

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

Finding Aid - Jim Rimmer collection (MsC-41)

Generated by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books on September 03, 2021
Language of description: English

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

W.A.C. Bennett Library - Room 7100

Simon Fraser University

8888 University Drive

Burnaby

British Columbia

Canada

V5A 1S6

Telephone: 778.782.5674

[Email: scrb@sfu.ca](mailto:scrb@sfu.ca)

<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/special-collections>

<http://atom.archives.sfu.ca/msc-41>

Jim Rimmer collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	6
Physical condition	4
Series descriptions	6
1, Correspondence, 1930-2010, predominant 1978-2010	6
2, Subject files, 1938, 1956-[2009?]	7
3, Pie Tree Press publications and related material, [ca. 1978-2009]	7
4, Typeface design, [1971]-2010	8
5, Commercial work, 1960-[2009]	9
6, Art prints and illustrations, [1970-2010]	10
7, Promotional and advertisement material, [197-?]-2008	11
8, Works by others regarding Jim Rimmer, 1982-2012	12
9, General photographs, 1961-2002	12

Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	Jim Rimmer collection
Reference code:	MsC-41
Date:	1930-2012, predominant 1960-2010 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.86 m of textual records and other material
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created May 28, 2014, LZ
Note [generalNote]:	The Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books classification number for Rimmer is MsC 41.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Jim Rimmer was born in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1934. In 1950, he undertook a six-year apprenticeship with local printer and publisher J.W. Boyd and Sons. He subsequently worked for seven years as a journeyman compositor for several BC newspapers, including the Vancouver Province, Vancouver Sun, and the Williams Lake Tribune. From 1972 to 1999, Rimmer ran a freelance design office, working as an illustrator, graphic designer, and type designer; some of his more notable commercial designs include the logo for Canadian Pacific Airlines, and the provincial mark for British Columbia.

Rimmer designed and cut his first typeface, Juliana Old Style, in 1980. In the years following, he designed and produced numerous faces in both metal and digital format, including proprietary fonts and typeface revivals. For several years during the 1980s Rimmer worked with Giampa Text Ware, operated by Gerald Giampa. Rimmer designed digital type fonts with this firm and its successor, Lanston Type Company. He was an active member of the American Typecasting Fellowship beginning in 1984, and founded the Rimmer Type Foundry in 1998.

In 1974, Rimmer founded Pie Tree Press, named after an old apple tree in his backyard, the fruit of which was used to make pies. As Pie Tree Press, Rimmer printed numerous broadsides and books, including Alison's Fishing Birds, commissioned by Colophon Books. He subsequently produced four major limited edition publications, for which he did the typesetting, illustrations and book-binding: Shadow River: the Selected and Illustrated Poems of Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake) (1997), A Christmas Carol (1998), Leaves from the Pie Tree (2006), an autobiographical work including "how-to" knowledge, and Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (2008). Rimmer was working on the design of the 'Dubloon' typeface for a fifth book, Treasure Island, at the time of his death (this font will be released as the "Rimmer" typeface).

Over the course of his career, Rimmer taught drawing and typography classes at many local colleges and universities, including the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, Capilano College, Kwantlen College, Simon Fraser University, and the University College of the Fraser Valley. He also held workshops in hand-setting, printing, and book-binding. Rimmer's work earned him awards from the Creative Club, Graphic Designers of Canada, Art Direction Creativity in Illustration, and the American Typecasting Fellowship. A series of broadsides designed for Westgraphica, now Karo, earned him the "Communication Arts Award of Excellence" in the self-promotion class. "Rimmerfest : An Evening to Celebrate Jim Rimmer and His Many Contributions" took place on November 25, 2006; the event was organized by Simon Fraser University Library. In 2007, Rimmer was made a fellow of the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada.

Jim Rimmer passed away in New Westminster on January 8, 2010.

Custodial history

Records acquired during the first accession and described in 2006 were maintained by Rimmer at his New Westminster, British Columbia studio until their sale to various Canadian booksellers. Subsequent records were acquired from various sources. A final accession of records from the Jim Rimmer estate occurred in 2011; these records were transferred directly from Rimmer's studio to Simon Fraser University Library.

