

## Book Library Special Collections (we call it CABS) This issue we are mostly modern

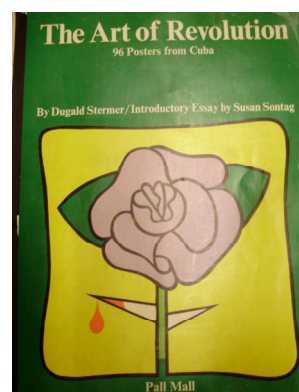
### Newly acquired and newly catalogued

*The art of revolution* is a staff request by Stephanie Schwartz for her course on Cuban art since 1959. It has an introduction by Susan Sontag and is a good survey of the graphic work produced up until 1970. Because the book is quite fragile and large and floppy at 45cm, it has been put into CABS.

A growing number of libraries are collecting works about contemporary Latin American art, such as the University of Essex and the Tate Library. The British Library also has books and exhibition catalogues about Cuban posters in the 20th century.

The Wellcome Library has some interesting public health posters produced in Cuba and it takes in public health campaigns almost up to the present. They are listed on COPAC [www.copac.ac.uk](http://www.copac.ac.uk).

If you want to request titles for the Book Library to purchase for a course, just ask for a form from the issue desk or email Peter Wood, the Acquisitions Librarian.



*The art of revolution: 96 posters from Cuba.* Dugald Sterner. 1970

#### Inside this issue:

The humble sales catalogue	2
CABS forms	2
New special journals	3
Stella Newton Archive	3
Contact details	4

#### A book of CABS

Last summer we were approached by Zara Cherry, a BA Photography student from the University of Portsmouth, who wanted to feature special collections in one of her final year projects. We jumped at the opportunity for an artist to make use of the collections in this way. Zara came in a couple of times in the autumn to photograph elements of the books and the storage.

Zara submitted her project in January and brought us a copy of the end result – a self-published book. We are delighted to have one of only 3 copies printed and encourage everyone to come down and have a look. It is currently on the new book display but after a month it will, of course, make its way into CABS!!

Good luck to Zara on her next project too — featuring historic buildings photographed at twilight—and thank you for the lovely images of our books.

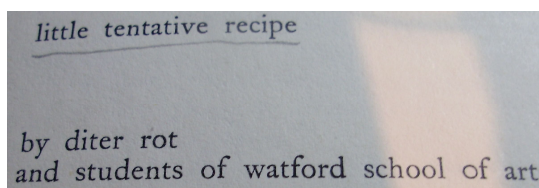
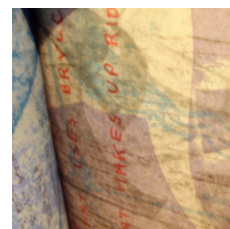
Private Collection  
By Zara Cherry



## Newly acquired and catalogued cont'd



Although it is not a new acquisition, *Little tentative pieces* is newly catalogued onto the computer system, an artist's book published in 1968-9. Dieter Roth worked at the Watford School of Art in 1968, replacing Hansjörg Mayer as a tutor.



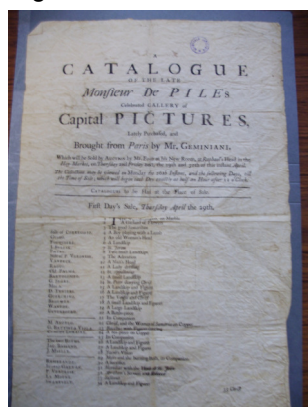
During that period, he produced the book with his students. It was printed on a Rotaprint offset litho press. The edition was just 100 copies and they were addressed to libraries

and sent out in a little wooden crates.

## The humble sales catalogue

The Book Library has quite a large collection of sales catalogues—most are open access in the Periodicals Hall. However, we have an historical collection kept in CABS dating from 1726 -1909. Some are photographs of original catalogues, while others are the real thing.

A favourite is from the sale of Roger de Pile's capital pictures in 1742, 33 years after his death. The pictures were brought to London from Paris by a Mr. Geminiani, who may have been Francesco Saverio Geminiani, an Italian violinist and composer. He moved between the two cities, living in both at various times. He made his living by various means, including teaching music and also known to have been an art collector and dealer.



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The sale took place over two days and featured works by Titian, Teniers, Rembrandt, Van dyck, Claude and many others. But why did Geminiani have them? And why did he bring them to London? Answers on a postcard, please.

