Finding Aid to the Flora J. Arnstein Papers, 1897-1990, undated, bulk 1926-1985

Finding Aid written by Anastasia Karel
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Finding Aid to the Flora J. Arnstein Papers, 1897-1990, undated, bulk 1926-1985

Collection Number: BANC MSS 85/144

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Finding Aid Written By:
Anastasia Karel
Date Completed:
July 2009

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Flora J. Arnstein papers.
Date (inclusive): 1897-1990,
Date: undated,
Date (bulk): bulk 1926-1985
Collection Number: BANC MSS 85/144
Creators: Arnstein, Flora J.
Extent: Number of containers: 4 cartons, 1 box, 1 filebox, 6 oversize volumesLinear feet: 7.5
Repository: The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/


Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Flora J. Arnstein Papers, BANC MSS 85/144, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Related Collections
Ongoings: poetry, teaching, family in San Francisco, 1885-1985 : oral history transcript (BANC MSS 86/92)
Finding Aid to the Flora J. Arnstein Papers, 1897-1990, undated, bulk 1926-1985

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Women authors, American--California
Women poets, American--20th century
Alternative education--California

Acquisition Information
The Flora J. Arnstein Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Edith Jenkins on June 12, 1990.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the container level.

Processing Information
Processed by Anastasia Karel and Rachel Gulbraa in 2009.

Biographical Information
Flora Jacobi was born on August 10, 1885, in San Francisco. She married Lawrence Arnstein in 1910, and was a co-founder of the Presidio Open Air School (now Presidio Hill) with her sister-in-law Helen Salz in 1917. She began writing poetry at the age of 40, and incorporated it into her teaching. Two of her notable pupils were Pierre Salinger and Arthur Hoppe. In addition to publishing poems in various periodicals and as collections, she wrote several articles and a book on the benefits of teaching poetry to children.

On the occasion of her 100th birthday, Arnstein was interviewed for Berkeley's Regional Oral History Office. This transcript provides a much fuller biography. Arnstein continued to write and publish until her death in February 1990.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Flora J. Arnstein Papers contain many of her writings, some teaching materials and other personal items. Her correspondence, much of which is in Series 1, is not extensive but does represent important relationships during her life, including her parents. There are also six oversize scrapbooks that document the different parts of Arnstein's life.

Series 1 Correspondence 1897-1990, undated
Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (22 folders)
Arrangement
Alphabetical
Scope and Content Note
This series contains a mix of Arnstein's professional and personal correspondence.

Carton 1, Folder 1
Bush, Martin H. 1964-1967
Note
Syracuse University

Carton 1, Folder 2
Brandenstein, Henry 1928
Note
to Fred Jacobi, FJA's brother; all copies

Carton 1, Folder 3
Clark, Walter Van Tilburg 1964-1969
Coles, Robert 1968-1981

Carton 1, Folder 5
Elkas, Jon 1956-1973, undated
Fields, Sara 1927-1954, undated

Carton 1, Folder 7
Hutchinson, Robert 1969-1980, undated

Carton 1, Folder 8
re: I Met Death One Clumsy Day 1967-1971

Carton 1, Folder 9
Kaufman, Shirley 1965-1990, undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 1, Folder</th>
<th>Letters from students 1933-1978, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Lopate, Phillip 1976-1979, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Mearns, Hughes 1940-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Parents (FJA’s) 1897-1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Poetry magazine 1929-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Rafael, Ruth 1973-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Salinger, Mabel Circa 1925-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Stegner, Wallace 1951; 1982-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>A-L 1926-1989, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>M-S 1928-1989, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>T-Z 1928-1989, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Unidentified 1929-1989, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 2 Writings 1897-1989, undated**

Physical Description: 3.4 linear feet (2 cartons, 8 folders, 2 oversize volumes, 1 filebox)

Arrangement

Alphabetical

Scope and Content Note

This series contains many of Arnstein's writings, separated into two subseries, poems and other. The majority of these writings are in draft or unpublished form; exceptions are noted.

