

The Tea & Talk Series Collection
1965-1987
Finding Aid



Pura Belpre

Archives and Special Collections



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 92-10

Size: 4.9752 cu. ft.

Provenance: Hunter College Library

Restrictions: None.

Location: Range 3 Section 4 Shelves 22-23

Archivist: Prof. Julio L. Hernandez-Delgado

Assistants: Ms. Fareeda Marikar
Ms. Gretchen Opie

Date: June, 1999

Revised: November, 2012

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Tea & Talk Series was conceived by Doris de Montreville, (former head of the Education Library from 1962 - 1972) and by Florence B. Freedman, (former chair of the Library Committee of the Division of Programs in Education) in the early 1960's. The Tea & Talk Series Committee, chaired by Professor Eileen G. Cowe (1967 - 1983) consisted of members from the Education Library and the Division of Programs in Education. The series was sponsored by the Hunter College Library, the Division of Programs in Education, and the Graduate Student Association of Hunter College.

The Tea & Talk Series (originally conceived as Conversation with Authors and Artists) “was designed to give students, faculty, and friends of Hunter College the opportunity to meet with outstanding authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults, and to hear from them about their inspiration and craft.” The program also encouraged dialogue between the authors and/or illustrators, and the audience.

Decisions about whom to invite was made by the committee and was based on the quality and popularity of each writer or illustrator. The programs were open to the public and were held each semester in the Teachers Central Laboratory of the former Education Library. The first speaker of the series was Ezra Jack Keats (November 3, 1965), whose book *The Snowy Day* won the Caldecott Medal in 1963 for the most distinguished picture book for children.

Initially no prepared talks were given. Guests were simply interviewed by Florence B. Freeman and willingly entertained questions from the audience. However, as the program evolved, subsequent guests did deliver prepared talks. Many of the presentations and interviews were recorded on audio cassette or reel-to-reel tapes and were later transcribed.

Some of the outstanding authors and illustrators that appeared in the series included Isaac Asimov, Pura Belpre, John Ciardi, Don Freeman, Lillian Hoban, Leland Jacobs, Ezra Jack Keats, John Langstaff, Arnold Lobel, John Steptoe, and Maurice Sendak among others. Virginia Hamilton was the last Honor Guest to appear in the series in 1987. By the end of the 1980's it became increasingly tedious, time-consuming, and expensive to continue the program. In total 36 authors and illustrators of children and young adult books presented talks or were interviewed as part of the series.

The members of the Tea & Talk Series Committee included Eileen G. Cowe, Florence B. Freeman, Herbert Halpern, Donna Hill, Elaine Karath, David Lane, Carrie Mannas, Bernice Samalonis, Mary Field Schwarz, Earl R. Shaffer, Ruth Smallberg, Andre Thiobodeau, Ann Travers, Karen Turner, Esther J. Walls, and James T. West. Additional individuals who provided assistance and support included Rita Rosenfeld, Sylvia Orman, Afton Miles, Frank Gielle, and Ray Nutkiss.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Tea & Talk Series Collection is an important resource for researchers interested in acquainting themselves with some of the outstanding authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults. The collection spans the years 1965-1987 and includes biographical information, correspondence, publicity materials, photographs, and transcripts for many of the invited speakers.

The audio recordings and the transcripts of specific talks can provide informative and valuable insights into the world of writers and illustrators. Regrettably, not every talk and/or interview was recorded and transcribed. For example, there are no audio tapes or transcripts for Ruth Baylor, James Cass, Joy Garland, Maurice Sendak, Vera Southgate, and Kenneth Wollitz.

Another golden nugget of the collection are the portraits and candid shots that were taken of most of the participants. These black & white photographs capture the presence and persona of each of the presenters.

The last important section of the collection is an unpublished manuscript edited by Donna Hill and Florence B. Freeman titled: *Creating Books For Children: Talks by Authors and Illustrators in the Tea & Talk Series*. Donna Hill conceived of the idea of publishing some of the talks as a benefit for the series. The intent was to compile the transcripts of 18 participants and produce a book about the program. However, due to the climate of the times, the manuscript was never published.

Included in the finding aid is a bibliography of books written by some of the authors and illustrators who participated in the program. Some of these books constitute a large portion of the Muriel Fuller Book Collection that was officially donated to Hunter College Libraries on November 17, 1976.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I – Administrative Files

This series includes correspondence, mailing lists, history, and procedures relating to the general operation of the program. Also included are letters between Donna Hill and publishers regarding the proposed publication of a book about the Tea & Talk Series. The arrangement is alphabetical.

