

# Guide to the Nathan T. Porter, Jr. Collection of Bookplates by Edwin Davis French

BKP 65



Compiled by Molly E. Dotson

2011

Arts Library Special Collections

180 York Street

New Haven, CT 06511

203-432-1712

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<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections  
Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu  
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

**CALL NUMBER:** BKP 65

**CREATOR:** Porter, Nathan T., 1867-1947

**TITLE:** Nathan T. Porter, Jr. Collection of Bookplates by Edwin Davis French

**DATES:** 1893-1906

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection comprises close to 200 bookplates designed by Edwin Davis French, which were collected by Nathan T. Porter, Jr.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.bkp.0065>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.bkp.0065>.

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

The Yale Bookplate Collection was formerly housed in Sterling Memorial Library. The collection was incorporated into the Arts of the Book Collection in 1984 and then moved to the Seeley G. Mudd Library in 1990. In 2011, it was transferred to the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## Preferred Citation

Nathan T. Porter, Jr. Collection of Bookplates by Edwin Davis French, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

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## Associated Materials

See also the Pearson-Lowenhaupt Collection of Bookplates by Edwin Davis French (Call # BKP 49) and *Edwin Davis French: A Memorial; His Life, His Art* by Ira Hutchinson Brainerd, published in 1908 (Call # Bookplate Z996 F73 (LC)). In addition, several titles bearing the bookplate of Nathan T. Porter, Jr. can be found in the collections of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Elizabethan Club.

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## Biographical / Historical

Nathan Todd Porter, Jr. (1867-1947) was a dry goods commission merchant born in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from Yale, Class of 1890. He worked for Porter Brothers & Co., located in New York, NY, and lived in Montclair, NJ. He married Caroline Chester Knickerbocker in 1892; they had two daughters: Helen and Caroline. He was also a member of the University Club and a trustee of the Montclair Free Public Library.

Edwin Davis French (1851-1906) was a designer and engraver born in North Attleboro, MA. In 1876 he moved to New York, NY, and he worked as a silver engraver and designer for Frank M. Whiting & Company until 1894. He also studied at the Art Students League. French became focused on copper engraving and designed his first bookplate in 1893. In 1897 he moved to Saranac Lake, NY, and he produced over 300 bookplate designs between 1893 and his death in 1906.

### References:

Leonard, John W., ed. *Who's Who in New York City and State*. 3rd ed. New York: L. R. Hamersly & Company, 1907.

Brainerd, Ira Hutchinson. *Edwin Davis French: A Memorial; His Life, His Art*. New York: privately printed [De Vinne Press], 1908.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection comprises close to 200 bookplates designed by Edwin Davis French, which were collected by Nathan T. Porter, Jr. In addition to bookplates, the collection also contains another example of engraved illustration by French, namely a small reproduction of Jean-François Millet's *The Sower*, which was used as the imprimatur of author and publisher William Loring Andrews.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Bookplates – Mounted. II. Bookplates – Unmounted. III. Other Engravings. IV. Ephemera.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Bookplates – Mounted

This series contains bookplates mounted on gray paper mounts, measuring 10 x 8 inches. The mounts are printed on recto with "No. \_\_\_\_\_" in the upper right corner and with "Collection of | Nathan T. Porter, Jr. | Montclair, N. J." in the lower left corner. The bookplate mounts are hand-numbered in black ink.

The bookplates are arranged in numerical order by their identification numbers from a published checklist of French's bookplates and other engravings, *Edwin Davis French: A Memorial; His Life, His Art*, by Ira Hutchinson Brainerd (1908). According to Brainerd, the checklist "follows [French's] notation with the little continuation needed to carry it to completion." This arrangement is roughly chronological, although some earlier bookplates have been appended to the end of Brainerd's checklist (see Box 2, Folder 10).

