

# Edward Gordon Craig:

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

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### Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Craig, Edward Gordon, 1872-1966
- Title:** Edward Gordon Craig Art Collection
- Dates:** 1890-1930
- Extent:** 118 items
- Abstract:** The Edward Gordon Craig Art Collection consists of numerous wood engravings and proofs of engravings, the bulk of which were created for the Cranach Press German (1928) and English (1930) editions of *Hamlet*. The collection also includes two portraits by his son, Edward Anthony Craig (pseudonym Edward Carrick). The collection includes woodcut engravings, lithographs, proofs, bookplates, paintings, and crayon drawings of images such as portraits and landscapes, some of which are published.
- Call Number:** Art Collection AR-00048
- Language:** English
- Access:** Open for research. Please note that a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to pull art materials to the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve art materials, please contact the Center's staff at [art@hrc.utexas.edu](mailto:art@hrc.utexas.edu).
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### Administrative Information

- Acquisition:** Purchase, 1973-1981
- Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)
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## Biographical Sketch

Edward Gordon Craig was born in Hertfordshire, England on 16 January 1872, the son of architect Edward William Godwin (1833-1886) and actress Ellen Alice Terry (1847-1928). He was named Edward Godwin at birth, baptised as Edward Henry Gordon sixteen years later, and adopted the surname Craig when he was 21. Craig was introduced to the art of wood engraving in the last years of the 19th century by artists James Pryde and William Nicholson. Engraving became an enduring passion for Craig. He worked as an actor and manager in the company of Sir Henry Irving in the 1890s, but in the new century turned to stage design and direction for numerous productions in theaters throughout England, and in Berlin, Florence, and Moscow. Introducing innovations in the use of atmospheric, abstract, and highly dramatic lighting, colors, and stage effects, Craig's stage direction was revolutionary. After the turn of the century, Craig mainly resided in Europe. He created his theater magazine *The Mask* in 1908 (the publication ran until 1929), founded the School for the Art of the Theatre in 1913 in Florence, and published *On the Art of the Theatre* in 1911, all of which disseminated his radically new ideas. While Craig had continued to create wood engravings throughout his stage designing career, frequently using wood blocks as figures for stage models, he began concentrating on this art in the 1930s. Craig also began writing more prolifically during this time, publishing a biography of Sir Henry Irving and his mother, Ellen Terry. He completed a memoir of his early years, *Index to the Story of My Days, 1872-1907*, in 1957. Craig remained a significant figure in the worlds of theater and the arts up until his death in Vence, France on 29 July 1966, and his ideas in stage and print design have proved lastingly influential.

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## Sources:

James Hamilton, 'Craig, (Edward Henry) Gordon (1872–1966)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, May 2008 [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/32608, accessed 28 April 2017].

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## Scope and Contents

The majority of items in the collection are proofs of wood engravings for the Cranach Press editions of *Hamlet* (1928 and 1930). Also included are proofs of several bookplates for Enid Rose, author of *Gordon Craig and the Theatre* (1931), and portraits, including an early woodcut engraving of author Walt Whitman, and dancer Isadora Duncan.

## Related Material

Photographs of Edward Gordon Craig and his family can be found in the Edward Gordon Craig Literary File Photography Collection; set designs, models, and woodcuts in the W. H. Crain Costume and Scenic Design Collection; and works and correspondence in the Arnold Bennett Collection (MS-0334), Edward Gordon Craig Collection (MS-00960), J. L. (James Louis) Garvin Papers (MS-1553), Carlton Lake Collection of French Manuscripts (TXRC06-A21), Donald Wolfitt Papers (R12539), Edward Carrick Papers (FI-005), and the George Bernard Shaw Collection (TXRC99-A3).

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## Index Terms

### People

- Carrick, Edward, 1905-1998.
- Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1827.
- Kessler, Harry, Graf, 1868-1937.
- Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892.