Series II – Guest Files

Series II contains the files of the authors and illustrators who participated in the Tea & Talk Series from 1965-1987. Key individuals who appeared in the program included Isaac Asimov, Pura Belpre, Remy Charlip, John Ciardi, Don Freeman, Beatrice Schenk de Regniers, Lillian Hoban, Ezra Jack Keats, Arnold Lobel, Richard Lewis, Maurice Sendak, Uri Shulevitz, and John Steptoe. The files contain biographical information, correspondence, publicity materials, and in some cases, transcripts of presentations and/or interviews. The files are arranged alphabetically by surname.

Series III - Photographs

This series contains black and white portraits and candid shots of many of the authors and illustrators who participated in the Tea & Talk Series program. The photographs are arranged alphabetically by surname.

Series IV - Audio Tapes

The audio cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes contain the actual recordings of some of the guest speakers. Asterisks indicate interviews held by Donna Hill and Florence B. Freedman with specific guests. Hill and Freedman intended to include these interviews in a book they expected to publish on the Tea & Talk Series program. The tapes are arranged alphabetically by surname.

Series V - Tea & Talk Series Book Proposal

Donna Hill and Florence B. Freedman intended to publish a book containing the transcripts of the authors and illustrators who participated in the Tea & Talk Series. Included are files on each of the participants, along with the unpublished manuscript of *Creating Books for Children: Talk by Authors and Illustrators in the Tea & Talk Series*, edited by Donna Hill and Florence B. Freedman. The files on the authors and/or illustrators are arranged alphabetically by surname.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I - ADMINISTRATIVE FILES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Correspondence Cowe, Eileen G. Hill, Donna
	2	Incoming, 1978 - 1985, 1995, 1996
	3	Outgoing, 1983 - 1985, 1992
	4	Eileen G. Cowe Memorial, 1983
	5	History of the Tea & Talk Series
		Mailing List
	6	1982 - 1986
	7	1985
	8	1985
	9	Procedures
	10	Signs
	11	Miscellaneous Materials
	12	Notes, Data, and Outline

SERIES II - GUEST FILES

2	1	Asimov, Isaac Biographical Information
	2	Correspondence, 1972
		Baylor, Ruth
	3	Correspondence, 1969-1970
		Belpre-White, Pura
	4	Biographical Information
	5	Correspondence, 1980
	6	Publicity Materials
	7	Transcript of Presentation, November 18, 1980

SERIES II - GUEST FILES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
2	8	Cass, James
		Charlip, Remy
	9	Biographical Information
	10	Correspondence, 1980
		Memoranda, 1980
	12	Publicity Materials
	13	Transcript of Presentation, March 24, 1980
		Ciardi, John
	14	Biographical Information
	15	Correspondence, 1973
	16	Publicity Materials
	17	Transcript of Presentation, November 1, 1973
3	1	Cohen, Miriam
	2	Cousins, Norman
		de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk
	3	Biographical Information
	4	Correspondence, 1979 - 1980
	5	Memoranda, 1979
	6	Publicity Materials
	7	Transcript of Presentation, December 3, 1979
		Freeman, Don
	8	Biographical Information
	9	Correspondence, 1974 - 1975
	10	Memoranda, 1974
	11	Publicity Materials
	12	Summary of Presentation, December 6, 1974
		Fritz, Jean
	13	Biographical Information
	14	Correspondence, 1975 - 1976
	15	Publicity Materials
		Fuller, Muriel
	16	Correspondence, 1975, 1976
		Publicity Materials

SERIES II - GUEST FILES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
3	17	Garland, Joy Correspondence, 1978, 1979 Publicity Materials
	18	Hamilton, Virginia Correspondence, 1986 Publicity Materials
	19	Hentoff, Nat & Margot Correspondence, 1971 Publicity Materials
	20	Hill, Donna, Diane Dawson, and Jean Karl Biographical Information
	21	Correspondence, 1978
	22	Publicity Materials
	23	Transcript of Presentation, April 12, 1978
4	1	Hoban, Lillian Biographical Information
	2	Correspondence, 1977
	3	Publicity Materials
	4	Transcript of Presentation, December 13, 1977
	5	Hogrogian, Nonny Biographical Information
	6	Publicity Materials
	7	Houston, James A. Correspondence, 1973, 1975 Publicity Materials
	8	Jacobs, Leland Biographical Information
	9	Correspondence, 1978
	10	Publicity Materials
	11	Jeffers, Susan Biographical Information
	12	Correspondence, 1974
	13	Publicity Materials