b. 1, f. 1	No. 1b (Brainerd) – No. 31 (Warner) 20 Items	1893-1894
	No. 1b Helen Elvira Brainerd	1893
	No. 2b Mary Brainerd French	1893
	No. 4 Helen Elvira Brainerd	1893
	No. 5c E D F (Edwin Davis French)	1893
	No. 8 Charles E. Clark, M.D. 2 copies	1894
	No. 9 Charles E. Clark, M.D.	1894
	No. 10c In Memoriam. Ellen Walters Avery	1894
	No. 11 William Loring Andrews	1894
	No. 12 The Oxford Club	1894
	No. 15 Marshall Clifford Lefferts	1894
	No. 18c Colonial Dames of America	1894
	No. 19b Charles B. Foote	1894
	No. 22b Hiram Edmund Deats	1894
	No. 25b Alice C. Holden	1894
	No. 26 Edwin R. Holden	1894
	No. 27c John Page Woodbury	1894
	No. 28b Richard B. Coutant	1894
	No. 30b Francis Goodwin	1894
	No. 31 Beverley Warner, M.A.	1894
b. 1, f. 2	No. 33a (Kalbfleisch) – No. 58c (Marshall) 20 Items	1894-1895

## No. 33a (Kalbfleisch) – No. 58c (Marshall) (continued)

	No. 33a Charles Conover Kalbfleisch	1894
	No. 34b Henry Sherburne Rowe	1894
	No. 35 Emily Hoe Lawrence <i>2 copies</i>	1894
	No. 36b James Hale Bates	1894
	No. 37c Richard Southcote Mansergh	1895
	No. 40d Library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art	1895
	No. 41b E. D. Church	1895
	No. 42 A. C. Bernheim	1895
	No. 44 Charles B. Alexander	1895
	No. 46 James William Ellsworth	1895
	No. 47 Beverly Chew	1895
	No. 48b Henry H. Vail	1895
	No. 49 Thomas Jefferson McKee	1895
	No. 51 Micajah P. Clough	1895
	No. 52 Henry A. Sherwin	1895
	No. 54b Mariæ Gerard Messenger	1895
	No. 55 William Frederick Havemeyer	1895
	No. 56 Theo. L. DeVinne	1895
	No. 58c Frank Evans Marshall	1895
b. 1, f. 3	No. 59 (Champaign Public Library) – No. 92 (McCarter) <i>21 Items</i>	1895-1897
	No. 59 Champaign Public Library	1895
	No. 60b Biltmoris G W V (George W. Vanderbilt)	1895
	No. 65 William Lanman Bull	1895
	No. 66 Micajah Pratt Clough	1896
	No. 67 The Association of the Bar of the City of New York   The Library of Charles H. Woodbury	1895
	No. 73 Christian Archibald Herter	1896
	No. 74b A. J. Morgan	1896
	No. 75b Howard Willets	1896

## No. 59 (Champaign Public Library) – No. 92 (McCarter) (continued)

	No. 76c Presented to _____, Esqr. With the Compliments of William Loring Andrews	1896
	No. 77b Robert Sedgwick	1896
	No. 82 Henry A. Sherwin	1896
	No. 83b The John Crerar Library	1896
	No. 83c The John Crerar Library   Chicago	1896
	No. 84c The Denver Club	1896
	No. 86b Maria Gerard Messenger	1896
	No. 86d Maria Gerard Messenger	1896
	No. 86e Maria Gerard Messenger	1896
	No. 88 The Collection of Thos. Addis Emmet, M.D.	1896
	No. 90 O. A. K. (O. A. Kahn)	1897
	No. 91 Lucy Coleman Carnegie	1897
	No. 92 Robert H. McCarter	1896
b. 1, f. 4	No. 93 (Stearns) – No. 125 (Cox) <i>20 Items</i>	1897-1898 undated
	No. 93 John Lloyd Stearns	1897
	No. 94b Edith Davies Kingsbury	1897
	No. 98 Authors Club Library	1897
	No. 99b Ruth Mary Sabin	undated
	No. 101c The Mark Skinner Library   Manchester, Vermont	1898
	No. 102c Paul Lemperly	1897
	No. 103 Henry Clay and Helen Burgess Ranney	1897
	No. 104b Edward F. Burke	1897
	No. 108 Library of Princeton University	1897
	No. 112 A. Dwight Stratton	1898
	No. 113 Samuel W. Lambert	1898
	No. 114b Barrett Wendell	1898
	No. 115 Ex Libris Medicis	1898
	No. 116 Vassar Alumnæ Historical Association	1898
	No. 118 The Association of the Bar of the City of New York   The John E. Burrill Fund	1897

