Inventory of the Edna Edwards Interviews with Children's Authors and Illustrators

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Edna Edwards Interviews with Children's Authors and Illustrators

Dates: 1966-1976

Collection number: 101

Creator: Edwards, Edna

Collection Size: 3 boxes (1.63 linear feet)

Repository: Loyola Marymount University. William H. Hannon Library. Department of Archives and Special Collections. Los Angeles, California 90045-2659

Abstract: This collection consists of textual and audio materials documenting Edna Edwards' interviews with children's literature authors and illustrators. The interviews were conducted in the early 1970s. Some of the interviews were published, while others remain unedited on cassette tape.

Physical location: Collection stored on site. Appointment is necessary to consult the collection.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research by appointment with no restrictions under the conditions of the access policy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections, William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To schedule an appointment, please call the Department of Archives and Special Collections at 310-338-5710, or email the department: Special.Collections@lmu.edu. As a preservation measure, researchers must use the reference copies of the original audio materials.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Series number, Box and Folder number, Edna Edwards Interviews with Children's Authors and Illustrators, Collection 101, Department of Archives and Special Collections, William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University.

Acquisition Information


Biography

Edna Edwards grew up in Kentucky and went to school in Tennessee at Carson-Newman College. She graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1951. She worked as a librarian for Kenwick Elementary School in Fayette County, Kentucky. She received her masters degree in education from UCLA in 1961. Beginning in 1961, Edwards worked as a librarian for Horace
Mann Elementary School in Beverly Hills, California. She took a sabbatical leave for a semester during the 1970-1971 school year. In May 1970, she sent letters to about twenty-five authors and illustrators of children’s books requesting their participation in making taped interviews. Edwards traveled throughout the United States and Europe to conduct the interviews, usually at the interviewees' home. She struggled to find a publisher for the interviews. In 1973, the Center for Cassette Studies in Hollywood, California agreed to publish the tapes. The interviewees included Lloyd Alexander, Nina Bawden, Roald Dahl, Meindert De Jong, Penelope Farmer, Sid Fleischman, Ezra Jack Keats, Elaine Konigsburg, Madeleine L’Engle, Leo Lionni, Myra Cohn Livingston, Mary Norton, Bill Peet, Frances Clarke Sayers, Maurice Sendak, and Brian Wildsmith.

The above information was compiled from materials within the collection.

May 1970
Edna Edwards sends letters to authors and illustrators requesting interviews.

June 1970
Interview conducted with Sid Fleischman.

July 10, 1970
Interview conducted with Roald Dahl.

July 21, 1970
Interview conducted with Myra Cohn Livingston.

September 2, 1970
Interview conducted with Bill Peet.

November 9, 1970
Interview conducted with Maurice Sendak.

November 10, 1970
Interview conducted with Ezra Jack Keats.

November 12, 1970
Interview conducted with Madeleine L’Engle.

November 14, 1970
Interview conducted with Meindert De Jong.

November 15, 1970
Interview conducted with Elaine Konigsburg.

December 5, 1970
Interview conducted with Frances Clarke Sayers.

February 1971
Interview conducted with Lloyd Alexander.

July 1973
Interview conducted with Brian Wildsmith.

Interview conducted with Mary Norton.

Interview conducted with Leo Lionni.

August 29, 1973
Interview conducted with Penelope Farmer.

July 23, 1975
Interview conducted with Nina Bawden.

**Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of correspondence, notes, recorded interviews on cassette tape and CD, and transcripts of the interviews Edna Edwards conducted with notable children’s authors and illustrators. Correspondence includes information about scheduling the interviews, as well as personal exchanges and examples of the interviewees’ work.

The collection includes correspondence with authors who declined an interview, including Ray Bradbury, Charles Schulz, E.B. White, Beverly Cleary, Eleanor Cameron, Felix Hoffmann, Joseph Krumgold, Robert McCloskey, and T.S. Geisel.

Notable items: signed brochures from Bill Peet, including a poster of his illustrations; an illustrated holiday letter and a card from Bill and Margaret Peet; signed brochures from Elaine Konigsburg; an illustrated holiday letter from Hugh and Madeleine (L’Engle) Franklin.

**Arrangement**

This collection consists of two series. The first series consists of Edna Edwards' files related to the interview project. The second series consists of copies of the original audio material of the collection.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Edwards, Edna.

Sayers, Frances Clarke, 1897-.
Alexander, Lloyd.
Peet, Bill.
Sendak, Maurice.
Wildsmith, Brian.
Konigsburg, E. L.
Keats, Ezra Jack.
L'Engle, Madeleine.
Lionni, Leo, 1910-1999.
Livingston, Myra Cohn.
Norton, Mary.
Bawden, Nina, 1925--.
Dahl, Roald.
Farmer, Penelope, 1939-.
Fleischman, Sid, 1920-2010.
Center for Cassette Studies.
Novelists, English--20th century--Interviews.
Novelists, American--20th century--Interviews.
Poets, American--20th century--Interviews.
Illustrators--Interviews--Juvenile literature.
Authors--20th century--Interviews.
Children's literature--Authorship.
Children--Books and reading.
Children's poetry--Authorship.
Children's literature, American--History and criticism.
Librarians--United States--Interviews.

