History or Biography

Margery Barker (1901-1980) and Frances Hamill (1904-1987) met while working in Fanny Butcher's Chicago bookshop. In 1928 they formed a partnership to run their own antiquarian bookstore. Their successful endeavors in the book trade and their ability to network and discover authors and build client relationships with them on visits to England enabled them to acquire prominent manuscripts and literary collections, including the diaries of Virginia Woolf. Many of their clients were members of the Bloomsbury Group, including Leonard and Virginia Woolf, Lytton Strachey, and G.E. Moore. Concerned with scholarly access to the papers of prominent writers, Hamill & Barker frequently offered collections to academic libraries before publicizing them to private collectors. Library collections that benefited from an association with Hamill & Barker include the Berg Collection at New York Public Library, the Lilly Library at Indiana University, Harvard University Library, and Yale University Library. The firm sold both a copy of a New Testament printed by Gutenberg and the first secular book printed by Gutenberg in 1460, the *Catholicon*.

During World War II Hamill and Barker decided to suspend their antiquarian operation and work as tool-grinders to help the war effort. They stored their books in 1943 and opened for business again in 1946. Their stature in the bookselling community was noted when Frances Hamill became the first woman president of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America in 1953.

Terrence A. Tanner (1948-2003) was hired by Hamill & Barker, Inc. in 1975 after gaining several years of experience as a book scout for other booksellers. He continued to work with Frances Hamill after Margery Barker's death in 1980, becoming sole proprietor of the firm after her death in 1987. He relocated the shop from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois in 1988, and operated it until his death in 2003.

Scope and Content

Provenance: The Hamill & Barker Collection was donated by Terry Tanner who succeeded Frances Hamill and Marjory Barker as proprietor of Hamill & Barker, Inc.

Extent: 51 boxes, album


Restrictions: There are no restrictions on use of the materials in the department for research; all patrons must comply with federal copyright regulations.

Collectors: Frances Hamill, Marjory Barker, Terry Tanner, Hamill & Barker, Inc.


Container List:
Series I  Hamill Family Personal Files


F.  2 Miscellaneous notes, "Notable women publishers, printers, etc."  138pp.
F.  4 Hamill & Barker.  Partnership Agreement, 1941
Cards & announcements of firm (8); photographs (19)
Catalogs, no. 1-8, 1928-1984 (note: Frances Hamill's marked copies)
F.  5 Manuscript notes and portions of essay on Richmond, California. n.d.  16pp.

Box 2  Katharine Hamill.  Swamp Shadow. (New York, Knopf, 1936)
F.  2 Corrected typescript, 191pp.
F.  3 Typescript, 1935, 134pp.;
F.  4 Typescript carbon, 191pp.
F.  5 Author's proof copy, 237pp.
F.  7 Foundry proof, 237pp.
F.  8 Galleys, 74pp.
F.  9 Reviews and clippings, 1936

Series II  Hamill & Barker, Inc., 1936 - 1977

Box 3  Hamill & Barker Correspondence  B - M
(note: files include letters from authors listed, the firm’s replies, and letters from other authors pertaining to the primary person or collection listed)
F.  2 Gerald Brenan, 1964 - 1966, 46pp.  Re: Dora Carrington Partridge; including poem, "To Virginia, I & II"
F.  3 Isabel Brown, 1942, 1966 - 1969, 77p.  Re: The Mother and the Son (perhaps an adaptation for the theater from an early Sir Walter Scott story); including letters
F.  5 Edmund Dulac, 1934, 1p.
F.  6 Eugene Field, 1932, 8pp.
F.  7 Richard Garnett, 1958 - 1977, 75pp.; including letters from Patrick Garnett, Ford Madox Brown, Oliver Madox Brown (8pp.); miscellaneous authors (5pp.)


Box 4 Hamill & Barker Correspondence M – W; Miscellaneous Correspondence

F. 1 Katharine Mansfield materials, 1941 - 1974, 122pp. Re: letters to Vera M. Bell from K.M. Including Vera M. Bell, Andrew Bell, Jeanne Renshaw, Chaddie Pichthall.


Including Nigel Nicolson, John Gordon, New York Public Library
F. 14 Miscellaneous correspondence and manuscripts
   Eudora Welty to Frances Hamill, 6/17/61, 2pp.
   Mary Petty, 2 letters and replies, 1947, 7pp.
   Vita Sackville-West, holograph poem, letter, and 2 photos, 8pp.
   Corrected typescript of "sample letters" from Virginia Woolf to Vita Sackville-West, 1938 - 1940, pp. 330-353.
   Desmond McCarthy to E. Garnett, 6/3, 1p.
   Ben Menlin to S. Matthewman, 1927, 1p.
   John Taylor Coleridge, letter, 1820, 1p.
   Ethel Smyth to Virginia Woolf, 1934, 5pp.
   David Garnett, 1925 - 1959, 12pp. (correspondence to & from)
   Aldous Huxley, letter, 1958, 1p.
F. 15 Miscellaneous inquiries and purchase records, 98pp.
F. 16 Miscellaneous responses to ads, inquiries, etc., 75pp.

