Summary Information

Repository
Albany Institute of History & Art Library

Creator
Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop

Title
Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop Collection

Identifier
MG 15

Date
1920-1991

Physical Description
2 boxes

Physical Location
The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

Language of the Material
English

Abstract

The Lathrop sisters, Dorothy Pulis Lathrop (1891-1980) and Gertrude Katherine Lathrop, (1896-1986) were from Albany, New York. Dorothy was a writer and illustrator of children’s books, while Gertrude was a sculptor, particularly of small animals. Their mother, Ida F. Pulis Lathrop, was a portrait, still life, and landscape artist.

The Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop Papers include correspondence, book lists, clippings, photographs and books to, from, and about Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop.
Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:


Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions on Access

None

Copyright

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # unidentified

Processing Information


Biographical/Historical

Gertrude Katherine Lathrop (1896-1986) and Dorothy Pulis Lathrop (1891-1980) were the daughters of Ida Pulis Lathrop, a nationally distinguished painter. Gertrude and Dorothy received national recognition for their artistic contributions in the fields of sculpture and illustrations of children’s books, respectively. Along with their mother, the Lathrops were members of the National Association of Women Artists and were included in the Association’s annual exhibitions. Strong believers in the sanctity of animal life and
advocates of animal rights, the Lathrop women were conscious vegetarians and concerned about environmental issues.

Gertrude Lathrop was a successful sculptor of animals and commemorative medals. She studied sculpture at two schools in New York City: the Art Students League with Solon Borglum and the School of American Sculpture. Her work was exhibited at the National Academy of Design, where her sculpture “Sammy Houston” won the Barnett Prize in 1928 and “Great White Heron” won the Shaw Prize in 1931. In 1933, her sculpture entitled “King Penguin” received the Anna Hyatt Huntington Prize of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors. The same year, Gertrude designed a flagpole as a World War I Memorial for Albany. The flagpole is located at the corner of New Scotland Avenue and South Lake Avenue. Gertrude also received the Speyer Prize in 1936 and the Crowninshield Prize at the Stockbridge Art Exhibition in 1937 for her sculpture “Young Lamb.” Her work is represented in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, and the Albany Institute of History & Art.

Dorothy Pulis Lathrop is often referred to as the “American Beatrix Potter” because of her detailed drawings and illustrations of animals in their natural settings. She was well known for using live animal models, many from her own backyard. She earned her undergraduate degree with a major in Art from Columbia University Teachers College, where she studied with Arthur Wesley Dow. After teaching for two years, Dorothy studied illustration at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts with Henry McCarter, and painting at the Art Students League in New York City.

Dorothy’s illustrations for The Three Mulla-Mulgars, written by Walter de la Mare in 1919, launched a career that spanned several decades. During this time, she illustrated over fifty books, seventeen of which she also wrote. In 1930 she received the Newbery Book Award for her illustrations in Hitty: Her First Hundred Years, written by Rachel Field, and the Newbery Honor in 1932 for Fairy Circus, the first book Dorothy authored and illustrated. She was also the first recipient of the Caldecott Medal in 1937 for her illustrations in Animals of the Bible.

Dorothy was an Associate of the National Academy of Design, a member of the Society of American Graphic Artists, the American Association of Women Artists and several watercolor societies. She was a founding member of the Print Club of Albany, and served on its board for many years.

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**Scope and Contents**

The majority of the materials in this collection contain letters written by Dorothy and/or Gertrude Lathrop, but also includes booklists, newspaper clippings, photographs and illustrations. The bulk of the materials date from 1930-1975.
This collection contains four series illustrating the life and accomplishments of Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop. 

**Correspondence** consists largely of personal correspondence. These correspondences included those of Helen Fay Juneman and Eleanor Foote, who operated the John Mistletoe Bookshop in Albany and sold both Dorothy’s books and prints. Included are thank you letters, get well wishes, holiday wishes, and Gertrude’s letters to Dorothy from Chicago. There is also some business correspondence to Helen Fay regarding the work of Dorothy and Gertrude.


**Photographs** consists of ten photographs and two slides. Most of the photographs show examples of the work of both Dorothy and Gertrude. In addition, there are two photographs of Dorothy and one photograph of Gertrude. All of the photographs are undated.

**Signatures** holds material from books illustrated by Dorothy Lathrop.

The Albany Institute Library also holds a collection of sixty books that were illustrated and/or written by Dorothy Lathrop. Many of the copies are first editions and in their original dust wrappers. The authors have signed several of these books. The Albany Institute’s curatorial collections hold several original prints and drawings (1924-1963) by Dorothy Lathrop as well as five pieces of sculpture and one medal (1928-1940) by Gertrude Lathrop. Researchers may consult the Library’s online catalog for a listing of the books and request permission from the curatorial department to view the prints, drawings, sculptures, and medal.

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**Contents List**

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

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<td>Price lists and inventories of Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop, undated</td>
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**Documentary Ephemera**

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<td>Program from the Eastern District Fall Meeting Banquet, 1965</td>
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<td>Pamphlet: Dorothy P. Lathrop: a Centenary Celebration, 1991 (2 Copies); Exhibition Catalog: Brookgreen Gardens: Sculpture by Gertrude Katherine Lathrop, 1937 (2 Copies); Exhibition Catalog for Gertrude and Dorothy Lathrop at The Woodmere Art Gallery, 1963; Exhibition Catalog from Gertrude and Dorothy Lathrop at the Albany Institute of History and Art, 1966 (2 Copies)</td>
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<td>Newspaper Clipping: “Dorothy Lathrop Reception Set,” undated (2 Copies); Newspaper Clipping: “National Academy Honors Work of District Artists,” undated(2 Copies); Magazine: <em>Arbor and Wild Life Day</em>, The University of The State of New York Bulletin to the Schools. February 1954; Newspaper Clipping from <em>The Daily Feature Parade</em>, undated (2 Copies); Newspaper Clipping from the <em>Times Union</em>: “Twelfth Print Club Exhibit,” December 1967 (2 Copies);</td>
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Book Lists
The Horn Book Crier, December 1971; 6
Viking Junior Books 1964-1965;
A Literary Heritage for Children, 1954;
Late Fall Publications F.A. Stokes Co., 1937;
Our Own Book Reviews: 102 Children’s Books for 1937. Reviewed by Boys and Girls. (2 Copies);
Children’s Books of 1936: including a Selection of Books for Young People. Prepared by the New York State Library;
Campbell’s Book Store: Book Suggestions for Children, undated;
Miscellaneous Booklists, undated
Proofs of “The Art of Beatrix Potter,” reviewed by Dorothy P. Lathrop, undated;
Illustration of “An Angel in the Woods” by Dorothy P. Lathrop;
Proofs of illustrations from “Chickadee” in Story Parade, undated.
Samples of Dorothy and/or Gertrude Lathrop’s work, undated

Photographs
Photograph of Gertrude Lathrop, undated; 9
Photograph of Dorothy Lathrop with Rachel Fields, undated
Photographs and snapshots of the sculpture “Taitu Di Pellemogo” by Gertrude K. Lathrop, undated
Photographs of pictures by Dorothy Lathrop, undated

Signatures
Bells and Grass by Walter De La Mare, illustrated by Dorothy Lathrop, (incomplete), undated
Unidentified collection of short stories and poems (incomplete), undated