In his oil paintings, watercolors, drawings, and prints, Allan Rohan Crite (1910-2007) recorded the people, architecture, and daily life of African-Americans in Boston's South End/Roxbury neighborhoods in the 1930s and 1940s. A lifelong member of the Episcopal Church, he was also renowned for his liturgical art that dealt with a variety of religious themes. Some reviewers add a third category for Crite’s work depicting Negro spirituals. During the 1930s, Crite worked under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration and, in the early 1940s, began a 30-year career as a technical illustrator for the Department of the Navy.

In May 2004, the Virginia Theological Seminary awarded Crite the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*. The Bishop Payne Library contains a number of his artworks, as well as an oral history interview.

**Artworks Displayed in Public Areas of the Bishop Payne Library**

*In the Beginning.* By Allan Rohan Crite.
Lithograph. 8” x 10.25”. Purchased for $3650 (in a lot with *Glory to God on High*) from the Swann Galleries by the Bishop Payne Library in July 2007.
*Location: Temporarily removed from display. Consult staff to view.*

*Glory to God on High.* By Allan Rohan Crite.
Lithograph. 10.5” x 15.5”. Purchased for $3650 (in a lot with *In the Beginning*) from the Swann Galleries by the Bishop Payne Library in July 2007.
*Location: Temporarily removed from display. Consult staff to view.*

*Allan Rohan Crite: Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Celebration and Exhibition, 1985.*
Poster with a reproduction of a 1945 Crite artwork that includes the words “Alleluia. Unto us a Child is born. O come let us adore him. Alleluia,” picturing a Madonna and

Location: Hanging in the Reference Area, Main Floor of BPL.

Books Available in Open Stacks (Listed Chronologically)

Book containing artworks by Crite, illustrating the Eucharistic prayer of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

*Call Number: N8054.C934 1947*

Book containing artworks by Crite, illustrating the spirituals *Nobody Knows the Trouble I See, Heaven*, and *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*.

*Call Number: N8150.T531 1948*

Book containing artworks by Crite.

*Call Number: N8053.C934 1969*

Book containing artworks by Crite.

*Call Number: BX5918.M4 E64*

Book containing artworks by Crite.

*Call Number: N6538.N5 P44 1992*

Reference work with entry on Crite.

*Call Number: BPL Reference E185.96.W629 1999 12th ed.*

Published in conjunction with the May 2001 exhibition at the Frye Art Museum, this catalogue presents 53 color reproductions of the work of artist Allan Rohan Crite, whose paintings illustrate everyday activities.

_Call Number: N6537.C75 A4 2001_

## Materials Requiring Assistance from Library Staff

### Artworks Requiring Assistance from Library Staff (Listed Chronologically)

#### The Annunciation. By Allan Rohan Crite.
Diptych linoleum cut, hand colored with watercolor and gold leaf, circa 1947. 6.25” x 9”. Purchased from the Swann Galleries for $1480 by the Bishop Payne Library in October 2010.

_Location: Hanging in Archives Reading Room, Lower Level of BPL. To view, ask BPL staff._

#### Untitled. By Allan Rohan Crite.
Notecard with a print of an artwork on the cover, depicting a mother, father, and child, 1956. 4.25” x 5”. Gift of Dr. Linda A Chisholm, February 2014.

_Location: BPL Archives, RG A24 Allan Rohan Crite Collection._

#### The Presentation. By Allan Rohan Crite.

_Location: Hanging in Archives Reading Room, Lower Level of BPL. To view, ask BPL staff._

#### Allan Rohan Crite Self-Portrait. By Allan Rohan Crite.
Pen and ink and watercolor, 1977. 8.5” x 11”. Gift of Dr. Linda A. Chisholm, October 2006.

_Location: BPL Archives, RG A24 Allan Rohan Crite Collection._

_On-line Finding Aid:_
http://www.vts.edu/ftpimages/95/download/RGA24CriteFindingAid.pdf

#### African American Woman Presenting Newborn Child to Friends. By Allan Rohan Crite.
Pen and ink drawing, 1977. 8.5” x 14”. Gift of Dr. Linda A. Chisholm, October 2007.

_Location: BPL Archives, RG A24 Allan Rohan Crite Collection._

#### The Subway Train. By Allan Rohan Crite.
Pen and ink drawing, 1977. 8.5” x 14”. Gift of Dr. Linda A. Chisholm, October 2007.

_Location: BPL Archives, RG A24 Allan Rohan Crite Collection._

#### Riders on a Subway Train. By Allan Rohan Crite.
Pen and ink drawing, 1977. 8.5” x 14”. Gift of Dr. Linda A. Chisholm, October 2007.

_Location: BPL Archives, RG A24 Allan Rohan Crite Collection._
An Impression of an Exhibition, National Center of Afro-American Artists. By Allan Rohan Crite.

Untitled. By Allan Rohan Crite.
Print of a painting, depicting a marching band on a city street, 1985? Approximately 17” x 24”. Gift of Dr. Linda A. Chisholm, February 2014. Location: BPL Archives, RG A24 Allan Rohan Crite Collection, AAEHC Flat File.

Published Materials Requiring Assistance from Library Staff (Listed Chronologically)

Book containing artworks by Crite.
Location: BPL Circulation Desk—Rare N8054 .C934 1947

A series of drawings from the liturgy of Holy Week, with texts from the Psalms and the Prophets.
Location: BPL Circulation Desk—Rare Pamphlets N8052.4.C934 1948

Crite, Allan Rohan. Towards a Rediscovery of the Cultural Heritage of the United States.
Booklet with Crite artwork on the cover. Gift of Dr. Linda A. Chisholm, February 2014.
Location: BPL Circulation Desk—Rare Pamphlets E169.1 .C934 1968

Location: BPL Circulation Desk—Rare F73.9.N4 C75 1977

Pamphlet containing artworks by Crite.
Location: BPL Circulation Desk—Pamphlets PAM 1977 189

An important African American visualization of the Apocalypse, this limited edition printing of the Revelation of St. John is accompanied by 15 hand-printed relief engravings on Japanese Kitakata paper and mounted on handmade Magnani paper from

Location: BPL Circulation Desk—Rare Folio BS2823 1995

Archival Material

Allan Rohan Crite Oral History Transcript.
A 64-page transcription of two oral history interviews with Allan Rohan Crite, conducted on June 1, 1977 by Linda Chisholm for the Oral History Collection at Columbia University.

On-line Finding Aid:
http://www.vts.edu/ftpimages/95/download/RGA13CriteOHFindingAid.pdf