

Ms
Coll.
00378C

Barbarian Press Papers

Dates:
2001-2012

Extent:
17 boxes, 1 item

Biographical Note:

Barbarian Press is a fine press publisher, owned and operated by Jan Elsted and Crispin Elsted in Mission, B.C., Canada. The press publishes in several main areas—literary classics, translations, typography, and books on wood engraving. Barbarian Press is an entirely letterpress shop with a collection of nine presses. This includes three 19th-century handpresses: the super royal Albion (1850), the foolscap folio Barrett Albion (1833), and the foolscap folio Sherwin & Cope Imperial (1854). They also have Vandercook Universal One and Universal III horizontal cylinder proof presses, a Red Ball Heidelberg Windmill, a 12 by 8 Craftsman press, and two Adana 8 by 5 tabletop presses. The press maintains a variety of typefaces, including favored text faces such as Bembo, Joanna, Poliphilus & Blado, Van Dijk, Monotype Garamond (156), ATF Garamond, Octavian, Walbaum, Bell, Pastonchi, and Cancelleresca Bastarda. The press also possesses a significant collection of titling and display faces, as well as type flowers and ornaments, including the complete Monotype ornament collection of the Curwen Press. The founders of Barbarian Press emphasize a relatively conservative style, stating, "Unlike those of many printers of fine books, our backgrounds are in literary studies and writing rather than graphic and studio arts, and we make our books to be read, not merely looked at." (Elsted & Elsted, 2023)

Elsted, C., & Elsted, J. (2023). The Press: A few words about Barbarian Press. Retrieved June 20, 2023, from <http://www.barbarianpress.com/aboutthepress.html>

Simon Brett, (b.1943) in Windsor, was raised in London and received his education at Ampleforth College in Yorkshire. He developed his skills in wood engraving from Clifford Webb at Saint Martin's School of Art, London (1960-64). From 1961 onwards, Brett's wood engravings have been made as prints, bookplates, and primarily as illustrations for books. He is currently married to the painter Juliet Wood, and they reside in Marlborough, Wiltshire. In addition to his own daughter, Brett is the stepfather to three stepsons and a stepdaughter.

With Barbarian Press, Brett co-produced an edition of Shakespeare's *Pericles*. This edition aimed to vividly "stage the play on the page" through the inclusion of approximately 98 images on over 140 woodblocks. (Brett, 2023)

Brett, S. (2023). *About the artist*. Simon Brett. <http://www.simonbrett-woodengraver.co.uk/about>

**Ms
Coll.
00378C**

Barbarian Press Papers

Scope and Content:

This accession contains papers relating to the production of *The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre, Illustrated with wood engravings by Simon Brett*. The collection includes correspondence, proofs of engravings, designs, dummies, and page proofs.

Contains series:

- Series 1: Manuscripts and other writing files
- Series 2: Book Dummies, Binding Archive and Sample Prints
- Series 3: Page Layouts, Proofs and Calligraphy
- Series 4: Simon Brett's Engraved Blocks for the Barbarian Press Edition of *The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre* (2011)
- Series 5: Unbound Dummy with Slipcase

Custodial history:

Papers were deposited by Jan and Crispin Elsted to the Fisher Library in 2012.
Engraved woodblocks were deposited by Simon Brett in 2017.

Notes:

Folder descriptions are taken directly by titles provided by Jan and Crispin Elsted and Simon Brett. Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid:

WP – word-processed

Access
Open.

Ms
Coll.
00378C

Barbarian Press Papers

BOX: FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
SERIES 1: Manuscripts and other writing files		
Box 1	Pericles manuscripts (The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre; On the making of Pericles; Reading Pericles)	[2009]
1:1	Pericles, manuscript, 'On the Making of Pericles', Simon Brett. WP with editorial and holograph revisions.	[2009]
1:2	Pericles, manuscript, colophon text, drafts. WP with holograph revisions.	[2009]
1:3	Pericles, manuscript, 'Notes on this Edition of Pericles'. WP with holograph revisions.	[2009]
1:4	Pericles, 'Selected Bibliography'. WP with editorial revisions.	[2009]
1:5	Pericles, 'Notes & Glosses on the Text'. WP with holograph revisions.	[2009]
1:6	Pericles, 'Reading Pericles' (excerpt). WP.	[2009]
1:7	Pericles, 'Reading Pericles' (first draft). WP.	[2009]
1:8	Pericles, 'Reading Pericles' (edited). WP with holograph revisions.	[2009]
1:9	Pericles, 'Reading Pericles' (second draft). WP.	[2009]
1:10-1:15	The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre, manuscript pp. 1-118, WP with holograph revisions.	n.d.
1:16-1:19	The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre, manuscript. WP. Note: Establishing text.	[2011]
Box 2	Pericles, Simon Brett Material: correspondence, early design layouts, design notes, print tests from wood engravings	2001-2011
2:1-2:5	Correspondence with wood engraver Simon Brett.	2001-11
2:6	Correspondence, Simon Brett, image design and printing instructions for woodblocks.	n.d.
2:7	Correspondence, Simon Brett, page mock-ups.	2008

