

# Rob Roy Kelly **Resumé**

## **Biographical Sketch**

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska; March 15, 1925

Lived briefly in Texas,  
and grew up in East Central Nebraska

Currently resides in Tempe, Arizona

## **Military Service**

Served in the U.S. Marine Corps  
1943–1946 & 1950–1951

## **Education**

Attended the University of Nebraska 1946–1948

The Minneapolis School of Art  
1948–1950 & 1951–1952, BFA

Yale University 1953–1955, MFA

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design  
Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, 1992

## **Teaching Experience**

The Minneapolis School of Art 1951–1952  
& 1955–1964  
*established Printmaking and  
Graphic Design Departments*

The Kansas City Art Institute 1964–1974  
*established Graphic Design Department*

Rochester Institute of Technology 1974–1975  
*Kern Institute Professor of Communications*

University of Cincinnati 1977

Carnegie Mellon University 1977–1983

Arizona State University 1983–1989 & 1998–2000  
*established Graphic Design Program*

Western Michigan University 1990–1992

Town Hall Art Colony; Grand Marais, Minnesota  
Summers from 1955–1964 & 1974  
*taught drawing, watercolor and printmaking*

Vancouver School of Art;  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
*taught summer school*





Guthrie mark by Rob Roy Kelly

### **Educational Consultant**

Western Michigan University, 1990–1991

Atlanta School of Art, 1987

Philadelphia College of Art, 1981

Rochester Institute of Technology, 1972 & 1974–1975

University of Cincinnati, 1972

University of Denver, 1971

Washburn College, 1965

University of Utah, 1965

Carleton College, 1963

### **Professional Design Experience**

*Staff Designer*

Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Walker Art Center

Guthrie Theater

*Design Projects for*

University of Minnesota Extension Division

Northrup University Gallery

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

1979–1983 (Honorary Staff Designer at present.)

### **Principal Design Projects**

History of Dayton Family (*book*)

World's Fair exhibit for Pillsbury

Minnesota Pavilion

Jordan Millwork Company

Egger Structural Steel Company

(*corporate identities*)

Decor for 1969 Convention

of International Chiefs of Police

Midwest Research Institute

Kansas City Missouri Police Department  
(public programs, annual reports, etc.)

City of Kansas City, Missouri (city identity program)

