

Leonard Baskin and the Gehenna Press collection11.MWalB02555

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository:	Brandeis University
Creator:	Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000
Title:	Leonard Baskin and the Gehenna Press collection
ID:	11.MWalB02555
Date [inclusive]:	1952-1998
Date [bulk]:	1954-1969
Date [inclusive]:	Date acquired: 19720000
Physical Description:	0.25 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	3 oversized folders, 1 manuscript box other_unmapped
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The collection is arranged in three series: 1. Printed Ephemera, 1954-1991; 2. Oversized Material, 1964-1998; 3. Books Published by Gehenna Press, 1952-1992. Series one and two are arranged in original order and series three is arranged by call number. For more information about each series, please consult the series descriptions in the box and folder listing.

Preferred Citation

Leonard Baskin and the Gehenna Press collection, 1952-1998, Robert D. Farber University Archives and Special Collections Department, Brandeis University

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Scope and Contents

The Leonard Baskin and Gehenna Press collection, donated by Maurice and Edith Shulman in 1972, includes several books and ephemera printed by the Northampton (Mass.)-based publishing house. Baskin, famous for his woodcarvings, sculptures, and prints, founded the Gehenna Press in 1942 while studying art at Yale. He named the press after a line in John Milton's "Paradise Lost."

The 27 books in the collection span 40 years of publication—1952 to 1992—and reflect the evolution of the Gehenna Press from a one-man printing house to a nationally recognized enterprise. Books of particular note include Baskin's "Castle Street Dogs: Wood Carvings" printed in 1952, and "Horned Beatles and Other Insects: Etchings," published in 1958. Both feature Baskin's artistic hand and represent modern versions of bestiaries popular in medieval times.

In addition to books, the collection contains several folders of various printed material, including Gehenna Press exhibition catalogs, publication prospectuses, and holiday greeting cards, ranging from 1954 to 1998.

See also two letters from Baskin in the Autograph collection.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Brandeis University

Conditions Governing Access

Access to the collection is in accordance with the policies of the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University. Please contact the department for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

Requests to reproduce or publish material from the collection should be directed to the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University.

Source of Acquisition

Donated by Maurice and Edith Shulman in 1972.

Appraisal Information

One folder containing photocopied press clippings about Baskin and articles by him was moved to the control file.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Also see two letters from Baskin in the Autograph collection.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Art, Modern -- 20th century
- Printing -- Massachusetts -- History
- Gehenna Press
- Private presses
- Privately printed books
- Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000
- Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000

Other Descriptive Information

Addenda to this collection may not be listed in the finding aid, but may be available for research use. Please contact us for more information.

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Collection Inventory

Printed Ephemera, 1954-1998

Scope and Contents

Printed material including Gehenna Press exhibition catalogs, publication prospectuses, and holiday greeting cards.

Title/Description	Instances
Gehenna Press catalogs, 1959, 1967, 1971, undated	Folder 1

Gehenna Press exhibition catalogs, 1957, 1960, 1991, undated	Folder 2
Prospectuses for Gehenna Press publications, 1954, 1957, 1965, 1967, 1972, undated	Folder 3
Gehenna Press holiday cards, 1953-1968	Folder 4
Gehenna "Essays in Art," part I and II, 1961, 1965	Folder 5
Invitations to Leonard Baskin exhibitions, 1960, 1962, 1964, undated	Folder 6

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Oversized Material, 1959-1998

Scope and Contents

Three oversized folders containing Gehenna Press prospectuses, Leonard Baskin Exhibition posters, and a broadside.

Title/Description	Instances
Prospectuses for Gehenna Press publications, 1998, undated	Folder 1
Leonard Baskin, Herman Melville broadside, 1969	Folder 2

Scope and Contents

Originally printed in December 1959 for the 150th anniversary of the birth of Herman Melville.

Posters for the Leonard Baskin exhibition at Boris Mirski Gallery, 1964, 1971	Folder 3
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Books Published by Gehenna Press, 1952-1992

Scope and Contents

Twenty-seven books published by Gehenna Press (cataloged in LouFind: loufind.brandeis.edu).

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