

**E. (Elizabeth) MacKinstry
illustrations, circa 1900-1956
FLP.CLRC.MACKINSTRY**

Finding aid prepared by Lindsay Friedman

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection

April 2012

1901 Vine Street

Philadelphia, PA, 19103

215-686-5382

CLRC@FreeLibrary.org

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Summary Information

Repository	Free Library of Philadelphia: Children's Literature Research Collection
Creator	MacKinstry, E. (Elizabeth), 1879-1956
Title	E. (Elizabeth) MacKinstry illustrations
Date [inclusive]	circa 1900-1956
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	This collection consists of sketches, studies, and drawings by children's illustrator E. (Elizabeth) MacKinstry (1879-1956).

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], E. (Elizabeth) MacKinstry illustrations, circa 1900-1956, Free Library of Philadelphia, Children's Literature Research Collection.

Biographical/Historical note

E. (Elizabeth) MacKinstry was born in 1879 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Her family moved to Paris when she very young. There she began studying violin at age 7. She proved to be a musical prodigy and studied under famed violinist Eugène Ysaÿe, but her brief career as a violinist came to an end when she was a teenager due to tuberculosis of the spine. Afterwards her family returned to the United States and she began studying drawing and sculpture. She taught art at Albright Art School of the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy in Buffalo, New York from 1911-1913. In 1913 she published a book of poetry, *Helen's Mirror and Other Verses*, under the pseudonym Elizabeth Westerman, but she did not begin illustrating children's books until 1924 with *What Shall We Play?*, written by Edna Geister. This was followed in 1925 by the poetry collection *Puck in Pasture* (1925), which she both wrote and illustrated. Many of Mackinstry's illustrations were done for anthologies of fairy tales, including *The White Cat, and Other Old French Fairy Tales* (1928) and *Anderson's Fairy Tales* (1933). She died on May 13, 1956 in Lenox, Massachusetts. In 1957, she was honored with a memorial exhibit of her work at the Central Children's Room of the New York Public Library.

Bibliography

Something About the Author, vol. 42.

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists of three bound volumes and four sets of drawings and studies by children's illustrator E. (Elizabeth) MacKinstry (1879-1956). Subjects range from figure drawings to copies of famous artworks to demonstrations of various artistic techniques. Many of the artworks feature religious or literary themes, including illustrations by MacKinstry for *The Hobbit*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Richard III*, and others. There are also designs for stage sets and costumes for Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*. MacKinstry was a skilled and versatile artist who mastered many styles, from classical to Cubist, all represented in this collection.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by title.

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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Florence Brooks, 1960.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Yale University: Elizabeth MacKinstry Papers, 1913-1957, YCAL MSS 408.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Drawings (visual works)

Personal Name(s)

- Chaucer, Geoffrey, -1400
- Langland, William, 1330?-1400?
- MacKinstry, E. (Elizabeth), 1879-1956

Subject(s)

- Art--Technique
- Children's authors--20th century
- Children's literature--20th century
- Illustrated children's books--20th century
- Women artists

General note

One item listed in the catalog of framed art could not be located as of April 2012. The catalog cards describe the items as follows:

"From *The Rescue of the Doll's House* five illustrations in color. 28"H x 15"V, Black frame, white mat. Original, 1960."

Drawings and Studies

Collection Inventory

Drawings and Studies			
	Map-case	Drawer	Folder
clrc000729 Cottage Roses (Red) c. 1940	2	9	10
Immediate Source of Acquisition note			
Gift of the Estate of Kathrine H. McAlarney, 1975; Transferred from the Print and Picture Collection, 2018			
		Box	Folder
"Drawings by E. MacKinstry," bound volume of drawings, gouache, graphite, pen and ink, and watercolor on paper, 110 pages		1	1
Scope and Contents note			
This volume contains sketches and studies, many with religious and literary themes. There are copies of work by famous artists, studies of stained glass and sculptures, and a variety of works done to demonstrate various artistic techniques. Many of the drawings are annotated by MacKinstry.			
		1	2
"Drawings in Black and White," bound volume of drawings, gouache, graphite, lithograph, pen and ink, and watercolor on paper, 118 pages circa 1941-1955			
Scope and Contents note			

Drawings and Studies

This volume contains drawings and sketches, many in a modernist style. It also includes a illustrated poem, *Ole' Joel Griscom*.

	Map-case	Drawer	Folder
clrc000734 Fetes aux Papillions c.1940	2	9	10

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of the Estate of Kathrine H. McAlarney, 1975;
Transferred from the Print and Picture Collection, 2018

	Box	Frame
" In Medusa's Wood"	2	1

	Map-case	Drawer	Folder
clrc000733 Green Apples c. 1940	2	9	10

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of the Estate of Kathrine H. McAlarney, 1975;
Transferred from the Print and Picture Collection, 2018

	Box	Folder
"Medaeval-After Tapestries," pen and ink on paper, 7 sheets	1	3

"Melancholy Reflections on Art," pen and ink on paper, 6 sheets 1938 July	1	4
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Scope and Contents note

A humorous set of art historical sketches by MacKinstry.

Drawings and Studies

	Map-case	Drawer	Folder
clrc000728 Moss Rose (White) c. 1940	2	9	10
Immediate Source of Acquisition note			
Gift of the Estate of Kathrine H. McAlarney, 1975; Transferred from the Print and Picture Collection, 2018			

clrc000730 Ophelia Roses c. 1940	2	9	10
Immediate Source of Acquisition note			
Gift of the Estate of Kathrine H. McAlarney, 1975; Transferred from the Print and Picture Collection, 2018			

	Box	Folder
"Piers Ploughman," pen and ink and watercolor on paper, 2 sheets Drawings have separated from the paper.	1	5
"Studies of Notes," bound volume of drawings, gouache, graphite, pen and ink, and watercolor on paper, 174 pages circa 1938-1955	1	6

Scope and Contents note

The drawings include extensive figure studies, demonstrations of different art techniques, and illustrations for literary works including *The Hobbit*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Richard III*, and *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis. There are also designs for stage settings and costumes for Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*.

Map-case Drawer Folder

Illustrations for "La priere de Nostre Dame"/ Chaucer's ABC (Unpublished)

clrc000731 Study of Tulips c. 1940

2

9

10

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of the Estate of Kathrine H. McAlarney, 1975;
Transferred from the Print and Picture Collection, 2018

Box**Folder**

"Techniques and Pen Try-outs," pen and ink on paper, 30 sheets

1

7

Scope and Contents note

A set of drawings and lettering using quills, copper points, steel, gold, and bamboo pens.

Map-case**Drawer****Folder**

clrc000735 [Three figure studies in medieval costume] c. 1940

2

9

10

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of the Estate of Kathrine H. McAlarney, 1975;
Transferred from the Print and Picture Collection, 2018

Illustrations for "La priere de Nostre Dame"/ Chaucer's ABC (Unpublished)**Box****othertype****Frame**

clrc000401 "A" Sketch

2

Left

2

clrc000402 "D" Sketch

2

Left

3

Illustrations for "La priere de Nostre Dame"/ Chaucer's ABC (Unpublished)

clrc000403 "E" Sketch	2	Left	4
clrc000404 "I" Sketch	2	Left	5
clrc000405 "K" Sketch	2	Left	6
clrc000406 "L" Sketch	2	Right	7
clrc000407 "P" Sketch	2	Right	8
clrc000408 "T" Sketch	2	Right	9
clrc000409 "X" Sketch	2	Right	10
clrc000410 "Y" Sketch	2	Right	11