Robert Gibbings (1889-1958)
An Inventory of his Work in Special Collections, University of Otago

Prepared by Romilly Smith
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For the purposes of this inventory, the books are listed alphabetically by title. All of Gibbings output held in Special Collections will feature, including his work as owner of the Golden Cockerel Press from 1924 to 1933. References, where appropriate, to bibliography and page numbers will be given from both A. Mary Kirkus’s Robert Gibbings: A Bibliography (London: J. M. Dent, 1962. Call number: Special Collections NE1147.6 G53 K57 1962); and Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, 1921-1949 (Folkestone: Dawson, 1975. Call number: Special Collections Reference Z232 G63 A34).

Some but not all critical works of and books with references to Gibbings and his work are included. See Kirkus’s Bibliography, pp. 123ff. for a full list of these.

Leonid Andreyev, Abyss. Translated by John Cournos. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1929
Call number: Stack (Stk) PG3452 B4 A6 1929
Andreyev (1871-1919) was a Russian writer, now considered to be the Father of Russian Expressionism. This volume is number 61 of 500 and contains four wood-engravings by Ivan Lebedeff, ‘a leading Russian engraver who was living in France’ (Andrews, 2003). (Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 67, p. 33)
The Amores of P. Ovidius Naso. Translated by E. Powys Mathers. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1932
Call number: Stk PA6519 A7 1932
French artist and engraver, J. E. Laboureur made five engravings on copper for this volume and it is number 187 of 350. This edition, from Gibbings's time at the Press, was bound by Sangorski and Sutcliffe.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 180, p. 100; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 80, p. 36)

Eric Gill, Art and Prudence. [Waltham St. Lawrence]: Golden Cockerel Press, 1928
Call number: Stk N70 GF47
Produced while Gibbings owned Golden Cockerel Press, this volume is number 171 of 500.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 143, p. 93; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 61, p. 31)

Call number: Stk BR1710 BB88
Over 30,000 copies of this work were printed over twelve years; first published in 1934.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 48, p. 59)

Call number: Special Collections Reference Z232 G63 A34
(See Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 223, p. 107)

Call number: Stk BT315 A3 1925
Noel Rooke executed the wood engravings for this volume and Special Collections’ copy is number 98 of 370.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 98, p. 87; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 32, p. 22)

Call number: Stk QL617 GD98
First published in 1938, this copy is the 1946 edition and is missing its dust-jacket. Gibbings’s diving trips to Bermuda and the Red Sea in the mid-1930s were the inspiration for this work.
(There is also a copy of this at the Hocken Collection; call number Bliss GYL G)
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 5, pp. 12ff)
Call number: Oversize PR1865 2010  
Eric Gill engraved the images, border decoration, tail-pieces, and initials for the Golden Cockerel Press’ *Canterbury Tales*. An essay by art historian, Peter Holliday, accompanies this Folio Society edition, and the facsimile is numbered 1081 of 1980. (See Kirkus’s *Bibliography* no. 147, p. 94 and *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 63, p. 32 for the original work.)

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Call number: Double oversize Z250 GL33  
The five specimen sheets contained in this folder were given to University of Otago Librarian John Harris (1903-80) by Robert Gibbings in 1947. (See Kirkus’s *Bibliography* no. 147, p. 94; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 63, p. 32)

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Call number: Stk QL676 GU27  
Gibbings provided the wood engravings for this work. The bookplate pasted in the front of the Special Collections copy reveals the previous owner to be Richard Broadley Sibson (1911-94), an English-born New Zealand teacher and ornithologist. In total, almost 80,000 copies of this book were printed. This copy is the fifth impression of May 1928. (Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 31, p. 45)
**The Chester Play of the Deluge.** Edited by J. Isaacs. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1927

Call number: Oversize PR1261 D4 1927

David Jones’s engravings for this volume were thought to be some of the best provided to the Press but were poorly printed. This copy is number 200 of 275.

