

Guide to the Kohar Alexanian Papers

GEN MSS 2133



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2024

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Kohar Alexanian	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Artwork, circa 1971-1979	5
Alexanian, Kohar	5
Boynton, Sandra	5
Brown, Palmer	5
Carrick, Malcolm	5
Lobel, Anita	5
Lobel, Arnold	5
McGee, Myra	5
[Shortall, Leonard?]	5
Strandquest, Dominique Michele	6
Unidentified	6
Series II: Correspondence, 1968-1981	7
Series III: Printed Materials, 1941-1981	9
Series IV: Other Papers, 1981-1999	10
Selected Search Terms	11

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2133

CREATOR: Alexanian, Kohar

TITLE: Kohar Alexanian papers

DATES: 1941–1999

BULK DATES: 1968–1981

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.83 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Kohar Alexanian papers consist of artwork, correspondence, printed materials, and other papers documenting Alexanian's professional activities as a designer and art director at Harper & Row Publishers from the late 1960s to early 1980s. The papers feature original artwork and correspondence from authors and illustrators of well-known and award-winning children's books. Contributors include Marie Angel, Sandra Boynton, Palmer Brown, Malcolm Carrick, Patricia Collins, Carolyn Croll, Whitney Darrow, Mayling Mack Holm, Howard Knotts, R. R. Knudson, Anita and Arnold Lobel, Myra McGee, Allen Say, Fritz Siebel, Marc Simont, James Stevenson, Dominique Michele Strandquest, and Sally Wittman.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.alexanian>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.alexanian>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from James Arsenault & Company on the Jockey Hollow Fund, 2022.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Kohar Alexanian Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Kohar Alexanian Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Kohar Alexanian

Kohar Alexanian, designer and art director in the Juvenile Books Group at Harper & Row Publishers.

Scope and Contents

The Kohar Alexanian papers consist of artwork, correspondence, printed materials, and other papers documenting Alexanian's professional activities as a designer and art director at Harper & Row Publishers from the late 1960s to early 1980s. The papers feature original artwork and correspondence from authors and illustrators of well-known and award-winning children's books. Contributors include Marie Angel, Sandra Boynton, Palmer Brown, Malcolm Carrick, Patricia Collins, Carolyn Croll, Whitney Darrow, Mayling Mack Holm, Howard Knotts, R. R. Knudson, Anita and Arnold Lobel, Myra McGee, Allen Say, Fritz Siebel, Marc Simont, James Stevenson, Dominique Michele Strandquest, and Sally Wittman.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Artwork, circa 1971-1979. II. Correspondence, 1968-1981. III. Printed Materials, 1941-1981. IV. Other Papers, 1981-1999.

Collection Contents

Series I: Artwork, circa 1971-1979

Series I. includes original artwork by Kohar Alexanian and authors and illustrators published by Harper & Row Publishers during the 1970s. Alexanian's work includes manuscript dummies for two unpublished stories for children and several ink and pencil drawings. There is also original work by Sandra Boynton, Palmer Brown, Malcolm Carrick, Arnold Lobel, Myra McGee, Leonard Shortall, and Dominique Michel Strandquest. Work includes simple pencil and pen and ink drawings, as well as ink and watercolor.

Arranged alphabetically by creator and title.