### **Professional Recognition**

*Honorary Doctor of Fine Art*

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design, 1992

*Master Teacher Award*

Graphic Design Education Association, 1989

*Honorary Graphic Designer*

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, 1983

*Design for Society Award*

Minnesota Graphic Designers Association, 1983

*The Kern Institute Professor for Communications*

Rochester Institute of Technology, 1974–1975

*Baton Award*

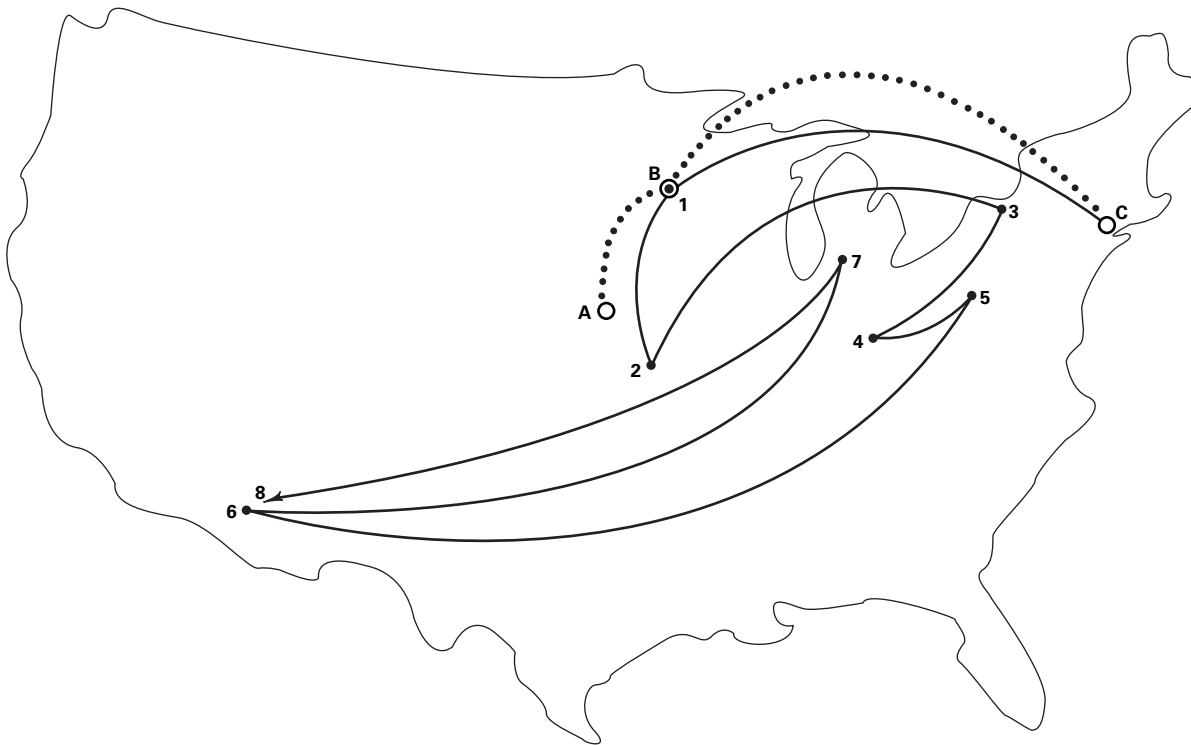
Kansas City, Missouri Police Department; 1970

*Purchase Award*

Fourth Biennial of Prints and Drawings,  
Minneapolis Institute of Arts; 1956

*Purchase Award*

Second Exhibition of Contemporary Art,  
American Life Insurance Company; 1956



**Learning**

- A** University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska
- B** Minneapolis School of Art  
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- C** Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut

**Teaching**

- 1** Minneapolis School of Art  
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2** Kansas City Art Institute  
Kansas City, Missouri
- 3** Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rochester, New York
- 4** University of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, Ohio
- 5** Carnegie-Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 6** Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona

**Retirement**

- 7** Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 8** Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona

## Research

*American Wood Types 1957–1969*  
published 1969, republished 1977

*Trivets & Stands 1981–1991*  
published 1991

American Kitchenware in the Post Civil War Period  
1870–1930 (in progress)

From 1983 to Present:

Collecting and researching kitchenware from post Civil War until 1930. Collected and cataloged roughly 1,500 items which now reside with the Arizona Historical Museum, Tempe Arizona. The collection has been assembled as a study collection, and research developed to support that concept. Currently working with museum staff to develop a web site displaying the collection and linking it to the research.

Ongoing Research of Visual Education and Educational Organization:

The impact of educational organization and administrative definitions on faculty productivity and educational effectiveness.

## Appraisals

*Gramlee Collection*  
(commercial wood and metal engravings)  
Donated to University of West Virginia, 1989

*Phillips Old Fashioned Types Collection*  
(approximately one-thousand fonts of nineteenth century metal types and catalogs)  
Purchased by Brooklyn Seaport Museum, 1983

*Morgan Collection*  
(wood types and printing equipment)  
Purchased by Smithsonian Institute of American Industry, 1981

## Publications

*Basic Procedures in Etching*  
(in collaboration with Gabor Peterdi)  
Hennepin Press, 1958

*Design Quarterly* 56, “American Wood Types”  
Walker Art Center, 1963

*Wood Type Portfolio*  
(privately printed)  
reviewed by Connoisseur, 1965

*American Wood Types: 1828–1900*  
Van Nostrand Reinhold 1969,  
reprint by DaCapo 1977

*Wood Type Alphabets*  
(edited by Rob Roy Kelly)  
Dover, 1977

*Trivets & Stands*  
Golden Era Publishing, 1990

## Articles By or About Rob Roy Kelly

*Art Journal*  
*Der Druck Spiegel*  
*Design Issues*  
*Eye No. 3*  
*Gebrauchgraphik*  
*Graphic News*  
*Idea*  
*Matrix*  
*The New York Times*  
*Print*  
*Printing Impressions*  
*Publisher's Weekly*  
*Type Talk*  
*World Graphics*



