

# John Calder Publishers:

## An Inventory of Its Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	John Calder Publishers
<b>Title:</b>	John Calder Publishers Art Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1950s-1960s
<b>Extent:</b>	1 box (55 items)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection consists of book jacket designs for works by authors, such as Arthur Adamov, Samuel Beckett, and Marguerite Duras, published by John Calder Publishers (also known as John Calder, Ltd.) or Calder & Boyars during the 1950s and 1960s.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Art Collection AR-00132
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research. To make an appointment or to reserve Art Collection materials, please email <a href="#">Visual Materials Reference staff</a> . Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
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### Administrative Information

<b>Preferred Citation</b>	John Calder Publishers Art Collection (AR-00132). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
<b>Acquisition:</b>	Purchases, 1969-1970
<b>Processed by:</b>	Ransom Center Staff; Jill Morena, 2018
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>



## Biographical Sketch

For over half a century, publisher John Calder (British, born Canada, 1927-2018) brought modern and experimental literature to English language readers through John Calder (Publishers) Ltd. (1949-1964; 1975-2007) and Calder & Boyars, his partnership with Marion Boyars that lasted from 1964 to 1975. Calder was born in Montreal on January 25, 1927. After returning from his studies in political economy at Zurich University in 1949, Calder realized that wartime shortages had resulted in many unpublished or untranslated European novels, and he resolved to rectify this absence in the publishing market. Calder founded John Calder Publishers in 1949 while simultaneously working at his family's timber firm and attempting to get the publishing company off the ground. Beginning in 1955, he devoted his energies exclusively to publishing. Early publications included translations of classic works in French, German, Italian, and Russian, as well as books on music, opera, and theater. The English-language publication of two accounts of torture during the Algerian war, Henri Alleg's *The Question* in 1958 and the collection of testimonies, *The Gangrene*, in 1959, brought considerable attention to the company. Calder would publish many significant contemporary writers, including Samuel Beckett, Marguerite Duras, Alain Robbe-Grillet, and Nathalie Sarraute, and the absurdist theater of playwrights such as Eugène Ionesco and Fernando Arrabal. In addition to publishing, Calder also organized writer's conferences, arts and music festivals, theater companies, and defended literature charged with obscenity in the British courts, most famously for the publications of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* and Hubert Selby, Jr.'s *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. Calder continued to write and publish into the 21st century, and penned books on Beckett, Jean Arp, and the mid-century Paris literary scene, in addition to a memoir and three volumes of his own poetry. Alessandro Gallenzi acquired John Calder Publishers in 2007 and continues to publish its titles under the imprint Alma Books. Calder died in Edinburgh on August 13, 2018.

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## Sources:

Calder, John. "John Calder (Publishers) Limited." In *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, vol. 112 (1991): 48-50. British Literary Publishing Houses, 1881-1965. Anderson, edited by Patricia J. and Jonathan Rose. Detroit, London: Gale Research International Limited, 1991.

Gallenzi, Alessandro. "John Calder Obituary." *The Guardian*, August 21, 2018.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/aug/21/john-calder-obituary>.

Sandomir, Richard. "John Calder, British Publisher Who Fought Censorship, Dies at 91." *The New York Times*, August 19, 2018.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/19/obituaries/john-calder-british-publisher-who-fought-censorship-dies-at-91.html>.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of book jacket designs for various published titles. Items include multi-layered, fragile, mixed media mechanicals that are often heavily annotated, print proofs for book jackets, and near-final or finished book jackets. The collection is organized alphabetically by the author of the literary work. If there is more than one item for a particular title, the different stages of the design are listed beneath the author's name. The majority of designs are by Donald Green and John Sewell, who are the only known artists in the collection. A third artist's name, Gross-Andre, is transcribed from the name as it appears on the book jacket.

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## Related Material

Publishing files and correspondence related to authors represented in this collection, among others, can be found in the John Calder Publishers Records (MS-02194).

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## Index Terms

### People

Adamov, Arthur.  
Alarcón, Pedro Antonio de, 1833-1891.  
Arrabal, Fernando.  
Beckett, Samuel, 1906-1989.  
Calder, John, 1927-2018.  
Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich, 1860-1904.  
Droste-Hülshoff, Annette von, 1797-1848.  
Duras, Marguerite.  
Green, Donald.  
Gross-Andre.  
Lockspeiser, Edward, 1905-1973.  
Higgins, Aidan, 1927-2015.  
Hobson, Harold.  
Hoffmann, E. T. A. (Ernst Theodor Amadeus), 1776-1822.  
Ionesco, Eugène.  
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Pieyre de Mandiargues, André, 1909-1991.  
Sarraute, Nathalie.  
Sewell, John.  
Storm, Theodor, 1817-1888.

