“BOOKS THAT TREES WOULD BE PROUD OF”

private & small press work at SHEFFIELD

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This exhibition presents for the first time a selection of the University Library’s fine press books and pamphlets from the Private Presses Collection. The collection was formed in 2012 though some of the books had lain undiscovered and uncatalogued within the rare books store since they were first acquired between 1965 and 1975.

For the past three years, Special Collections staff have been working closely with academics from the School of English to develop the collection into a relevant and compulsive research resource by acquiring works from outstanding British fine presses of the late twentieth century including Tetrad Press and Circle Press, and by developing a Small Press Poetry collection of limited edition pamphlets, broadsides and posters from worldwide independent presses.

We are also delighted to introduce the Zephyrus Image Collection. ZI operated in San Francisco throughout the 1970s and was a cheap small press with fine press sensibilities, a press of protest – commenting on Kent State, Watergate, Vietnam and ruinous land development in the Bay Area, as well as a publisher of poets such as Tom Raworth and Ed Dorn. Theirs was visionary work combining beautiful linocuts by artist Michael Myers with fine printing by Holbrook Teter, but printed quickly and cheaply as ephemeral giveaways without a thought of future preservation.