

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Erica Van Horn Prints

YCAL MSS 340



by Matthew Daniel Mason

2009

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 340

**CREATOR:** Van Horn, Erica

**TITLE:** Erica Van Horn prints

**DATES:** 1976–1999

**BULK DATES:** 1976–1981

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.17 linear feet (1 oversize box and 16 broadside folders)

**LANGUAGE:** No linguistic content; Not applicable

**SUMMARY:** This collection consists of unique prints created by Erica Van Horn. The prints complement her one-of-a-kind books and other printed work. The prints are chiefly etchings combined with chine collé on watercolor paper, as well as monoprints that depict Saint Sebastian. Each of the prints has title and a signature or signed initials inscribed by Van Horn.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.vanhorn>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.vanhorn>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Erica Van Horn on the Elizabeth Wakeman Dwight Memorial Fund, 2009.

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## Information about Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Ownership & Copyright

The collection of Erica Van Horn Prints is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Cite As

Erica Van Horn Prints. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Notes

The descriptions of material in this collection were chiefly repurposed from identifications provided by Erica Van Horn.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

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## Erica Van Horn (born 1954)

Erica Van Horn was born in Concord, New Hampshire. The American artist, writer, and bookmaker graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She uses the portability of the printed sheet, mostly in book form, to construct a narrative around the incidental parts of her life. The work now mostly issues through Coracle, a small publishing press based in Ireland, which she directs with Simon Cutts (born 1944), writer, artist, and editor.

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## Description of the Papers

This collection consists of unique prints created by Erica Van Horn. The prints complement her one-of-a-kind books and other printed work. The prints are chiefly etchings combined with chine collé on watercolor paper, as well as monoprints that depict Saint Sebastian. Each of the prints has a title and a signature or signed initials inscribed by Van Horn.

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## Arrangement

Organized into one series: I. Prints, 1976-1999.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Prints, 1976-1999

37 Folders

Except where noted, all prints were created on Arches watercolor paper.

Arranged chronologically into groups designated by Van Horn and chronologically within each group.

	Books and Writings	1976-1985
	Early prints created by Van Horn. In documentation acquired with the collection, she describes her work as follows:	
	<p>"Almost all of my prints at this time use the method of chine collé which is a way of collaging elements onto a piece of paper at the same time as you are printing it. Since all of my collage elements were found and saved things, every print became a unique object. Hence the term edition variéé again and again. I could use the same plates dozens of times and use the exact same method and color in my inking, but the collage elements changed each time. Occasionally, as in <i>Republic Francaise</i>, I burned paper towels to get an almost identical shape so that I could make a more consistent edition, but even with that, my stamps were different. I used the prints as storage for remembering things.</p> <p>The pieces, which I grouped here, combine writing and calligraphic form, usually nonsensically, to suggest the written word as form of communication. Letters and books are incorporated.</p> <p>These things preceded my book works but when the books started, they were essentially already started!"</p>	
b. 1, f. 1	<a href="#">España España España (artist's proof)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 21.1 x 28.4 cm. on sheet 32.6 x 39.0 cm.</i>	1976
b. 1, f. 2	<a href="#">Republic Francaise (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 19.9 x 18.5 cm. on sheet 34.6 x 29.0 cm.</i>	1977
b. 1, f. 3	<a href="#">Tabloid for Thomas (edition variéé, numbered 6)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 8.5 x 28.8 cm. on sheet 18.5 x 36.5 cm.</i>	1977
b. 4 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Letters from Home (edition variéé, numbered 12)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 30.2 x 45.0 cm. on sheet 48.0 x 63.5 cm.</i>	1978
b. 1, f. 5	<a href="#">Inventory (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: collage and chine collé; on sheet 50.0 x 35.5 cm.</i>	1978
b. 1, f. 6	<a href="#">Untitled (Text Across Top) (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching, pencil, hand stitching and chine collé, color; on sheet 30.2 x 30.2 cm. affixed on sheet 36.5 x 36.5 cm.</i>	1978
b. 1, f. 7	<a href="#">Book Series No. 9 (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: collage, hand stitching, and chine collé, color; 2 sheets of Japanese paper, both 20 x 11 cm. on sheet 50.0 x 35.5 cm.</i>	1978

