Guide to the Peter Newell Collection

YCAL MSS 63

by Sandra Markham

February 1994

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 63

CREATOR: Newell, Peter, 1862-1924

TITLE: Peter Newell collection

DATES: 1895–1907

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.63 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains 35 drawings by illustrator Peter Newell which were acquired by the library, either by purchase or gift, primarily through funds left to the library by Newell’s grandson Alfred Z. Baker (1907-1987). They include illustrations created for the Harper and Brothers firm and their periodicals Harper’s Weekly, Harper’s Monthly, and Harper’s Bazar; illustrations created for other publishers; and examples of Newell’s personal artwork, such as a self-portrait and portraits of his wife and son.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.newellad

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.newellad.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Drawings in Series I were purchased from James Cummins on the Alfred Z. Baker Fund; Series II were purchased from Heritage Book Shop, Inc. on the Jockey Hollow Fund; Series III were purchased from Jo Ann Reisler, Ltd. on the Alfred Z. Baker, Jr. Fund; Series IV was the gift of Adele Zachrisson; Series V, VI, and VII were purchased from James Arsenault & Company on the Alfred Z. Baker Fund.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The Peter Newell Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Peter Newell Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Associated Materials
The Peter Newell Family Papers (YCAL MSS 62) contains personal and business correspondence, drawings, personal papers, photographs, and family material related to the artist and his career.

Peter Newell (1862-1924)
Peter Newell, an illustrator and author, was born in Illinois and lived in and around New York City for most of his life. Extensive information on Newell and his career appears in the finding aid for the Peter Newell Family Papers (YCAL MSS 62).

Scope and Contents
The collection contains 35 drawings by the artist Peter Newell which were acquired by the library, either by purchase or gift, primarily through funds left to the library by Newell’s grandson Alfred Z. Baker (1907-1987). They include illustrations created for the Harper and Brothers firm and their periodicals Harper’s Weekly, Harper’s Monthly and Harper’s Bazar; illustrations created for other publishers; and examples of Newell’s personal artwork such as a self-portrait, and portraits of his wife and son.

Arrangement
The collection is organized into seven series: I. Drawings acquired 1994 (1895-1909); II. Addition, 2004 (undated); III. Addition, 2005 (1914); IV. Addition, 2006 (undated); V. Addition, 2007 (1894-1902); VI. Addition, 2008 (1893-1899); VII. Addition, 2009 (undated).
**Collection Contents**

**Series I. Drawings (acquired 1994)**

*0.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

The series consists of seventeen drawings commissioned by Harper and Brothers, over half of which were made to accompany two serialized stories by John Kendrick Bangs, “A House-boat on the Styx” and “The Pursuit of the House-Boat,” which were later published as novels. Another set of drawings was made for the Frank Stockton serial story, “The Great Stone of Sardis,” which was also published in book form. Two other illustrations for serialized stories are included, as is a single example of a Peter Newell comic. The drawings are arranged by the author of the story illustrated, with the single comic by Newell filed under his authorship. Page numbers following the title of a drawing refer to the location of the illustration as it appeared in the novel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangs, John Kendrick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“A House-boat on the Styx”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published in <em>Harper’s Weekly</em> and afterward as a novel by Harper and Brothers (1896)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>“Lord Bacon, accompanied by Charon, appeared” (p. 24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>“Doctor Johnson in a rage” (p. 48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>“The melancholy Dane appeared” (p. 52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>“Ejecting a frenzied poet from the card-room” (p. 58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>“The house-committee discuss the poets” (p. 64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>“Boy, is Adam in the club-house today?” (p. 80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Pursuit of the House-boat”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published in <em>Harper’s Weekly</em> and afterward as a novel by Harper and Brothers (1897)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 7</td>
<td>“Every bloomin’ million was represented by a certified check, an’ payable in London” (p. 84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 8</td>
<td>“Queen Elizabeth desires an axe and one hour of her olden power” (p. 90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 9</td>
<td>“The committee on treachery is ready to report” (p. 102)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 10</td>
<td>“Shem in the lookout” (p. 128)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 11</td>
<td>“Kidd’s companions endeavoring to restore evaporated portions of his anatomy with a steam-atomizer” (p. 154)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newell, Peter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 12</td>
<td>“Some former residents of New York, while revisiting the glimpses of the moon on New-Year’s Eve, meet with a surprise on the Bowery” for <em>Harper’s Monthly</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton, Frank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Stockton, Frank (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 13</td>
<td>“Under the great skylight” (p. 36)</td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 14</td>
<td>“There's whales in this polar sea” (p. 110)</td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 15</td>
<td>“They ceased operations” (p. 154)</td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Stuart, Ruth McEnery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 16</td>
<td>“She succumbed, green as the Ganges, into her own egg-basket” (p. 18)</td>
<td>1909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unknown author

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 17</td>
<td>“Portrait of my grand-father”</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"The Great Stone of Sardis"
Published in *Harper's Monthly* and afterward as a novel by Harper and Brothers (1898)
Series II. Addition (2004)

2 folders

The series consists of sketches for two holiday-themed cartoon drawings which were likely created for one of the Harper Brothers’ magazines.

b. 4, f. 18  [Cupid and a frog], ink and watercolor on paper mounted on paperboard  undated
Cupid, in gray overcoat, waves at frog in water; inscribed “To Mrs. William Ostler, faithfully yours, Peter Newell”

b. 4, f. 19  [Young George Washington], ink and pencil on paper mounted on card stock  undated
The image shows a boy, presumably representing a young George Washington, standing next to a fallen tree and an axe, facing his father. Includes caption: “Oh, father dear, I cannot tell - I cannot tell a lie. It--’” Then, George, my son, if I were you, indeed, I wouldn’t try it.”
Series III. Addition (2005)

