

Records of the Children's Authors and Illustrators Collection, 1957-1978



Original illustration and note from George and The Reys
by H.A. Rey, 1977

Overview of the Collection

- Title:** Records of the Children's Authors and Illustrators Collection, 1957-1978
- Creator:** Plainfield Public Library's Children's Department
- Size:** 5.5 linear feet, comprised of:
One (1) records storage box
One (1) newspaper box
Six (6) framed drawings (on shelf)
- Repository:** Plainfield Public Library, Local History Department, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
- Abstract:** The Records of the Children's Authors and Illustrators Collection document the Plainfield Public Library's Children Department's Summer Reading Club of 1969 and the Book Festivals of 1971 and 1977. The collection includes a variety of paper material including manuscripts, original illustrations, letters, book jackets, galley pages, folded & gathered pages, bookmarks, book lists, photographs, and ephemera. Most of the materials are signed by the authors and illustrators who created them.
- Language:** The records are predominately in English.

Historical Information

The collection was created by Plainfield Public Library's Principal Children's Librarian, Mrs. O'Celia Ragland Nevels. Mrs. Nevels was a dynamic and energetic librarian, who wanted to provide her young patrons with a deeper insight into the books they were reading. She wrote letters to numerous children's authors and illustrators asking for personal items that could be displayed for the Library's 1969 Summer Reading Club and the 1971 and 1977 Book Festivals. Many items were received, most of which are original and one-of-a-kind writings and

illustrations. Mrs. Nevels worked for the Library for twenty-five years before retiring in 1980. She passed away in 2007 at the age of 94.

Scope and Contents

The Records of the Children's Authors and Illustrators Collection document the Children's Department's Summer Reading Club of 1969 and the Book Festivals of 1971 and 1977. The collection includes a variety of paper material including manuscripts, original illustrations, letters, book jackets, galley pages, folded & gathered (F&G) pages, bookmarks, book lists, photographs, and ephemera. Most of the materials are signed by the authors and illustrators who created them, and many are unique and original works.

This audience for this collection includes scholars and researchers in the area of children's literature as well as children of all ages, librarians, teachers, parents, and caregivers who work with children.

Arrangement

The Records of the Children's Authors and Illustrators Collection are arranged into two series:

Series 1: Administrative Records

Series 2: Authors and Illustrators (by surname)

Index Terms

People:

Batherman, Muriel
 Berson, Harold
 Bierhorst, John
 Bontemps, Arna
 Brandenburg, Alik
 Branley, Franklin M.
 Broder, Bill
 Bulla, Clyde Robert
 Carrol, Ruth
 Ciardi, John
 Cleary, Beverly
 Coatsworth, Elizabeth
 Cole, Joanna
 De Paola, Tomie
 Devlin, Harry
 Devlin, Wende
 Duvoisin, Roger
 Elting, Mary
 Emberley, Barbara
 Emberley, Ed
 Feelings, Tom
 Folsom, Franklin
 Freeman, Don
 Fritz, Jean

Furman, Victoria
Galdone, Paul
Graham, Margaret Bloy
Grifalconi, Ann
Haber, Louis
Haugaard, E.C. (Erik Christian)
Henry, Marguerite
Herman, Vic
Hine, Sesyle Joslin
Hoff, Syd
Holdsworth, William Curtis
Jarrell, Randall
Johnson, Milton
Keats, Ezra Jack
Kuskin, Karla
Lenski, Lois
Macaulay, David
Marshall, Jim
McCaffery, Anne
McClung, Robert M.
McPhail, David
Nevels, O'Celia R.
Rey, H.A.
Rice, Eve
Rojankovsky, Feodor
Rose, Anne
Ryder, Joanne
Scarry, Richard
Seredy, Kate
Slobodkin, Florence
Slobodkin, Louis
Steig, William
Stone, Helen
Stuart, Jesse
Syme, Ronald
Tanobi, Miyuki
Thayer, Jane
Van Liew Foster, Doris
Van Woerkom, Dorothy
Waber, Bernard
Walsh, Jill Paton
Ward, Lynd
Warner, Lucille Schulberg
Winter, Paula
Wohlberg, Meg
Wooley, Catherine
Worth, Valerie (Mrs. George W. Bahlke)
Yates, Elizabeth
Zemach, Margot
Zion, Gene

Organizations:

Plainfield Public Library (Plainfield, N.J.)

Places:

Plainfield (N.J.)

Subjects:

Authors
Children's books
Illustrated children's books
Illustrated books
Illustrators

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection consists of paper documents that do not require any additional technology for access.

Series Description

Series 1: Administrative Records [1968, 1977, undated]

Series Description

Series 1 contains records maintained by Mrs. O'Celia R. Nevels to help her coordinate the Book Festivals and Summer Reading Club. It includes letters to embassies and consulates asking for translations of the phrase "Go Places with Books," address list for authors, posters, and a letter to Mrs. Nevels from a teacher and her class. It is composed solely of paper documents that are typed and handwritten.