SERIES II - GUEST FILES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>		
4	14	Kaufman, Bel Biographical Information Correspondence, 1984-1985 Publicity Materials		
		15	Keats, Ezra Jack Biographical Information	
			16	Publicity Materials
	17	Kerr, M.J.	Biographical Information	
			18	Correspondence, 1983
			19	Publicity Materials
	20	Langstaff, John	Biographical Information	
			21	Correspondence, 1981
			22	Publicity Materials
	5	1	Lewis, Richard Biographical Information	
			2	Correspondence, 1983
			3	Publicity Materials
4		Lobel, Arnold	Biographical Information	
			5	Correspondence, 1977
			6	Publicity Materials
			7	Transcript of Presentation, April 31, 1977
8	Mason, Barbara T. Letter from Eileen G. Cowe to Barbara T. Mason, May 23, 1969 Publicity Flyer			
9	Montresor, Beni	Biographical Information		
		10	Correspondence, 1981	
		11	Publicity Materials	
		12	Transcript of Presentation, April 28, 1981	

SERIES II - GUEST FILES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
5	13	Neville, Emily Biographical Information
	14	Correspondence, 1968
	15	Publicity Materials
		Sendak, Maurice
	16	Biographical Information
	17	Correspondence, 1971
	18	Publicity Materials
		Shulevitz, Uri
	19	Biographical Information
	20	Correspondence, 1975
	21	Publicity Materials
	22	Transcript of Presentation, October 28, 1975
		Southgate, Vera
	23	Correspondence, 1970 Book Jackets Publicity Materials
		Step toe, John
	24	Biographical Information
	25	Correspondence, 1972
	26	Publicity Materials
		Wolkstein, Diane
	27	Biographical Information
	28	Correspondence, 1982
	29	Publicity Materials
		Wollitz, Kenneth
	30	Correspondence, 1983 Publicity Materials

SERIES III - PHOTOGRAPHS

6	1	Baylor, Ruth	November 3, 1969
	2	Belpre, Pura	November 18, 1980
	3	Cass, James	November 12, 1970
	4	Charlip, Remy	April 24, 1980
	5	Cohen, Miriam	May 1, 1986

SERIES III - PHOTOGRAPHS

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
6	6	de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk	February 3, 1979
	7	Freeman, Don	November 6, 1974
	8	Fritz, Jean	March 9, 1976
	9	Hill, Donna, Diane Dawson and Jean Karl	April 12, 1978
	10	Hoban, Lillian	December 13, 1977
	11	Hogrogian, Nonny	April 19, 1967
	12	Jacobs, Leland	May 3, 1979
	13	Jeffers, Susan	May 14, 1967
	14	Kaufman, Bel	April 4, 1985
	15	Keats, Ezra Jack	November 3, 1965
	16	Kerr, M.E.	April 28, 1983
	17	Langstaff, John	November 5, 1981
	18	Lewis, Richard	November 1, 1967
	19	Lobel, Arnold	April 31, 1977
	20	Language Association Tea	n.d.
	21	Montresor, Beni	April 28, 1981
	22	Sendak, Maurice	March 25, 1971
	23	Shulevitz, Uri	October 28, 1975
	24	Steptoe, John	December 2, 1982
	25	Southgate, Vera	April 30, 1970
	26	Wolkstein, Diana	April 27, 1982
	27	Wollitz, Kenneth	November 10, 1983

SERIES III – AUDIO TAPES

Audio Cassettes

7	*Asimov, Isaac	July 14, 1980
	Belpre, Pura	November 18, 1980
	Charlip, Remy	April 24, 1980
	*Charlip, Remy	March 27, 1981
	Cohen, Miriam	May 1, 1986
	de Regniers, Beatrice S.	December 3, 1979
	Fritz, Jean	March 9, 1976
	Garland, Joy	January 11, 1979
	Hamilton, Virginia	April 30, 1987
	Hentoff, Nat & Margot	November 18, 1971

SERIES III – AUDIO TAPES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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Audio Cassettes

