

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop Collection

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### 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:

Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop Collection, 1920-1991, MG 15. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

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## **Conditions Governing Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access**

None

### **Copyright**

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: Purchase from The Scarlet Letter, Bryn Mawr Bookshop, and Aleph-Bet Books, 1991, 1995

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## **Processing Information**

Processed by C. Clynes, July 2005; finding aid updated by H. Cox, June 2021.

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## **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.

**Documentary Ephemera** includes news-clippings from such publications as *The New York Times Book Review*, *Story Parade*, *The American Girl*, and the *Times Union*, as well as Macmillan Company newsletters, book reviews and book lists, exhibition, catalogs, and notices of book signing events.

**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.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>		
Correspondence to Helen Fay and Eleanor Foote from Dorothy Lathrop, 1933-1962	1	1
Correspondence to Helen Fay and Eleanor Foot from Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop, 1963-1977		2
Correspondence to Helen Fay and Eleanor Foot from Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop, undated		3
Correspondence from Gertrude Lathrop to her family, 1920		4

Miscellaneous correspondence from Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop and Christmas Greetings Cards, 1938		5
Miscellaneous correspondence to Helen Fay regarding Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop's works, 1936-1977; Invoice to Helen Fay, May 1973		6
Price lists and inventories of Dorothy and Gertrude Lathrop, undated		7
Cancelled Envelopes, undated		8
<b>Documentary Ephemera</b>		
Invitation to the The Friends of Albany Public Library Annual Meeting, May 1980 (2 Copies); Invitation to meet Sumei Seo Mishima and Dorothy P. Lathrop, April 1954 (6 Copies)	2	1
Program from the Eastern District Fall Meeting Banquet, 1965		2
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)		3
Newspaper Clipping: Lathrop Exhibition Tribute To Albany Painter by R. Loring Dunn, undated;		4
Newspaper Clipping from the <i>New York Times Book Review</i> , June 9 1935; Newspaper Clipping from the <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> , June 15 1938 (2 Copies); <i>Story Parade: A Magazine for Girls and Boys</i> , August 1938; Newspaper Clipping "Helen Fay to Speak about Miss Lathrop," 1942 (2 Copies); Excerpt from the New York Zoological Society regarding Gertrude K. Lathrop, undated;		
Magazine: <i>The American Girl: for all girls</i> , Published by the Girl Scouts, July 1945		
Newspaper Clipping: "Dorothy Lathrop Reception Set," undated (2 Copies); Newspaper Clipping: "National Academy Honors Work of District Artists," undated(2 Copies); Magazine: <i>Arbor and Wild Life Day</i> , The University of The State of New York Bulletin to the Schools. February 1954; Newspaper Clipping from <i>The Daily Feature Parade</i> , undated (2 Copies); Newspaper Clipping from the <i>Times Union</i> : "Twelfth Print Club Exhibit," December 1967 (2 Copies);		5

Newsletter: The Macmillan Children's Book Department 50th Anniversary Issue, June 1969	
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;	7
Illustration of "An Angel in the Woods" by Dorothy P. Lathrop;	
Proofs of illustrations from "Chickadee" in Story Parade, nod.	
Samples of Dorothy and/or Gertrude Lathrop's work, undated	8
<b>Photographs</b>	
Photograph of Gertrude Lathrop, undated;	9
Photograph of Dorothy Lathrop with Rachel Fields, undated	
Photographs and snapshots of the sculpture "Taitu Di Peltremgo" by Gertrude K. Lathrop, undated	10
Photographs of pictures by Dorothy Lathrop, undated	11
<b>Signatures</b>	
<i>Bells and Grass</i> by Walter De La Mare, illustrated by Dorothy Lathrop, (incomplete), undated	12
Unidentified collection of short stories and poems (incomplete), undated	13