

Prints and bookplates by Sidney Lawton Smith



**Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2021**

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Prepared by the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Prints and Photographs Division staff, June 2021

Revised January 2022

Collection Summary

Title: Prints and bookplates by Sidney Lawton Smith

Span Dates: 1886-1925

Call No.: LOT 15196 (FM -- AA size, A size, B size)

Creator: Smith, Sidney Lawton, 1845-1929, artist

Extent: 886 items

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2010645114>

Summary: The collection contains proof prints as well as finished engravings and etchings created by artist Sidney Lawton Smith. Most of the material is bookplates and book illustrations. Also included are portraits of prominent Americans, depictions of historical scenes, and reproductive prints from paintings.

Provenance

Purchase (Hubbard Fund); Goodspeed's Book Shop; 1932 Oct. 12; (DLC/PP-1932:090).

Processing History

Collection was organized and described by Maggie McCready in 2021. Finding aid encoded by Maggie McCready in 2021.

The previous owner, Goodspeed's Book Shop, used the term "folio" when it numbered the folded sheets of paper that kept related prints together in a group. The collection arrived in this arrangement, which was maintained during processing. A "folio" is typically in one physical folder, except for a few large folios that the Library rehoused in multiple physical folders.

Related Material

Additional materials with similar subjects, media, and genres are described in our [Online Catalog](#) and searchable by call number or descriptive words:

- The Ruthven Deane Bookplate Collection contains several digitized examples of Sidney Lawton Smith's work. (Call number: PR 13 CN 1935:144) [finding aid available](#)

Additional resources that describe Smith's work include a checklist of bookplates and an obituary:

- [Bookplates by Sidney L. Smith](#) by Gardner Teall. Kansas City : A. Fowler, 1921. (Call No.: Z996.S65 T2)
- "Sidney L. Smith." In American Society of Bookplate Collectors and Designers. [Year Book](#), 14-16. [Alhambra, Calif., etc.]: The Society, 1929.

Related Materials at Other Repositories

- The Boston Athenaeum has a digitized collection of Sidney Lawton Smith Bookplates.
- The American Antiquarian Society has a collection of Sidney Lawton Smith Papers, 1887-1931.

Rights Restrictions

No known restrictions on publication.

Access Restrictions

The collection is open to research. All materials are stored offsite. Please [contact us](#) at least 5 working days in advance of your visit in order to view the material.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Prints and bookplates by Sidney Lawton Smith, LOT 15196, and item or reproduction number, if available [e.g., LOT 15196, no. 1 or LC-DIG-ppmsca-12345]

Biographical Note

Sidney Lawton Smith was born June 15, 1845, in Foxborough, MA. In 1863, Smith apprenticed with Reuben Carpenter to learn steel engraving and later apprenticed with Joseph Andrews. Sometime in the 1870s, Smith opened his own engraving studio in Canton, MA, and also worked on such projects as John La Farge's stained glass for Trinity Church. In 1893, the artist moved with his family to Boston. By 1896, Smith concentrated on designing and engraving bookplates. Smith was a prolific artist who specialized in printmaking and illustration from his own drawings. Smith had particular skill in rendering architectural details, decorative elements, historical scenes, and portraiture. He is considered an eminent bookplate artist and completed more than 200 bookplates for book collectors and cultural organizations. He died in 1929.

Scope and Content Note

Collection contains prints from the last 40 years of Smith's active career as an artist. There are multiple proof states and final engraved and etched prints for bookplates (also called "ex libris"), which comprise about 30% of the collection. The rest of the collection consists of portraits; book illustrations, decorations, and title pages; reproductive art prints; historical scenes; and a few certificates or souvenir prints. Of special interest, the proofs are often dated by the sequential month and day of printing or have annotations that indicate why a change was made. Some prints are signed by Smith or stamped with his mark. Several include prices and a request to return the proof to Smith. Most of the prints are identified, often from the descriptions on the Goodspeed's Book Shop folio sheets. A bookplate that Smith designed for himself and a portrait of his wife are also in the collection.