(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 130, p. 91; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 52, p. [28])

**A Circle of Seasons: A Translation of the Ritu-Samhāra of Kālidāsa made from various European sources by E. Powys Mathers.** Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1929

Call number: Stk Pk3796 R7 M374 1929

This copy is 146 of 500 and contains four engravings on copper by Gibbings.

(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 37, p. 50; see also no. 68e, p. 68 and p. 147; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 64, p. 32)

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**Eric Gill, Clothing Without Cloth: An Essay on the Nude.** Waltham Saint Lawrence: Golden Cockerel Press, 1931

Call number: Stk N7572 G5 1931

(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 170, p. 98; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 75, p. [35])


Call number: Stk Z232 G65 GL32 1950

(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 272, p. 116)

Call number: Stk DC611 S461 GD98

In the early 1950s Gibbings made several trips to the Continent – this volume, along with *Trumpets of Montparnasse* (1955), was the result of those trips.

(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 11, p. 24; see also Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 285, p. 118)

A.E. Coppard, *Crotty Shinkwin: A Tale of the Strange Adventure that Befell a Butcher of County Clare; The Beauty Spot: A Tale Concerning the Chilterns*. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1932

Call number: Stk PR6005 O55 C7 1932

This volume is number 465 of 500 and contains engravings by Gibbings.

(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 42, p. 54; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 84, p. [38])
Samuel Butler, *Erewhon, or, Over the Range*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1923
Call number: Stk PR4349 B7 E6 1923
The engravings Gibbings made for Butler’s *Erewhon* (first published in 1872) were his first ever commission.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 22, p. 37; see also no. 78, p. 84)

Call number: Stk DA578 GU27
This volume contains fifteen engravings by Gibbings centred around one of his greatest loves, Nature and the great outdoors.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 29, p. 43)
Call number: Oversize BS2553 A3 2007
A separate volume containing essays by John Dreyfus and Robert Gibbings accompanies this Folio Society edition. This copy is number 2314 of 2750.
(See (Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 177, p. 99; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 78, p. 36 for the original of this work.)

Call number: Oversize G540 GD98
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 17, p. 32; see also no. 204, p. 104; this volume does not feature in the Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press)
Call number: Stk NE1147.6 G53 L3 1998
Only 300 copies of this book were produced.
(This volume is not included in Kirkus’s Bibliography.)

Francis Coventry, The History of Pompey the Little, or The Life and Adventures of a Lap-Dog. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1926
Call number: Stk PR3369 C7 H57 1926
This volume is copy 242 of 400, with wood engravings by David Jones.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 117, p. 90; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 44, p. 26)

A.E. Coppard, The Hundredth Story. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1931
Call number: Stk PR6005 O55 H86 1931
This volume is number 42 of 1000, the first edition to be printed in Golden Cockerel type which was designed by Eric Gill especially for the Press. Bound by Sangorski and Sutcliffe of London, the paper on the cover was designed by Tirzah Garwood and features the author’s initials.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 39, p. 50; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 74, p. [35])
Call number: Stk PL8013 E5 D75 1932
Special Collection’s copy of this volume was purchased from the Holiday Bookshop in New York and has a manuscript message on the front endpapers which reads ‘Gladys M. Wrigley with kindest remembrances. Louise A. Boyd. New York [Summer] 1932’.
The volume is number 4 of 325 and is signed by Driberg.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 41, pp. 53-54; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 79, p. 36)

Call number: Stk DU870.2 G533 1932
Special Collections’ copy of this first American edition is number 71 of 385 and is signed by Gibbings. The copy also has an *Iorana* prospectus printed by Houghton Mifflin and, in a specially designed envelope, a typed letter from the publisher encouraging ‘Dear Reader’ to purchase the volume. A bookplate reading ‘The Library of Harry H. Boublitz’ is pasted to the free front end paper.
(There is also a copy of this in the Hocken Collection; call number Bliss ONRT G)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 2, p.6)