Ms
Coll.
00378C

Barbarian Press Papers

2:8	Correspondence, Simon Brett, printing instructions.	2008
2:9-2:11	Simon Brett, early design layouts and correspondence.	2003-2005
2:12-2:13	Simon Brett, Pericles misc. design notes, proofs, and material invoices	[2004-2008]
2:14-2:16	Simon Brett, woodblock prints	[2008]
2:17	Inventory list of Simon Brett's Engraved Blocks for the Barbarian Press edition of <i>The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre</i> (2011)	[2011]
SERIES 2: Book Dummies, Binding Archive, Sample Prints		
Box 3	Pericles, book dummies, Colour swatches, CDs	[2008]
	Consists of 4CDs ("Pericles, everything"; "Barbarian Press at codex, audio"; "Pericles presentation"; "Barbarian Press, Pericles 2 PDF"), colour swatches (samples of Pericles purple, Tarsus ochre, light grey calligraphy, light sea-green calligraphy) and dummies of <i>Pericles Play</i> , <i>Pericles Vol. 2</i> and <i>Reading Pericles</i> (for imposition and setting).	
Box 4	Pericles, Binding Archive (sample printing, invoices, vendor correspondence)	2010-2011
	Consists of zinc printing plates, material invoices (leather, bindery, engraving), a sketch for deluxe bindings as well as sample paste papers and correspondence with bookbinder H�el�ene Francoeur.	
SERIES 3: Page Layouts, Proofs and Calligraphy		
Box 5	Pericles, Revised page lay-outs (some with engravings)	n.d.
	Consists of xerox and holograph drafts as well as page mock-ups.	
Box 6	Pericles, page proofs	[2011]

Ms
Coll.
00378C

Barbarian Press Papers

	Consists of wood engraving proofs and correspondence with Simon Brett, as well as text proofs with holograph revisions.	
Box 7	Page proofs with holograph revisions	2007-2009
Box 8	Page proofs with holograph revisions	2008-2010
Box 9	Page proofs with holograph revisions	2009-2010
Box 10	Pericles - page proofs, prospectus proofs, Simon Brett's <i>On the making of Pericles</i> proofs	2010-2012
	Consists of prospectus for <i>On the making of Pericles</i> proofs (WP with holograph revisions), prospectus proofs (2010), and proofs with holograph revisions (2012).	
Box 11	Calligraphy	[2009-2011]
	Consists of polymer plates, calligraphy designs and proofs, photopolymers and correspondence.	
SERIES 4: Simon Brett's Engraved Blocks for the Barbarian Press Edition of <i>The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre</i> (2011)		
Boxes 12-17	<p>Barbarian Press notes from Simon Brett's engraved blocks inventory list:</p> <p><i>In most cases the blocks are wrapped separately, but in some cases small blocks which go together are packed as a group (i.e. #8a & 8b in Box 12, #41a & 41b in Box 14, and the 20 'brothel advertisements', also in Box 14). When this is the case, the blocks are listed here in sequence with a vertical bar [I] before each of the blocks which are packed together in the group.</i></p> <p><i>The blocks are numbered, but the numbering is Simon Brett's, and in some cases, there are repeated numbers or other anomalies.</i></p> <p><i>Blocks which are present, but which were not used in the printed book, are in square brackets.</i></p> <p>For complete inventory list see box 2, folder 17.</p>	2011