- [Folios 1 through 2](#), [9 through 11](#), [18](#), and [22](#) contain illustrations for books by William Loring Andrews, William Ellery Channing, I. N. Phelps Stokes, and Charles Dickens, among others.
- [Folios 3 through 8](#) contain engravings of objects in the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection.
- [Folios 12 through 17](#) contain bookplates for individual people, clubs, academic institutions, and public libraries.
- [Folios 19 through 21](#), [25 through 26](#), and [28 through 29](#) contain portraits, historical scenes, and landscapes.
- [Folios 23 through 25](#) and [27](#) contain engravings of objects, reproductive art prints, a certificate, historical scenes, and other prints.

Arrangement

The collection is organized by folio numbers assigned by the seller of the collection, Goodspeed's Book Shop, to keep groups of related prints together. Collection is arranged physically by size.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Smith, Sidney Lawton, 1845-1929, artist.

Subjects

Cities & towns--1880-1930.

Fictitious characters--1880-1930.

Men--1880-1930.

Women--1880-1930.

Form/Genre

Bookplates--1880-1930.

Engravings--1880-1930.

Etchings--1880-1930.

Landscape prints--1880-1930.

Portrait prints--1880-1930.

Still life prints--1880-1930.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Prints and bookplates by Sidney Lawton Smith, 1886-1925

Call No.: LOT 15196 (FM -- AA size, A size, B size)

Container List

Container	Contents
	Prints and bookplates by Sidney Lawton Smith, 1886-1925 Call No.: LOT 15196 (FM -- AA size, A size, B size) Extent: 886 items
BOX 1 FOLDER 1	Folio 1, 1905-1908 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 1 to 19 (FM -- AA size) Folio Description: Title pages, frontispieces, decorations, and illustrations for books by William Loring Andrews: "New York as Washington Knew It After the Revolution" (1905); "An English XIX Century Sportsman Bibliopole and Binder of Angling Books" (1906); "The Heavenly Jerusalem: A Mediaeval Song of the Joys of the Church Triumphant" (1908). Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 1 FOLDER 2	Folio 2, 1901 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 20 to 40 (FM -- AA size) Folio Description: Illustrations for William Loring Andrews' "Paul Revere and His Engraving" (1901). Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 5 FOLDER 1	Folio 3, 1889 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 580 to 587 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Proof states of the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection, Bowl. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 5 FOLDER 2	Folio 4, 1889 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 588 to 595 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Proof states of the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection, lotus vase. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 5 FOLDER 3	Folio 5, 1889 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 596 to 603 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Proof states of the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection, low relief vase. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 5 FOLDER 4	Folio 6, 1888 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 604 to 611 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Proof states of the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection, tower piece. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 5 FOLDER 5	Folio 7, 1889 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 612 to 618 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Proof states of the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection, trumpet vase. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 5 FOLDER 6	Folio 8, undated Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 619 to 622 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Proof states of the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection, white plaque. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	Folio 9, 1902 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 41 to 59 (FM -- AA size)