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canoe held the net. At a signal these fish, apart, each describing a semicircle and paying out the net behind them so that eventually there is a portion of the reef completely encircled. Innumerable fishes near the net to the bottom with stones and lamp of coal, and when all is fair they dive with speed, causing the fish from look to empty, or into the net where they are easily caught. A variety of humming sustained then the prows keeps all alive and fresh. A faint current carried us on. There was no need to paddle. We passed over every possible coral formation; past glittering clouds of tiny fish all skilful in moving in quick position. Then we drifted over sand, upon another reality: the canoe gave a lurch, there was a splash, and Four was alongside. The water had collected in little shining spots on her oily hide. It ran down over her shoulders and here became as she rowed her arms on the oarhinges, and her flanks seemed silver in the blue water. I threw off my pants and jumped in. When I came to the surface, she had dived and was on the other side of the canoe. I tried to catch her, but there was no earthly chance; she was always on the opposite side or at the far end of the prows. Eventually I gave up the unseen chase and lay in the water. She came quite close to me and held up her mouth to be kissed. As I accepted her offer, she threw her bands above her head
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Call number: Stk G530 G76 GD97; Stk G530 G76 GD97 1961
First published in 1937, this work had several editions over twenty years. It is the tale of convict John Graham who was transported to Australia in the 1820s.
(There is also a copy of the 1956 edition in the Hocken Collection; call number Bliss OJC Gra G)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 4, pp. 10ff)

Henry Fielding, *A Journey from this World to the Next*. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1930
Call number: Stk PR3454 J66 1930
This copy is number 272 of 500.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 165, p. 97; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 73, p. [34])

F. D. Robson (as told to Robert Gibbings), *Kiwis in Captivity*. Napier: Hawkes Bay Art Gallery and Museum, 1947
Call number: Stk QL696 A63 R638 1947
In the late 1940s Gibbings spent six months in New Zealand, based in Wellington. This small pamphlet was produced after Gibbings visited Robson as the Napier Acclimatization Farm.
(There is also a copy of this in the Hocken Collection; call number Bliss Pamphlets GXCQ R)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 265, p. 115)

Call number: BJ1856 A14 1928
This copy is number 209 of 500 and contains a bill of sale from the bookshop of Douglas Cleverdon to Henry Bergen at 55 Sutton Court, Chiswick in London, dated 3rd April, 1930.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 136, p. 92; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 56, p. 29)
John Keats, *Lamia; Isabella; The Eve of Saint Agnes & Other Poems.* Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1928
Call number: Oversize stack PR4832 1928
This volume is number 106 of 500. It was bound by Sangorski and Sutcliffe in sharkskin.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 36, p. 49; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 62, p. 31)

Pierre de Bourdeille, *The Lives of Gallant Ladies.* Volumes I and II. Translated by H.M. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Printed at the Golden Cockerel Press, 1924
Call number: Stk DC112 A1 BT438 1924, vol. I; vol. II
Kirkus states that this was the ‘first work published by the Golden Cockerel Press after Gibbings took it over’ in 1924. A slip, included in volume I and signed by Gibbings, certifies the work is a limited edition. Considered to be a risqué tale, the translator’s name is disguised as ‘H.M’.
Gibbings provided the engravings for the work.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 23, p. 38; see also no. 80, p. 85; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 18, p. 17)
Call number: Stk DA977 GD98
Special Collections’ copy of this volume is missing its dust-jacket.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 8, pp. 19ff; see also no. 264, p. 114)

Call number: Stk PQ2613 A42 M3 1930
This is number 496 of 500; the engravings were provided by Blair Hughes-Stanton.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 163, p. 97; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 71, p. [34])

Call number: Stk PR3677 A7 1927
This copy is number 271 of 500.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 123, p. 91; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 48, p. [27])

