

***The Kangaroo and Others Too* – Twelve High School Students in Depression-era Chicago Made a Book of Block Prints, at the WPA Published It**

Verdack, George, Donald Stuart, and Emily Jurczak, eds. *The Kangaroo and Others Too*. Chicago: Poster Division, Illinois Art Project, Work Projects Administration, [1939-1943]. Softbound.

The Kangaroo and Others Too is a collection of block prints made by students at Chicago's Steinmetz High School under the direction of Edith E. Garis. The twelve aspiring professional artists – both boys and girls – depicted kangaroos, snakes, rams, monkeys, cranes, giraffes, tigers, zebras, unicorns, koala bears, apes, flamingos, and a rooster named Oswald. Short poems by the class accompany each animal. A forward by director of art Elizabeth Wells Robertson and an introduction by the editors are also included. In the editors' own words, "*We are part of a group who hope to enter some branch of arts as a vocation – some day. Since one of the things an artist does is to illustrate books, we thought we would write and illustrate a book with emphasis on the illustrations [...]*".

The Kangaroo and Others Too was published by the Illinois Art Project of the Work Projects Administration, the governmental agency established to employ artists and sponsor public works during the Great Depression. The book is printed on pulpy green paper; the students' art was silkscreened in black onto smaller sheets of tan-colored paper and tipped into the book. The book has paper covers and a spiral binding. A hand-written message on the first page reads "*To Susie from Dad Christmas 1943*". There was no Susie on the list of artists. The binding is weak, and there are small nicks on the edges of all pages. **\$100.00**

See: <http://www.wolfsonian.org/explore/collections/kangaroo-and-others-too>