Scope and content

The collection reflects Rimmer's career as a designer, illustrator, printer, and publisher, and his involvement with members of the printing community and various associations. Records document Rimmer's graphic design, typeface design and printing processes and accomplishments, and the publication activities of Pie Tree Press. The extensive graphic material within the collection includes sketches, drawings and prints. Also included are Rimmer's linocut and woodcut blocks, as well as master patterns, specimen castings, matrices, lead working patterns, and cast metal sorts for many of his metal typefaces. The collection is arranged into nine series: Correspondence (1930-2010, predominant 1978-2010); Subject files (1938, 1956-[2009?]); Pie Tree Press publications and related material ([ca. 1978-2009]); Typeface design ([1971-2010]); Commercial work (1960-2009); Art prints and illustrations ([1970-2010]); Promotional and advertisement material ([197-?]-2008); Works by others regarding Jim Rimmer (1982-2012); and General photographs (1961-2002).

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title of collection is based on the provenance of the records.

Physical condition

Some records are foxed, dirty, torn, or have adhesive residue. The records have been cleaned where possible, and interleaved with buffered paper

Immediate source of acquisition

With the exception of select items donated directly by the creator, records acquired prior to 2006 were purchased by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books from Purpora Books (Vancouver) in 2005, MacLeod's Books (Vancouver), Aquila Books (Calgary) and Gallery 18 (New London, Prince Edward Island). Records acquired in 2006 and later originate from Rimmer and various other sources, for example colleagues and friends of Rimmer, and include material created for Rimmerfest in 2006. A final accession of records from Rimmer's estate occurred in 2011.

Arrangement

Where no original order existed, arrangement was determined by the archivist.

Conditions governing use

Reproduction of material subject to approval by the Head Librarian, Special Collections.

Finding aids

File level and some item level descriptions are available. A box-file list is also available. Online finding aid is available at <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/28909/RimmerJ.pdf>.

Related material

Associated material: Other records related to Pie Tree Press are located in the Fireweed Press fonds at the University of Victoria Special Collections.

Related records in other fonds: Various broadsides published in limited edition by Colophon Books, set and illustrated by Jim Rimmer of Pie Tree Press can be found in the Jim McIntosh fonds (MsC 89). Editorial cartoons by Rimmer are located in the Editorial Cartoons Collection (MsC 25). Additional material produced by Rimmer while working for Lanston Type Foundry may be found in the Gerald Giampa fonds.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Published
- **Physical description:** Includes .71 m of graphic material, 421 drawings, 216 prints, 133 broadsides, 209 photographs, 274 linocut blocks, 13 linocuts, 21 woodcut blocks, 3 master patterns, 646 cards, ca. 8,500 objects, 7 posters, 3 paintings, 2 sketchbooks, 3 calendars, 1 certificate, 182 computer disks, 3 CD-ROMs, 1 zip disk, 6 audio discs, 1 optical disc, 2 labels, 3 banners, 1 lithograph, 4 invitations, 9 tickets and 1 envelope.
- **Conservation:** Several records were treated by Rutherford Book and Paper Restoration in 2006 to remove residue of spray adhesive and pressure-sensitive tape, and card adhesive residue. Treated

items are marked as such on the verso, as TM (manual treatment), TS (treatments with ethyl acetate solvent) or TMS (both manual and solvent treatment). Cuts in one item were also repaired.

Access points

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Series descriptions

Series 1: Correspondence

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: 1930-2010, predominant 1978-2010 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of a personal and business nature between Rimmer and various members of the printing community, including Paul Duensing, Jules Remedios Faye, Richard L. Hopkins, Richard Kegler, Robert R. Reid, William Rueter, Andrew Steeves, Christopher Stern and Alan C. Waring. Correspondence includes technical advice and comments on recent work. Records also include contact information, thank you letters and prints, as well as correspondence related to various organizations, including the American Typecasting Fellowship, Typochondriacs and the Alcuin Society.