### Document Types

- Charcoal drawings.
  - Lithographs.
  - Wood engravings.
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- Accession Number: 73.333.1** Typed description of woodcut illustrations of *Hamlet* for Cranach Press. 1930. Manuscripts: ink on paper; 27.9 x 22.2 cm. **Location**  
Box 377
- Accession Number: 73.333.2** Kessler, Count Harry, 1868-1937. Typed Letter from Count Harry Kessler to Craig (page 1). 26 July 1927. Manuscripts: ink on paper; 27.9 x 22.2 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.3** Kessler, Count Harry, 1868-1937. Typed letter from Count Harry Kessler to Craig (page 2). 26 July 1927. Manuscripts: ink on paper; 27.9 x 22.2 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.4** Kessler, Count Harry, 1868-1937. Typed letter from Count Harry Kessler to Craig (page 3). On verso: pencil sketch for *Hamlet* by Craig. 26 July 1927. Manuscripts: ink and graphite on paper; 27.9 x 22.2 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.5** Kessler, Count Harry, 1868-1937 and Edward Gordon Craig, 1872-1966. Typed letter from Count Harry Kessler to Craig, with autograph notes by Craig on list of illustrations. 5 August 1927. Manuscripts: ink on paper; 28.6 x 17.8 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.6** Kessler, Count Harry, 1868-1937. *Hamlet* Series List B, list of illustrations with autograph notes. Circa 1927. Manuscripts: ink on paper; 20.3 x 18.9 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.7** Kessler, Count Harry, 1868-1937 and Edward Gordon Craig, 1872-1966. Figures/ Blocks list of illustrations, with a small pencil sketch by Gordon. 20 July 1927. Manuscripts: ink and graphite on paper.
- Accession Number: 73.333.8** Note reading, "I hope these will do / Greetings, EGC". Circa 1927. Manuscripts: graphite on paper; 15.2 x 21.6 cm. **Location**  
Box 58
- Accession Number: 73.333.9** Soldier with shield. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.7 x 26.4 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.10** Seated figure of *Hamlet*. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33 x 25.4 cm. **Location**  
Box 377
- Accession Number: 73.333.11** *Ophelia*. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33 x 26 cm. **Location**  
Box 58
- Accession Number: 73.333.12** *Ophelia*. Circa 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.3 x 25.7 cm. **Location**  
Box 377
- Accession Number: 73.333.13** *Guildestern*. 1927. Proofs: ink, crayon, and graphite 33 x 26.4 cm. **Location**  
Box 58

- Accession Number: 73.333.14** Ghost. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.2 x 25.4 cm. **Location**  
Box 377
- Accession Number: 73.333.15** Doubt. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.7 x 26.4 cm. **Location**  
Box 58
- Accession Number: 73.333.16** Actor. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 32.5 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.17** Actor. 1912. Proofs: wood engraving; 27.9 x 19.4 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.18** Candle bearer. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.7 x 26.4 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.19** Candle bearer. 1912. Proofs: ink and crayon on paper 20 x 27.8 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.20** Candle bearer. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.7 x 26.7 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.21** Candle bearer. 1921. Proofs: wood engraving; 20.2 x 27.9 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.22** Candle bearer. 1927. Proofs: ink, crayon and graphite on paper; 32.7 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.23** Candle bearer. 1912. Proofs: wood engraving; 19.7 x 27.8 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.24** Hamlet and Daemon. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.25** Ghost with bone. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 32.7 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.26** Stage manager. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 32.7 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.27** Courtier. Circa 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33 x 26.4 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.28** Horatio. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 32.4 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.29** Hamlet with skull. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 32.1 x 25.9 cm. **Location**  
Box 377

- Accession Number: 73.333.30** Grave diggers. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.7 x 26.7 cm. **Location**  
Box 58
- Accession Number: 73.333.31** Hamlet and body of Polonius. 1927. Proofs:  
wood engraving; 33.7 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.32** Fencer. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.7 x  
26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.33** Fencer. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.3 x  
26.2 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.34** Doubt. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.3 x 26.4 **Location**  
cm. Box 377
- Accession Number: 73.333.35** Seated soldiers. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.3 **Location**  
x 26 cm. Box 58
- Accession Number: 73.333.36** Ghost in flames. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving;  
33.7 x 26.7 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.37** Ophelia sane. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33  
x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.38** Soldier with shield. 1927. Proofs: wood  
engraving; 33 x 26 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.39** Ophelia mad. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 34  
x 26.4 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.40** Head of Hamlet. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving;  
35.6 x 23.7 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.41** Actor. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 35.7 x  
23.5 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.42** Buffon - Osrick. 1927. Proofs: ink, crayon, and **Location**  
graphite on parchment; 35.2 x 23.8 cm. Box 377
- Accession Number: 73.333.43** Title Page - Vignette. Circa 1910s. Proofs: ink,  
crayon, and graphite on parchment; 35.6 x 23.7 cm.
- Accession Number: 73.333.44** Actor. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 35.2 x 23.8 cm. **Location**  
Box 58
- Accession Number: 73.333.45** Soldier. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 35.4 x  
23.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.46** Hamlet and Daemon. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 35.6 x 23.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.47** Grave digger. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 35.4 x 23.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.48** Buffon. 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 35.4 x 23.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.49** Erster Akt (First Act). 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 34 x 26.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.50** Zweiter Akt (Second Act). 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.7 x 26 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.51** Dritter Akt (Third Act). 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33 x 26.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.52** Vierter Akt (Fourth Act). 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 33.3 x 26.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.333.53** Funfter Akt (Fifth Act). 1927. Proofs: wood engraving; 32.7 x 31.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.1** Man with top hat and cane in front of windmill. 1899. **Location**  
Wood engravings; 18.3 x 12.1 cm. **Box 57**

