

Guide to the Elizabeth MacKinstry Collection

YCAL MSS 408



by Sandra Markham

2014

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Associated Materials	4
Elizabeth Conkling MacKinstry (1878-1956)	4
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Writings, 1904-1957	6
Writings	6
Ephemera	6
Series II: Artwork, 1924-1934	7
Selected Search Terms	8

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 408

CREATOR: MacKinstry, E. (Elizabeth) (1878-1956)

TITLE: Elizabeth MacKinstry Collection

DATES: 1904-1957

BULK DATES: 1924-1934

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The collection contains work by Elizabeth MacKinstry: autograph and typescript versions of poems, a set of illustrations for the children's book *Eliza and the Elves*, by Rachel Field (New York: Macmillan Company, 1926), and a scrapbook of her original and printed artwork dating from 1924-1934. One volume of poems was bound by John F. Grabau of Buffalo, New York, for MacKinstry's presentation to Emily Howland Leeming Lyman. Also present is a published volume of MacKinstry's poems, *Helen's Mirror and Other Verses* (London: Elkin Mathews, 1913), issued under her pseudonym Elizabeth Westerman.

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

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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mackinstry>.

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

Gift of Florence E. Brooks, 1956. Gift of Elizabeth Leeming Rose, 1970.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Elizabeth MacKinstry 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

Elizabeth MacKinstry Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

A letter from Walter de la Mare to Elizabeth MacKinstry dated December 15, 1925, and received by the library from Florence E. Brooks in 1956, is filed in the Yale Collection of American Literature Letter Collection (YCAL MSS 446).

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call numbers: Za MacKinstry and Za Mss MacKinstry.

Associated Materials

Yale Collection of American Literature Letter Collection (YCAL MSS 446), Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Elizabeth Conkling MacKinstry (1878-1956)

Elizabeth MacKinstry, American poet, illustrator, and sculptor, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on March 31, 1878, the only child of Caroline Conkling McKinstry and Abraham B. McKinstry (1826-1882), a farmer and postmaster. After her father's death, MacKinstry lived in France and Belgium, specifically in Paris from 1892 to 1901 where she studied with the sculptor Auguste Rodin. From 1909 until 1920 she lived with her mother in Buffalo, New York, working there as an artist and teaching art classes; after 1910 the spelling of their last name changed from McKinstry to MacKinstry. She lived and worked in New York City from the mid-twenties until 1938, turning out illustrations for several New York publishing houses, as well as costume designs, decorations, and illustrations for local theater groups. In her later years MacKinstry

lived in and around Lenox, Massachusetts, near the poet Emily Howland Leeming Lyman (1871-1951), a friend from Buffalo. Elizabeth MacKinstry donated her collection of more than 300 illustrated books to the Lenox Library in 1949; she died on May 14, 1956, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and was buried in Lenox.

MacKinstry's work was exhibited in one-woman shows at the Albright Art Gallery in Buffalo (1922), and in memorial exhibitions at the Lenox Library (1956), in the Central Children's Room of the New York Public Library (1957), and at the Boston Public Library (1958). The April 1957 issue of *The Horn Book Magazine* was largely devoted to essays on MacKinstry by her colleagues and admirers.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains work by Elizabeth MacKinstry: autograph and typescript versions of poems, a set of illustrations for the children's book *Eliza and the Elves*, by Rachel Field (New York: Macmillan Company, 1926), and a scrapbook of her original and printed artwork dating from 1924-1934. One volume of poems was bound by John F. Grabau of Buffalo, New York, for MacKinstry's presentation to Emily Howland Leeming Lyman. Also present is a published volume of MacKinstry's poems, *Helen's Mirror and Other Verses* (London: Elkin Mathews, 1913), issued under her pseudonym Elizabeth Westerman.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Writings, 1904-1957. II. Artwork, 1924-1934.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1904-1957

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

The series holds autograph manuscripts and typescripts of Elizabeth MacKinstry's poems, most of which she bound in paperboard binders with decorations inside their covers. Also present is a copy of *Helen's Mirror and Other Verses* (London: Elkin Mathews, 1913), a small volume of poems MacKinstry published under her pseudonym Elizabeth Westermain; it was part of the publisher's "Savile" series of poetry books. Ephemera includes transcribed and clipped published reviews of MacKinstry's books and a postcard advertising an exhibition of MacKinstry's work in 1957.

Gift of Florence E. Brooks, 1956, unless otherwise identified.

Organized into two subseries: Writings and Ephemera.