Series III  Hamill & Barker, Inc. Correspondence and Files, 1937 – 1979

Box 5 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, A - M
F. 1 Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, 4 Photos, news clipping (1952)
F. 4 Dick & Jane Edison, 1937-1973, 95pp. Re: various collections, especially
Katherine Mansfield material.
F. 16 Wilmarth S. Lewis (Lewis Walpole Library), 1937-1977, 48pp.

Box 6 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, P – Y
F. 3 George Poole (Poole Bros.), 1955-1962, 147pp. Including Northern Trust Co.; list of Poole Collection.
F. 5 Norman Strouse articles
   How to Build a Poor Man's Morgan Library (Caxton Club, 1966, 36pp.)
   Remarks on the Thomas Carlyle Collection, University of California, Santa Cruz (1974, 8pp.)
   The Overbrook Press (Roxburghe Club, 1975, 25pp.)
   The Pleasures of Packing a Library (1968, 17pp.)
   How to Build a Poor Man's Morgan Library (Syracuse University Library Association, Christmas, 1966, 23pp.)
   Ladies in My Library (exhibit at the Free Library, September-November, 1968)
F. 11  Miscellaneous
Re: Carson McCullers, 1962
Incl. J. Frank Dobie, 1952
C.L. Ricketts' type specimen broadside
*The Inimitable George Cruikshank: An Exhibition of Illustrated Books* . . .from the Collection of David Borowitz (1968) with inscription from Borowitz to Frances Hamill, 1974.

**Series IV  Barker vs. Bryn Mawr**

Box 7  Margery Barker vs. The Trustees of Bryn Mawr College and M. Carey Thomas, President

Monographs:
Margery Barker, [students' notebook with miscellaneous notes and diary of trip to New York, 1914]

Also: Decision of the Court, carbon copy, 46pp.

Correspondence:
F. 1  Barker family correspondence, 1921 - 1922
Marjory C. Barker to Margery Barker, 7 letters, 3/23 - 5/2/21
Marjory C. Barker to W.N. Barker, telegram, 12/16/21
Willis [Thiel or Teale?] to Margery Barker, 3/9/22
Margery Barker ["sister"] to Marjory C. Barker, 5 letters [3 undated] 4/9/21
incl. note written on verso of ALS from Winifrid Worcester [1/29/21]
Margery Barker to Maria L. Thompson, letter, n.d.

F. 2  Marjory C. Barker, notes and drafts of correspondence
Including notes of interviews regarding Margery's case, 4/22/21
Correspondence drafts to: Capt. W.E. Teale, Mrs. Sawyer, M. Carey Thomas, Frederick C. Austin, Henry B. Rust, Helen Taft [letter from Taft, 9/24/19]

F. 3  Photographs [7], unidentified, Margery Barker at various ages, miscellaneous

Firm's correspondents including Isaac Pennypacker, Layton B. Register, William Keenan [including invoices, progress on case]

F. 5  George Wharton Pepper to Margery Barker, 12 letters, 12/24/21 - 12/21/54
2 letter drafts to Mr. Pepper from Margery Barker, n.d.

F. 6  Elizabeth Rust to Margery Barker, 10 letters, 4/19 - 5/28/21
Elizabeth Rust to Miss Elizabeth Rust ["Pink"] 2 letters, n.d.; 4/10/21

F. 7  H.B. Rust to Mrs. Norton W. Barker [Marjory], 5 letters, 6/22/21 - 3/18/22
incl. carbon copy of H.B. Rust to Layton B. Register, 8/16/21
incl. carbon copy of James C. McMath to H.B. Rust re: Margery Barker
incl. clippings from New York Times re: Margery Barker
H.B. Rust to Margery Barker, 3 letters, 11/13/22 - 9/19/23
incl. clipping of “letter” to Harper’s magazine, n.d.