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- BOX 1 FOLDER 4** Folio 10, 1901-1915
Folio Description: Illustrations for William Ellery Channing's "Thoreau: The Poet Naturalist, with Memorial Verses" (1873). Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 60 to 108 (FM -- AA size)
- BOX 5 FOLDER 7** Folio 11, 1894
Folio Description: Named portraits of men for the "Coe Family Genealogy"; portrait of Thomas James Cobden-Sanderson; engraving from "The Princeton Washington" painting; portrait of Ralph Waldo Emerson; frontispiece and title page for Xavier de Maistre's "Voyage" (1901); de Kock illustration (1902); Goodspeed's Book Shop imprint; and World's Columbian Exposition medal commemorating the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 623 to 641 (FM -- A size)
- BOX 2 FOLDER 1** Folio 12, 1903-1921
Folio Description: Ex-Libris, A-B // Bookplates for the Boston Public Library, Boston Medical Library, Frank Brewer Bemis, Bolton Public Library, Adaline B. Beal, John S. Bartlett, Bangor Public Library, Hilda Rice Ayer, Frederick Ayer Jr., American Antiquarian Society, Alpha Delta Phi Club, and Susan Janney Allen, among others.
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 109 to 169 (FM -- AA size)
- BOX 2 FOLDER 2** Folio 13, 1900-1919
Folio Description: Ex-Libris, C // Bookplates for The Children's Hospital Boston, Stephen Caplin, W.H. Chase, John Bouvé Clapp, Clara Erskine Clement, Thomas Upham Coe, Arthur T. Connolly, Annie B. Crocker, Prentiss Cummings, and Frederic H. Curtiss, among others.
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 170 to 207 (FM -- AA size)
- BOX 2 FOLDER 3** Folio 14, 1896-1921
Folio Description: Ex-Libris, D-H // Bookplates for Cambridge First Parish (ex dono Edward Henry Hall), Frederick Thayer Hunt, James Frothingham Hunnewell, Lucius Lee Hubbard, Howe Library, Sallie W. Hovey, Mary Livingston Hinsdale, Harvard College Library, Charles J. Groves, Charles Eliot Goodspeed's Book Shop, Josiah Minot Fowler, E. Hayward Ferry, District of Columbia Public Library, John Dane, Daniel B. Fearing, The Essex Institute, Helen Frances Dinsmore, and Ruthven Deane, among others.
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 208 to 277 (FM -- AA size)
- BOX 3 FOLDER 1** Folio 15, 1898-1925
Folio Description: Ex-Libris, J-P // Bookplates for Charles Lemuel Nichols, Francis G. Peabody, Lynn Public Library, The Massachusetts Historical Society, Malden Public Library, Lodge of St. Andrews, John Thomas Lee, Robert Irving Jenks, Herbert J. Jackson, Winward Prescott, Thomas Redfield Proctor [and] Maria Watson Williams Proctor, Portland High School Library, The Newberry Library, and Pequot Library, among others. Also includes one original folio page from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 278 to 338 (FM -- AA size)
- BOX 3 FOLDER 2** Folio 16, 1901-1924
Folio Description: Ex-Libris, R-S // Bookplates for Edith Kermit Roosevelt, Edith Heath Rossiter, Martha B. Stone, Stevens Memorial Library, Eleanor F. Sproul, Arthur E. Sproul, Clarence W. Spring, Joseph N. Smith, Harry Worcester Smith, Harold Marsh Sewall, Charles P. Searle, Sidney L. Smith, Spenceley, The Rowfant Club, and Henry

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- Livingston Rowe, among others. Also includes one original folio page from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
- BOX 3 FOLDER 3** Folio 17, 1903-1924
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 386 to 421 (FM -- AA size)
Folio Description: Ex-Libris, T-W // Bookplates for George Clinton Fairchild Williams, Isabella Lincoln Whittier, Albert R. Whittier, Jr., Sargent Holbrook Wellman, Vassar College Library, Mary Brinsmade Van Sinderen, Vail Library at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Alfred Rogers Turner, Isaac Rand Thomas, Henry F. Tapley, and Byam and Madeleine Whitney. Also includes one original folio page from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
- BOX 3 FOLDER 4** Folio 18, 1902-1908
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 422 to 453 (FM -- AA size)
Folio Description: Illustrations for "Glinting Sunshine" for Mrs. Edward A. Adams; title page, illustrations, and table of illustrations for William Loring Andrews' "Bibliopegy in the United States: And Kindred Subjects" (1902); and title pages for the 1905 and 1906 yearbooks of the Bibliophile Society. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
- BOX 4 FOLDER 1** Folio 19, 1890-1913
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 454 to 516 (FM -- AA size)
Folio Description: Portrait of John Hay; profile of Thomas Jefferson for Club of Odd Volumes; Houghton-Mifflin & Co. imprints; portraits of Dr. N. C. Keep; medallion showing Abraham Lincoln; portrait of Hugh Earl Percy for "Earl Percy's Dinner Table" (1907); proofs of "Morning on the River"; outbreak and birthplace of the great Boston fire of 1872; title page for Charles L. Nichols' "The Library of Ramses the Great" (1909); portrait of Rev. Thomas Prince; "Protection" for North East Mutual Life Insurance Company; portraits of men in the Revere Family for the History of the Revere Copper Co. (1890); portrait of Sir Roger Sheaffe Bart; portrait of Charles William Sherborn; and portrait of Mrs. Sidney L Smith. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
- BOX 5 FOLDER 8** Folio 20 (part 1), 1889-1918
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 642 to 692 (FM -- A size)
Folio Description: Portraits of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Mrs. [Elizabeth Lawrence (?)] Hemingway, Maria P. Gilman, N. J. Bartlett (drypoint and etching, 1904), Thomas Bailey Aldrich, D. T. Huntoon, Dudley Buck, George E. Littlefield, and Hon. F. A. Gasall (?) (1910).
- BOX 5 FOLDER 9** Folio 20 (part 2), 1886-1913
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 693 to 720 (FM -- A size)
Folio Description: Portraits of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Luis Agassiz, John Quincy Adams (as a boy), Elisha R. Brown, and Mrs. John Fiske. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
- BOX 6 FOLDER 1** Folio 21, 1887-1904
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 721 to 773 (FM -- A size)
Folio Description: Illustrations for the Boston Iconographic Society, including Park St. Meeting House (Church), Old Corner Book-store, Old State House, Brattle St. Church, West View of Mick Street, New South Church, Faneuil Hall, John Hancock House, and Old South Church. Also, copy of Nassau Hall, Princeton. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
- BOX 4 FOLDER 2** Folio 22, 1902-1922
Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 517 to 574 (FM -- AA size)
Folio Description: Brochure for the book "Thoreau: The Poet-Naturalist" by William Ellery Channing (1902) and title page and vignettes for the book "The Iconography