7		Hill, Donna, Diane Dawson and Jean Karl Hoban, Lillian *Hogrogian, Nonny Jacobs, Leland *Jeffers, Susan Kaufman, Bel *Keats, Ezra Jack Kerr, M.E. Langstaff, John *Lewis, Richard Lewis, Richard Lobel, Arnold Montresor, Beni *Neville, Emily Steptoe, John Wolkstein, Diane Wollitz, Kenneth	April 12, 1978 December 13, 1977 December 18, 1978 May 3, 1979 September 30, 1980 April 11, 1985 July 15, 1980 April 28, 1983 November 5, 1981 July 8, 1980 April 8, 1984 April 31, 1977 April 28, 1981 November 10, 1980 December 2, 1982 April 27, 1982 November 10, 1983
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Reel-to-Reel Tapes

8		Cousins, Norman Hentoff, Nat and Margot Hill, Donna, Diane Dawson and Jean Karl Houston, James Archibal Neville, Emily Sendak, Maurice	November 21, 1972 November 18, 1971 April 12, 1978 May 21, 1973 November 4, 1968 March 25, 1971
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SERIES V - TEA & TALK SERIES BOOK PROPOSAL

9	1	Asimov, Isaac Edited Transcript of Interview, July 14, 1980
	2	Isaac Asimov on Writing for Children as told to Donna Hill and Florence B. Freedman, circa April 1982

SERIES V - TEA & TALK SERIES BOOK PROPOSAL

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
9	3	Belpre, Pura
	4	Correspondence, 1981
		Edited Transcript of Presentation, November 18, 1980
		Charlip, Remy
	5	Correspondence, 1980 - 1981
	6	Edited Transcript of Presentation, April 24, 1980
	7	Edited Transcript of Presentation, March 27, 1981
	8	Revised Transcript of Presentation, circa November 1982
		Ciardi, John
	9	Correspondence, 1980, 1982
10		Edited Transcript of Presentation, November 1, 1973
		de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk
	11	Correspondence, 1980 - 1982
	12	Edited Transcript of Presentation, December 3, 1979
		Freeman, Lydia
	13	Correspondence, 1980 - 1982
	14	“Chalk Talk” circa November 1980
		Fritz, Jean
	15	Correspondence, 1980
		Hill, Donna, Diane Dawson, and Jean Karl
	16	Correspondence, 1980, 1982
	17	Edited Transcript of Presentation, April 12, 1978
	18	Final Draft of Presentation, circa May 1978
		Hoban, Lillian
	19	Correspondence, 1980 - 1982
	20	Edited Transcript of Presentation, December 13, 1977
		Hogrogian, Nonny
	21	Correspondence, 1980 - 1982
	22	Transcript of Interview, December 18, 1980
	23	Revised Transcript of Interview, circa August 1982
		Jacobs, Leland
	24	Correspondence, 1980

SERIES V - TEA & TALK SERIES BOOK PROPOSAL

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		Jeffers, Susan
10	1	Correspondence, 1980 - 1982
	2	Edited Transcript of Interview, September 30, 1980
	3	Revised Transcript of Interview, circa 1980
		Keats, Ezra Jack
	4	Correspondence, 1981 - 1982
	5	Edited Transcript of Interview, July 15, 1980
	6	Revised Transcript of Interview, circa 1980
		Lewis, Richard
	7	Correspondence, 1980 - 1982
	8	Edited Transcript of Interview, July 8, 1980
	9	Revised Transcript of Interview, circa 1980
		Lobel, Arnold
	10	Correspondence, 1980, 1982
	11	Edited Transcript of Presentation, March 31, 1977
	12	Revised Transcript of Presentation, circa 1977
		Montresor, Beni
	13	Correspondence, 1981 - 1982
	14	Edited Transcript of Presentation, April 28, 1981
	15	Revised Transcript of Presentation, July 27, 1982
		Neville, Emily
	16	Correspondence, 1980 - 1982
	17	Edited Transcript of Interview, November 11, 1980
	18	Revised Transcript of Interview, circa 1980
		Sendak, Maurice
	19	Correspondence, 1980
		Shulevitz, Uri
	20	Correspondence, 1980, 1982
	21	Edited Transcript of Presentation, October 28, 1975
11		Unpublished Manuscript Creating Books for Children: Talks by Authors and Illustrators in the Tea & Talk Series. Edited by Donna Hill and Florence B. Freedman

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