## CABS Forms and why they matter

If the shelfmark/classmark for any title says CABS or SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, you need to fill in a request form (like the one pictured).

The forms are located by the computers in the catalogue hall and by the machine when you first come into the Book Library.

The forms are an important part of our internal stock control process, which is vital in any museum collection.

They are 2-part forms and the bottom, pink copy gets left on the shelf where the book has been removed. The forms allow us to re-shelve a book more quickly after it has been used, makes it easier for library staff to identify if something has been out for awhile and try to track it down. It may still be in use, but it also may have been mis-shelved. In the event of a missing book, the slip will also tell us who was last using it.

So please ensure the forms are completed fully, we don't collect the information just to make you fill in a form.

The requests are retrieved three times a day—10.30, 14.15, and 17.00 during term and 11.00, 14.15, and 16.00 during the vacation.

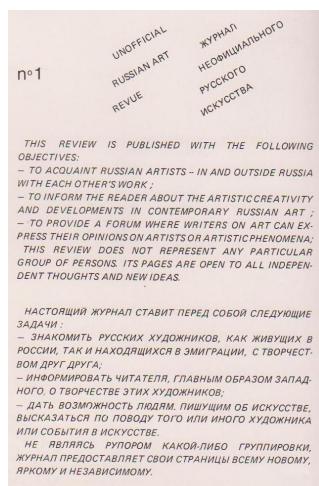
### CABS usage

- 32% up between this past September and January over the same period in the last academic year and there were 8 requests for archive material compared to just 1 in the same period last year.
- 15% of the requests this academic year have come from external visitors, that percentage rose to 29 for requests this January

## New Special Journals

Marie Lagerwall, Assistant Librarian (Serials & Electronic Resources)

The Courtauld Book Library has recently received two significant journal donations. We would like to thank Courtauld alumnus Alik Braine for an almost complete run of *Revue de l'art ancien et moderne* for the period 1897 to 1914. We previously held the 1905 issues only so this is great news for our users. These can be found in the Periodicals Hall.

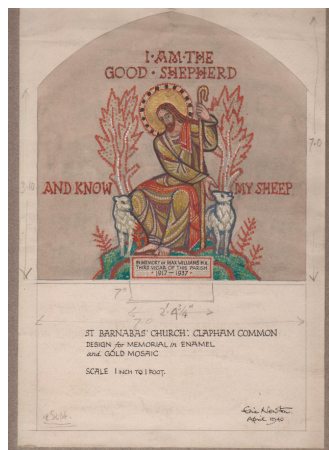


We have also added seven issues of *A-JA: contemporary Russian art*, 1979 to 1986, to our collection. These were kindly donated by Igor Chelkovski and we thank him for his generosity and Sarah Wilson for arranging this donation.



Together with volume 1 of *A-JA: contemporary Russian literature*, 1985, on loan from Professor Igor Golomstock, the set is kept in CABS and should be of great use to students of Soviet and post-communist art.

## The Stella Newton Archive



In the last newsletter, the collection of books from Stella Mary Newton were featured. Lately we have turned our attention to her archive. The archive is uncatalogued but a basic box list is being prepared. This will make it easier to find material.

Over the past year, there have been a couple of requests to see the collection because of interest in Stella's husband and his family. Stella was married to the artist and art critic Eric Newton. One researcher was looking for information about the designer Charles Oppenheimer, Eric's uncle, and another, Robert Field, visited to see Eric's designs by his family's mosaics firm, Ludwig Oppenheimer Ltd, based in Manchester.

Robert is compiling a list of the mosaics designed and installed by the company. The archive contains sketches of some of Eric's design commissions, both executed and non-executed, as well as photographs of the finished mosaics and some of his models. Robert was delighted to have found pictures and references to at least one church commission that he had not come across before. He hopes to publish some articles in the British Association for Modern Mosaic's journal *Andamento* about his findings.

The design above is for a mosaic in St. Barnabas Church, Clapham Common, which was signed and dated April 1940.

Robert has matched many of the designs, sketches and photos that we hold to the finished mosaics and has sent us images and information from his research about Eric's mosaics in the various churches and chapels. We will add that information to our resources but not, of course, to the archive itself.

In addition to Eric's mosaics, there are numerous designs for theatre sets contained amongst his work.