The series consists of two drawings, one humorous cartoon and one that was presented as a mechanical toy used to illustrate a story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“A Class in Geography,” ink on paper mounted on paperboard</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bearded elf instructing four elf children in a geography lesson, using the patterns on the side of a Holstein cow to represent a map.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The pumpkin opened and closed its eyes in a mysterious way,” from the series “Peter Newell’s Movies” in <em>The Delineator</em>, ink and gouache on paper mounted on paperboard</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number 2 of 4 images published in October 1914 (p. 33); see YCAL MSS 62, box 57, folders 937-938 for drawings 1 and 4, and box 242, folder 3329 for tearsheet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series IV. Addition (2006)

The series consists of a single drawing, a self-portrait showing the artist in bust profile. It is inscribed to Miss Emily Dawes, the maternal great-aunt of the donor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 22 Self-portrait, ink and watercolor on paper</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series V. Addition (2007)

The series consists of five drawings: two have a Christmas theme; one is a page from a calendar designed by Newell; one is an illustrated rhyme; and the fifth is a portrait of the artist’s son Clen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 23</td>
<td>“I wish you ‘Merry Xmas’,” pencil, ink, and watercolor on paperboard</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image shows a small boy posited between two Christmas trees, accompanied by a verse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 24</td>
<td>“Little Mary Christmas,” pencil, ink, and watercolor on paperboard</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image shows a doll or girl posited in a wreath, accompanied by a verse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 25</td>
<td>Clendenon Sheaf Newell (1892-1918), pencil and watercolor on paper mounted on paperboard</td>
<td>1894 Jun 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 26</td>
<td>“July,” from his calendar for 1903, ink and watercolor on paperboard</td>
<td>1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See YCAL MSS 62, box 120, folders 1535-1536, for the preliminary pencil sketch and finished drawing for the calendar page</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 27</td>
<td>“A Young Hero,” ink on paper mounted on paperboard</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image shows a small boy and a snake; includes caption: “Brave Lambeth Jones encountered, by the trolley in the lane, A dreadful wriggling live wire, and he killed it with his cane.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series VI. Addition (2008)

7 folders

The series consists of seven drawings, five of which were cartoons produced for one of the Harper magazines, and on their versos bear an ownership label (likely related to exhibition loans) of Lillie Harper (1881-1941), a New York sculptor who was the great-granddaughter of James Harper, founder of Harper Brothers publishing company. The sixth was published in Collier’s Weekly, in a series of humorous cartoons about of the Spanish-American War, and the seventh is a portrait of Newell’s wife Leona.

b. 5, f. 28  “A Christmas Allegory,” ink, watercolor, and china white on paper mounted on paperboard
Published in Harper’s Magazine (January 1894) and in Peter Newell’s Pictures and Rhymes (1899); formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: “Spake Phoebe Jones in clearest tones, ‘Permit me, Sir and Madame--I represent a Christmas Eve, and Will-a Christmas Adam!’”

1893

b. 5, f. 29  [The Duck and the stork], ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard
Published in Harper’s Round Table; formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: “The Duck.- ‘Say, are you going to hang up your stocking on Christmas Eve?’ The Stork.- ‘Naw, I want something more than a tooth-pick!’”

1895

b. 5, f. 30  [Grasshopper], ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard
Possibly published in Harper’s Round Table; formerly owned by Lillie Harper.

1893

b. 5, f. 31  Leona Dow Newell (1861-1954), ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard

1896

b. 5, f. 32  “A Suggestion that Admiral Sampson Should Use the ‘Vesuvius’ with Discretion,”
gouache on paperboard
Caricature of Admiral William T. Sampson, published in Collier’s Weekly (July 2, 1898) as number 4 in Newell’s series “The Humorous Side of the War.”

1898

b. 5, f. 33  [“An Unreasonable Complaint”], ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard
Published in Harper’s Round Table and Peter Newell’s Pictures and Rhymes (1899); formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: “The Sheep.- ‘Whew! But it is hot!’ The Boy.- ‘I should think it would be. You haven’t taken off your woolens yet.’”

1896

b. 5, f. 34  “Washington Maketh Love,” ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard
Possibly published in Harper’s Bazar; formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: “In vain have foemen shot at me with rifle ball and dart. But, oh, your glances, Martha, dear, have pierced me to the heart!”

1899
Series VII. Addition (2009)
The series consists of one pencil sketch to illustrate an unidentified story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b. 5, f. 35</th>
<th>[Queen watches as cat runs under throne], pencil on paper mounted on paperboard</th>
<th>undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Caricatures and cartoons
Children -- Pictorial works
Christmas -- Caricatures and cartoons
Illustrators -- United States
Illustrators -- United States -- 19th century
Magazine illustration -- United States
Portraits
Self-portraits
Spanish-American War, 1898 -- Caricatures and cartoons

Genres / Formats
Watercolors (paintings) -- United States

Names
Bangs, John Kendrick, 1862-1922 ( House-boat on the Styx)
Bangs, John Kendrick, 1862-1922 ( Pursuit of the house-boat)
Harper, Lillie Hyde, 1881-1941 -- Ownership
Newell, Clendenon Sheaf, 1892-1918 -- Portraits
Newell, Leona Dow Ashcraft, 1861-1954 -- Portraits
Newell, Peter, 1862-1924
Newell, Peter, 1862-1924 -- Portraits
Sampson, William Thomas, 1840-1902 -- Caricatures and cartoons
Stockton, Frank R., 1834-1902 ( Great stone of Sardis)
Washington, Augustine, approximately 1694-1743 -- Caricatures and cartoons
Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Caricatures and cartoons

Corporate Body
Harper & Brothers