**SubSeries 2.1 Poems 1926-1989, undated**

Physical Description: 1.7 linear feet

Arrangement

Alphabetical

Scope and Content Note

Primarily collections of poems around a theme, some include annotations or criticism by friends and colleagues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 1, Folder</th>
<th>After Their Kind: a Bestiary 1928, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Along the Way (Aphorisms) Circa 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>And Now Good Morrow to Our Waking Souls 1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Animals, with criticism by Shirley Kaufman Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Aphorisms Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder</td>
<td>Copies of three collections undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note

*Of shoes and ships and sealing wax; A pocketful of wry; And cabbages and kings*
**Series 2: Writings 1897-1989, undated**

**SubSeries 2.1: Poems 1926-1989, undated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 1, Folder 29</th>
<th>Criticism by Laurence Hart, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 30</td>
<td><em>Legacy of Hours</em>, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 31</td>
<td><em>Light poems</em>, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 32-33</td>
<td><em>Light Widening</em>, 1979-1989, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 34</td>
<td>Lists of published poems, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>includes place of publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filebox 1</td>
<td><em>Ms. and ts. drafts</em>,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 35-37</td>
<td><em>Note cards</em>,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 38-39</td>
<td><em>A Moment's Transit</em>,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 40-41</td>
<td><em>&quot;New&quot; poems</em>, 1988-1989,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 42-43</td>
<td><em>Ordered Turbulence</em>,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 44</td>
<td><em>Prolong the Day</em>, 1988, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 45</td>
<td><em>Published</em>, 1930-1968, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize Volume 1</td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>some in ts. form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 2, Folder 1-3</td>
<td><em>Scrapbooks</em>, 1926-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Clippings</em>, 1926-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Published poems</em>, 1954-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 2, Folder 4-9</td>
<td><em>Selections</em>, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 2, Folder 10-15</td>
<td><em>Time Out of Mind</em>, 1987,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 2, Folder 16</td>
<td><em>Two Poems</em>, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 2, Folder 17-18</td>
<td><em>Unidentified</em>, Circa 1980s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SubSeries 2.2: Other 1897-1984, undated**

- Physical Description: 1.6 linear feet
- Arrangement: Alphabetical
- Scope and Content Note: Contains articles about poetry and education, stories, graded essays for school, and writings not by Arnstein. There are also unpublished drafts of book-length prose.
**Adventure into Poetry 1951-1957**
Correspondence and reviews 1951-1954

**Bay Leaf and Fool's Gold 1983**
Note
children's poems published by Oakland Unified School District

**Dear Harriet Undated**
Note
unpublished

**Early pieces 1897**
Note
published in *The Pastime*, a periodical created by Helen and Gertrude Arnstein while students at Miss Murison's, a private school in San Francisco

**Education-related 1939-1972**
Note
includes drafts, published versions, and correspondence

**Education publications 1938; 1963-1977**

**Essays for school 1951-1957, undated**
Note
two folders of general and twelve folders of titled essays, by FJA for classes in writing; many essays are graded