Alexanian, Kohar		
b. 1, f. 1	"Kim and Kiss together," manuscript dummy of a story about a girl and her dog, with text and drawings, pencil	undated
b. 1, f. 2	<i>A Sound of chariots</i> , printed illustrations	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Untitled manuscript dummy of a story about a brother and sister, with pencil drawings and text, typescript, pasted in	undated
b. 1, f. 4	Other drawings, ink and color pencil	undated
Boynton, Sandra		
b. 1, f. 5	<i>Hester in the wild</i> , cover art, ink and watercolor	circa 1979
Brown, Palmer		
b. 1, f. 6	<i>Hickory</i> , pen and ink drawings	circa 1978
Carrick, Malcolm		
b. 1, f. 7	<i>Today is Shrew's day</i> , cover art, ink and watercolor	circa 1978
b. 1, f. 8	<i>Tramp</i> , cover art, pencil, inscribed	circa 1977
Lobel, Anita		
b. 1, f. 9	<i>A Birthday for the princess</i> , [proofs?] of two illustrations	circa 1973
Lobel, Arnold		
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 1	<i>Frog and toad together</i> in "The Garden," sketch, pen and ink over pencil, inscribed	undated
b. 1, f. 10	<i>Mouse tales</i> , drawing, pencil, signed and inscribed	circa 1972
b. 1, f. 11	Untitled drawing, pencil and watercolor, possibly relating to <i>Mouse tales</i>	undated
McGee, Myra		
b. 1, f. 12	<i>Lester and mother</i> , sketches, pen and ink	circa 1978
[Shortall, Leonard?]		

[Shortall, Leonard?] (continued)

b. 1, f. 13	Untitled sketch of a horse and chicken in a barn, pen and ink, possibly relating to <i>The Wonderful world of horses</i>	undated
<hr/>		
Strandquest, Dominique Michele		
b. 1, f. 14	<i>Maximus</i> , drawing, ink and watercolor, annotated	circa 1971
<hr/>		
Unidentified		
b. 1, f. 15	Untitled drawings relating to Thumbelina, ink, color pencil, and watercolor	undated
b. 1, f. 16	Untitled sketch of a boy in a meadow with a large, crowned pink bird, ink and watercolor	undated
b. 1, f. 17	Untitled sketch of a circus scene, pastel on black paper	undated
b. 1, f. 18	Untitled sketch (print?) of a girl sitting in the grass with a cat	
b. 1, f. 19	Other untitled artwork	undated

Series II: Correspondence, 1968–1981

Series II. consists chiefly of letters and cards to Alexanian from authors and illustrators of children's books and memos from colleagues at Harper & Row Publishers. Correspondents and collaborators include: Marie Angel, Palmer Brown, Patricia Collins, Carolyn Croll, Whitney Darrow, Jr., Judy Glasser, Mayling Mack Holm, Eros Keith, Howard Knotts, R. R. Knudson, Anita and Arnold Lobel, Joan Sandin, Allen Say, Marc Simont, Sally Wittman, and Ann Zwinger. The bulk of the collaborators thank Alexanian for her work on specific titles, with some also highlighting the positive contributions she made to their projects. A few letters concern events and other matters. Colleagues include Barbara Bottner and Dorothy M. Hagan, among others.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 20	Angel, Marie	1973-1974, undated
b. 1, f. 21	Bottner, Barbara	1978, undated
b. 1, f. 22	Bridgman, Elizabeth	1981 July 13
b. 1, f. 23	Brown, Palmer	1978 September 30
b. 1, f. 24	Colbert, Margaret	1972 May 2
b. 1, f. 25	Collins, Patricia	1979 October 22
b. 1, f. 26	Croll, Carolyn	1979-1980, undated
b. 1, f. 27	Darrow, Whitney, 1909-1999	1977
b. 1, f. 28	Frisbie, Suzanne S.	undated
b. 1, f. 29	Glasser, Judy	1976 December 2
b. 1, f. 30	Hagen, Dorothy Includes internal memos to Hagen from colleagues at Harper & Row Publishers	1968-1975, undated
b. 1, f. 31	[Hayes], Geoffrey	undated
b. 1, f. 32	Holm, Mayling Mack	1977 September 1
b. 1, f. 33	Holmes, Margaret	no year July 7
b. 1, f. 34	Keith, Eros	1973 December
b. 1, f. 35	Knotts, Howard	1975 April 3
b. 1, f. 36	Knudson, R. R. (Rozanne Ruth)	1978-1979, undated
b. 1, f. 37	Lobel, Arnold; Lobel, Anita	1978-1981, undated
b. 1, f. 38	Ryan, John	1981 April 4