Physical description: .26 m of textual records. -- .02 m of graphic material. -- 1 slide

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

Records acquired in the first accession were maintained in their original order, as received from Purpora Books. When original order was apparent in records acquired in subsequent accessions, it was maintained; where there was no original order discernible, the arrangement was provided by the archivist. Files described within the second accession were arranged alphabetically by title.

Publication status:

published

Series 2: Subject files

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: 1938, 1956-[2009?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records related to specific projects and topics, including Rimmer's participation in the design of the Burgess Italic typeface and the debate concerning its origins. Other records include photographs relating to printing in Vancouver's Chinatown, taken for inclusion in an American Typecasting Fellowship article; photographs of Rimmer's foundry and jazz band; articles written by and about Rimmer; notes explaining his work process; awards; miscellaneous prints; and material relating to Frederic W. Goudy and Cobblestone Press.

Physical description: .11 m textual records and other material

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

No original order was discernible for the material in this series; order has been determined by the archivist. Files described within the second accession have been arranged chronologically by date(s) of creation.

Related material:

Related records within the same fonds: Additional articles written about Jim Rimmer are located in Series 8: Works by others regarding Jim Rimmer.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes .02 m of graphic material, 15 photographs, 8 prints, 4 broadsides, 1 poster, 3 drawings, 1 certificate, 2 cards, 4 linocut blocks and 1 object.

Series 3: Pie Tree Press publications and related material

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: [ca. 1978-2009] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to publications issued by Pie Tree Press, including books, prints, and broadsides. Includes material relating to Rimmer's work on an abandoned book entitled "Fred Goudy, Type Designer," and the development and publication of A Christmas Carol, Shadow River: the Selected and Illustrated Poems of Pauline Johnson, Leaves from the Pie Tree and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, as well as various Wayzgoose publications. Types of material in this series include drafts, mock-ups, proofs, prints, drawings, illustrations, pamphlets, booklets, broadsides, linocuts, and master patterns.

Physical description: .85 m of textual records and other material

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

Material in this series was obtained from various sources, and no original order was discernible in the material; as such order has been determined by the archivist. Files and items described within the second accession have been arranged first according to published books, in the order in which the books were published, followed by general broadsides, pamphlets and other material. Within each book title, material has been arranged according to type of material [eg. illustrations] and then chronologically, from earliest material to most recent material. General broadsides, pamphlets and other material are arranged alphabetically by title.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes .04 cm of graphic records, ca. 70 prints, 42 broadsides, 313 drawings, 2 sketchbooks, 247 linocut blocks, 19 woodcut blocks, 1 linocut, 1 master pattern, 2 calendars, 2 cards and 4 invitations. Some graphic material is included in the .85 m of textual records; for example proofs which consists of mainly textual material, but also contain some drawings.

Series 4: Typeface design

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: [1971]-2010 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to Rimmer's design and production of typefaces for both the Rimmer Type Foundry and the Lanston Type Company. Records include preliminary sketches, drawings in ink and pencil, transparencies, samples, digital print-outs, electronic files, master patterns, specimen castings, matrices, lead working patterns, and cast metal sorts. Some files contain notes and instructions for modification, and some include explanatory comments written by Rimmer. Electronic files were created by Rimmer on a Macintosh computer using the typeface design software IKARUS and saved to 3.5" floppy disks and compact discs.

Physical description: ca. 8,500 objects and other material

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Physical condition:

Some records are dirty, and many have adhesive residue or pressure-sensitive tape attached. Where possible the records have been cleaned, and interleaved with buffered paper.

Arrangement:

Records described within the first accession have been maintained in original order, and arranged into files representing each typeface designed, as organized by the creator. As there was no discernible original order, files described within the second accession, with the exception of electronic files, are arranged by the Archivist first according to material type and then chronologically according to date(s) of creation. Electronic media have been assigned numbers and listed in the order in which they were maintained by Jim Rimmer.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes .55 m of graphic material, .19 m of textual records, 646 cards, 182 computer disks, 3 CD-ROMs, 1 zip disk, 3 broadsides, 1 linocut, and 1 print.