Trivets from  
Rob Roy Kelly's  
collection

## Professional Activities Following Retirement

- 1 Received *Master Teacher Award* and delivered keynote address, Graphic Design Education Association; Chicago, Illinois; June, 1989.
- 2 Evaluation of the Gramlee Wood and Metal Engraving Collection preparatory to sale. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1989.
- 3 Talk before the Communication Artists of New Mexico; Albuquerque, New Mexico; August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1989.
- 4 Wrote promotional introduction to new wood type alphabets, Adobe Systems, New Typographic Development Division. Included consultation, Mountain View, California. Project began in December, 1988, completed in March 1990.
- 5 Served as a referee in the search for a new Department Head for Graphic Design, Yale University; December 21, 1989.
- 6 Book Review, *The First Years in a Century of Wood Letter Manufacture*, Claire Bolton. Published in *Fine Print*; San Francisco, California; January 4, 1990.
- 7 *Modernism & Eclecticism, Third Annual Symposium on the History of American Graphic Design*: Talk on cast-iron and brass trivets, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1990.
- 8 Two days working with students, one lecture, Carnegie Mellon University; February 26–27<sup>th</sup>, 1990.
- 9 Completed production work on *Trivets & Stands*; an illustrated catalogue of nineteenth and twentieth century trivets with emphasis on those which are American and cast in iron or brass. The text includes notes on the manufacture, distribution, design and dating of trivets and stands. Hard cover, 16 pp color, 268 pp. Released July, 1990. This was a ten year project with research and production.
- 10 Exhibit: *Graphic Design in America*, (a traveling exhibition put together by Walker Art Center and The American Institute of Graphic Arts) *American Wood Types: 1828–1900* and *Design Quarterly*.
- 11 Speaker on origins of graphic design, Phoenix Museum; *Graphic Design in America*, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1990.
- 12 Promotional introduction for second Adobe Wood Type software booklet, started in May and completed in July, 1992.
- 13 Visiting Professor and Educational Consultant, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan; September, 1990 to April, 1991.
- 14 Visiting Professor, Western Michigan University; Kalamazoo, Michigan; January – April 1992.
- 15 Introduction to wood type catalog published by Silver Buckle Press, University of Wisconsin Library, 1998.



Rob Roy Kelly  
with his trivet collection; Tempe, Arizona  
1988 © Charles Conley

- 16 Professor Emeritus and Faculty Associate, School of Design, College of Architecture & Environmental Design, Arizona State University. Taught two sections of Visual Communications I, January – May 1999 & August 1999 – May 2001.
- 17 “Recollections of Josef Albers,” *Design Issues*, Vol. 16, Number 2 Summer 2000.
- 18 “Early Years of Graphic Design at Yale University” Accepted for publication by *Design Issues* for Winter 2001 edition.
- 19 Rob Roy Kelly Kitchenware Study Collection, Arizona Historical Society Museum; Tempe, Arizona

### **Work in Progress**

A manuscript on tinplate household and kitchenwares from 1870 until 1930. Assembling a related collection and cataloging each item. The collection numbers more than fourteen-hundred separate catalog listings and sixteen-hundred items.

#### *Research Includes*

Approximately 1,600 items in the collection.

#### Collection Categories

(with catalog description for each)

- A Utensils
- B Pans
- C Containers
- D Household
- E Miscellaneous

#### *Research Text Includes*

- A Fabrication & Materials
- B Design
- C Historical Context
- D Food Preservation
- E Timelines
- F Glossaries
- G Bibliography

The collection has been donated to Arizona Historical Society Museum at Tempe, Arizona. At the date of this publication, Kelly is currently working on a website to make the study collection available on the internet.

# Colophon



Rob Roy Kelly at  
Coming of Age  
Symposium, 1984.  
Photograph by  
Joe Watson

This book was printed in an edition  
of 100 copies at the:

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**Section Name**