b. 1, f. 39	Sandin, Joan Includes print of cactus, inscribed	1978, 1980
b. 1, f. 40	Say, Allen	1979 March 12
b. 1, f. 41	S[chultz], L[lucille]	undated
b. 1, f. 42	Siebel, Frederick	1968 October 3
b. 1, f. 43	Simont, Marc	1974 February 19
b. 1, f. 44	Smith, Delia	1979 September 18
b. 1, f. 45	Stevenson, James	1973 October 26
b. 1, f. 46	Tebbel, John [William?]	1977 April 4
b. 1, f. 47	Watkins, Mary	1980 October 11
b. 1, f. 48	Wittman, Sally	1978, 1980
b. 1, f. 49	Zwinger, Ann	1979
b. 1, f. 50	Others	1974-1976, undated
b. 1, f. 51	Third party letters Includes four pieces of correspondence from Ann Zwinger to Lucille Schultz of the Juvenile Books Department, Harper & Row, Publishers	1978-1979

Series III: Printed Materials, 1941–1981

Series III. consists chiefly of printed materials documenting Alexanian's work as a designer and art director for children's books at Harper & Row Publishers during the 1970s. Book and exhibition catalogs, clippings, posters, and ephemera document book projects Alexanian contributed to and authors with whom she collaborated. Authors identified here include Myron Levoy, Anita and Arnold Lobel, and Dominique Michele Strandquest. Books include well-known titles such as Arnold Lobel's *Frog and toad together* (1972).

In addition to these work-related materials, there is a June 1943 "School life issue" from Central High School, [Binghamton, New York?], in which Kouhar ("Ko") Alexanian is noted for her arts and crafts interests and art awards.

Additional clippings can be found in Series IV. Other Papers.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 2, f. 1-5	Book and exhibition catalogs	1972–1979
b. 2, f. 6	Bookplates	undated
b. 2, f. 7	Clippings	1957, 1979
b. 2, f. 8	Nametags	1980, undated
b. 2, f. 9	"Panorama annual," Central High School	1943 June
b. 2, f. 10	Material removed from "Panorama annual"	1941, undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 2	Posters	1973–1981
b. 2, f. 11	Other ephemera	1967-1981, undated

Series IV: Other Papers, 1981–1999

Series IV. consists of a small group of diverse material, featuring a folder ("Art") with color studies, possibly by Alexanian.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 2, f. 12	1981 American Library Association annual meeting schedule	1981
b. 2, f. 13-15	"Art" Includes color studies and charts, watercolor, and clippings	1981-1999, undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 3	Color swatches, watercolor, removed from "Art" folder	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 4	Clippings removed from "Art" folder	undated
b. 2, f. 16	"Color swatches for jacket of <i>The Wonderful world of horses</i> "	undated
b. 2, f. 17	Cut out paper figures	undated
b. 2, f. 18	Empty folder	undated
b. 2, f. 19	Photograph of Kohar Alexanian and Arnold Lobel by Helen Marcus	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Children's literature, American
Picture books for children
Publishers and publishing

Occupations

Illustrators

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)
Pen and wash drawings
Sketches
Watercolors (paintings)

Names

Angel, Marie
Boynton, Sandra, 1953-
Brown, Palmer (1920-2012)
Carrick, Malcolm
Collins, Patricia
Croll, Carolyn
Darrow, Whitney, 1909-1999
Holm, Mayling Mack
Knotts, Howard
Knudson, R. R. (Rozanne Ruth), 1932-2008
Lobel, Anita, 1934-
Lobel, Arnold
McGee, Myra
Say, Allen, 1937-
Siebel, Fritz, 1913-1991
Simont, Marc, 1915-2013
Stevenson, James, 1929-2017
Strandquest, Dominique Michele, 1951-
Wittman, Sally