

Emmett Hudspeth:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection of Elizabeth Olds at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Hudspeth, Emmett, 1916-2000
Title:	Emmett Hudspeth Collection of Elizabeth Olds
Dates:	1915-1992
Extent:	8 boxes, 1 folder, oversize flat file (3.36 linear feet)
Abstract:	Documenting the works of Elizabeth Olds, the collection contains silk screen and wood block prints, lithographs, and Depression era works, as well as copies of the artist's six children's books. Also included in the collection are exhibition brochures and gallery announcements, correspondence, magazine and newspaper articles about Olds, and a biographical master's thesis on the artist. Olds' interviews with Hudspeth, photographs, and miscellaneous writings by Olds are present as well.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-04811
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

URL:	None
Acquisition:	Gift no. 10589
Processed by:	Liz Murray, 1998
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

This collection of Elizabeth Olds Papers came to the Ransom Center in May 1997 as part of a large donation of Olds' art work. Painter, printmaker, author and illustrator of books for children, Olds' renown as a Social Realist developed through her work on WPA projects during the Depression. She was also influenced by her early training with American artist George Luks and extensive travel abroad from 1925-29. The Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian is the primary repository of Olds' papers; however, the papers in this collection are from the files of Prof. Emeritus Emmett Hudspeth (Physics Department, University of Texas, Austin). As husband of Olds' niece, Hudspeth acted on Olds' behalf, both as advocate and collector of her works, promoting exhibitions and the sale of photolithographic prints to fund a conservation scholarship at the Ransom Center. In general, the papers of Hudspeth and Olds are interwoven in this collection, most especially in the correspondence series.

The papers are arranged in five series: I. About E.O.'s Works; II. Exhibitions; III. Correspondence, 1927-1992; IV. Personal; and V. About Other Artists.

Series I, About E.O.'s Works, contains a range of activities from a pre-publication layout for one of her children's books to inventories of her works, including silk screen and wood block prints, lithographs, as well as Depression era works from 1930-40. Also present is extensive documentation on the Olds "Celebration Portfolio" which offered selected prints for sale beginning in 1989. Copies of her six children's books, received with the papers, have been transferred to the Ransom Center Library.

Series II, Exhibitions, contains exhibition brochures and gallery announcements from the 1940s to 1990s. Olds works were exhibited in galleries and museums throughout her professional career, chiefly at the ACA gallery and others in New York, but also at The Brooklyn Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Carnegie Institute, and the Library of Congress. Several exhibitions are well-represented here, especially the 1986 retrospective exhibition in Austin, Texas, which Hudspeth curated with Susan Arthur, Olds' biographer.

Correspondence between Hudspeth and Olds from 1965-1989 and their correspondence with others from 1927-1992 is found in Series III. Correspondents include collectors of Olds' works, art galleries and museums, publishers, friends, and relatives.

Correspondence with the National Museum of American Art and the Archives of American Art documents Olds' gift of her works and papers to these institutions.

The largest series, Series IV. Personal, contains numerous magazine and newspaper articles about Olds, Susan Arthur's biographical master's thesis, business papers, Olds' interviews with Hudspeth and Arthur, photographs, and miscellaneous writings by Olds. The business papers date from the 1980s-1990s and contain medical and financial statements. Also included are earlier book contracts with Houghton Mifflin and Scribners as well as royalty statements. The photographs are an eclectic mix of Olds and family, her art works, and scenes that Olds may have used as subjects for her artistic pursuits. Chief among her writings is a biographical sketch she prepared for the *Encyclopedia of the American Woman* in 1973.

Series V, About Other Artists, contains articles on art and artists, as well as photographs of art work including fresco artist José Clemente Orozco.

Several videocassettes containing excerpts of Olds' interviews and her art works were transferred to the Ransom Center Film Collection.