Call number: Stk G477 FH38
Gibbings provided over 30 illustrations from his collection of drawings for this volume which were made during his time in the South Pacific in the late 1940s.
(There is also a copy of this in the Hocken Collection; call number Bliss OA F)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 64, p. 74; see also no. 281, p.117)
Call number: Stk PR3722 RM41
This copy is number 155 of 375 and contains eleven engravings by Gibbings.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 34, p. 47; see also no. 139, 92 and p. 148; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 58, p. 29)

Call number: Stk DS709 G54 1935
This is copy 315 of 315; only copies 1-300 were for sale. It contains four wood engravings by Gibbings.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 50, p. 61; see also no. 209, p. 105; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 104, p. 45)

Call number: Oversize PR2043 P655 1936
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 54, p. 64; see also no. 218, p. 106)
Call number: Oversize PR2829 A2 F3 1939
Special Collections copy is number 1784 of 1950 and contains six wood engravings by Gibbings.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 61, p. 71; see also no. 243, p. 111)

Call number: Stk DU510 GD94
This copy lacks its dust jacket.
(There are two copies of this in the Hocken Library; call numbers Bliss ONB G; Godward H074)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 9, p. 20; see also no. 267, p. 115)
Call number: Stk PR6005 O55 P44 1926
This is number 395 of 425, contains six engravings by Gibbings, and is signed on one of the free endpapers at the front by the author.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 30, p. 44; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 43, p. [25])

Call number: Brasch Z232 G65
An engraving by Gibbings appears on page 11 of this volume.
(There is also a copy of this in the Hocken Library; call number Main Z232 G6 1943)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 262, p. 114)

Call number: Stk DA536 S8 K56 1987
This volume is number 70 of 300 and contains ten wood engravings by Gibbings.
(This volume is not included in Kirkus’s *Bibliography*.)

Call number: Stk PR3339 C2 R3 1927
This volume is number 199 of 375.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 122, p. 90; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 47, p. [27])

Call number: Stk PR6025 A833 R4 1926
This volume is number 74 of 500 and contains eight engravings by Gibbings.

(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 28, p. 42; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 34, p. [24])

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Gustave Flaubert, *Salambo*. Translated by E. Powys Mathers. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1931

Call number: Stk PQ2246 S3 E5 1931
Special Collections’ copy is numbered 301 of 500. This edition contains engravings by Gibbings.

(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 40, p. 52; *Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press*, no. 77, p. 36)
Samson and Delilah: From the Book of Judges According to the Authorised Version. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1925
Call number: Stk BS1303 1925
Gibbings provided the wood engravings for this volume and this copy is numbered 281 of 325.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 27, p. 42 ; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 30 , p. 22)

Henry Carey, Songs and Poems. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1924
Call number: Oversize ML49 C839 S6 1924
This is copy 124 of 380 copies, 350 of which were put up for sale.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 24, p. 39; see also no. 84, p. 85 ; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 20 , p. [19])

Enid Clay, Sonnets and Verses. Waltham St. Lawrence: Golden Cockerel Press, 1925
Call number: Stk PR6005 L48 S6
One of the first collaborations between Eric Gill and Robert Gibbings at the Golden Cockerel Press, this edition of Enid Clay’s volume is number 263 of 450 and contains eight engravings by Gill.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 91, p. 86 ; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 25 , p. 20)

Havelock Ellis, Sonnets with Folk Songs from the Spanish. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1925
Call number: Stk PR6009 L8 S6
This copy is number 364 of 500.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 90, p. 86 ; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no. 24 , p. 20)

- 18 -
Call number: Stk HD9011 B68 BF36
Gibbings had to complete all the engravings for this work himself as his strict vegetarian assistant, Ralph Needham, refused to work on the wood blocks.
In Kirkus’s *Bibliography* it states that this volume was ‘issued in an edition of 5000 copies’ which were ‘not for sale but distributed by the Bovril Company and its advertising agents.’
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 65, p. 74; see also no. 284, p. 118)

