Fragmented and Fugitive: Illustration’s Afterlives in the Antebellum United States

Christina Michelon, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library
Decoupaged bandbox or “scrap box”
constructed c. 1829; decorated c. 1835
Old Sturbridge Village
Sturbridge, MA
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Rebus (top) with scrap box (bottom):
Rebus Advertisement for RC Sawdey &
Company, c. 1840
American Antiquarian Society
From the catalogue of the Boston Type and Stereotype Company, 1841, American Antiquarian Society.
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Ad in *The Charlotte Journal*, January 20, 1837

Ad in *The Charlotte Journal*, August 24, 1838
"This picture of a poor fugitive is from one of the stereotype cuts manufactured in this city for the southern market, and used on handbills offering rewards for runaway slaves."
"A Prostituted Press:

The printing press, every where the terror of tyrants and the palladium of liberty, basely lends its light to help the oppressor, by the innumerable hand bills and advertisements it throws over the country to insure the capture of the fugitive."

A PRINTING PRESS DEMOLISHED AT SLAVERY'S BIDDING,

The people of the free states have attacked "the tyrant's foe, and the people's friend,"—Oct. 1835, at Utica, July 1836, at Cincinnati, O., Aug. 1837 at Alton, Ill. and finally shot E. P. Lovejoy, because he would not basely surrender "THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS, THE PALLADIUM OF ALL OUR LIBERTIES."

The American Anti-Slavery Almanac for 1839
(New York & Boston: Published by the American Anti-Slavery Society, 1838). Winterthur Library.
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Specimen page of cast, type metal ornaments
Robb & Ecklin, *Specimen of Printing Types*
Philadelphia, 1836
American Antiquarian Society
Specimen page of cast, type metal ornaments
L. Johnson, *Specimens of Printing Types*, 1840
Newberry Library
JOINED with fiends, on murder bent,
Our homes to fire his base intent;
He thought to set our negroes free;
Notorious rebel, where is he?
Blasted for eternity!
Removed to where the wicked go;
O! may his friends but follow so;
With all his crimes upon his head,
Now sleeps he cursed among the dead.

Robert Blackwell, *Original acrostics on all the states and presidents of the United States, and various other subjects, religious, political, and personal* (Nashville, Tenn.: 1861). Duke University Libraries.
This gentleman was once a soldier, he now sells pictures and prefers to carry them in this peculiar way. He has good success and supports his family in good style.
“Ran away, Glenn Ligon. He’s a shortish, broad-shouldered black man, pretty dark-skinned, with glasses. Kind of stocky, tends to look down and turn in when he walks. Real short hair, almost none. Clothes non-descript, something button-down and plaid, maybe, and shorts and sandals. Wide lower face and narrow upper face. Nice teeth.”

I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background. I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background. I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background. I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background.

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