

Lucy Fitch Perkins papers, 1909-1964
FLP.CLRC.PERKINS

Finding aid prepared by Garrett Boos

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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	Perkins, Lucy Fitch, 1865-1937
Title	Lucy Fitch Perkins papers
Date [inclusive]	1909-1964
Extent	0.2 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	This is a small collection of material by and about children's author and illustrator Lucy Fitch Perkins (1865-1937). It contains correspondence, a manuscript draft of <i>The Dutch Twins</i> , and advertising material for "The Twins Series."

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Lucy Fitch Perkins papers, circa 1909-1964, Free Library of Philadelphia, Children's Literature Research Collection.

Biographical/Historical note

Lucy Fitch Perkins was born on July 12, 1865 in Maples, Indiana. She studied illustration at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, graduating in 1886. She then taught in Brooklyn, New York at the Pratt Institute from 1887 to 1891. In 1891 she married architect Dwight Heald Perkins, with whom she had two children, Eleanor Ellis in 1893 and Lawrence Bradford in 1907. She spent her early career as a book illustrator and editor. After a friend and publisher encouraged her to write her own books, she published *The Dutch Twins* (1911), the first of her "Twins of the World" series. The focus of the books was both geographical and historical. The protagonists were always a set of twins, usually a boy and a girl, shown in their country of origin. She was inspired by a trip to Ellis Island and hoped to promote an understanding of immigrants in the United States. She would go on to publish twenty-six books in the series. She died on March 18, 1937 before finishing *The Dutch Twins and Little Brother*. It was completed by her daughter and published a year later.

Bibliography

American Women Writers: A Critical Reference Guide from Colonial Times to the Present: A Critical Reference Guide from Colonial Times to the Present. 2nd ed., s.v. "Perkins, Lucy Fitch."

Something About the Author, vol. 72.

"Lucy Fitch Perkins," *Wikipedia*, accessed December 19, 2011, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucy_Fitch_Perkins.

Scope and Contents note

This is a small collection of material by and about children's author and illustrator Lucy Fitch Perkins (1865-1937). It contains correspondence, a manuscript draft of *The Dutch Twins*, and advertising material for "The Twins Series." The correspondence from Lucy Fitch Perkins to Edwin Osgood Grover concerns the writing and publication of *The Dutch Twins* and provides insight into how the book was formed. The correspondence between Lucy's daughter, Eleanor Ellis Perkins, and Edwin Osgood Grover concerns his memories of Lucy for use in Eleanor's biography of her mother, *Eve Among the Puritans: A Biography of Lucy Fitch Perkins*. It also contains two advertising booklets for "The Twins Series" and a note from Frances Grover that was added to the correspondence at a later date.

Arrangement note

The materials are arranged chronologically.

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.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

University of Minnesota: Lucy Fitch Perkins Collection, 1911-1934, CLRC-1734.

University of Virginia: Letters of Lucy Fitch Perkins, Accession #8191.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Drawings (visual works)
- Ephemera
- Manuscripts
- Sketches

Personal Name(s)

- Grover, Edwin Osgood, 1870-
- Grover, Frances
- Perkins, Eleanor Ellis, 1893-1969

Subject(s)

- Children's authors--20th century
- Children's literature--20th century

Collection Inventory

Box

1

Draft of *The Dutch Twins*, manuscript with illustrations, graphite on paper circa 1909-1910

Correspondence with Edwin Osgood Grover concerning *The Dutch Twins* 1910 January-August

	Box	Folder
Text	1	1

Correspondence between Eleanor Ellis Perkins and Edwin Osgood Grover concerning Lucy Fitch Perkins 1953-1964

	Box	Folder
Text	1	2

Scope and Contents note

Includes two enclosures, an advertising booklet on the "Twins" series (1926 or later) and an advertising booklet featuring biographical information about Perkins (circa 1916), sent by Grover to Eleanor Ellis Perkins. The last letter from Edwin Osgood Grover also bears a note added by Frances Grover in 1964.