

# King Lear Archive

## Preparatory Materials for an Illustrated Edition of King Lear



**Rare Book and Special Collections Division  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
1999**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbc.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/92162930>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/eadrbc.rb999001>

Finding Aid Prepared by Meredith Shedd-Driskel

Finding aid encoded by Special Materials Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, 1999  
Revised 2005-05-12

## Collection Summary

**Title:** King Lear Archive,

**Dates:** 1984-1986

**Call No.:** Z232.J36 K56 1984

**Creator:** Van Vliet, Claire.

**Extent:** ca. 965 items

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/92162930>

**Summary:** Preparatory materials for an edition of Shakespeare's *King Lear* published by Theodore Press with illustrations printed at the Janus Press.

## 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

Alpert, Michael.

Lear, King of England (Legendary character)--Drama.

Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616. *King Lear*. 1986.

Van Vliet, Claire

### Organizations

Janus Press.

Janus Press.

King Lear Archive (Library of Congress) DLC

Theodore Press.

### Subjects

Book design--United States--History--20th century--Sources.

### Form/Genre

Artists' proofs.

Book designers' mock-ups (Publishing)

Corrected proofs (Printing)

Wood blocks.

Woodcuts.

### Occupations

Book designers--Vermont.

## Provenance

Purchase from Joshua Heller Rare Books, 31 Jan. 1991.

## Access and Restrictions

The records of the King Lear Archive are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Rare Book and Special Collections Division reading room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Cite as: King Lear Archive, Rare Book and Special Materials Division, Library of Congress.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of woodcuts, drawings, correspondence, proofs, book designers' mockups, and woodblocks for an edition of Shakespeare's *The Tragedie of King Lear* published by Theodore Press in 1986 with illustrations by Claire Van Vliet. The publication is based on the 1623 first folio text of the play, and was produced in a limited edition of 160 copies, each signed by Claire Van Vliet. The woodcuts include several proofs of each illustration, most of which are images of characters in the drama. The collection also includes preliminary pencil drawings for each of the woodcuts, as well as a complete set of the original wood blocks. Correspondence relating to all aspects of the project during 1985 and 1986 is chiefly by Claire Van Vliet, founder of Janus Press, and Michael Alpert, owner of Theodore Press. The collection was assembled and arranged by Claire Van Vliet.

## Organization of the Papers

Organized in 13 containers: 1-5. Woodcuts; 6. Drawings; 7. Letters; 8. Trial proofs; 9. Dummies; 10. Corrected proofs; 11. Paste-up; 12. Mock-up; 13. Wood blocks.

# Container List

Container	Contents
	Woodcuts
CONTAINER 1 FOLDER 1	Gonerill (6 items)
FOLDER 2	Regan (11 items)
FOLDER 3	Cordelia (19 items)
FOLDER 4	Lear (35 items)
FOLDER 5	Gonerill & Regan (14 items)
FOLDER 6	Edmund (12 items)
FOLDER 7	Fool (12 items)
FOLDER 8	Lear Enraged (8 items)
CONTAINER 2 FOLDER 9	Gloucester angry (6 items)
FOLDER 10	Gloucester grief (21 items)
FOLDER 11	Kent in stocks (2 items)
FOLDER 12	Lear commanding Gloucester (22 items)
FOLDER 13	Lear "How is that?" (6 items)
FOLDER 14	Cruel Gonerill (15 items)
FOLDER 15	Cruel Regan (19 items)
FOLDER 16	Lear in the Storm (14 items)
CONTAINER 3 FOLDER 17	Poor Tom (11 items)
FOLDER 18	The Storm (4 items)
FOLDER 19	Gloucester seized (5 items)
FOLDER 20	Gloucester blinded (3 items)
FOLDER 21	Edgar finds blind Gloucester (25 items)

## Container List

Container	Contents
FOLDER 22	Curran and Gonerill (9 items)
FOLDER 23	Cordelia searching for Lear (29 items)
FOLDER 24	Curran and Regan (7 items)
CONTAINER 4 FOLDER 25	Dover (18 items)
FOLDER 26	Mad Lear (7 items)
FOLDER 27	Lear recognizes Gloucester (13 items)
FOLDER 28	Cordelia kisses sleeping Lear (23 items)
FOLDER 29	Lear awakens (19 items)
FOLDER 30	Edmund (6 items)
CONTAINER 5 FOLDER 31	Lear takes Cordelia to prison (17 items)
FOLDER 32	The Sisters (2 items)
FOLDER 33	Gonerill and Regan dead (5 items)
FOLDER 34	Edmund repents (3 items)
FOLDER 35	Cordelia and Lear (15 items)
FOLDER 36	Lear dying (9 items)
CONTAINER 6	Drawings One bound volume with preliminary graphite drawings for 39 woodcuts (41 drawings, including 3 double-page spreads)
CONTAINER 7	Correspondence, 1984-1986, n.d.
FOLDER 1	Alpert, Michael, 1984-1986 (53 items)
FOLDER 2	Burman, Lorene, 1985-1986 (5 items)
FOLDER 3	Conant, Judi, 1985 (3 items)
FOLDER 4	MacGregor, Katie, 1985 (17 items)
FOLDER 5	Van Vliet, Claire, 1984-1986 (53 items)
FOLDER 6	W. Thomas Taylor (Firm), 1985-1986 (9 items)

## Container List

Container	Contents
FOLDER 7	"A-Z" miscellany, 1985, n.d. (7 items)
CONTAINER 8	Trial Proofs (95 items) Xeroxed copy of Nonesuch edition of King Lear, with annotations in pencil and ink (51 items) Xeroxed copy of Norton facsimile of First Folio edition of King Lear with annotations in pencil (27 items) Trial proofs (17 items)
CONTAINER 9	Dummies (32 items) 2 sheets of paper folded into 72 rectangles with text and illustrations indicated (1 item) Sample sheet of "Joanna Western Buckram" (1 item) Two reduced xeroxed paste-ups with preliminary pencil sketches for illustrations, in paper chemises, one with 12 numbered signatures; the second with 12 numbered and 3 unnumbered signatures (27 items) Miniature flat mock-up of binding (birch board and pigskin) (1) (1 item) Two full-size samples of birch binding boards, one decorated and one plain (2) (1 item)
CONTAINER 10	Corrected proofs (86 items) Proofs (68 items) Notes from Lorene Burman (proofreader) to Michael Alpert with pages (6 items) Letters written by Lorene Burman to Michael Alpert (12 items)
CONTAINER 11	Paste-up Bound volume with 39 woodcuts pasted in
CONTAINER 12	Mock-up Miniature mock-up of bound volume in case
CONTAINER 13	Wood blocks (42 items)

## **Bibliography**

Fine, Ruth. *The Janus Press, 1981-1990: Catalogue Raisonné*. Burlington, Vt.: University of Vermont Libraries, 1992.

Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedie of King Lear*. Bangor: Theodore Press, 1986.

Taylor, W. Thomas. "Claire Van Vliet's Janus Press," *American Craft* 47 (February/March 1987): 52-59.