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	of Manhattan Island" by I. N. Phelps Stokes (1912). Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 6 FOLDER 2	Folio 23, 1886-1888 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 774 to 792 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Prints showing a Japanese sword guard, bowl, Fritsche Ewer, a vase, and Tiffany jeweled coffee pot. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 6 FOLDER 3	Folio 24, 1890-1896 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 793 to 801 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Reproductive prints from Jules Bastien Lepage's painting "Joan of Arc" and Franz Rosler's "Diana and her Nymphs Hunting"; Revere Copper Co. store front; shore views; a portrait of Mark Hopkins; and horse racing. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 7 FOLDER 1	Folio 25 (part 1), 1898-1900 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 802 to 814 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: New England Historic Genealogical Society membership certificate; William Loring Andrews' library; North West Prospect of Nassau Hall in New Jersey; View from the park gate, Broadway, NY; and engravings of women for the John A. Lowell & Co. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 8 FOLDER 1	Folio 25 (part 2), 1890 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 872 (FM -- B size) Folio Description: Reproductive art print of Europa and the Bull.
BOX 7 FOLDER 2	Folio 26, 1892-1904 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 815 to 844 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Portraits of E. H. Barney, J. W. Wheeler, Pach, J. M. Stone, James Bradley Thayer, and Sidney Lawton Smith. Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 4 FOLDER 3	Folio 27, 1904-1918 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 575 to 579 (FM -- AA size) Folio Description: Reproductive print of Thomas Johnston's "View of Yale"; letterhead for The Witch House, Taunton, MA; and "Updike's French border." Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 7 FOLDER 3	Folio 28, 1894-1895 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 845 to 871 (FM -- A size) Folio Description: Portraits and illustrations commissioned by John G. Whittier (portraits of himself, a sister, a brother, home at Amesbury, and Oak Knoll, Danvers) and John Burroughs works (nature scenes illustrations). Also, a copy of the folio sheet descriptions from Goodspeed's Book Shop.
BOX 8 FOLDER 2	Folio 29, 1890-1912 Call No.: LOT 15196, no. 873 to 886 (FM -- B size) Folio Description: Trial proof prints with descriptions of distinctive features for the New England Mutual Life Insurance Co., 1892, Boston, Mass.: Quadra-centennial of the discovery of San Salvador by Columbus, 1492; portrait of William Eustis Russell, Governor of Mass., 1912; and portrait of unidentified man, 1912.