**Accession Number: 73.361.2** Man crawling outside city. 1899. Wood engravings; 12.5 x 17.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.3** Bookplate of John Drew. 1899. Wood engravings; 8.9 x 7.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.4** Design for Head-Dress. Circa 1890s. Wood engravings; 7.9 x 7.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.5** Outwardly I was curate, inwardly I was still Caesar. 1899. Wood engravings; 18.6 x 12.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.6** A marching crowd with firearms. 1899. Wood engravings; 17.5 x 12.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.7.1** Bookplate proof for "G.C.". 1901. Wood engravings; 4.4 x 7.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.7.2** Bookplate proof for "Lindsay". 1904. Wood engravings; 9 x 6.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.8** A house. 1908. Wood engravings; 12.9 x 16.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.9** A beach house. 1908. Wood engravings; 12.4 x 17.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.10** Figure running. 1908. Wood engravings; 8.6 x 6.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.11** An estate house landscape. 1908. Wood engravings; 12.7 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.12** Desert canyon landscape. 1908. Wood engravings; 12.4 x 17.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.13** Building cityscape. 1909. Wood engravings; 10.8 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.14** Bookplate with skeleton. 1910. Wood engravings; 8.3 x 6.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.15** Sphinx. 1911. Wood engravings; 11.9 x 16.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.361.16** Bookplate plank 'P' and building. 1912. Wood engravings; 11.1 x 7.9 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.616** Craig, Edward Anthony. Enter the Villain. Circa 1930s-1960s. Drawings: charcoal on paper; 26 x 23.2 cm.

**Location**  
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**Accession Number: 73.617** Craig, Edward Anthony. Arthur Machen. Circa 1930s-1960s.. Drawings: charcoal on paper; 26 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.135.1** Elektra. 1908. Proofs: ink on paper; 39.7 x 26.7 cm.

**Location**  
Box 57

**Accession Number: 74.135.2** Elektra. Circa 1908. Proofs: ink on paper; 24.1 x 35.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.135.3** Elektra. Circa 1908. Proofs: ink on paper; 24.3 x 35.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.135.4** Elektra. Circa 1908. Proofs: ink on paper; 35.6 x 24.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.135.5** Elektra. Circa 1908. Proofs: ink on paper; 35.4 x 24 cm.



**Accession Number: 74.136.1a** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900. Wood engravings; 7.9 x 6.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1b** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 7.3 x 5.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1c** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 6 x 4.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1d** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 6 x 4.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1e** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 6 x 4.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1f** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 5.9 x 4.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1g** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 6 x 4.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1h** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 6 x 4.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.1j** Book stamp for Enid Rose. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 6.2 x 4.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.2** Book stamp for Enid Rose mounted on wood. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings;: paper and ink on wood 6 x 4.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.3** The Pyramid. 1908. Wood engravings; 13 x 17.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.4** Lestri Levante. 1925. Wood engravings; 12.5 x 17.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.5** The Villa. 1924. Wood engravings; 17.621 x 12.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.6** Lestri Levante. 1924. Wood engravings; 12.7 x 17.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.7** The Caffè Parkonshy. 1908. Wood engravings; 17.3 x 12.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.8** Slight Remembrances- only nothings. 1913. Wood engravings; 12.2 x 17.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.9** Small battle scene. Circa 1910s. Wood engravings; 22.7 x 14 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.10** Battle scene outside fort. 1921. Wood engravings; 8.9 x 12.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.11** Hamlet seated figure. Circa 1910s. Wood engravings; 10.6 x 13 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.12** Hamlet figure in robe. 1912. Wood engravings; 13.3 x 10 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.13** Hamlet figure in toga. 1912. Wood engravings; 13.5 x 10.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.14** Hamlet figure in robe. 1912. Wood engravings; 13.5 x 11.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.15** Hamlet, robed figure with sword opening door. 1914. Wood engravings; 17.1 x 24.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.16** Orchestra. 1900. Wood engravings; 8.4 x 12.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.17** Walt Whitman. 1893. Wood engravings; 21.4 x 17.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.18a** Portrait of a girl. 1928. Wood engravings; 23.3 x 17.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.18b** Portrait of a girl. 1928. Wood engravings; 24.4 x 17.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.19** The Equestrienne. 1923. Wood engravings; 25.6 x 18.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.20** Mountain house. 1926. Wood engravings; 17 x 24.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.21** Man in overcoat and hat. Circa 1900s. Wood engravings; 28.7 x 17.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.23** Man with bowl of flowers. 1901. Wood engravings; 25.1 x 9.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 74.136.24** La Procession Nocturne. 1927. Wood engravings; 20.5 x 26.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 76.80.1** Man with top hat and cane in front of windmill. Circa 1900. Lithographs: reproduction of woodcut; 29.5 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 80.74** Miss Isadora Duncan. Circa 1900s-1910s. Wood engravings; 59.1 x 45.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.19.1** Hamlet, Ophelia Mad. 1912. Wood engravings: ink on tissue; 32.4 x 25.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.19.2** Hamlet, seated figure with crossed arms and bowed head. Circa 1914. Wood engravings: ink on tissue; 31.3 x 22.9 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.19.3** Hamlet, figure with staff. 1914. Wood engravings: ink on tissue; 24.8 x 17.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.19.4** Hamlet, grave digger. Circa 1914. Wood engravings: ink on tissue; 27.8 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.19.5** Hamlet, figure in bird costume. 1914. Wood engravings: ink on tissue; 34.9 x 24.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.19.6** Hamlet, robed figure with sword opening door. 1914. Wood engravings: ink on tissue; 17.6 x 24.8 cm.