

Takao Tanabe (Periwinkle Press) Fonds – MsC 110
Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

By Nicole Stocking, January 2009

Fonds description

Title: Takao Tanabe (Periwinkle Press) fonds

Dates: 1953-1994, predominant 1957-1965

Extent: .165m of graphic material

Biographical Sketch:

Takao Tanabe was born in Prince Rupert, BC, on September 16, 1926. He is a painter, designer, typographer, private printer, calligrapher, and teacher. Tanabe attended the Winnipeg School of Art from 1946 to 1949. He taught design and typography at the Vancouver School of Art from 1962 to 1968, and also taught at the Banff Centre for the Arts. Tanabe was awarded two honorary doctorates: from the University of Lethbridge in 1995, and the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2000. In addition, Tanabe was awarded the Order of British Columbia in 1993, the Order of Canada in 1999, and the Governor General's Award in the Visual and Media Arts in 2003.

While Tanabe is better known for his painting, he was also heavily involved in private printing in Vancouver during the 1950s and 1960s. Tanabe designed and supervised the physical production of volumes for Klanak Press, founded in 1957 by William and Alice McConnell. Tanabe also worked with Robert Reid on many joint printing projects during the 1950s and 1960s. He created his own press, Periwinkle Press, in the early 1960s.

Tanabe currently lives in Parksville, British Columbia.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains examples of printed material created by Takao Tanabe from 1953-1994 under his private printing company, Periwinkle Press, or in collaboration with Robert Reid and Klanak Press. The material is arranged based on their category which was reflected by the original order found upon acquisition. Printed materials include: books published by Periwinkle Press, announcement cards and posters, invitations, holiday cards, stationary, bookmarks, gift cards and promotional posters. The fonds is divided into five series: Series 1. Books, Series 2. Announcements and Invitations, Series 3. Holiday Cards, Series 4. Stationary, Series 5. Promotional Materials.

Source of Title:

Title based on the content of the fonds

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

The fonds was acquired from Takao Tanabe by Simon Fraser University Special Collections in July 2008. No further accruals are expected.

Terms Governing Access:

Reproduction of the material is subject to the approval of the Special Collections and Rare Books librarian.

Series description

Series 1. Books

Dates: 1961-1965, 1994

Extent: 4 cm of graphic material

Scope and Content: Series contains books published by Periwinkle Press.

Note: Title based on the content of the series

Series 2. Announcements and Invitations

Dates: 1953, 1957-1965

Extent: 3.5 cm of graphic material

Scope and Content: Series contains examples of commissioned announcement cards, posters, and invitations. Commissioners include: Arts Club, Design Forum, Duthie Books, Fine Arts Gallery of University of British Columbia, New Design Gallery, and Vancouver Art Gallery.

Note: Title based on the content of the series

Series 3. Holiday Cards

Dates: 1957-1958

Extent: 1.5 cm of graphic material

Scope and Content: Series contains examples of commissioned holiday cards.

Note: Title based on the content of the series

Series 4. Stationary

Dates: [195?-196-?]

Extent: 4.5 cm of graphic material

Scope and Content: Series contains examples of commissioned stationary for both private individuals and various organizations. Individuals and organizations include: Takao Tanabe, Periwinkle Press, Klanak Press, and Duthie Books.

Note: Title based on the content of the series

Series 5. Promotional Materials

Dates: [195?-196-?]

Extent: 3 cm of graphic material

Scope and Content: Series contains promotional materials produced for Duthie Books, including bookmarks and gift certificates. Series also contains a promotional poster for Periwinkle Press.

Note: Title based on the content of the series

File List

Series 1. Books

Box	File	Description
1	f. 1	Cheat the devil : a recipe book / by Edith Humphrey Killam. – Vancouver : Periwinkle Press, 1961.
1	f. 2	Where I have been / by Anne Margaret Angus. – Vancouver : Periwinkle Press, 1963.
1	f. 3	Elephants, mothers and others / by John Newlove. – Vancouver : Periwinkle Press, 1963.
1	f. 4	White lunch / by Gerry Gilbert. – Vancouver : Periwinkle Press, 1964.
1	f. 5	Kyoto airs / by Roy Kiyooka. – Vancouver : Periwinkle Press, 1964.
1	f. 6	Naked poems / by Phyllis Webb. – Vancouver : Periwinkle Press, 1965.
1	f. 7	New prints / by Takao Tanabe. – Vancouver : Periwinkle Press, 1994.

Series 2. Announcements and Invitations

Box	File	Description
1	f. 8	Arts Club. – 1957-1959. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 9	Design Forum. – [196-?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 10	Duthie Books. – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 11	Fine Arts Gallery, University of British Columbia. – 1957-1964. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 12	New Design Gallery. – 1957-1963. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 13	Vancouver Art Gallery. – [195-]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 14	Miscellaneous. – 1957-1964. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 1	Arts Club (oversize). – [195-?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 2	Duthie Books (oversize). – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 3	Fine Arts Gallery (oversize). – 1958, 1963-1965. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 4	New Design Gallery (oversize). – 1958-1965. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 5	Vancouver Art Gallery (oversize). – 1958-1964. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.

Flat Files f. 6 Miscellaneous (oversize). – [195?-196?].
Note: Title based on the content of the file.

Series Three: Holiday Cards

Box	File	Description
1	f. 15	Holiday Cards. – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 16	Holiday Cards. – 1957-1958. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 7	Holiday Cards (oversize). – 1957-1958. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.

Series Four: Stationary

Box	File	Description
1	f. 17	Takao Tanabe, Periwinkle Press, Klanak Press. – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 18	Duthie Books. – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 19	Miscellaneous Commissions. – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.

Series Five: Promotional Materials

Box	File	Description
1	f. 20	Duthie Books – Bookmarks. – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
1	f. 21	Duthie Books – Gift Certificates. – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 8	Duthie Books – Gift Certificates (oversize). – [195?-196?]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.
Flat Files	f. 9	Periwinkle Press – Poster (oversize). – [ca. 1964]. <i>Note:</i> Title based on the content of the file.