## No. 93 (Stearns) – No. 125 (Cox) (continued)

	No. 119b The Association of the Bar of the City of New York   Gift of James C. Carter	1898
	No. 121 James A. Goldsmith	1898
	No. 122a Twentieth Century Club   Ex Dono	1898
	No. 122b Twentieth Century Club	1898
	No. 125 Jennings Stockton Cox	1898
b. 1, f. 5	No. 127a (Thorne) – No. 152 (Treadwell Library) <i>18 Items</i>	1898-1899
	No. 127a Katherine Cecil Sanford Thorne	1898
	No. 129 James Edmund Scripps	1898
	No. 130 Arnold Wood	1898
	No. 131 Charles L. Dana	1898
	No. 132 Eva Snow Smith Prescott	1898
	No. 133b Sidney Ernest Bradshaw	1898
	No. 135 John F. Talmage	1899
	No. 136b Edward Courtland Gale	1899
	No. 137b Ethel Hartshorne Wood	1899
	No. 139 Emil Leopold Boas	1899
	No. 140a Louise Taylor Hartshorne Moore	1899
	No. 141d Charles Dexter Allen	1899
	No. 142 Allan C. Bakewell	1899
	No. 143a George Van Wagenen and Margaret Van Nest Duryee	1899
	No. 144 A W (Arnold Wood)	1899
	No. 146 John Skelton Williams	1899
	No. 149b Cornelia Horsford	1899
	No. 152 Treadwell Library   Massachusetts General Hospital	1899
b. 1, f. 6	No. 153 (Lemperly) – No. 179 (Sherman) <i>20 Items</i>	1900-1901
	No. 153 ... The Property of Paul Lemperly	1900
	No. 154 The University Club   Cleveland	1900
	No. 155 Robert Emmet Hopkins Bookplate is inscribed "E-D French to J. W. Pinger [?], Esq."	1900



## No. 153 (Lemperly) – No. 179 (Sherman) (continued)

	No. 157f The Union League Club   New York <i>2 copies</i>	1900
	No. 159 John R. Livermore	1900
	No. 163c New York Yacht Club Library	1900
	No. 163d New York Yacht Club Library   Presented By	1900
	No. 163db New York Yacht Club Library   Presented By	1900
	No. 164b Walter B. James, M.D.	1900
	No. 168 Margaret H. Foot	1900
	No. 169 John W. and Lee Partridge Loveland	1900
	No. 170 Amy B. Alexander	1900
	No. 171b James Wilson Bullock	1900
	No. 172 Arthur West Little	1900
	No. 173 John B. Larner	1900
	No. 174 Ruth Adams	1900
	No. 177 S. Walter Woodward	1901
	No. 178 Sarah Elizabeth Whiting	1901
	No. 179 William Watts Sherman	1901
b. 1, f. 7	No. 180 (Barnes) – No. 213 (Burnham) <i>18 Items</i>	1901-1902
	No. 180 John Sanford Barnes	1901
	No. 182 The Worcester Art Museum	1901
	No. 184 Harbor Hill	1901
	No. 186c Library of the Harvard Union	1901
	No. 187 Frances Amelia Adams	1901
	No. 188d Roger Bigelow Merriman	1901
	No. 192b Long Island Historical Society   Storrs Memorial Fund	1901
	No. 194 Field Memorial Library   Conway, Massachusetts	1901
	No. 196 James M. Varum	1902
	No. 197b James B. Dill	1902
	No. 198 Dorothy Furman	1902
	No. 199 Edward Dean Adams	1902

