

Louise Lee and Richard Floethe papers, 1956
FLP.CLRC.FLOETHE

Finding aid prepared by Garrett Boos

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection

April 2012

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Summary Information

Repository	Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection
Creator	Floethe, Louise Lee
Creator	Floethe, Richard
Title	Louise Lee and Richard Floethe papers
Date	1956
Extent	0.2 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	This collection contains one dummy and one piece of preliminary artwork for <i>If I Were Captain</i> , written by Louise Lee and illustrated by Richard Floethe. <i>If I Were Captain</i> was the first book on which the couple collaborated and was chosen as a Junior Literary Guild Selection.

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Louise Lee and Richard Floethe papers, 1956, Free Library of Philadelphia, Children's Literature Research Collection.

Biographical/Historical note

Richard Floethe was born in Essen, Germany on September 2, 1901. He studied art at various schools in Germany, including the Munich State School, the Dortmund Art School, and the Bauhaus in Weimar. After completing a mural for the International Exposition in Cologne, Germany he immigrated to the United States in 1928. Once in America he worked as an industrial designer, book illustrator, and from 1936-1939, as the art director of the New York City poster division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) art projects. Floethe later taught at The Cooper Union in New York City and at the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida.

Louise Lee was born on March 13, 1913 in New York City. She studied drama at Columbia University and the Neighborhood Playhouse Studios. Louise and Richard married in 1937, at which time she was already an accomplished children's author. After their marriage they began to collaborate on children's books, publishing their first book together, *If I Were Captain*, in 1956. *If I Were Captain* was chosen as a Junior Literary Guild Selection. They traveled around the world and often went sailing in their yacht. These experiences heavily influenced their work, which often explored different cultures and maritime activities. Richard designed or illustrated over a hundred books, including twenty-three written by Louise.

Richard won the limited Editions Club International Contest for best illustrated books for *Tyl Ulenspiegel* (1935) and for *Pinocchio* (1938). He also won the Limited Edition Club, American Institute Graphic Arts award for *English is Our Language* (1950). As their son Ronald began to make educational films, Louise wrote the film scripts and assisted with editing. She won the Birmingham Educational Film Festival award and the Golden Babe award from the Chicagoland Film Festival, both for "The Beekeeper" (1976). Louise Floethe died on August 6 and Richard Floethe on September 30, 1988, in Sarasota, Florida.

Bibliography

Falk, Peter Hastings. *Who Was Who in American Art, 1564-1975: 400 years of Artists in America*. Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1999.

"Louise Lee Floethe (1913-1988)," *Contemporary Authors*.

"Richard Floethe," RichardFloethe.com, accessed January 5, 2012, http://www.richardfloethe.com/About_Artist.html.

"Richard Floethe (1901-1988)," *Contemporary Authors*.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains a dummy and one piece of preliminary artwork for Louise and Richard Floethe's book *If I Were Captain*.

Arrangement note

It is housed in the same box as the Marcia Brown papers, the Emma L. Brock notes and illustrations, and the Joseph Rous Paget-Fredericks dummy.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open to researchers by appointment. Please contact the Curator for information on access.

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. Some of the materials in this collection may be too fragile for use without the Curator's supervision.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Richard Floethe, 1968.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

University of Minnesota: Richard Floethe papers, 1937-1971, CLRC-977.

University of Minnesota: Louise Lee Floethe papers, 1958-1970, CLRC-978.

University of Oregon: Louise Lee and Richard Floethe Papers, 1962-1984, AX 447.

University of Southern Mississippi: Louise Lee and Richard Floethe papers, 1960-1979, DG02090.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Dummies (printed matter)
- Illustrations
- Watercolors (paintings)

Personal Name(s)

- Floethe, Louise Lee
- Floethe, Richard

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

If I Were Captain 1956

	Object
Preliminary art for pages 25-26, pen and ink and watercolor on paper	1
General note	
Housed with Children's Literature Research Collection original framed artwork.	

	Box	Folder
Dummy, pen and ink and watercolor illustrations with text pasted in, 38 pages	1	3