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Joseph Laurence Black History of the Book Collection

1789-1964

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A scholar of early modern British literature, Joe Black received his BA and PhD from the University of Toronto and taught for several years at the University of Tennessee Knoxville before joining the English faculty at UMass Amherst in 1994. Rooted in the history of the book, his research on seventeenth-century literature has examined the intersection between writing and the material and social context of production as well as the dialogue between print and manuscript culture.

The Black collection is an eclectic assemblage of American imprints designed to assist study and instruction in the history of the book. The collection includes two long runs of popular dime novels, *Beadle's Frontier Series* and the American Revolution-inspired *Liberty Boys of '76*, examples of almanacs, prompt books, and works from the early national period in publishers' bindings.

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Background on Joe Black

A scholar of early modern British literature, Joe Black received his BA and PhD from the University of Toronto and taught for several years at the University of Tennessee Knoxville before joining the English faculty at UMass Amherst in 1994. Rooted in the history of the book, Black's research has examined the intersection between writing and the material and social context of production in seventeenth-century literature as well as the dialogue between print and manuscript culture.

In addition to his numerous contributions to academic journals, Black has edited and co-edited a number of significant works, including two volumes in the Broadview series, *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature, vol. 2: The Renaissance and Early Seventeenth Century* (Broadview, 2006), with Anne Lake Prescott, and *The Broadview Anthology of Seventeenth-Century English Verse and Prose* (Broadview, 2000), with Alan Rudrum and Holly Nelson, *The Martin Marprelate Tracts* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), *The Library of the Sidneys of Penshurst Place* (University of Toronto Press, 2013), with Germaine Warkentin and William Bowen, and two volumes in the *Private Libraries of Renaissance England*, vol. 7 (MRTS, 2009) and vol. 8 (MRTS, 2013), both with R. J. Fehrenbach. Black is also engaged with the Digital Humanities Initiative at UMass Amherst, developing an online database of private Renaissance libraries with the Folger Shakespeare Library, among other projects.

Scope of collection

The Black collection is an eclectic assemblage of American imprints designed to assist study and instruction in the history of the book. The collection includes two long runs of popular dime novels of the turn of the twentieth century, *Beadle's Frontier Series* and the American Revolution-inspired *Liberty Boys of '76*, examples of almanacs, prompt books, and works from the early national period in publishers' bindings. Black has also contributed two scrapbooks: an ambitious late Victorian autograph album and a scrapbook kept by an agent with Massachusetts Orchestras Associated booking musical acts in ca.1931.

Inventory

Allen, Ethan: *Allen's Captivity, Being a Narrative of Colonel Ethan Allen...* Boston: Oliver L. Perkins
1845

Quarter leather over printed paper boards. Illustrated.

Almanacs: Beers Almanack (1794, 1813); Staffords Almanack (1798); Middlebrooks Almanack (1817); Herrick's Almanac (1918);
Dr. Miles New Weather Almanac (1921); two cripples
1794-1918

Baker, George M.: *Irish Dialect Recitations*. Boston: Lee and Shepard
1888

Lacks cover

Baldwin, James: *Blues for Mister Charlie*. New York: Samuel French
1964

Actor's edition

Beadle's Frontier Series Dime novels
1909-1934



The Woman Trapper, from Beadle's Frontier Series no. 35 (1908)

- 36 vols.
5. The boy guide
 6. The war tiger of the Modocs
 7. The red Modocs
 8. Iron Hand the Tory chief
 13. Old Jack's frontier cabin
 14. On the deep
 18. The brave boy: hunters of Kentucky
 19. The fearless ranger
 21. The madman of the Colorado
 23. Slashaway the fearless
 24. Pine Tree Jack
 26. Navajo Nick
 29. A New York boy among the Indians
 30. Deadwood Dick's big deal
 33. Squatty Dick
 34. The hunter's secret, or gamblers among the redskins
 35. The woman trapper, or Arkansas Sal and the patches
 37. Gunpowder Jim, or the mystery of Demon Hollow
 38. Mad Anthony's captain
 39. The danger boy's career
 45. The Irish hunter
 46. Dave Bunker, or the outlaws of the frontier
 56. The Indian queen's revenge (lacks cover)
 65. Old Kit the scout
 70. Made Mike, or the death shot
 73. The blazing arrow
 74. The hunter scouts
 75. The scout of Long Island
 78. Bullet Head
 81. Lightfoot, the scout
 83. The wooden-legged spy
 86. Fire Cloud
 88. The scout of the Sciota
 89. Black Samson
 92. Marksman the hunter
 93. The demon cruiser

Boston Post Sunday Magazine: 6 Sunday supplements

1921-1924

Scarce, ephemeral

Code of 1650, being a compilation of the earliest laws and orders of the General Court of Connecticut... commonly called the Blue Laws. Hartford: Judd, Loomis & Co.

