

Elizabeth Olds papers, 1945-1963

FLP.CLRC.OLDS

Finding aid prepared by Lindsay Friedman

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection
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Summary Information

Repository	Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection
Creator - Artist	Olds, Elizabeth, 1896-1991
Title	Elizabeth Olds papers
Date [inclusive]	1945-1963
Extent	3.36 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	This collection consists of preliminary artwork, dummies, mechanicals, wood blocks, and proofs for the books <i>Little Una</i> (1963) and <i>Plop, Plop, Ploppie</i> (1962) by children's author and illustrator Elizabeth Olds (1896-1991). There is also a screen print of <i>Three Alarm Fire</i> , which was the basis for the book <i>The Big Fire</i> (1945).

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Elizabeth Olds papers, 1945-1963, Free Library of Philadelphia, Children's Literature Research Collection.

Biographical/Historical note

Elizabeth Olds was born on December 10, 1896 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She studied at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Institute of Art, and the Art Students League of New York. She also studied painting in Europe and was the first woman to be awarded the Guggenheim fellowship in 1926. She was well-known as a painter and printmaker, and worked in the graphic division of the Federal Art Project in New York from 1935 to 1939. She was encouraged by a colleague to write and illustrate her first children's book, *The Big Fire* (1945), based on the print *Three Alarm Fire*. The illustrations from *The Big Fire* were featured in an exhibition of children's book illustrations at The Museum of Modern Art. Several of her books were based on her travels, including *Riding the Rails* (1948) about the railroad and *Feather Mountain* (1951) about shore birds. She received a Caldecott Honor for *Feather Mountain* in 1952. *Riding the Rails*, *Deep Treasure* (1958) and *Plop Plop Ploppie* (1962) were all Junior Literary Guild selections. She died on March 4, 1991 in Sarasota, Florida.

Bibliography

Something About the Author, vol. 3, 66.

Dictionary of Women Worldwide: 25,000 Women Through the Ages. 1st ed., s.v. "Olds, Elizabeth."

Scope and Contents note

This collection includes preliminary artwork, mechanicals, dummies, wood blocks, and proofs by Elizabeth Olds for the books *Little Una* (1963) and *Plop, Plop, Ploppie* (1962).

The collection also contains a large screen print, *Three Alarm Fire*, which inspired her book *The Big Fire* (1945).

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged alphabetically in three series: I. Little Una; II. Plop, Plop, Ploppie; and III. Three Alarm Fire.

Within each series, items are arranged in order of probable creation.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection

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 Elizabeth Olds, 1969-1970.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

University of Minnesota: Elizabeth Olds Papers, 1945-1958, CLRC-62.

University of Southern Mississippi: Elizabeth Olds Papers, 1945-1963, DG0745.

University of Texas at Austin: Emmett L. Hudspeth Collection of Elizabeth Olds, 1921-1986, undated, G2506, G10589.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Color proofs
- Color separations
- Dummies (printed matter)
- Mechanicals (camera-ready copy)
- Proofs (printed matter)
- Screen prints

Personal Name(s)

- Olds, Elizabeth, 1896-1991

Subject(s)

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

Little Una

Collection Inventory

Little Una 1963		
	Box	Folder
Earlier dummy, collage of cut paper, graphite, pen and ink, relief printing, and tempera on paper and tracing paper with text pasted in, 28 pages	1	1
		Box
Later dummy, graphite, pen and ink, relief printing, and watercolor on acetate and paper with text pasted in, 32 pages		3
	Box	Folder
Complete set of color separations, graphite, pen and ink, and relief print on tracing paper, 53 sheets	2	1-13
Blueline proofs	1	2
Complete set of mechanicals		
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	2	56
	Box	Folder
Text	1	3-8
Corrected color proofs		
	Box	Folder

Plop, Plop, Ploppie

Mixed materials	2	57
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	9-10

Plop, Plop, Ploppie 1962

	Box	Folder
Wood blocks of sea lions	1	11
Preliminary art, collage of cut paper, graphite, pen and ink, and relief printing on tracing paper mounted to paper with text pasted in, 30 sheets	2	14-37

Scope and Contents note

Complete set of preliminary artwork. Some pages include more than one version of the artwork.

Complete set of color separations, graphite, pen and ink, and relief print on tracing paper, 52 sheets	2	38-54
Lettering for book jacket, title page, and half title page, collage of cut paper and pen and ink on tracing paper mounted to board	2	55

Mechanicals, 5 sheets	1	12
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Scope and Contents note

Includes text for the book jacket and title page only.

Three Alarm Fire, screen print on paper

Corrected color proofs

1

13

***Three Alarm Fire*, screen print on paper circa 1945**

Object

1

General note

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