Ms
Coll.
00378C

Barbarian Press Papers

Box 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Antiochus ravishes his daughter2. Antiochus and his Wife (Cartouche)3. Antiochus (seated) and Daughter (standing) (Cartouche)4. Antiochus grabbing Daughter (Cartouche)5. Antiochus assaulting Daughter; Pericles to one side dropping paper) (Cartouche)6. Heads on poles (Antioch)7. Single head on pole (Antioch)7. [Pericles portrait - not used]8. Pericles II (i.e., 1) (Portrait: Pericles as a young man)l 8a. Princess of Antioch, face forward, holding skirtsl 8b. Flower on long stem, falling leaves8c. Letter with leaves [used again later, between #30 and #31, but not listed there]l 9a. Periclesl 9b. Antiochus holding his daughter back from Pericles9c. Princess of Antioch standing against wall, weeping 9d. Pericles fleeing Antioch10. Voyage I (Ship in calm seas)10a. Princess of Antioch weeping, sitting on floor	
Box 13	<ol style="list-style-type: none">16a. Pericles' breastplate and sword16b. Pericles' helmet, gauntlet, and vambrace16c. Hand holding bracelet17. Fishermen & Pericles walking away from beach	

Barbarian Press Papers

18.	Knight on horseback with lance (used three times)	
18a & aa.	Pentapolis emblem across gutter of book. [Image split into two blocks for printing on separate sheets.]	
19.	EMBLEM: Ethiopie looking at sun	
20.	EMBLEM: Woman standing over fallen knight	
21.	EMBLEM: Laurel wreath	
22.	EMBLEM: Torch inverted	
23.	EMBLEM: Hand holding gold coins against clouds	
24.	Pericles' arm holding branch with motto	
25a.	Simonides watching tournament	25aa. Thaisa watching tournament
25b.	Other spectators (Fishermen) watching tournament, cheering	25c. Tournament proper (verso) Knight is knocked back by lance
25c.	Tournament proper (verso)	Knight is knocked back by lance
25d.	Tournament proper (recto)	Pericles charges/lance breaking on shield below him
26.	Laurel wreath	
26a.	Bird hovering over peacock feather	
27.	Pericles, Thaisa, and Simonides sit at table under arches	
28.	Pericles Portrait (3).	Pericles with laurel wreath on his head
1 29.	Knights dancing	

Barbarian Press Papers

	I 29a. Single knight dancing	
Box 14	30. Pericles and Thaisa dance 31. Pericles Portrait (4). On verso, facing Thaisa's portrait 32. Thaisa's portrait. [After the print run for this image was completed, and as it was being removed from the press, the block simply fell apart: the laminations had given way. We include the pieces here.] 33/33a. Hymen hushes as Pericles and Thaisa lie in their marriage bed. 34. Wedding rings. 35. Dumb Showe: Message from Tyre for Pericles 36. Dumb Showe: Pericles reads message and shows it to Simonides 37. Dumb Showe: Thaisa embraces Pericles; Simonides shows letter to Lychorida 38. Dumb Showe: Pericles and Thaisa take leave of Simonides and depart 39. Ship with Pericles and Thaisa in storm 40. Pericles shouting on deck of ship in storm 41. Angry Neptune in storm scene <i>Group of small blocks for storm scene:</i> I 40a. Rain on ship I 40b. Rain on ship	[2011]

	<p>l 41a. Rain on ship</p> <p>l 41b. Rain on ship</p> <p>41c. Lychorida with baby</p> <p>41d. Thaisa lying on her bed in the ship, apparently dead</p> <p>42. Pericles mourning over body of Thaisa</p> <p>42b. Thaisa's coffin tossing in waves, ship in background</p> <p>43. Coffin on beach at Ephesus</p> <p>43a. Men carrying in Thaisa's coffin</p> <p>44. Cerimon leans over Thaisa</p> <p>45. Diana standing, bow in hand, with dog behind her legs</p> <p>46. Caduceus</p> <p>46a. Neptune's trident poking up from the sea [N.B. block #45 is repeated on this page]</p> <p>47. Diana with hound, shooting arrow</p> <p>48. Pericles V: After Thaisa has been put overboard in her coffin</p>	
Box 15	<p><i>[N.B. Block #10, Voyage I (ship in calm seas), is repeated below Pericles V (#48)]</i></p> <p>48a. Calm sea block.</p> <p>48a(ii) [a second 'calm sea' block, not used]</p>	[2011]

Barbarian Press Papers

<p>49. Pericles VI: Portrait of Pericles 14 years later.</p> <p>49a. Marina and Philoten sitting on bench</p> <p><i>[N.B. Block #45, Diana with dog, is repeated on verso page following 49a]</i></p> <p>50. Basket of flowers</p> <p>50a. Marina on beach with Leonine; Dionyza in foreground dropping Marina's flowers</p> <p>50b. Leonine's hand with knife</p> <p>51. Pirates seize Marina</p> <p>51a. Basket with flowers spilling out</p> <p><i>[N.B. The following blocks - from 52 to 57b - are listed according to the numbers Simon Brett wrote on the blocks themselves [q.v.]. However, unlike the blocks up to this point, which generally followed the order in which they appear in the book, the numbering of these next blocks does not follow the narrative order. This may be because SB numbered the blocks as they were engraved, or because we had not at the point when they were engraved decided the order in which we would use them. There are also 20 very small 'brothel advertisement' blocks used in this scene, unnumbered of which only 12 were used, with some repeated; these are printed in orange through five pages from #52a on, with 5 repeated on one page at a later point.]</i></p> <p>52. Brothel sign</p> <p>l 52a. Boulton presents Marina to the Bawd</p> <p>l 52a(i). Bawd</p> <p>l 52a(ii). Pander</p>	
---	--