F. 8 Miscellaneous correspondence
   With signed statement carbon copy of letter re: Margery Barker
Misc. Correspondence to Barker family members from:
   Eva A.W. Blyne, 4/25/21
   Chauncey H. Boldridge, 7/30/22
   Louis E. Boyer, 5/12/22 and 6/3/22
   Fanny Butcher, 11/8/?
   R.A. Ecril, 12/18/?
   J.B. Faulkner, 12/22/21 with clippings
   Ann Fraser, 12/19/21
   Kate C. Martindale, 5/28/21
   Theron Miller, 6/16/21
   Leon E. Parks, 3/20/22

F. 9 Clippings, 1921 - 1922 re: Barker vs. Bryn Mawr
F.10 The New York Times, 12/18/21; Philadelphia, Public Ledger, 3/20/22
F.11 Miscellaneous clippings: “Observations of Michigan City in Early Nineties;”
   “Principals and Attendants in the Fox-Carr Nuptials” (includes Margery Barker);
   2 clippings from March 1925 on Margery Barker’s work as county probation officer.

F.12 Articles re: case law and university contracts, 1927 - 1935 (include some
   mention of Barker vs. Bryn Mawr) [photocopies only]
F. Anthony Hanlon, “Colleges and Universities--Contracts--Constitutional Law
James D. Hurley, “Colleges: Nature of Relation to Student: Right of Dismissal,”
   Cornell Law Quarterly, XIII (December 1927) 85-88.
M.M. Chambers, “The Suspension and Expulsion of Students,” Journal of Higher
   Education, I (November 1930) 447-452.
David Lane, Jr., “Student and Collegiate Contracts,” Journal of Higher
   Education, IV (February 1933) 77-84.
   “Expulsion of Students from Private Educational Institutions,” Columbia Law
   Review, XXXV (June 1935) 898-905.

Series V Hamill & Barker, Inc. Correspondence and Files, 1941 – 1996

Box 8 Miscellaneous Hamill & Barker records
F. 1 Envelopes and Stamps: M. Barker
F. 2 Gifts
F. 3 Hanzel – Joyce
F. 4 Hamill & Barker
F. 5 Miscellaneous
F. 6 Miscellaneous correspondence
F. 7 Miscellaneous correspondence…customers & librarians
F. 8 Nature Conserancy and Audubon
F. 9 Prospectives, etc.
F. 10 Prospects for Purchasing
F. 11 Refectory Table
F. 12 “To file”
F. 13 “To file”

Box 9 Hamill & Barker Correspondence
F. 1 Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) Midwest
F. 2 ABAA Midwest
F. 3 ABAA Midwest
F. 4 Elbert, E. Duane
F. 5 Kazwell Lawsuit

Box 10 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, A - F
F. 1 ABAA – Newsletter/Forgeries
F. 2 ABAA – Security and Theft Lists
F. 3 Chicago Public Library (CPL) Spec. Collec. Purchases
F. 4 Divine Word/Isenberg 9/91
F. 5 Ferrini, Bruce (2001)
F. 6 D & E Lake Ltd.
F. 7 Sullivan, David
F. 8 Thefts
F. 9 UPS

Box 11 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, G - P
F. 1 Girolami Appraisal (2000)
F. 2 Correspondence “H” – including Historic Madison, Inc.
F. 3 Correspondence “I”
F. 4 Correspondence “J”
F. 5 Correspondence “K”
F. 6 Knox College – Finley – Appraisal
F. 7 Knox College – Strong – Appraisal (1991)
F. 8 Knox College – Strong – Appraisal (1992)
F. 9 Correspondence “L”
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F. 11 Correspondence “Mc”
F. 12 Correspondence “N”
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Box 12 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, R - Y
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F. 5 Correspondence “V”
F. 6 Correspondence “W”
F. 7 Correspondence “Y”
F. 8 O’Keefe, Michael: Correspondence
F. 9 Kazo, Toshio (1991)

Box 13 Hamill & Barker Sales, 1978 - 1980
F. 1  Sales: 1978-79
F. 2  Sales: 1979-80

Box 14  Hamill & Barker Sales, 1976 - 1978
F. 1  Sales: 1977-78
F. 2  Sales: 1976-77

Box 15  Hamill & Barker Sales, 1974 - 1980
F. 1  Cash Customers 1974-75
F. 2  Cash Sales 1978-80
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F. 4  Sales (Tax Paid) 1975-76

Box 16  Hamill & Barker Correspondence, R - S
F. 1  Correspondence “R”
F. 2  Correspondence Ray, Gordon N.
     Incl. “The Changing World of Rare Books” and Bibliographical Resources for the Study of 19th Century English Fiction
F. 3  Correspondence: Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary
F. 4  Correspondence: Rosenbach Foundation
F. 5  Correspondence: Rosenthal
F. 6  Correspondence “S”
F. 7  Correspondence: Schonne
F. 8  Correspondence: Speck, Stan
F. 9  Correspondence: Strouse, Norman
F. 10 Correspondence: Stuart, G. William
F. 11 Correspondence: Swaim, E. A.
F. 12 Correspondence: The Swallow Press