### Subjects

Book jackets--1950-1970.  
Literature, Experimental.  
Literature publishing.  
Theater--20th century.

### Document Types

Book jackets.

Drawings.

Electrophotographic prints.

Gelatin silver prints.

Lithographs.

Mechanicals (camera-ready copy).

Overlays.

**Corporate Names**

John Calder Publishers.

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Adamov, Arthur

**Accession Number: 68.110.1.1** Green, Donald. Drawing with overlay for Ping Pong, circa 1950s-1960s. Plastic, ink, paper, and pressure-sensitive tape on board, 39 x 31.4 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 68.110.1.2** Green, Donald. Proof for book jacket for Ping Pong, circa 1950s-1960s. Lithograph or electrophotographic print, 38.1 x 25.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.110.2.1** Green, Donald. Book jacket for Paolo Paoli, 1959. Lithograph or screen print, 20.5 x 14.6 cm (closed); 20.5 x 28.3 cm (open).

**Accession Number: 68.110.2.2** Green, Donald. Overlay for Paolo Paoli, 1959. Ink and pressure-sensitive tape on plastic, 34.9 x 26.3 cm (irregular).

**Accession Number: 68.110.2.3** Green, Donald. Proof for book jacket for Paolo Paoli, 1959. Lithograph or electrophotographic print, 38.1 x 25.4 cm.

Alarcón, Pedro Antonio de

**Accession Number: 68.110.7** Sewell, John. Mechanical for The Three-Cornered Hat, circa 1950s. Ink, pencil, plastic, letterpress text, and pressure-sensitive tape on paper, 25.4 x 15.7 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

Arrabal, Fernando

**Accession Number: 68.110.10.1** Green, Donald. Drawing for 4 Plays, 1966. Watercolor and ink on paper, 36.8 x 29.8 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 68.110.10.2** Green, Donald. Book jacket for 4 Plays, 1966. Lithograph, 21 x 14.5 cm (closed); 21 x 30 cm (open).

**Accession Number: 68.110.10.3** Green, Donald. Font design for author name for 4 Plays, 1966. Watercolor on paper, 3 x 13.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.110.10.4** Green, Donald. Font design for author name for 4 Plays, 1966. Watercolor on paper, 5.6 x 19.7 cm.

Beckett, Samuel

**Accession Number: 70.29.1** Mechanical for Malone Dies, 1958. Gelatin silver print, acetate, pencil, and ink on paper, 28 x 22.5 cm.

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 70.29.2** Mechanical for Malone Dies, 1958. Gelatin silver print, acetate, pencil, and ink on board, 31.5 x 23 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.3** Proof for Malone Dies, 1958. Lithograph, 28.8 x 22.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.4** Proof for title font for Malone Dies, 1958. Lithograph and letterpress text, 25.1 x 19 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.5** Sewell, John. Font and cover design for Molloy, Malone Dies, and The Unnamable, 1959. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.7** Sewell, John. Mechanical for Molloy, Malone Dies, and The Unnamable, 1959. Ink, watercolor, and acetate on board, 31.8 x 25.3 cm.

Chekhov, Anton

**Accession Number: 68.110.8** Sewell, John. Mechanical for Wife For Sale, circa 1950s. Ink, acetate, and pressure-sensitive tape on board, 29.5 x 22.3 cm.

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1

Droste-Hülshoff, Annette von

**Accession Number: 68.110.3** Sewell, John. Mechanical for The Jew's Beech, circa 1950s. Ink, pencil, acetate, and pressure-sensitive tape on board, 25.9 x 21 cm.

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1

Duras, Marguerite

**Accession Number: 70.29.8** Drawing for The Little Horses of Tarquinia, circa 1950s-1960s. Watercolor and ink on paper, 20.5 x 17.4 cm (irregular).

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 70.29.9** Mechanical for The Little Horses of Tarquinia, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, pencil, and pressure-sensitive tape on paper and plastic, 31.1 x 25.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.10** Drawing for Moderato Cantabile, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, watercolor, and pencil on paper, 39.5 x 30 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.11** Overlay for Moderato Cantabile, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on plastic, 39.5 x 30 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.12** Gross-Andre. Mechanical for The Square, circa 1950s-1960s. Gelatin silver print, ink, and plastic on board, 38.4 x 30.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.13** Gross-Andre. Proof for The Square, circa 1950s-1960s. Letterpress halftone, 38.1 x 25.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.14** Gross-Andre. Proof for The Square, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on onionskin paper, 38 x 25.45 cm.