**Gerontology in Person 1978**
Note
unpublished essay

**A Girl and Her Grandparents 1981**
Note
published in *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*

**Growing Up in the Nineties 1976**
Note
photocopy of article published in *San Francisco Chronicle*

**The Growth of Poetic Criteria in Children 1938**
Note
published in *Progressive Education*

**Honeymoon Vignette Undated**

**I Met Death One Clumsy Day Undated**
Note
typescript

**Lengthening Days Undated**
Note
autobiographical, unpublished
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 3, Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><em>Life with Father</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td>Note&lt;br&gt;skit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><em>Old stories</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><em>Pony Pegasus</em> radio scripts</td>
<td>1941-1949</td>
<td>Note&lt;br&gt;program on KPFA; includes correspondence about idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><em>Poetry in the Elementary Grades</em></td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Note&lt;br&gt;published monograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Report on Project to Bring Education in Child-rearing to Housebound Mothers of Young Children</td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Reviews</td>
<td>1951-1984</td>
<td>Note&lt;br&gt;about FJA's writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td><em>Stories</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td><em>Teachers &amp; Writers Magazine</em></td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Note&lt;br&gt;vol. 8, issue 2, in honor of FJA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><em>The Time is Now</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-26</td>
<td><em>Vignettes</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><em>General</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td><em>Class presentations</em></td>
<td>1965</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-32</td>
<td><em>Grammar lessons</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33-38</td>
<td><em>Poems by students</em></td>
<td>1931-1975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Groups III, IV</td>
<td>1932-1934</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Groups III, IV, V, and unidentified</td>
<td>1931-1975, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Programs for plays</td>
<td>1932-1939, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td><em>Reading games</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 3 Teaching Materials 1928-1975, undated**
- Physical Description: 1.2 linear feet (33 folders, 1 oversize volume)
- Arrangement: Alphabetical
- Scope and Content Note: The materials in this series are primarily from Arnstein's work at the Presidio Open Air School. Of note are the student projects, which include handmade books of poems and yearbooks; the majority of these items date from the 1930s.
Series 3 Teaching Materials 1928-1975, undated

Carton 4, Folder 14 Record of teenagers' group 1928-1929
  Note
  likely a group that met at FJA's home

Carton 4, Folder 15 Salinger, Pierre 1982
  Note
  student of FJA; three items including letter from FJA

Oversize Volume 3 Scrapbook created by students 1936

Carton 4, Folder 16 Storybooks Circa 1930s
  Note
  written by FJA

Carton 4, Folder 17 Student newsletter 1935-1936

Carton 4, Folder 18 Student projects Undated

Carton 4, Folder 19 Utah children's poems 1936

Carton 4, Folder 20-21 Yearbooks 1932-1934
  Note
  primarily poems, includes some photographs

Carton 4, Folder 22 Young Eyes Circa 1960s
  Note
  unpublished copy of children's poems (likely students at Presidio school)

Series 4 Personal 1917-1990, undated
  Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet (1 box, 14 folders, 3 oversize volumes)
  Arrangement
  Alphabetical
  Scope and Content Note
  This series contains materials that are not writings or teaching materials. There is some correspondence here that could not be separated without losing some of the original context of the materials. The educational materials here are from Arnstein's personal academic pursuits, specifically the courses she took to improve her writing.

Carton 4, Folder 23 100th birthday 1985
  Correspondence and related materials

Carton 4, Folder 24 Small scrapbook

Oversize Volume 4 Large scrapbook

Oversize Drawer A Certificates of honor

Oversize Volume 5 102nd birthday scrapbook 1987

Oversize Volume 6 103rd birthday scrapbook 1988

Carton 4, Folder 25 104th birthday 1989
  Note
  pages from a scrapbook
Carton 4, Folder 26-29  
Arnstein, Lawrence 1917-1979

Carton 4, Folder 30  
Biographical Undated
  Note
  includes family tree

Carton 4, Folder 31-33  
Cheyney-Trent Correspondence courses in poetry 1929-1930
  Note
  includes lessons, poems by FJA, and correspondence from instructor

Carton 4, Folder 34  
Course on how to write a novel Undated
  Note
  lecture notes and assignments; UC Extension

Carton 4, Folder 35-36  
In Memory of Flora J. Arnstein 1990
  Note
  Materials on group for enriched aging 1980-1983
    Note
    led by Marge Lozoff, includes poems by FJA

Box 1, Folder 1  
Notebooks 1930-1989, undated
  Note
  Notes 1951, undated
    Note
    possibly from lectures on how to write

Box 1, Folder 12  
Publicity 1951-1985
  Note
  Writers Conference at University of Utah 1947-1956
    Note
    notes and writings