Clippings

- 2.15 Stories on Fireweed Press, Wendy Morton, etc.

Photographs

- 2.16 13 9x12 cm prints, including Vernon Bender and Wendy Morton working in Sooke garden, etc. ca 1975. 2 9x9 cm prints, 1955.
(See also, Subject Files: Winter Lily Press).

Linocut Blocks

- 2.17 3 linocut blocks for 1989 Fireweed Press Calendar

Box 3 (Oversize OS/04/08.1A/01).

12 linocut blocks for Fireweed Press Calendars and other printings

Large Format Broadsheets (Folder OS/04/08.2A/08)

Cookshaw, Marlene. The Projectionist. The Raddle Moon at Fireweed Press, 1986.

1984 Fireweed Press Calendar, 34x53, colour linocut print of white flowers, text by Robert Oppenheimer (2 copies in different printing stages).

1985 Fireweed Press Calendar, 34x53, colour linocut print of foxglove, text by Wendy Morton with different printing with text by Thomas Jefferson (6 copies in different print stages).

1987 Fireweed Press Calendar, 34x53, colour linocut print of foxglove, text by Wendy Morton (2 copies in different printing stages).

1988 Fireweed Press Calendar, 34x53, colour linocut print of calendula flower, text by Wendy Morton. (9 copies in different printing stages, plus colour guide).

1989 Fireweed Press Calendar, 34x53, colour linocut print of poppies,
text by Albert Camus (2 copies in different printing stages).

Morton, Wendy, "On winter days...", n.d. 34x53, colour linocut print of umbrellas, 1 copy.

Morton, Wendy, "There is an ease...", n.d. 34x53, colour linocut print of chairs by water, 2
copies.

Morton, Wendy. "Spring rises...", n.d. 34x53, colour linocut print of garden, 1 copy.

Morton, Wendy. "In the stillness...", n.d. 34x53, colour linocut print of flowers on house deck, 1
copy.

Morton, Wendy. "When we walk to the edge...", n.d. 34x53, colour linocut print of
trees by water, 2 copies.

Certificate and Event Posters (Folder OS/04/08.2A/08)

Assoc. of Book Publishers of B.C., appreciation for Rick Antonson, 1984-1986.

Recital. Victoria Art Gallery, 1984

Thomas Nolte Scholarship for Art. Aud Fischer, 1985.

Thomas Nolte Scholarship for Art. Whanda Shum, 1986.

National Book Festival, "Notes & Words: performance readings", April 26, 1987.

Fireweed Press Fonds

2013-031

- 1.1 August Kleinzahler Correspondence
1 pg. from Wendy Morton to Kleinzahler; 13 pgs from Kleinzahler to Vernon Bender and Wendy Bender (Morton), including poems.
- 1.2 Portfolio
20 pgs of material printed by Fireweed Press, including invitations, programs, poems, menus, etc.
- 1.3 Prints
Business cards, envelopes, poems etc.
- 1.4-14 Printing Blocks
51 Printing blocks for Fireweed publications