

Marcia Brown papers, 1969
FLP.CLRC.BROWN

Finding aid prepared by Garrett Boos

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection
February 2012
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Philadelphia, PA, 19103
215-686-5370

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Summary Information

Repository	Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection
Creator	Brown, Marcia
Title	Marcia Brown papers
Date	circa 1969
Extent	0.83 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Marcia Brown is an author and illustrator known for her children's books and illustrated folktales. The collection consists of dummies, an original print, and a carved wood block for <i>How, Hippo!</i> (1969).

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Marcia Brown papers, circa 1969, Free Library of Philadelphia, Children's Literature Research Collection.

Biographical/Historical note

Marcia Brown was born on July 13, 1918, in Rochester, New York. She studied painting, set design, puppetry, and printmaking at various schools, graduating from New York College for Teachers (now SUNY Albany) in 1940. For six years, Brown worked in the children's department at the New York Public Library, reinforcing her desire to make picture books. She published her first book, *The Little Carousel*, in 1946 while working at the library.

Brown's first award was Caldecott Honors for *Stone Soup* (1948), an old folktale Brown retold and illustrated. She won the Caldecott Medal three times, and received Caldecott Honors a total of six times. She also received the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, for *Once a Mouse...* (1961), and her book *How, Hippo!* (1969), the story of a baby hippo and a crocodile, was an American Library Association Notable Book.

Brown illustrated more than thirty books, most of which she either wrote or adapted. She loves folklore and illustrated a number of classic tales from around the world, including *Puss in Boots* (1952), *Anasi, the Spider Man* (1954), and *The Flying Carpet* (1956). Throughout her career, Brown used a wide variety of media, although her most distinctive illustrations are her colored woodblocks. In 1986, Brown published *Lotus Seeds: Children, Pictures, and Books*, a compilation of her essays and speeches, and her only book for adults. She lives on the West Coast.

Bibliography:

Heffernan, Mary Ann. "Marcia Brown." In *American Writers for Children Since 1960: Poets, Illustrators, and Nonfiction Authors*, edited by Glenn Estes. Detroit: Gale Research, 1987.

Something About the Author, vol. 47.

Scope and Contents note

The Marcia Brown papers consist of material for the book *How, Hippo!* (1969). The collection includes two illustrated dummies, a signed original woodblock print, and a carved wood block.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged in probable order of creation. It is housed in the same box as the Emma L. Brock notes and illustrations, the Louise Lee and Richard Floethe papers, and Joseph Rous Paget-Fredericks dummy.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection February 2012

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open to researchers by appointment; please contact the Curator for information.

Conditions Governing Use note

The right of access to material does not imply the right of publication. Permission for reprinting, reproduction, or extensive quotation from the rare books, manuscripts, prints, or drawings must be obtained through written application, stating the use to be made of the material. The reader bears the responsibility for any possible infringement of copyright laws in the publication of such material. A reproduction fee will be charged if the material is to be reproduced in a commercial publication.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Marcia Brown, 1977.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

University at Albany, State University of New York: Marcia J. Brown Papers, 1940-2000, MSS-005.

University of Minnesota: Marcia Brown Papers, 1950-1961, CLRC-8.

University of Southern Mississippi: Marcia Brown Papers, 1946-1972, DG0123.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Dummies (printed matter)
- Woodcuts (prints)

Personal Name(s)

- Brown, Marcia

Subject(s)

- Children's authors--20th century
- Children's literature--20th century
- Illustrated children's books--20th century
- Illustration of books--20th century

Collection Inventory

How, Hippo! 1969

Object

Wood block of mother and child hippo for an unused illustration

1

General note

Housed with Children's Literature Research Collection original framed artwork.

Scope and Contents note

Woodblock is signed by Marcia Brown. Housed with Children's Literature Research Collection original framed artwork.

Box

Folder

Earlier dummy, collage, graphite, marker, relief printing, and watercolor on paper, 21 sheets

1

1

Scope and Contents note

Annotated and inscribed to the Free Library of Philadelphia by Marcia Brown on cover.

Later dummy, graphite, marker, relief printing, and watercolor on tissue paper mounted to paper with text pasted in, 31 sheets

1

2

Scope and Contents note

How, Hippo!

Annotated and inscribed to the Free Library of Philadelphia by Marcia Brown on cover. Interior cover contains chart of illustration details. Back cover includes cut ends of prints taped in. Interior text is sometimes pasted to illustration page, sometimes pasted to insert. Sheet count includes text inserts.

Object

2

Illustration for half-title page, relief print on paper

General note

Housed with Children's Literature Research Collection original framed artwork.

Scope and Contents note

Inscribed to the Free Library of Philadelphia by the author.

Final art for page 32, relief printing, and watercolor on paper

3

General note

Housed with Children's Literature Research Collection original framed artwork.