OUT of the CELLAR: A Garland for Cantina

The Cantina Press was established in 1936–37 in Northampton, Massachusetts, by Clarence Kennedy and his wife Ruth Wedgwood Kennedy at the height of the private press movement in England and America. Both Kennedys were classicists and Renaissance scholars and taught at Smith College. Clarence had interests in sculpture, architecture, photography, and printing, and Ruth loved painting and literature; Ruth served as author and editor of their press. Cantina Press published little under its own imprint, but the Kennedys helped to establish the tradition of typography and printing at Smith College and produced much ephemeral work, such as invitations, broadsides, and programs.

In Out of the Cellar, local bibliotect David P. Bourbeau presents the first history of the Cantina Press. The book also features the transcription of a letter written in 1949 by noted American typographer Bruce Rogers to Clarence Kennedy. The text, and introductory essay by Martin Antonetti, curator of rare books at Smith College, are illustrated with book pages printed or designed by Clarence, a tipped-in proof of his original type-setting for the title page of Ruth’s The Renaissance Painter’s Garden, and a frontispiece portrait of the Kennedys by Ansel Adams.

The production of Out of the Cellar utilized the talents of the local book arts community. The book was designed by Michael Russem at Kat Ran Press in Florence, Massachusetts; Daniel Keleher printed the letter-press text at Wild Carrot Letterpress in Hadley. Photographs of the books were taken by Stephen Petegorsky, and the offset lithography is by Oxbow Press in Hatfield. The edition was bound in Northampton by David P. Bourbeau and Barbara B. Blumenthal. Of the edition of 300 copies, 225 are sewn into blue paper wrappers; seventy-five deluxe copies, in special bindings, contain the Ansel Adams portrait rendered as an original photogravure print by Jon Goodman of Florence. Thirty-two pages; 7.5 x 10.75 inches.

200 regular copies available for $35.00 each
50 deluxe copies available for $75.00 each

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