Arrangement

Series 1 is arranged alphabetically and by date, and fills two folders.

Series 2: Authors and Illustrators [1957-1978]



Series Description

Series 2 contains letters, doodles, sketches, fine art prints, illustrations and other artwork, handwritten and typed manuscripts, galley pages, folded & gathered pages (F&Gs), book jackets, bookmarks, author's book lists, author biographies, author newsletters, personal and press photographs, and ephemera. It is composed solely of paper documents and photographs. Documents are typed and handwritten.

Note: In the publishing industry, F&G stands for "folded & gathered," which is a complete printed book (a stack of signatures) that has not yet been trimmed to size and that has not yet been bound into the hardcover casing.

[Above image: Original drawing of Corduroy and Lisa by Don Freeman, 1971]

Arrangement

Series 1 is arranged alphabetically by author and illustrator last name, and fills two boxes.

Administrative Information

Access & Restrictions

The Records of the Children's Authors and Illustrators Collection are available for research.

Access is restricted to materials prepared by the Local History department staff. All materials must be viewed in the Plainfield Room and may not be removed to another area of the library without permission of the Library Director or designee. Materials must be handled carefully and kept in order. Materials must not be leaned upon, altered, folded, ripped, or traced upon. Marks may not be added or erased from materials. Materials must be returned directly to Local History department staff and inspected before the researcher leaves the Plainfield Room.

One photocopy may be made (by Plainfield Public Library staff) of each document for the purpose of research; official Local History departmental reproduction fees may apply. Permission to publish must be obtained by the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees as delegated to the Library Director. Permission to publish does not constitute a copyright clearance. The researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions. The Plainfield Public Library is not responsible for the misuse of copyrighted material.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item; Date (if noted); "Records of the Children's Authors and Illustrators Collection", Box and Folder Number, Local History Department, Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, New Jersey.

Acquisition Information

The collection was maintained by the Plainfield Public Library since its creation in 1969 by Library employee, Mrs. O'Celia R. Nevels.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Sarah Hull in 2009. The finding aid was written and encoded by Sarah Hull in 2009, revised in 2014, and again in 2025 by Sally Weiner. Finding aid content follows the guidelines suggested by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Administrative Records [1968, 1977, undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
1	1	Administrative file: inventory, address list, letter	1977, undated

	2	Go Places with Books: letters from consulates and embassies with translations	1968
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Series 2: Authors and Illustrators [1957-1978, undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
1	3	Batherman, Muriel: letter	1977
	4	Bierhost, John: letter, page proofs, book jacket for "The Red Swan"	undated
	5	Bontemps, Arna: booklist, photo, biography	1965
	6	Brandenberg, Alik: letter, sketches, thumbnails, preliminary sketches for "At Mary Bloom's"	1977
	7	Branley, Franklin M.: postcard	1969
	8	Broder, Bill: letter, copy of calendar backs	1977
	9	Bulla, Clyde Robert: letter, postcard with booklist	1965
	10	Carrol, Ruth: original manuscript (handmade book) for "The Chimp and the Clown"	1965
	11	Ciardi, John: letter	1965
	12	Clearly, Beverly: signed photo, book jackets, brochures	undated
	13	Coatsworth, Elizabeth: signed photo, book jacket, printed note in Spanish	undated
	14	Cole, Joanna: letter, edited manuscript	1977
	15	Devlin, Harry & Wende: book jackets, biographies, letter from Parents' Magazine Press	1971
	16	Duvoisin, Roger: signed photo, bookmarks, F&G of "It's Time Now" and "Le Meunier," original illustration for "Petunia and the Song," signed book jackets	1971
	17	Elting, Mary: letter, typed manuscript pages of "Spacecraft at Work"	undated
	18	Emberley, Ed: biography, woodcut images on pamphlets	c. 1968
	19	Feelings, Tom: text and illustration from "To Be a Slave"	1968
	20	Folsom, Franklin and Mary Elting: letter, booklist	1965
	21	Freeman, Don: book jacket for "The Guard Mouse"	undated
	22	Fritz, Jean (SEE ALSO: Lynd Ward): letters, photo, illustration, bookmark, biographies, booklist, reprints of "The Horn Book" and "How to Read a Rabbit," book jacket, map from "Early Thunder"	1965
	23	Furman, Victoria: letter, photos, book jackets, articles	1971
	24	Galdone, Paul: bookmarks, biographical pamphlet, booklist, illustrations, F&G of "Grandmother and I"	undated
	25	Haber, Louis: letter, envelope, copy of National Archives letter	1971
	26	Haugaard, E.C. (Erik Christian) and Milton Johnson, illustrator: signed photo, illustrations, stories, book jacket, galleys	undated
	27	Henry, Marguerite: photo, envelope, newsletters	1965
	28	Herman, Vic: letter, reprints, book cover, articles	1976-1977
	29	Hine, Sesyle Joslin: letter, galleys of "Baby Elephant's Trunk"	1965
	30	Hoff, Syd: signed illustration of "Danny and the Dinosaur," book jacket	undated
	31	Holdsworth, William: book jackets, photo, letter from publisher	undated
	32	Jarrell, Randall: card from Mary Jarrell with drawing by Randall, copy of letter from Randall to Maurice Sendak	1963
	33	Keats, Ezra Jack: letter, photo, biography, article, F&G of "Hi, Cat!" and "The Snowy Day"	1971
	34	Kuskin, Karla: letters, one with illustration	1977