## No. 180 (Barnes) – No. 213 (Burnham) (continued)

	No. 204b R. Stockton Pyne	1902
	No. 205b William Beverley Rogers	1902
	No. 206b The Washington County Free Library   Hagerstown, Maryland	1902
	No. 207b Ernest Kempton Adams	1902
	No. 212b Ira Hutchinson Brainerd	1902
	No. 213 William Henry and Katharine French Burnham	1902
b. 1, f. 8	No. 217b (Mynderse) – No. 245b (Lovett) <i>20 Items</i>	1903-1904
	No. 217b Wilhelmus Mynderse	1903
	No. 218 L M P (Lowell Mason Palmer)	1903
	No. 219 L M P (Lowell Mason Palmer)	1903
	No. 222b W C W (W. C. Wood)	1903
	No. 224b Ruth Lancaster Hoe	1903
	No. 225 Charles Williston McAlpin	1903
	No. 228b William Augustus Brewer	1903
	No. 229 Warner Mifflin and Louise Hartshorne Leeds	1903
	No. 231 Caroline Seagrave Bliss	1903
	No. 233 Elizabeth Sage Goodwin	1903
	No. 234 Cincinnati Law Library   Rufus King Fund	1903
	No. 235a Lowell Melvin Palmer	1904
	No. 237a Mary Barber Robinson	1904
	No. 240a Library of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers	1904
	No. 240e Library of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers   The Gift Of	1904
	No. 241b Mabel Slade	1904
	No. 242 Henry C. Bernheim	1904
	No. 243 Henry Fairfield Osborn	1904
	No. 244 George Edward Dimock	1904
	No. 245b Benjamin Barnes Lovett	1904
b. 2, f. 9	No. 248 (Hoffman) – No. 282b (Utica Public Library) <i>20 Items</i>	1904-1906
	No. 248 Samuel Verplanck Hoffman	1904

## No. 248 (Hoffman) – No. 282b (Utica Public Library) (continued)

	No. 249 Henry H. Harper	1904
	No. 254 John Notman	1904
	No. 256 Gertrude Clarkson Welsh	1904
	No. 259b Harriette M. Stevens	1905
	No. 260 Mary Lois Seagrave Downes	1905
	No. 263 Queen's University	1905
	No. 264b George Harvey	1905
	No. 265b Lucius G. Fisher	1905
	No. 269 George J. Gould   Georgian Court	1906
	No. 270 Parke E. Simmons	1906
	No. 271b Henry Van Deventer Black	1906
	No. 272 Elizabeth Jordan	1906
	No. 273 The Cosmos Club	1906
	No. 274 Emma Stewart Bixby	1906
	No. 275c W K Bixby	1906
	No. 276b Julius C. and Emily S. Bernheim	1906
	No. 278 L H J and S E J (Jackman)	1906
	No. 281 Esther Pierce Metcalf	1906
	No. 282b Utica Public Library   From the John E. Brandegee Fund	1906
b. 2, f. 10	No. 286 (Smith) – No. 289d (Tatlock) <i>4 Items</i>	1893 1898
	No. 286 Henry A. Smith	1898
	No. 289b Edwin Davis French	1893
	No. 289c William and Helen Woodruff Tatlock	1893
	No. 289d William Tatlock	1893

## Series II: Bookplates – Unmounted

This series contains unmounted bookplates which were loosely inserted among the mounted bookplates.

These bookplates are unnumbered, although their arrangement follows that of the numerical order of the checklist published in 1908. According to Brainerd, the checklist “follows [French’s] notation with the little continuation needed to carry it to completion.” This arrangement is roughly chronological, although some earlier bookplates have been appended to the end of Brainerd’s checklist.

b. 2, f. 11	No. 5d (French) – No. 296 (U-sepe-ars-so-ap) <i>12 Items</i>	1893-1905
	No. 5d E D F (Edwin Davis French)	1893
	No. 20 Henry Blackwell	1894
	No. 72c The Edward Tompkins McLaughlin Memorial Prize in English Composition	1896
	No. 96cc Helen Keyes	1897
	No. 96h Eveline Warner Brainerd	1897
	No. 100 Child Memorial Library   To Harvard University   In Memory of Francis James Child	1897
	No. 130 Arnold Wood	1898
	No. 160 Nathan T. Porter, Jr. <i>2 copies</i>	1900
	No. 163d New York Yacht Club Library	1900
	No. 261a Ethel Hartshorne Wood	1905
	No. 294 Martha Elizabeth Brainerd	1905
	No. 296 U-sepe-ars-so-ap	1893

## Series III: Other Engravings

b. 2, f. 12

The Sower

1894

*1 item*

This folder contains an unsigned engraving by French that is a small reproduction of Jean-François Millet's *The Sower*, which was used as the imprimatur of William Loring Andrews.

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Series IV: Ephemera

b. 2, f. 13	Unused bookplate mounts <i>23 items</i>	undated
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## **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**

Bookplates

### **Genres / Formats**

Bookplates

### **Names**

Andrews, William Loring, 1837-1920

French, Edwin Davis, 1851-1906

Porter, Nathan T., 1867-1947