Use of this archive is restricted because we do not know the full extent of its contents, however, we will do our best to accommodate individual researchers and tutor-led exploration.

**The Courtauld Institute of Art**

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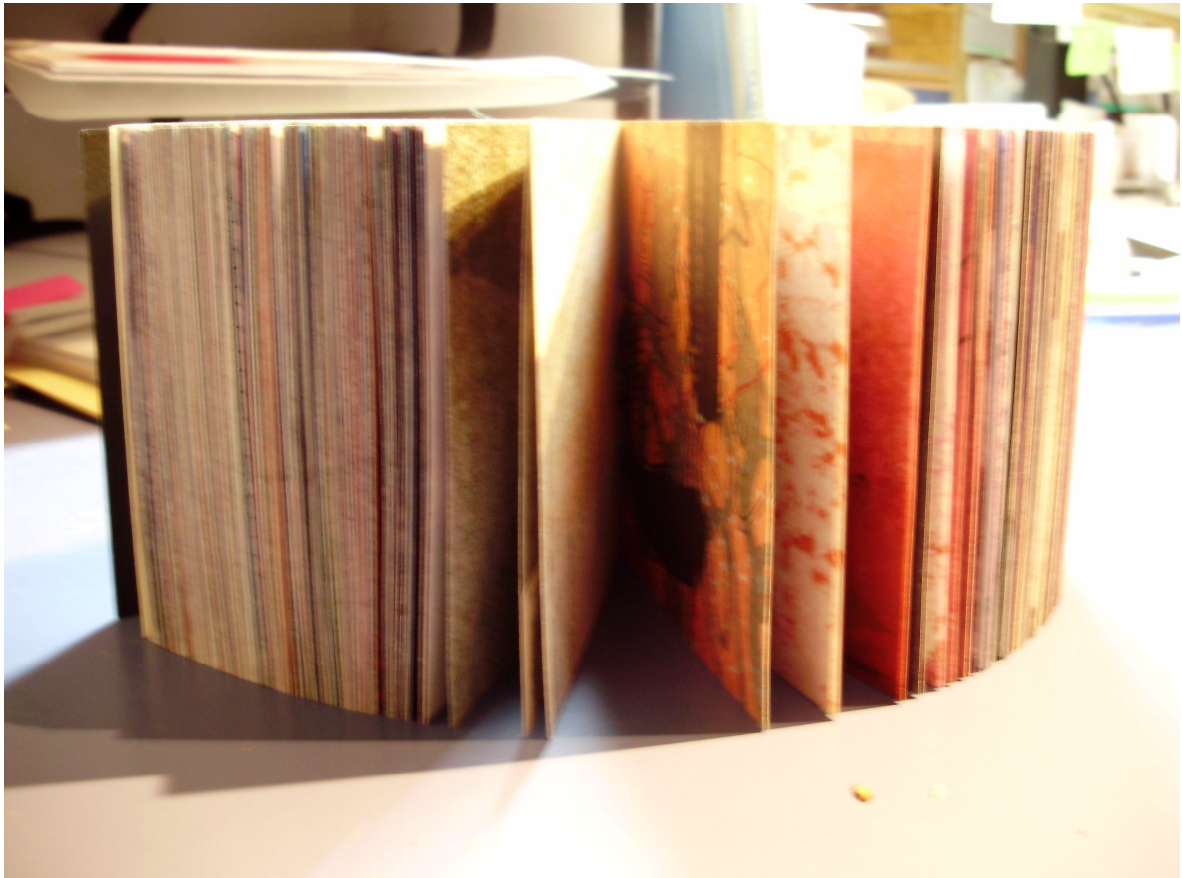
**Contact:**  
Erica Foden-Lenahan  
Special Collections Librarian, Book  
Library  
Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset  
House  
Strand, LONDON WC2R 0R  
T: 020 7848 7650  
E: [erica.foden-lenahan@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:erica.foden-lenahan@courtauld.ac.uk)

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[WWW.COURTAULD.AC.UK/BOOKLIBRARY/  
COLLECTIONS\\_SERVICES/SPECIALCOLL.SHTML](http://WWW.COURTAULD.AC.UK/BOOKLIBRARY/COLLECTIONS_SERVICES/SPECIALCOLL.SHTML)**

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*Little tentative pieces.* Dieter Roth and the students at Watford School of Art, 1968-69.