	35	Lenski, Lois: letter, photo, bio booklet, booklist	1965
	36	Marshall, Jim: letter, preliminary sketches for "Bonzini: the Tattooed Man"	1977
	37	McCaffrey, Anne: letters, unsigned cards, book jackets, photos	1965
	38	McClung, Robert M.: letter with illustrations, F&G of "Spotted Salamander" and "Ladybug"	1965
	39	McPhail, David: illustration from "Sailing to Cythera"	undated
	40	Rey, H.A.: original illustrated note from George and the Reys with illustrated envelope, photo with note, little book covers	1967
	41	Rice, Eve: card with original artwork, envelope	1977
	42	Rojankovsky, Feodor: signed matted print	undated
	43	Rose, Anne: letters, print of "As Right as Right Can Be," greeting card with illustration for "How Does a Czar Eat Potatoes?"	1977
	44	Ryder, Joanne: cards, edited copy and F&G of "Simon Underground"	undated
	45	Seredy, Kate: biography	undated
	46	Slobodkin, Louis and Florence: letter	1965
	47	Steig, William: letter from publisher	1977
	48	Stuart, Jesse: signed biographical publications, booklist, poster with bio, copies of letter about "Old Ben," envelope	1971
	49	Syme, Ronald: typed manuscript of "Bolivar" with biography	c. 1968
	50	Thayer, Jane and Meg Wohlberg: F&G of "Andy and the Runaway Horse"	undated
	51	Van Liew Foster, Doris and Helen Stone: F&G of "Tell Me Mr. Owl"	1957
	52	Van Woerkom, Dorothy: letters, manuscript copy and F&G of "Meat Pies and Sausages," memo	1977
	53	Waber, Bernard: letter with illustration of Lyle Lyle Crocodile	1971
	54	Walsh, Jill Paton: letters, photos that inspired "Goldengrove" and "Unleaving"	1977
	55	Ward, Lynd: letter, article reprint, lithography of rabbits	1965
	56	Warner, Lucille Schulberg: letter	1977
	57	Winter, Paula: portrait photo	undated
	58	Woolley, Catherine: letter, brochures, book jacket	1971
	59	Worth, Valerie (Mrs. George W. Bahlke): letter, poem manuscript of "Caterpillar"	1977
	60	Yates, Elizabeth: booklist, addresses, bio poster	undated
	61	Zemach, Margot: illustrations from "Alone in the Wild Forest"	1971
2		Poster for "Children's Book Showcase" with illustration by Maurice Sendak	undated
		Berson, Harold: signed illustration from "The Boy, The Baker, The Miller, and More"	undated
		Carroll, Ruth: signed original illustration for "Tough Enough's Pony"	1970s
		De Paola, Tomie: signed print from "The Clown of God"	1978
		Duvoisin, Roger: signed proof page with handwritten note for "What is Right for Tulip" (SEE ALSO: framed Petunia drawings)	1969, 1971
		Emberley, Barbara and Ed: poster for "Drummer Hoff"	1968
		Emberley, Ed: signed marker drawings of bird with welcome sign and "Plainfield Public Library Book-O-Rama" (SEE ALSO: framed drawings of Lion, Owl, Dancing Alligator, Rooster)	undated

		Freeman, Don: signed sketches for "Corduroy" and "A Rainbow of My Own"	1971
		Fritz, Jean: signed print from "Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams"	1976
		Grifalconi, Ann: "Book Power" poster	1969
		Kuskin, Karla: uncorrected color proof for "A Boy Had a Mother Who Bought Him a Hat"	undated
		Macaulay, David: signed oversized prints for "Underground," "Castle," "City," "Pyramid"	undated
		McClung, Robert M.: book cover for "Lost Wild America"	undated
		Rey, H.A.: book jacket/poster for "The Stars," signed original illustration of Curious George (see image at top)	1971, undated
		Rose, Anne: book jacket for "Refugee"	undated
		Scarry, Richard: thumbnail pencil sketches, signed preliminary sketches for "Busy, Busy World"	1965
		Slobodkin, Louis and Florence: F&G of "The Cowboy Twins" (1960 copyright)	1965
		Tanobe, Miyuki: signed matted repro print	undated
		Tripp, Wallace: signed print from "Pleasant Fieldmouse's Halloween Party"	1974
		Waber, Bernard: galleys for "A Chick Hatches" and "A Firefly Named Torchy," signed matted pen sketch for "Lovable Lyle," signed pen sketch of Lyle Lyle Crocodile	1971
		Zion, Gene and Margaret Bloy Graham: book jacket for "Really Spring"	undated