Writings		
b. 1, f. 1	"Dornigen of Brittany," typescript with autograph corrections	undated
b. 1, f. 2	"Harlequin of the Jazz Age," typescript with autograph corrections	undated
b. 1, f. 3	<i>Helen's Mirror and Other Verses</i> , with autograph corrections Laid-in inside front cover: an ink-on-paper drawing of a small girl; pasted in inside back cover: typed transcription of book review from <i>The Bookman</i> , March 1914	1913-1914
b. 1, f. 4	"In Many Keys," typescript with autograph corrections	undated
b. 1, f. 5	"Pygmalion's Feast," typescript with autograph corrections	undated
b. 1, f. 6	"To Aglæades and Other Poems," autograph manuscript with typescript poems inserted Gift of Elizabeth Leeming Rose, 1970. Inscribed by MacKinstry: To Emily Howland Leeming These Poems From "Elizabeth Westermain" - all for Past Memories or Present Love; bound by John F. Graubau of Buffalo, New York	1904-1927
b. 1, f. 7	"Today at Damascus," autograph manuscript Gift of Elizabeth Leeming Rose, 1970.	undated
b. 1, f. 8	"Today at Damascus," autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Poems, autograph manuscripts and typescripts Gift of Elizabeth Leeming Rose, 1970.	1927, undated
Ephemera		
b. 1, f. 10	Clipped and typed reviews of MacKinstry's books	1926, undated
b. 1, f. 11	Postcard announcing an exhibition of MacKinstry's work at the New York Public Library Source unknown.	1957 April

Series II: Artwork, 1924-1934*0.58 linear feet (3 boxes)*

The series contains a set of ink and watercolor drawings made as illustrations for the children's book *Eliza and the Elves* by Rachel Field (New York: Macmillan Company, 1926), and a scrapbook kept by MacKinstry. Titled by her "Intimate Journal of Drawings 1924-1934," it contains several hundred drawings, prints, sketches, and printed ephemera affixed to the 156 pages. Media includes ink, pencil, watercolor, colored pencil, colored woodcut, and crayon on paper and card, and includes her experiments in techniques new to her (in particular, reed pen) as well as drawings made for but not used in specific books. MacKinstry also pasted-in printed dust jackets and proofs of illustrations from several projects for which illustrations or decorations were commissioned by New York publishers: *Semi-attached*, by Anne Parrish (George H. Doran, 1924), *Trees*, by Joyce Kilmer (George H. Doran, 1925), *The Three Owls*, by Anne Carroll Moore (Macmillan, 1925), *Tales of Laughter*, edited by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith (Doubleday, Page, 1926), and *Snake Gold* by Hervey White (Macmillan, 1926), as well as for her own book of poetry, *Puck in Pasture* (Doubleday, Page, 1925). Printed ephemera includes letterhead MacKinstry designed for The Coffee Shop in New York City, a clipping from *Academy Notes* (Buffalo) about an exhibition of her work, and a clipped cover from *The Book Dial*, vol. 3, no. 6 (1926), which features her design.

b. 2, f. 12-16	Drawings for <i>Eliza and the Elves</i> The set contains 73 drawings on 41 leaves; 70 drawings are ink on paper or card, and 3 are watercolor on card; accompanied by one drawing for an unidentified project.	1926
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 17-18	Drawings for <i>Eliza and the Elves</i>	1926
"Intimate Journal of Drawings"		
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 19	Loose drawings removed from envelope attached to back cover	1924-1934
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 20	Loose newspaper clippings removed from scrapbook	1924-1934
b. 4 (Oversize)	Scrapbook	1924-1934

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

American literature -- 20th Century
American poetry -- 20th Century
Children's literature, American -- 20th Century
-- Illustrations
Illustration of books -- United States
Illustrators -- United States
Poets, American -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Book jackets -- United States -- 20th Century
Color woodcuts -- United States -- 20th
Century
Drawings (visual works) -- United States --
20th Century
Illustrations (layout features) -- United States
-- 20th Century
Scrapbooks -- United States -- 20th Century

Occupations

Illustrators -- United States -- 20th Century
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Field, Rachel, 1894-1942 (Eliza and the elves,
Illustrations)
Grabau, John F., 1878-1948
Lyman, Emily Howland Leeming, 1871-1951
-- Presentation inscription from Elizabeth
MacKinstry
MacKinstry, E. (Elizabeth.) (Helen's mirror and
other verses)
MacKinstry, E. (Elizabeth) (1878-1956)
MacKinstry, E. (Elizabeth) (1878-1956) --
Presentation inscription to Elizabeth Howland
Leeming Lyman