Lockspeiser, Edward

**Accession Number: 70.29.6.1** Sewell, John. Mechanical for The Literary Clef, circa 1950s. Ink, pencil, acetate, and pressure-sensitive tape on board, 31.8 x 25.4 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

Higgins, Aidan

**Accession Number: 70.29.15** Book jacket design for Felo de Se, 1960. Watercolor on paper, 22 x 16.4 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 70.29.16** Book jacket design for Felo de Se, 1960. Watercolor on paper, 22.2 x 16.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.17** Book jacket design for Felo de Se, 1960. Watercolor on paper, 22.2 x 16.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.18** Green, Donald. Black and white proof of book jacket for Felo de Se, 1960. Letterpress halftone, 20.3 x 39.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.19** Green, Donald. Black and white proof of book jacket for Felo de Se, 1960. Letterpress halftone, 20.3 x 29.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.20** Green, Donald. Color proof for book jacket for Felo de Se, 1960. Letterpress halftone, 21 x 49 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.21.1** Portrait of Aidan Higgins, circa 1960s. Gelatin silver print, 14 x 13.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.21.2** Card to Clarke, Doble, & Brendon Ltd. / Oakfield Press regarding cover for Felo de Se, circa 1960s. Ink on paper, 10.2 x 12.5 cm.

Hobson, Harold (editor)

**Accession Number: 70.29.30** Proof for cover for International Theatre Annual 4, circa 1950s-1960s. Offset lithograph, 20.3 x 29.3 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1



**Accession Number: 70.29.31** Mechanical for cover for International Theatre Annual 5, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, screen print, letterpress text, plastic, and pressure-sensitive tape on board, 38.8 x 25 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.32** Color proof print for International Theatre Annual 5, circa 1950s-1960s. Screen print and ink adhered to paper, 38 x 25.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.33** Print proof for International Theatre Annual 5, circa 1950s-1960s. Halftone print, 32.1 x 25 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.34** Erle Grey as Leontes in the Winter's Tale, circa 1950s-1960s. Gelatin silver print, 25.3 x 20.6 cm.

Hoffmann, E. T. A. (Ernst Theodor Amadeus)

**Accession Number: 68.110.6** Sewell, John. Mechanical for The King's Bride, circa 1950s. Ink, pencil, acetate, electrophotographic print, and pressure-sensitive tape on paper, 25.8 x 17.1 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

Ionesco, Eugène

**Accession Number: 70.29.22** Printer's layout directions for Four Plays, circa 1950s-1960s. Pencil and ink on paper, 26 x 20.3 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 70.29.23** Mechanical for Plays 3, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, pencil, and acetate on board, 26.4 x 20.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.24** Mechanical for Plays 3, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, pencil, acetate, and pressure-sensitive tape on board, 30.2 x 25.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.25** Mechanical for Plays 4, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, watercolor, pencil, and acetate on board, 24.8 x 19.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.26** Mechanical for Plays 4, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, pencil, and acetate on board, 31.5 x 24.9 cm.

Maltz, Albert

**Accession Number: 70.29.6.2** Sewell, John. Font placement and design for A Long Day in a Short Life, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on onionskin paper, 31.8 x 25.4 cm. **Location** Calder, J., Box 1

Mandiargues, Andre Préyre

**Accession Number: 70.29.27** Mechanical for The Girl Beneath the Lion, circa 1950s-1960s. Gelatin silver print, ink and pencil on board, 31.6 x 25.7 cm.

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 70.29.28** Mechanical for The Girl Beneath the Lion, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink, pencil, and acetate on board, 31.6 x 25.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 70.29.29** Sewell, John. Mechanical for paperback edition of The Girl Beneath the Lion, circa 1950s-1960s. Gelatin silver print, pencil, acetate, and paper on board, 27.8 x 22 cm.

Mérimée, Prosper

**Accession Number: 68.110.4.1** Sewell, John. Mechanical for A Slight Misunderstanding, circa 1950s. Lithograph, ink, and pressure-sensitive tape on paper, 25.1 x 17.8 cm.

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 68.110.4.2** Sewell, John. Mechanical for A Slight Misunderstanding, circa 1950s. Lithograph, ink, and pressure-sensitive tape on paper, 24 x 18.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.110.4.3** Sewell, John. Mechanical for A Slight Misunderstanding, circa 1950s. Ink, acetate, and pressure-sensitive tape on paper, 25.4 x 15.8 cm.

Sarraute, Nathalie

**Accession Number: 68.110.9.1** Green, Donald. Mechanical for Portrait of a Man Unknown, 1959. Ink, charcoal, watercolor, and pencil on board, 37.8 x 29.5 cm.

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1

**Accession Number: 68.110.9.2** Green, Donald. Book jacket for Portrait of a Man Unknown, 1959. Lithograph or electrophotographic print, 21 x 47.5 cm.

Storm, Theodor

**Accession Number: 68.110.5** Sewell, John. Mechanical for Viola Tricolor, circa 1950s. Ink, acetate, electrophotographic print, and pressure-sensitive tape on paper, 25.4 x 16 cm.

**Location**  
Calder,  
J., Box 1