Conservation:

Electronic files originally saved on 3.5" floppy disks were copied over to CD format for preservation purposes in 2011 using Rimmer's original computer and IKARUS software. Originals have been retained and are listed in this finding aid.

Series 5: Commercial work

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: 1960-[2009] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of sample, draft and completed commercial work produced by Rimmer as a free-lance designer employed by various companies, organizations and individuals. Records include items completed by Rimmer for Colophon Books, including Alison's Fishing Birds and preliminary work on Allen Ginsberg's Meditations at Lake Louise; editorial cartoons created by Rimmer for the Williams Lake Tribune from 1960 to 1961; and numerous prints, paintings, and logos created for commercial purposes. Companies, organizations and individuals represented include Murchie's Tea and Coffee Ltd., Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Air Canada, Vancouver Public Library, Hot Jazz Club, the band Heart, Whistler village, Shrine Circus, and Douglas & McIntyre Publishers.

Physical description: 92 drawings and other material

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

No original order present in the material; order has been determined by the archivist. Files described within the second accession are arranged chronologically according to date(s) of creation.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes .11 m of textual records, .05 m of graphic material, 81 prints, 9 broadsides, 3 paintings, 2 posters, 1 calendar, 7 photographs, 7 linocut blocks, 8 linocuts, 1 master pattern, 1 audio disc, 4 objects, 3 banners, 2 labels, 3 cards, 9 tickets and 1 envelop.

Series 6: Art prints and illustrations

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: [1970-2010] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of numerous prints and illustrations created by Rimmer as art pieces, as well as linocut blocks, woodcut blocks and stencils created by Rimmer to produce prints. Includes images of animals, people, still life, Frederic W. Goudy and keepsakes created for the American Typesetting Fellowship, (A.T.F.) and other associations.

Physical description: 49 prints and other material

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

No original order present in the material; order has been determined by the archivist.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes 26 broadsides, 16 linocut blocks, 3 linocuts, 2 woodcut blocks, 2 drawings, 1 master pattern and 1 lithograph.

Series 7: Promotional and advertisement material

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: [197-?]-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to the promotion and advertisement of Rimmer's typographic and graphic design work. Records include sample linocut prints, typeface samples, illustration proof-sheets, portfolios, and commercial advertisements.

Physical description: 21 broadsides and other material

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

No original order present in the material; order has been determined by the archivist.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes 7 prints, 3 posters, 11 drawings, and .09 m of textual records.

Series 8: Works by others regarding Jim Rimmer

Creator: Rimmer, Jim

Date: 1982-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of works created by others relating to Jim Rimmer. Included are articles pertaining to Rimmer; journals, broadsides and pamphlets set in Rimmer typefaces; and memorial books. Series also includes records relating to the staging of 'Rimmerfest' at the SFU Vancouver campus in the fall of 2006. These records include electronic copies and colour printouts of photographs taken at 'Rimmerfest' and for a video presentation at the event; writings about Jim; a guestbook; and nineteen broadsides produced by friends and colleagues for the event.

Physical description: 28 broadsides and other material

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

No original order present in the material; order has been determined by the archivist.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes .03 m of textual records, .03 m of graphic material, 1 poster, 5 audio discs and 1 optical disc.

Series 9: General photographs

Date: 1961-2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of slides and prints featuring images of Jim Rimmer, as well as various aspects and stages of the printing process and the design and cutting of metal typefaces in his studio. Also included is an image of Gerald Giampa.

Physical description: 186 photographs : b&w and col. prints and slides. -- 1 card

Note [generalNote]:

This series consists only of material acquired following the original accession and description of material in 2006.

Access points:

- Rimmer, Jim (subject)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Arrangement:

Numbered slides within a set were arranged in numerical order and dated slides within a set were arranged in chronological order by the archivist.

Related material:

Related records within the same fonds: Other photographs in this collection have been described in Series 1 Correspondence and Series 2 Subject files.

Publication status:

published