Barbarian Press Papers

<p><i>[N. B. Block #10, Voyage I (ship in calm seas), is again repeated here on a verso facing # 53]</i></p> <p>53. Pericles flees in grief from Marina's epitaph</p> <p>54. Ship in storm as Pericles leaves Tarsus in grief</p> <p>55. Pericles VII: Pericles bearded, distraught</p> <p>56. Marina's epitaph, carved in stone</p> <p><i>[N.B. Block #50, basket of flowers, is repeated below #56 on this page]</i></p> <p>57a. Bawd and Marina under arches</p> <p>57b. Pander and Lysimachus under arches</p> <p><i>[The following 6 blocks - 58 through 59c - arc some pages back, in the initial brothel scene]</i></p> <p>58. Herm with visible erection</p> <p>58a. Herm- back view [This is printed directly beside #59, but is a separate block]</p> <p>59. Whore with one hand on her hip, the other playing with her hair</p> <p>59a. Whore with pigtails and see-through dress</p> <p>59b. Whore sitting on bench - seen from back - with chicken in foreground</p> <p>59c. Two chickens [printed directly beside 59a, but a separate block]</p> <p>60a. Boult attacks Marina</p> <p>61. Marina's lily emblem</p>	
---	--

Barbarian Press Papers

	<p>l 70a. Pericles' emblem + second colour leaf block to register with it</p> <p>62. Embroidered tapestry frieze</p> <p>62a. Leaves and berries that attach to ship frieze</p> <p>63. Ship's rigging frieze with two men looking down over ship's railing</p> <p>64. Ship with black sails</p>	
<p>Box 16</p>	<p>65. Sailors in boat next to ship's side, calling up</p> <p>66. Pericles sprawled on his bed, ragged</p> <p>67. Marina approaches Pericles on board</p> <p>68. Marina playing lute</p> <p>69. Portrait of Marina</p> <p>70. Pericles VIII: Beard and Hair uncut [on recto, facing Marina's portrait on verso]</p> <p>70a. [Pericles' 2-colour emblem block. See #61, above, with which it is packed.]</p> <p>71. Marina and Pericles, Marina with her hands on Pericles' chest, Pericles looking tenderly at her</p> <p>71a. Extension of Pericles' left arm from #71 across gutter of page</p> <p><i>[N.B. There are no blocks numbered 72 or 73. This is an anomaly in SB's numbering of the blocks. There are no missing blocks.]</i></p>	<p>[2011]</p>

Ms
Coll.
00378C

Barbarian Press Papers

	<p><i>[N.B. Block #10, Voyage I (ship in calm seas), appears here for the 4th time on a verso facing #75 & #76]</i></p> <p>75. Diana, standing upright with bow and one hand back, with dog</p> <p>76. Thaisa lying on ground in a faint</p> <p>77a&b. Diana painted on broken amphora jar; these are two adjoining blocks, printed on either side of the gutter.</p> <p>78a. Head of Thaisa as nun fu Ephesus, facing right</p> <p>79. Pericles, Thaisa, Marina and Lysimachus under arches.</p> <p><i>[48a (calm sea block) is repeated on last free endpaper]</i></p>	
Box 17	<p><i>[Oversize items]</i></p> <p>11. voyage II (Neptune overlooks Pericles' ship; calm seas)</p> <p>25e. Tournament proper (verso) bottom piece of horse and knight</p> <p>60. (1 package of 20 small blocks)</p> <p>67. Marina approaches Pericles on board</p> <p>74. Diana appears to Pericles in a dream.</p> <p>78b. Pericles and Marina facing left, toward Thaisa, across gutter; Thaisa's hand on Pericles' cheek</p>	[2011]
SERIES 5: Unbound Dummy with Slipcase		
Item 1	Unbound dummy with slipcase, <i>The Play of Pericles Prince of Tyre, Illustrated with wood engravings by Simon Brett</i>	[2009]