

MS BIRDSALL & SON
COLL Records, ca 1840-1961
205 23 boxes and items, and mapcase

A collection consisting of photographs and rubbings of bindings, tool designs, tooling patterns, designs, and drawings executed by the firm of Birdsall and Son, Northampton, England, from the 1840's to 1961.

Access unrestricted.

Associated material: Collection of more than 3,000 finishing tools in the Rare Book Library Bindery, and the Birdsall Collection of Books.

Acquired by purchase: 1983, 1991, 1994.

History

The firm began in 1792 when William Birdsall purchased the small bookbinding business of John Lacy in Northampton, England. In the 1840's, Anthony Birdsall, great-nephew of the founder, bought the business and with his son, Richard, made it into one of the better known firms in the trade. The firm did the standard bindings which the general public requested as well as specializing in relieures-de-luxe and restoration work. Business continued to thrive until after the Second World War. When the factory closed its doors in 1961, it was the oldest firm in Northampton, with an international reputation for fine bindings and restoration work.

In 1968 the University of Toronto Library was able to purchase from Anthony Birdsall, 1877-1972, the last head of the firm, a collection of over 3,000 finishing tools. These are in constant use in the Rare Book Library Bindery, and have been described in *The Birdsall Collection of Bookbinders' Finishing Tools*, a pamphlet published by the University Library, 1972. Mr. Birdsall also gave to the Library the *Birdsall Book of Rubbings* (Volume 8).

Container List

- Boxes 1-2 Photographs of bindings executed by the Birdsall firm
- Boxes 3-4 Photographs of illuminataed addresses executed by the Birdsall firm
- Volume 5 B & S.N.; album of photographs of bindings. 25 leaves containing 45 photographs
- Volume 6 Birdsall Book of Rubbings, 1840-1845; "a rough record of certain work"
- Volume 7 Album of Rubbings. no. 1-49
- ^{DVS}
Box 8 Rubbings made by Anthony Birdsall from 16th century books in various libraries, including Stoneyhurst, Shrewsbury, Wells Cathedral. Many show restoration work by the Birdsall firm.
- Box 9
^{DVS} Tool designs, tooling patterns and drawings for bookbindings. 71 items.
Note: items 67-71 relate to a strawboard mock-up stored with book covers in Box 13.
- Box 10 Tool designs, tooling patterns and drawings for bookbindings. 133 items
- ~~Box 11~~
- Box 11 Leather and cloth book covers with gold and pigment tooling and blocking. 7 items
- Box 12 Plaquettes: leather-covered boards showing examples of gold, silver, blind tooling and blocking work, leather inlay and onlay work and pigment application. 23 plaquettes
- Box 13 Mock-up samples of spines and covers, mounted book clasp, blind and gold tooled leather fragments. 19 items
- Box 14 Examples of blind and gold tooling and blocking on leather and vellum. 17 items
- Box 15 Examples of blind and gold tooling and inlay work on leather and vellum. 12 items
- Box 16 Printing blocks. 11 items
- Boxes 17-19 Tool pattern cards. (See also FO-1 147, Pouch, e, L.J., London. [Catalogue of bookbinders' finishing tools. London, 1822-25] in portfolio with Morris & Co., London [Catalogue of bookbinders' finishing tools. London, 1830])
- Box 20 Notes, correspondence on bindings and photographs of bindings
- Box 21 Ephemera: includes manuscript and print

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Birdsall & Son

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Mapcase Rubbings: 2 from Wells Cathedral Library, and 1 of "The Ashburton (Challenge) Shield; Records of the Elevens of the Harrow Rifle Hunters".

The collection includes a portfolio of the following catalogues of bookbinders' finishing tools:

- F0-1 1) Morris & Co., London [1830]. 11 leaves.
147 2) Paas & Co., London [1824-1825]. 2 leaves.
 3) Pouch, e, L.J., London [1822-1825]. 7 leaves.
 4) Scott, R., London [182-?]. 1 leaf.
 5) Seare & Co., London [1836?]. 9 leaves.
 6) Timbury, F., London [between 1799 and 1825]. 15 leaves.
 7) Timbury, William, London [1825]. 1 leaf.

Box 22 Shelf fronts (42 pieces) with tool impressions

1994 ACCESSION

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Box ~~23~~-24 Rubbings made by Anthony Birdsall from such libraries as Wells, Shrewsbury,
{ Mapcase Stoneyhurst. Many items show restoration work done by the Birdsall firm.

Birdsall Collection of Rubbings
Mss. Coll. 205, box 8

A collection of rubbings made by Anthony Birdsall (d. 1972) from such libraries as: Wells, Shrewsbury, Stonyhurst etc. Many items show restoration work done by the Birdsall firm.

