



## **Frank Murphy Collection**

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Finding aid written in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection

Children's Literature Research Collection  
1901 Vine Street  
Philadelphia, PA, 19103

[CLRC@FreeLibrary.org](mailto:CLRC@FreeLibrary.org)  
<http://www.freelibrary/clrc>

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## Summary Information

**Repository:** Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection

**Creator:** Murphy, Frank, 1966-

**Creator:** Walz, Richard

**Creator:** Mallory Loehr

**Title:** Frank Murphy Collection

**Identifier:** FLP.CLRC.MURPHY.FRANK

**Date:** 2000

**Physical Description:** 2 Linear feet

## Abstract

This collection contains the dummy, typescripts, and examples of final artwork for the 2001 children's book *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*, written by Frank Murphy and illustrated by Richard Walz. Also included a few pieces of correspondence between Murphy and Mallory Loehr of Random House Children's Books.

## Conditions Governing Access note

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

## Provenance

Unless otherwise noted, the materials in this collection are a gift of Frank Murphy, 2017.

## Arrangement Note

This collection is arranged in two contains. The dummy, typescripts and correspondence are housed in chronological order; the final artwork is foldered in the order they appear in the published version of *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*.

## Biographical/Historical note

Frank Murphy is a teacher for Council Rock School District in Holland, PA and a successful children's book author of historical fiction/biography books for young readers. Many of Murphy's books have been produced under Random House's "Step into Reading" History Readers series. In 2001, he published *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*, a book that explored Franklin's fascination with the recreational mathematics activity known as a "Magic Square."

In 2006, Murphy's book *Babe Ruth Saves Baseball* received the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Gold Award; the book was included in the Intermediate Section of the "Easy-to-Read Books" booklist in the 2006 publication of Oppenheim Toy Portfolio's *The Best Toys, Books, DVDs & Music for Kids*.

## Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Frank Murphy Collection, Free Library of Philadelphia, Children's Literature Research Collection.

## Scope and Contents note

The Frank Murphy Collection include the dummy and two typescripts for *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares* as well as two pieces of final art created for the published book by Richard Walz. Brief correspondence between Murphy and Mallory Loehr of Random House Children's Books is also included.

## Conditions Governing Use note

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## Administrative Information

### Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Children's authors -- 21st century
- Children's literature--21st century
- Dummies (printed matter)
- Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790
- Illustrated children's books -- 21st century
- Manuscripts
- Typescripts

## Collection Inventory

Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares, Circa 1999-2001

Ben Franklin's Most Magically Magical Magic Square [Dummy for Ben Franklin and the Magic Square], 1999

Box 1; Folder 1 (Graphic Materials)

Typescript, 2000

Box 1; Folder 2 (Text)

Revised Typescript, 2000

Box 1; Folder 3 (Text)

Correspondence with Mallory Loehr, 2000-2001

Box 1; Folder 4 (Text)

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin? [Murphy Personal Copy], circa 1996

Box 1; Folder 5 (Books)

**Physical Description:** Copy includes personalization on the title page: "To Griffin and Chase -- Best Wishes, Jean Fritz"

Post-it note attached to title page. Written in red ink: "Griffin and Chase"

2001 Paperback Edition [Murphy Personal Copy], 2001

Box 1; Folder 6 (Books)

**Physical Description:** Copy is inscribed on title page: Frank Murphy / March 2001 / [Drawing of a bolt of lightning]

2003 Paperback Edition [Murphy Personal Copy], 2003

Box 1; Folder 7 (Books)

Benjamin Franklin et les Carres Magiques [Murphy Personal Copy], 2011

Box 1; Folder 8 (Books)

Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares - Pg. 24-25 [Final Artwork], circa 2000

Map-case 2; Drawer 6; Folder 3 (Graphic Materials)

**Identifier:** clrc000762

Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares - Pg. 44-45 [Final Artwork], circa 2000

Map-case 2; Drawer 6; Folder 4 (Graphic Materials)

**Identifier:** clrc000763

Babe Ruth Saves Baseball!, 2005

Babe Ruth Saves Baseball! [Murphy Personal Copy], 2005

Box 1; Folder 9 (Books)

