

Title: Adalbert Johann Volck Collection**Collection dates: 1861- 1883****Collection number: MS 10****Extent: 2 linear feet, 2 boxes****Creator: Adalbert Johann Volck Collection****Condition of access: Unrestricted, by appointment only****Language: English****Repository: Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections****Contact Information:**

Enoch Pratt Free Library

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Source of Acquisition:

There is a letter in the file dated October 4, 1950 from Elizabeth C. Litsinger, Head, Maryland Department thanking Mrs. Frank H. Merrill, Hotel Russell, 45 Park Avenue, New York, NY for the gift from her brother of the Civil War etchings by Dr. A. J. Volck. Also on file is "The indexing and numbering of Volck's Confederate War Etchings" given in August 1954 by Van Dyck MacBride, Newark, NJ.

Biographical History:

Adalbert Johann Volck (1828-1912) was born in what was then Bavaria and came to America to avoid military service. After St. Louis and Boston, he came to Baltimore and attended the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. He built a fine dental practice and at the onset of the Civil War, many of his patients were pro-Southern. Volck became an ardent partisan. Under the assumed name of V. Blada, he produced sketches, cartoons and caricatures, some of a vitriolic nature. He produced volumes of drawings and etchings for "subscribers" limited to the South. Two of these were aimed at Benjamin F. Butler, commander of the Federal garrison. His Civil War sketches appeared in three series. The group "comedians and Tragedians of the North," is especially sharp in caricaturing and holding up to ridicule abolitionists, government officials, including President Lincoln. Volck served as a Confederate agent, assisted those who wanted to go South, smuggled medicines and other contraband. His home on Charles Street was a rendezvous and hiding place for Confederate sympathizers. At war's end, Dr. Volck devoted more time to art activities. He participated in the founding of the Academy of Art, the Wednesday Club and the Charcoal Club.

Scope and Contents Note:

The Adalbert Johann Volck Collection contains primarily the prints produced by Dr. Volck and follows in form and content the layout in *The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912*, a book privately printed by George McCullough Anderson, Baltimore, Maryland, 1970. The collection is divided into five series: I. Introductory Materials; II. War Sketches by V. Blada, 1861-1865; III. Abraham Lincoln (As depicted by V. Blada); IV. Comedians and Tragedians of the North; and V. The Wednesday Club, 1877-1883.

Series Description:

I. Introductory Materials

This first series contains a photocopy of the preface to *The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912* which was privately printed by George McCullough Anderson in Baltimore, Maryland in 1970. Also as an introduction is a flyer that was produced for an exhibition of Volck's work at the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution in 1979.

II. War Sketches by V. Blada, 1861-1865

This is the largest series and consists of the Civil War sketches Volck executed under the assumed name of V. Blada during the years 1861-1865.

III. Abraham Lincoln (as depicted by V. Blada)

The most biting of Volck's cartoons were of Abraham Lincoln. It is said that Volck later expressed sorrow over his treatment of Lincoln.

IV. Comedians and Tragedians of the North

This series of prints is especially sharp in caricaturing and holding up to ridicule abolitionists, federal and state officials including Thomas Hicks, Governor of Maryland, General John C. Fremont. Reserved for special ire was General Benjamin F. Butler.

V. The Wednesday Club, 1877-1883

Series five is a group of sketches, of and for The Wednesday Club. Dr. Volck was a founder and very active member of this group which provided impetus to the artistic and cultural life of the city in the latter part of the 19th century. Volck illustrated theatrical programs, and the sheet music for Innes Randolph's cantata, "The Grasshopper. These are included in this series.

VI. Selections from: *The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912.*

Here resides a photocopy of the book housed in the Maryland Department, MD XN6537 .V6 A67, including only those pictures contained in the collection housed in Special Collections.

Container List:

Series I: Introductory Materials

Box 1	Folder 1	Preface to the book: <i>The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912</i> , privately printed by George McCullough Anderson, Baltimore, Maryland, 1970
	Folder 2	<i>Adalbert Volck: Fifth Column Artist</i> . Flyer for the Exhibition at The National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, September 29, 1978-March 25, 1979

Series II: War Sketches by V. Blada, 1861-1865

Box 1	Folder 3	Worship of the North
	Folder 4	Battle in Baltimore – April 19, 1861
	Folder 5	Election in Baltimore – 1862
	Folder 6	Searching for Arms
	Folder 7	Butler's Prisoners at Fort St. Philip

Folder 8	Return of a Raiding Party from Pennsylvania
Folder 9	General Stuart's Return from Pennsylvania
Folder 10	General Stuart's Raid to the White House
Folder 11	Crossing the Potomac to Join the Southern Army
Folder 12	Smuggling Medicines into the South
Folder 13	Vicksburg Canal
Folder 14	Valiant Men dat Fight mit Siegel
Folder 15	Offering of Church Bells to be Cast into Cannon
Folder 16	Stone blockade off Charleston, South Carolina
Folder 17	Formation of Guerilla Bands
Folder 18	Jemison's Jayhawkers
Folder 19	Tracks of the Armies
Folder 20	Albert Sidney Johnston Crossing the Plains
Folder 21	Prayer in Jackson's Camp
Folder 22	Buying a Substitute in the North During the War
Folder 23	The Enlistment of Sickles' Brigade
Folder 24	Slaves Protecting Their Master from the Enemy
Folder 25	Cave Life in Vicksburg
Folder 26	Free Negroes in Hayti
Folder 27	Free Negroes in North
Folder 28	Selling Counterfeit Confederate Notes in the City of Brotherly Love
Folder 29	Making Clothes for Boys in the Army

Series III: Abraham Lincoln (As depicted by V. Blada)

Box 2	Folder 30	Passage Through Baltimore
	Folder 31	Don Quixote and Sancho Panzo
	Folder 32	Writing the Emancipation Proclamation
	Folder 33	Lincoln and his Puppets

Series IV: Comedians and Tragedians of the North

Box 2	Folder 34	Judas – Thomas Holliday Hicks, Governor of Maryland
	Folder 35	Simon Tappertit – General Butler (Character in Dickens' Barnaby Rudge)
	Folder 36	Sam Tappertat – General John C. Fremont
	Folder 37	Heroic Butler
	Folder 38	Mephistopheles

Series V: The Wednesday Club, 1877-1883

Box 2	Folder 39	History of The Wednesday Club
	Folder 40	Drama – 1878 - <i>A Lesson in Love</i>
	Folder 41	Drama – February 28, 1878 – <i>Bombastes Furioso</i>
	Folder 42	Drama – March 28, 1878 – <i>A Scrap of Paper</i>
	Folder 43	Drama – June 15, 1878 – <i>Son and Stranger</i>

- Folder 44 Drama – April 25, 1878 – *Our Boys*
- Folder 45 Explanatory key to Dr. Volck’s drawing “The Wednesday Club”, Season 1877-78.
- Folder 46 Sketch of a farewell party for George May
- Folder 47 Sketch of “A Musical Evening”
- Folder 48 Miscellaneous sketch
- Folder 49 “The Grasshopper, A Tragic Cantata by Innes Randolph”

Series VI: Selections from: *The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912,*

Box 2 Folder 50 **Privately printed by George McCullough Anderson, Baltimore, Maryland, 1970**

Photocopy of the book housed in the Maryland Department MD XN6537 .V6 A67, including only those pictures contained in the collection housed in Special Collections

Folder 51 “Index to Confederate War Etchings” and reproductions

Processed by: Anita Carrico, February 2004