1836

With Milton Public Library presentation plate; front cover detached; quarter leather over original publisher's boards.

Constitution of the State of Massachusetts and that of the United States... Brookfield: E. Merriam for Isaiah Thomas

1807

Quarter leather over wooden boards with original blue paper.

Coffinberry, Andrew: *Forest Rangers.* Columbus: Wright and Legg

1842

19th century cloth binding with paper label; in custom box. Early novel, Ohio imprint, regarding Anthony Wayne in the Old Northwest.

Cook, James: *Voyage to the Pacific Ocean for making discoveries...* 4 vols. NY: Tiebout and O'Brien

1796

1st Amer. Ed. Two incomplete, mismatched sets, with vol. 2 in duplicate, creating a complete set. One copy of vol. 2 lacks t.p. Vol. 2 and 4 ex-Charleston Free Library; vol. 1, 2, and 3 with ownership inscription of Isaac Young.

Eastman, Charles: *Smoky Day's Wigwam Evenings.* Boston: Little Brown

1924

Decorative cloth binding depicting Native Americans sitting in circle with bear cub.

Liberty Boys of '76

1902-1924

60 items, 59 nos.)

Nos. 104, 123, 132, 135, 140, 143, 145, 149, 163, 334, 348, 362, 449, 505, 547, 693, 710, 716, 975, 1021, 1033, 1047, 1057, 1071, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1087, 1088, 1093, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1106, 1112, 1113, 1126, 1127, 1131, 1132 (2), 1150, 1192, 1195, 1197, 1203, 1224, 1225, 1231, 1232, 1234, 1237, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1252

Lincoln, William L. autograph scrapbook

1858-1907

Unusual mid-19th century collection of letters sent to autograph collector, some clipped signatures. Includes scientists (J.P. Kirtland, Chandler Robbins), literary figures (Charles Lowell, John Pierpont, George Putnam, Edward Everett Hale), politicians (Sherman Hoar), clergymen (William Rounseville Alger, Orville Dewey, Henry W. Bellows, Frederic Hedge, Frederick Dan Huntington, Manton Eastburn).

Luther, Martin: *Psalter des Königs und Propheten Davids*. Philadelphia: Jacob Meyer

1812

Quarter leather with paper boards; black letter type.

Massachusetts Orchestras Associated (?) scrapbook

ca.1931

Scrapbook apparently kept by musical act booking agent in New England (Boston or northern suburbs).

McDonald, A.: *Youth's Assistant... Guide to Practical Arithmetic*. Litchfield: Collier

1789

Re-cased with new back in quarter leather over original boards.

More, Hannah: *Shepherd of Salisbury Plain... to which is added, the Sorrows of Yamba: or the Negro Woman's Lamentation*.

New Haven: Sidney Press

1806

Quarter leather with marbled paper over wooden boards, quarter leather.

Morgan and Maguire: *Cases and materials on evidence*. Chicago: Foundation Press

1942

Copy owned by Elliot Richardson, with ownership inscription as law student at Harvard and some marginal comments.

Pearse, Pdraig: *Singer and other plays*. Dublin: Maunsel & Co.

1918

Plays and prompt books

1889-1919

8 items

Frank Glynn's wife, or an American Harem. Boston: Walter H. Baker

1897

Walkes, W. R.: *Pair of lunatics*. Boston: Walter H. Baker

1889

Taylor, J.M.: *Man from Brandon*. Boston: Walter H. Baker

1907

Gleason, O. W.: *How the story grew*. Boston: Walter H. Baker

1908

King, Beulah: *Henry, Where are you?* Boston: Walter H. Baker

1919

Baker, Walter H.: *Love of a bonnet*. Boston: Walter H. Baker

1889

Parker, Mary Moncure : *When Lucindy goes to town*. Chicago: T.S. Denison

undated

Pauline Phelps' Pieces. NY: Edgar S. Werner

1900-1904

7 monologues (two partial)

Robinson, D. F.: *Stories About Dr. Franklin Designed for the Instruction and Amusement of Children*. Hartford: D.F. Robinson &

Co.

1829

Quarter leather with printed paper over boards; adverts on rear panel.

Washington Benevolent Society: *Text-Book of the Washington Benevolent Society*. Concord: George Hough
1812

Quarter leather over marbled boards. Contains a relatively early printing of the US Constitution.

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Joe Black, July 2013.

Related Material

The Barbara Parker History of the Book Collection covers a broader span of time and printing technologies.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2014.

Language:

English

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Subjects

Books--History--United States

Dime novels, American

Genres and formats

Almanacs

Scrapbooks

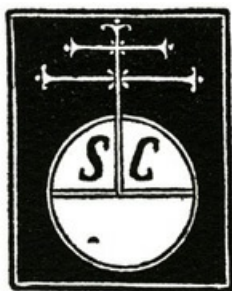
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