Box 17  Hamill & Barker Correspondence, T - Y
F. 1  Correspondence “T”
F. 2  Correspondence: Taylor, Robert
F. 3  Correspondence: Texas, University of: “Current”
F. 4  Correspondence: Texas, University of: 1963-
F. 5  Correspondence: Texas, University of: 1941-1962
F. 6  Correspondence “V”
F. 7  Correspondence “W”
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F. 9  Correspondence: Yale University

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Box 19  Hamill & Barker Correspondence, A - G
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F. 4  Correspondence “C”
F. 5  Correspondence “D”
F. 6  Dickhut Books
F. 7  Correspondence “E”
F. 8  Correspondence “F”
F. 9  Correspondence “G”
F. 10 Correspondence: Gershan, Lester
F. 11 Correspondence: Gutter
F. 12 Correspondence: Gutter, Larry
F. 13 Krasnoff/R. Warren
F. 14 Missing Books (5/18/88)
F. 15 [miscellaneous]

Box 20  Hamill & Barker Correspondence, H - K
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F. 2 Correspondence: Heise/CPL
F. 3 Correspondence “I”
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F. 6 Correspondence: Knox College
F. 7 Pearlman Gift Appraisal (Knox College) 1 of 2
F. 8 Pearlman Gift Appraisal (Knox College) 2 of 2
F. 9 Strong, Frederick: Appraisal

Box 21  Hamill & Barker Correspondence, L - Z
F. 1 Correspondence “L”
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F. 3 Correspondence: Lucas, Nancy Landis
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F. 6 Correspondence: Moore, Howard
F. 7 Correspondence: Mt. Pleasant Public Library
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F. 12 Correspondence: Rayman, Ron
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F. 16 Correspondence “T”
F. 17 Correspondence: Trafton, Terry (Thomas Hardy Collection)
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F. 20 Correspondence: Wrigley Building
F. 21 Correspondence: XYZ

Box 22  Hamill & Barker Correspondence and Catalogs
F. 1 Correspondence: Bordyn, Dennis
F. 2 Correspondence: Hamill & Barker Catalog no. 9
F. 3 Correspondence: Hamill & Barker Catalog no. 11
F. 4 Correspondence: Indiana Historical Society Library
F. 5  Correspondence: University of California, Davis

Box 23 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, A - G
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F. 2  Correspondence “B”
F. 3  Correspondence: Bobkowski, Carl.
F. 4  Correspondence “C”
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Box 24 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, B – G; Purchases, 1970 - 1975
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F. 2  English Invoices 1973-74
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F. 6  English Purchases 1971-72
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F. 10  Correspondence: Bentley
F. 11  Correspondence: Borland, Harriet
F. 12  Correspondence: Dunn, Frances – Saginaw
F. 13  Correspondence: E. E. Coleman
F. 14  Correspondence: Gosling, William
F. 15  Correspondence: Gilger

Box 25 Hamill & Barker Correspondence, G - M
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F. 5  Correspondence: Illinois Circle
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F. 8  Correspondence “M”
F. 9  Correspondence: Morgan (Pierpoint Morgan Library)
F. 10  Correspondence: Minet Manuscript

Box 26  Hamill & Barker Correspondence, M - P
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F. 2  Correspondence: McCracken
F. 3  Correspondence: McCracken Appraisal
F. 4  Correspondence: McFarland
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  F. 3  Correspondence: Popeil, Mrs. S. S.
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Box 28 Hamill & Barker Sales, 1994 - 1996
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Box 31 Hamill & Barker Sales, 1990
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Box 32 Hamill & Barker Conservation and Reference, 1984 - 1996
  F. 1  ACS/Z – Binding
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  F. 3  Binding
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Box 33 Hamill & Barker Invoices, 1964 - 1970
F. 1 English Invoices undated
F. 2 Purchases 1969-70
F. 3 Purchases, English 1968/69
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F. 2 Cash Sales 1984-84
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F. 2 Hamill & Barker Stationery
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No. 3 (1930, Nov.)
No. 5 (1934, Dec.)
No. 21 (1994) 3 copies [Kierkegaard]
Hanzel Galleries Inc.:
Estate of Mary Ann Dicke (1975, Mar. 9/12) 4 copies
F. 3 Tanner, Terry. Research Notes. Mormon & Illinois Printing

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F. 1 The Clique Limited. London
F. 2 Dural – Correspondence
F. 3 Edwards, Francis – Correspondence
F. 4 Elkin, Mathews Ltd. – Correspondence
F. 5 Fletcher, H. M. – Correspondence
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