**Series 1: General Files. 1966-1976**

Physical Description: 2 archival document boxes (1.0 linear foot)

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of Edna Edwards' correspondence with publishing agencies and both potential and actual interviewees. Edwards' original order has been maintained and the original folder titles are in parentheses.

| Box 1 : 1 | (Tapes-General) Correspondence with the Center for Cassette Studies, other publishers 1973-1975 |
| Box 1 : 3 | (Lindgren, Astrid) Astrid Lindgren 1970 |
| Box 1 : 4 | (Freeman, Don) Don Freeman 1970, 1975-1976 |
| Box 1 : 5 | (Hoban) Russell Hoban 1971, 1973-1974 |
| Box 1 : 6 | (Schindel, Morton) Morton Schindel 1970 |
| Box 1 : 7 | (Schulz, Charles M) Charles M. Schulz 1974 |
| Box 1 : 9 | (Sendak) Maurice Sendak 1973-1974 |
| Box 1 : 10 | (Sendak, Maurice) Maurice Sendak undated |
| Box 1 : 11 | (Wildsmith) Brian Wildsmith 1970 (of the original), 1973, 1975 |
| Box 1 : 12 | (Konigsburg, Elaine) Elaine Konigsburg 1975 |
| Box 1 : 15 | (L'Engle) Madeleine L'Engle 1973, 1976 |
Box 1 : 16  (White, E.B.) E.B. White 1973-1974
Box 1 : 18  (Livingston) Myra Cohn Livingston 1973
Box 1 : 20  (Norton, Mary) Mary Norton undated
Box 1 : 21  (O'Dell, Scott) Scott O'Dell 1973
Box 1 : 22  (Sayers) Frances Clarke Sayers 1973
Box 1 : 23  (Bawden) Nina Bawden 1975-1976
Box 1 : 25  (DeJong) Meindert De Jong 1970 (of the original), 1973
Box 1 : 26  (Fadiman) Clifton Fadiman 1974
Box 1 : 27  (Farmer, Penelope) Penelope Farmer 1973
Box 1 : 28  (Fleischman) Sid Fleischman 1973-1975
Box 1 : 29  Unlabeled, correspondence with potential interviewees (1 of 2) 1970-1971
Box 1 : 30  Unlabeled, correspondence with potential interviewees (2 of 2) 1970-1971
Box 1 : 31  (Author Interviews by Edna Edwards) Interview transcriptions 1974


Physical Description: 1 box (0.63 linear feet)
Scope and Content Note
This series consists of copies of the original audio materials of the collection. The Center for Cassette Studies edited and published the interviews of Madeleine L'Engle, Leo Lionni, Frances Clarke Sayers, Myra Cohn Livingston, Bill Peet, Sid Fleischman, Penelope Farmer, Brian Wildsmith, Ezra Jack Keats, Roald Dahl, Elaine Konigsburg, and Lloyd Alexander. Unedited cassette tape interviews with Nina Bawden, Maurice Sendak, Meindert De Jong, and Mary Norton were included in the original materials. These interviews have all been duplicated onto CD for researchers by the Department of Archives and Special Collections. The original audio materials are not available to researchers. The interviewer supplied the titles for the interviews found below.

Box 2 : 1  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19639B2: A Conversation with Miss L'Engle 1973 (of the original)
Box 2 : 2  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19634B1: A Writer Children Love- author, illustrator Leo Lionni; Frances Clarke Sayers- a "first lady" of children's literature talks with Edna Edwards undated (of the original)
Box 2 : 3  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH15099A2: Myra Cohn Livingston- the beautiful poet who writes beautiful poems for children 1973 (of the original)
Box 2 : 4  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19632A3: Picture Book World of Bill Peet; Sid Fleischman: Mr. Mysterious 1973 (of the original)
Box 2 : 5  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19630B1: Penelope Farmer- the popular British novelist talks about the craft of writing; Focus on Brian Wildsmith undated (of the original)
Box 2 : 6  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19633B4: Our Favorite Mr. Keats; Bedtime Stories to Children's Books- An interview with Roald Dahl undated (of original), 1973 (of the original)
Box 2 : 7  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19628A3: Focus on Elaine Konigsburg; Lloyd Alexander: Born Story Teller undated (of original), 1973 (of the original)
Box 2 : 8  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19641B4: Nina Bawden, Maurice Sendak Part 1 (unedited) 1975 (of the original), undated (of the original)
Box 2 : 9  Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH15068B3: Maurice Sendak Part 2 (unedited), Meindert De Jong Part 1, Meindert De Jong Part 2 (unedited) undated (of the original)
Box 2 : 10 Researcher copy, 5122ML171LH19643B2: Mary Norton Part 1 (unedited), Mary Norton Part 2 (unedited) undated (of the original)