

Guide to the Collection of Gillett Griffin Production Materials for A Mouse's Tale

AOB 116



Compiled by Melissa Quinones

July 2013

Arts Library Special Collections

180 York Street

New Haven, CT 06511

203-432-1712

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<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections
Arts Library Special Collections
180 York Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-432-1712
haasalsc@yale.edu
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

CALL NUMBER: AOB 116

CREATOR: Griffin, Gillett G. (Gillett Good), 1928-2016

TITLE: Collection of Gillett Griffin production materials for *A Mouse's Tale*

DATES: circa 1951-1965

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains illustrations, proofs, and sketches created by Gillett Griffin for the publication of *A Mouse's Tale*.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0116>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0116>.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

Preferred Citation

Collection of Gillett Griffin Production Materials for *A Mouse's Tale*, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Thesis copy and published copy of *A Mouse's Tale* are also individually cataloged in [Orbis](#).

Biographical / Historical

Gillett Good Griffin (b. 1928) earned his BFA from Yale in 1951. His studies at Yale included a project to write, illustrate, and print his first children's book, entitled *A Mouse's Tale*, which received an award as part of the 1951 American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) annual "50 Best-Designed Books" competition. In 1952 Griffin became curator of Princeton University's Graphic Arts Collection in the Firestone Library. With the exception of a stint in the late '50s designing books for Princeton University Press, Griffin remained graphic arts curator until 1966, when he traveled to Mexico to pursue his interests in pre-Columbian art. He returned to Princeton in 1967 in a new role as curator of pre-Columbian and primitive art at the Princeton University Art Museum. In addition to his long career as a curator and teacher at Princeton, Griffin continues as an artist and art collector.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains illustrations, proofs, and sketches created by Gillett Griffin for the publication of *A Mouse's Tale*, which began as a design project at Yale, received an award in the annual American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) "50 Best-Designed Books" competition in 1951, and was published as a trade edition the following year. The collection also contains related correspondence, ephemera, and other process materials, including printing plates and woodblocks.

Arrangement

Preliminary box listing only.

Collection Contents

Box listing

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| b.1 | Production materials and correspondence Box contains the following: sketches, drawings, drafts, and proofs—including title pages as well as bound and unbound copies—for <i>A Mouse's Tale</i> ; correspondence (notably a letter from Alvin Eisenman granting Griffin weekend access to printing facilities as well as several exchanges with publishers); and labels from a Yale University Library exhibition about the production of <i>A Mouse's Tale</i> . | 1951-1952 undated |
| b.2 | Production materials and correspondence Box contains the following: 1951 and 1952 copies of <i>A Mouse's Tale</i> ; a variety of correspondence with the following publishers: Doubleday, Abelard Press, Inc., Little, Brown & Company, and Holiday House; materials related to the AIGA 50 Books competition; personal correspondence; sketches; doodles; postcards; greeting cards; telegrams; clippings; and correspondence also related to <i>Children of Deerfield</i> . | 1951-1965 undated |
| b.3 | Production materials <i>30 Items</i> Box contains printing plates and woodblocks by Griffin. | circa 1951 |

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.

Genres / Formats

Correspondence

Sketches

Wood blocks (printing blocks)

Names

Griffin, Gillett G. (Gillett Good), 1928-2016