Finding aid for the Eugenia F. Phelps paper cutting, paper weaving, and card sewing albums 6113

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2016 April  
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Three accordion-fold albums, each demonstrating one of the "gifts" (educational forms of play) devised by kindergarten originator Friedrich Wilhelm Frobel. Each album bears the name of Eugenia T. Phelps (b. 1894), a kindergarten teacher in the New York City public school system, as well as the stamp of J.W. Schermerhorn & Co., a publisher of children's educational materials and early promoter of Frobel's methods.

Biographical / Historical
Eugenia F. Phelps was a kindergarten teacher in Staten Island, New York. As evidenced by the Schermerhorn stamp in these albums, Phelps was a practitioner of the Frobel method of education, and the founder of the kindergarten. Frobel encouraged young women to undertake serious study to become kindergarten teachers, and many traveled from the United States to Germany to study his methods. He advocated the concept of educational "gifts" and many of his followers created albums like these as they practiced different gifts.

Content Description
Three accordion-fold albums, each demonstrating one of the "gifts" (educational forms of play) devised by kindergarten originator Friedrich Wilhelm Frobel. 120 leaves in total, on which are mounted more than 200 examples of paper cutting, paper weaving, and card sewing techniques and patterns. Each album bears the name of Eugenia T. Phelps (b. 1894), a kindergarten teacher in the New York City public school system, as well as the stamp of J.W. Schermerhorn & Co., a publisher of children's educational materials and early promoter of Frobel's methods. (Bookseller's description)

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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder no. or item name], Eugenia F. Phelps paper cutting, paper weaving, and card sewing albums, Collection no. 6113, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from Walkabout Books, April 13, 2016.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Education -- United States -- Archival resources
Kindergarten -- New York (N.Y.) -- Archival resources
Kindergarten teachers -- New York (N.Y.) -- Archival resources
Educational toys
Phelps, Eugenia F.
Phelps, Eugenia F. -- Archives
Fröbel, Friedrich, 1782-1852 -- Archives