Call number: Stk DA990 GD98
Gibbings was born in Ireland and despite not living there for many years, always thought of it as his ‘spiritual home’. This volume contains 67 engravings by Gibbings.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 10, p. 22; see also no. 273, p. 116)
Call number: Stk DA670 T2 GD98
For this expedition, Gibbings had a boat, the *Willow*, especially built; one on which he could sleep and store all his drawing and scientific equipment. The volume contains 50 engravings by Gibbings. It was a huge success and was reprinted many times.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 6, p. 15)

Call number: Stk Z232 A43 T362
This volume is numbered 74 of 120 and contains text and engravings by Robert Gibbings from *Till I End My Song* (1957).
(This volume is not included in Kirkus’ *Bibliography*)

Call number: Stk DA690 L825 GD98
The Special Collections copy of this book has a newspaper clipping slipped in the front of an article by J. D. Watson about Robert Gibbings’s visit to Dunedin in the 1947. The article may have come from the *Otago Daily Times*.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 14, p. 29; see also no. 282, p. 117 and no. 302, p. 120)
Call number: Stk PR6013 I21 T7
This book was inspired by Gibbings’s travel in the South Pacific. (There is also a copy of this in the Hocken Library; call number Bliss ONM G)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 18, p. 33; see also no. 210, p. 105; no. 240, p. 111)

Call number: Stk D921 GD98
This is the American edition and contains the same engravings and oil-painting plates as the British edition.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 13, pp. 27-28; see also no. 297, p. 120)

Llewelyn Powys, *The Twelve Months.* London: Bodley Head, 1936
Call number: Stk PR6031 O87 T9
Gibbings designed this volume for Powys and etched 28 wood engravings for it. This volume was actually published in March 1937.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 56, p. 66)
Call number: Stk PS2384 T8 1950

Call number: Oversize Z232 G63 DS19 1991
Two hundred and fifty copies of this second edition of Dreyfus’s work were printed in 1991. (This edition does not appear in Kirkus’s *Bibliography*.)

Call number: Stk NE1147.6 G53 B4 1949
This volume contains 115 of Gibbings’s engravings.
(There is also a copy of this at the Robertson Library; call number Main 769.92 GIB B)
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 359, p. 136)

Call number: Oversize NE1147.6 G53 GD98
The idea for this book came about in 1953 but Gibbings died in 1958 before he had chosen the blocks for inclusion.
(Kirkus, *Bibliography*, no. 20, p. 35; see also no. 305, p. 121)

Robert Gibbings, *The 7th Man: A True Cannibal Tale of the South Sea Islands told in fifteen wood-engravings and precisely one hundred and eighty nine words*. Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berkshire: Golden Cockerel Press, 1930
Call number: Stk PR6013 I21 S38
In the late 1920s Gibbings travelled to the South Pacific and lived on the island of Tahiti for four months. This book tells the tale of a shipwrecked sailor Gibbings heard while he was there. This volume is copy 370 of 500.
(Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 16, p. 32; Bibliography of Golden Cockerel Press, no.72, p. [34])

Other titles in other University of Otago collections include:

George Robertson, *An Account of the Discovery of Tahiti*. London: Folio Society, 1955. This work contains eleven wood engravings by Gibbings. Call number: Hocken Godward Collection N017; Hocken Bliss ONRT R; (Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 66, p. 75; see also no. 296, p. 119)


*The Journal of James Morrison Boatswain’s Mate of the Bounty*. London: Golden Cockerel Press, 1935. This work contains five wood engravings by Gibbings. Call number: Hocken Bliss Oversize KUG M; (Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 49, p. 60; see also no. 208, p. 105)
Owen Chase, *Narratives of the Wreck of the Whale-Ship Essex of Nantucket…* London: Golden Cockerel Press, 1935. This work contains sixteen wood engravings by Gibbings. Call number: Hocken Bliss Oversize UKZ C; (Kirkus, Bibliography, no. 51, p. 62; see also no. 212, p. 105)

There are several articles about Robert Gibbings that appeared in the *New Zealand Listener* in the 1940s which are held at the Hocken Library.