## Books and Writings (continued)

b. 1, f. 8	<a href="#">Book Series No. 12 (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: collage, hand stitching and chine collé, color; on sheet 50.0 x 35.5 cm.</i> Comprised of a letter from Robert Scott in Punta de la Mona, Spain, on December 3, 1975	1978
b. 9 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Message Written No. 2 (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching, pencil, hand stitching and chine collé, color; plate mark 60.2 x 44.2 cm. on sheet 68.5 x 52.5 cm.</i>	1978
b. 10 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Message Written No. 5 (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching, pencil, hand stitching, machine stitching and chine collé, color; plate mark 60.2 x 44.2 on sheet 68.5 x 52.5 cm.</i>	1978
b. 11 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Automatic Writing Sample (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; 2 sheets, both 21.4 x 59.8 on sheet 57.0 x 66.0 cm.</i>	1978
b. 12 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Triangle Letter Series No. 3 (with three stamps) (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: chine collé, color; on sheet 56.0 x 75.0 cm.</i>	1978
b. 13 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Triangle Letter Series No. 7 (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: chine collé, color; on sheet 56.0 x 75.0 cm.</i>	1978
b. 1, f. 14	<a href="#">Quote (unknown edition size)</a> <i>1 print: etching, black and white; on sheet 33.5 x 31.5 cm.</i>	1979
b. 1, f. 15	<a href="#">Calligraphic Exercise (unknown edition size)</a> <i>1 print: etching, black and white; plate mark 24.7 x 24.7 cm. on sheet 36.5 x 36.5 cm.</i>	1979
b. 1, f. 16	<a href="#">Bookcase Study for Installation at Franklin Furnace</a> <i>1 print: monoprint, black and white; typewriter paper sheet 15.3 x 26.5 cm. affixed on sheet 30.0 x 28.5 cm.</i>  According to Van Horn: "This study was later translated into paint directly on a sliding door at Franklin Furnace in New York City. It was a partial list of one of a kind books to include in the show, or if they were not available to be included, they would at least be there by their title."	1985
	Some Buildings	1979-1980
b. 1, f. 17	<a href="#">Dwelling Places (artist's proof)</a> <i>1 print: etching, hand-colored with photograph corners and rubber stamps, color; plate mark 10.0 x 15.1 cm. on sheet 25.8 x 29.3 cm.</i>	1979
b. 1, f. 18	<a href="#">Three Choices (edition variéé, edition 3)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 13.9 x 15.4 cm. on sheet 23.5 x 25.0 cm.</i>  Accompanied by an exhibition label for the 79th Exhibition by Artists of Chicago and Vicinity, at The Art Institute of Chicago, July 4-August 16, 1981.	1980
b. 1, f. 19	<a href="#">Untitled (Church with Pink Cross) (edition variéé, numbered 8)</a> <i>1 print: etching with acrylic paint and cut-out, color; plate mark 22.4 x 29.6 cm. on sheet 34.5 x 41.8 cm.</i>	1980
b. 1, f. 20	<a href="#">House Bed (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 32.5 x 44.8 cm. on sheet 39.7 x 51.6 cm.</i>	1980

Monsters and a Bird		1981-1995
b. 1, f. 21	<a href="#">Big Head (With Stamps) (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 13.6 x 8.5 cm. on sheet 23.7 x 16.5 cm.</i>	1981
b. 1, f. 22	<a href="#">Big Head (Map) (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 13.6 x 8.5 cm. on sheet 23.6 x 16.5 cm.</i>	1981
b. 1, f. 23	<a href="#">Spanish Monster (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 12.3 x 14.9 cm. on sheet 26.5 x 21.9 cm.</i>	1981
b. 1, f. 24	<a href="#">Mail Monster (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 12.2x 14.9 cm. on sheet 25.4 x 24.8 cm.</i>	1981
b. 1, f. 25	<a href="#">Dovecôte-Fenêtre (with Simon Cutts) (Edition of 15, numbered 10)</a> <i>1 print: linocut and letter press, color; plate mark 12.9 x 12.9 cm. on sheet 16.6 x 16.6 in a mat 33.6 x 29.2 cm. with a letterpress caption.</i> Signed on verso of mat by Van Horn and Cutts.	1995 December 15
b. 26 (Broadside)-34 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Saint Sebastian</a> <i>9 prints: monoprint, black and white; on bristol boards 64.5 x 49.5 cm.</i> Consists of print numbers 10, 11, 14, 15, 20, 22, 23, 25, and 26.	1987
Miscellaneous		1976-1999
b. 1, f. 35	<a href="#">Chinese Puzzle Landscape-Landscape Puzzle (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark in puzzle piece shape 34.6 x 22.4 cm. on sheet 50.0 x 34.1 cm.</i>	1976
f. 36 (Broadside)	<a href="#">McCall's 8132 (edition variéé)</a> <i>1 print: etching and chine collé, color; plate mark 45.0 x 57.5 cm. on sheet 54.7 x 71.4 cm.</i>	1976
b. 1, f. 37	<a href="#">15 Blackthorns (Edition of 100, Numbered 36)</a> <i>1 print: letterpress, color; on sheet 41.8 x 53.3 cm.</i>	1999

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Printmakers  
Prints -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Chine collé prints -- Color  
Etchings (prints)  
Monoprints (painting and printing works)

### **Names**

Sebastian, Saint -- Pictorial works  
Van Horn, Erica