106 rubbings

Rubbing #	Provenance / Identification
1-2	Ampleforth
3-6	Boston
7-9	B.T.W. (?)
10-12	Oldham
13-14	Routh (Durham)
15-16	Rev. Bark., St. Leonards Rectory, Bridgnorth
17-20	Shrewsbury School Library
21	Spencer
22-28	Stonyhurst
29-30	Ushaw (Durham)
31-34	Wells
35-36	W.M.V.L. (?)
37	Mozley
38	Lady Ampthill
39	Unidentified
40-43	Chiswick Press
44-49	#44 Lady Codrington
50-57	#51 Lord Spencer
58-60	#58 Ex. W.J.H. Crockett #60 Bedford Masonic Lodge no.925
61-63	#63 Vacher
64-69	Unidentified
70-73	Unidentified
74-75	Unidentified
76-77	#76 Ex. CSK
78-79	British Museum. See: REF. Z/269/W43 Early Stamped Bookbindings in the British Museum. Plate XXIII-impression 9
80-83	Unidentified
84-88	Lady Reid
89-96	#92 Cornhill & Co.
97-102	Zaehnsdorf Bindings
103-106	#103 Marquis of Reading

**Birdsall Collection
of Rubbings**
Mss. Coll. 205
3 Mapcase rubbings

- 1 E.S. (Spencer?)
- 2 Wells
- 3 Wells

Birdsall Collection of Rubbings
Mss. Coll. 205, box 23

A collection of rubbings made by Anthony Birdsall (d. 1972) from such libraries as: Wells, Shrewsbury, Stoneyhurst etc. Many items show restoration work done by the Birdsall firm.

122 rubbings

Rubbing #	Provenance / Identification
1-3	Alnwick
4-13	Ampleforth
14-15	Amptill
16	Asquith
17-18	BS in JSBN (?)
19	Ba (?)
20-24	B.T.W. (?)
15	Bosanquet
16	D.L.B. (?)
17	Boston
18	Bridgnorth
19	Bristol
30	D.P. (?)
31	Durham University Library
32	Foljambe
33-36	Unidentified - see REF.Z/269/W4 Bookbindings and Rubbings of Bookbindings in the Victorian and Albert Museum. Pg.123, #114-115
37	Free Library
38	G.M.H. (?)
39	Halifax Binding
40	Hering Binding
41	Hodges, Christopher
42-43	Hodgson
44	Kings, Lynn
45-46	Lichfield Cathedral Library
47-48	Unidentified - Possibly Lichfield Cathedral Library
50-51	Mozley
52	Oxford Binding. See Duff Coll. Gibson, S. Early Oxford Bindings, 1903
53-54	Pickering
55	Ponsonby
56	Proby - Gosden Binding
57	Reynes Binding
58	Ripon
59-68	Routh (Durham University)
69	Mrs. Watts Russel - Hering Binding
70	Shopiro
71-78	Shrewsbury School Library
79-86	Shrewsbury School Library
87-91	Spencer
92	Stoneyhurst
93	Stronge
94	Swaffam Church
95-96	Ushaw (Durham University)
97	Waugh
98	Wellesley
99-108	Wells
109-119	Wells
120	W.M.V.L. (?)
121	Wod (?)
122	Woodward

Birdsall Collection of Rubbings
Mss. Coll., 205
9 Mapcase rubbings

1	Peterborough (Dean)
2	Rev. Roberts, Ashwell, Oakham
3-5	Spencer
6-9	Wells

Birdsall Collection of Rubbings

Mss. Coll. 205, box 24

A collection of rubbings made by Anthony Birdsall (d. 1972) from such libraries as: Wells, Shrewsbury, Stoneyhurst etc. Many items show restoration work done by the Birdsall firm.

70 rubbings

Rubbing #	Provenance / Identification
1-4	For similar tools see: REF.269/W43. Early Stamped Bookbindings in the British Museum. Plate 71, #161
5-6	Chained book. Lower Rhine
7	XIII Cent. Binding. Syrian testament
8-9	XVIII Cent. Binding
10-11	Unidentified
12-13	Pope Clement 13 th coat of arms
14-15	B.B. and H.D. roll. See: Duff Coll. Oldham, J.B. English Blind-Stamped Bindings
16-18	For same or similar binding see: Mss. Coll.205 box 2, Birdsall Coll. (Foxe's Martyrs)
19	George III coat of arms
20	Pope Urban VIII – Barberini Family
21	Bertrand d'Eschaux, Bishop of Bayonne
22	Crest of Sir Andrew Fountaine
23	George II Coat of arms
24	Coat of arms: House of Bourbonne (female)
25	Unidentified
26	Unidentified
27	Joseph (?)
28	Unidentified
29	Unidentified
30	Unidentified
31	Baskerville Bible 1763
32	15 th cent. English mss.
33	Davantrae 1503
34	Petrarca 1553
35	Unidentified
36	Baskerville, Cambridge 1761
37-38	See: Duff Coll. Gibson, S. Early Oxford Bindings for roll design on plate XXXIX, # XVI
39	Flemish binding , XV cent.
40	Unidentified
41-43	See: stamped lettering "JACOB. ILLUMINATOR. FECIT"
44	Unidentified
45	B. of C.P. (?)
46	Unidentified
47	Initials M.N. & A.N. on covers
48-50	Unidentified
51-52	Unidentified
53-54	For G.W. stamp see: REF.Z/269/W4 Weale. Bookbinding and Rubbings of Bindings in the Victoria & Albert museum. plate 40. For lozenge stamp see: REF.Z/269/W43. Early Stamped Bookbindings in the British Museum. Plate 31, #8
55-63	Unidentified
64-70	Unidentified