

DAVID HOLMAN

Typographical Designer • Printer • Photographer

David Holman, born in 1947 and being the eldest of the three sons, came into printing first. In 1958 he accompanied his father to purchase the first family press--a two-thousand-pound Chandler and Price platen press from a Georgetown, Texas, printing company. It was on this press that David did his first experiments in the craft. He managed a bookmark, a small business card, and an invitation to his birthday party. This was in 1959 and up to October, 1960, when the C & P press was sold prior to the family's move from San Antonio to San Francisco.

David mastered the Colts Armory Press that was purchased after the family again set up a printing studio in early 1961. He continued using the press until he went away to college in 1967 and the return to Texas of the family.

But by 1974, David moved to Texas and resumed his interest in printing. He did his really serious work from that time on. His first full book, Hard Times in Texas, received the Collectors Institute Award in 1975. He took over the role as pressman for his father after this successful re-entry into typography. He did all of the fine presswork on Printing Arts in Texas, which has received critical acclaim.

At this point, David decided to establish his own design and press room at his own address. From this studio came a series of tastefully designed small imprints for the El Paso Public Library, B. F. Kitchen in Houston, W. Thomas Taylor of Austin, The University of Texas at Arlington and many others. His magnum opus, Buckskin and Homespun (1979) represented a landmark in contemporary Texas publishing in that it was a rare instance of the author, photographer, designer, printer and publisher of a major historical work being embodied in one individual.

In December of 1983, the Wind River Press moved to its current location, a 3,000-square-foot building in northeast Austin. With these facilities, new equipment and the addition of his father's extensive type collection, David has become one of the best-equipped private printers in the U.S. David's command of custom design, fine letterpress printing, and quality four-color offset printing is allowing him to execute diverse projects with skill and style.

Critics appreciate David's work for its subtle use of color, sensitive feeling for design, and the extraordinary quality of letterpress and offset printing which now make him one of the youngest printers to be collected throughout not only Texas but the United States.

WIND RIVER PRESS
Printing and Publishing Archives
1974-1984

Recognition: Texas Institute of Letters, award for best book design, 1974
Western Books Award, 1975
Southern Books Award, 1979
Western Books Award, 1981
Western Books Award, 1982
American Museum Publications Competition Award, 1983
Mitchell A. Wilder Award (for newsletter), 1983
Western Books Awards, 1984
Major Exhibit of Wind River Press, Book Club of California,
San Francisco, May-June, 1984

Books: Letters of Hard Times in Texas, 1840-1890. Researched, edited,
designed and printed by David Holman on dampened handmade
paper. 1974.

Printing Arts in Texas, Al Lowman. Austin: Roger Beacham,
Publisher, 1975. Printed by David Holman.

Great Constellations, Lawrence Clark Powell. El Paso: El Paso
Public Library Association, 1977. Softbound.

That Was Randado, James Houghton Allen. Austin: Somesuch Press,
1978. Miniature printed letterpress by David Holman.

Buckskin and Homespun, David Holman and Billie Persons. Co-
authored, designed and printed by David Holman on Curtis Rag
paper. Travelled over Texas searching for early homespun
cloths and took all the photographs for the book.

The Old Moon & The New Moon, B. F. Kitchen. The Lady in the
Chair Press, 1979. Softbound.

Silence Is Their Music, Ralph Wright, O.S.B. St. Louis: Knots
Press, 1979. Softbound.

The Ice-Hearts, Joseph Bruchac. Austin: Cold Mountain Press,
1979. Softbound.

The Diary of Michael Erskine, Michael Erskine. Introduction by
J. Evetts Haley. Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library, 1979.
Printed by David Holman.

From . . . Under the Sundial & The Fire Drake, B. F. Kitchen.
The Iguana Press, 1979. Set in Centaur and Arrighi type and
printed on moldmade paper.

Indian Summer, Sir William Rothenstein. Tucson: 1980. Soft-
bound. Keepsake printed for Lawrence Clark Powell by David
Holman.

- Books: Saga of the Larranaga--and other verses, John W. F. Dulles.
1980. Softbound.
- Nicodemus--a fragment, Benjamin Ford Kitchen. Houston: Chame-
leon Press, 1980. Printed on handmade paper. Softbound.
- The Wormwood Star, B. F. Kitchen. Houston: The Iguana Press,
1981. Softbound.
- The Fifty Best Books on Texas, A. C. Greene. Dallas: Press-
works Publishing, 1981.
- Little Mama Sara, Fan Crow. Houston: 1981.
- Truth & What-Not, Mary McCollum. Austin: Privately Printed,
1982.
- 31 Psalms, collected by D. C. Gibbs. Huntsville, 1982.
- Troubles in Texas, 1832: A Tejano Viewpoint from San Antonio
. . . , edited by David J. Weber and translated by Conchita
Hassell Winn and David J. Weber. Dallas: DeGolyer
Library of the Southern Methodist University, 1983.
- Index to the Trail Drivers of Texas, compiled by W. M. Von-
Maszewski and Matthew E. Von-Maszewski. Houston: Tortuga
Press, 1983.
- Printers' Choice, Ruth E. Fine and William Matheson. Austin:
W. Thomas Taylor, 1983.
- Ralph Webster Yarborough at 80, a gathering of tributes. . .
Austin: Privately Printed, 1984.
- Dimmit County Mesquite Roots, Laura Knowlton Tidwell. Printed
for the people of Dimmit County, 1984. .