I. About E.O.'s Works

<i>The Big Fire</i> , pre-publication layout and dust jacket for E.O. children's book, Houghton Mifflin, 1945	Box 1 Folder 1
"Elizabeth Olds: A Celebration Portfolio," 1989	
Brochure layout, printed brochures, and Deck the Walls store advertisement for sale of photolithographic reproductions	Box 1 Folder 2
Material related to brochure and collection of E.O. prints, includes correspondence	Folder 3-4
"The Elizabeth Olds Core Collection," informally bound descriptive pamphlet	Folder 5
"Inventory of items brought from Olds collection to Austin, Texas--May 25, 1983, " together with several collection items, including slides of selected works and furniture	Folder 6
Lists of E.O.'s works	Folder 7
"Personal Property Appraisal" for E.O.'s art collection at the Ransom Center, 1992	Folder 8

II. Exhibitions

1976, "7 American Women: The Depression Decade" Vassar College, exhibition catalogs and review [*poster removed to oversize flat file]	Box 2 Folder 1*
1986, "Elizabeth Olds: Retrospective Exhibition" RGK Foundation, Austin, Texas	
Correspondence	Box 2 Folder 2
Exhibition catalogs	Folder 3
Framer's certifications	Folder 4
Invitations to the opening	Folder 5
Materials used in preparation of exhibition catalog, typescript drafts of text	Folder 6-7
Photographs used in exhibition catalog	Folder 8
Photographs, color prints in numbered series, selected for exhibition catalog	Box 3 Folder 1-2
Script for videotape based on exhibition	Folder 3
1992, "Elizabeth Olds: 1986-1991, An exhibition at the Live Oak Art Center, Columbus, Texas," exhibition catalogs	Folder 4
Various dates, exhibition catalogs and gallery show announcements	Folder 5

III. Correspondence, 1927-1992

Between EH and EO, 1965-1989

1965-83, nd **Box 3 Folder 6**1984 **Folder 7**1985-86 **Box 4 Folder 1**1987-89 **Folder 2**

EH and EO correspondence, 1927-1992

A - Da **Box 4 Folder 3**De - L **Folder 4**Erickson, John and Betty, re: genealogy **Folder 5**NMAA--AAA [National Museum of American Art and Archives of American Art] **Folder 6**NMAA list [of Olds' works] **Folder 7**O - Z **Box 5 Folder 1**Rees family **Folder 2**

IV. Personal

Articles about Olds, newspaper and magazine clippings [*oversize article removed to oversize flat file]	Box 5 Folder 3-4*
Arthur, Susan, "Elizabeth Olds: Graphic Artist of the 1930s," University of Texas, Austin, MA thesis 1985	Folder 5
Biographical sketches	Folder 6
Business Papers	
AARP	Box 5 Folder 7
Blue Cross-Blue Shield	Folder 8
Bank statements	
1984	Box 6 Folder 1-2
1985	Folder 3
Domestic help	Folder 4
Financial and medical	Folder 5
Income Tax	
1985-87	Box 6 Folder 6
1988	Folder 7
1989	Box 7 Folder 1
1990	Folder 2
1990-91 (final)	Folder 3
Publishers' contracts and royalties	Folder 4
Real estate documents, Alvarado Lane property 1972-91	Folder 5
Gallery pass issued to E.O., with photograph, Galleria degli Uffizi, Firenze, 1926	Folder 6

Interview transcripts, 1985

With E.H. **Box 7 Folder 7**

With Susan Arthur

1st session **Folder 8**

2nd session **Folder 9**

Miscellaneous printed material including newspaper articles, pamphlet on immigration, and Disney MGM Studios brochure **Folder 10**

Page from E.O.'s 1915 West High School yearbook, Minneapolis, photograph of E.O. shown **Folder 11**

Photographs by various photographers

E.O. and family **Box 7 Folder 12**

E.O.'s works and painting by George Luks **Folder 13**

Various subjects and dates, including miners, fishermen, oil refineries, and outdoor scenes **Box 8 Folder 1-3**

Writings by Olds, holograph and typescript notes including, holograph notebook **Folder 4**

V. About Other Artists

Articles on art and artists

Box 8 Folder 5

Perlman, Bennard B., article and book chapter on artists called "The Eight"

**Folder
6**

Photographs

Art works from European and U.S. galleries

**Box 8
Folder 7**

José Clemente Orozco's frescoes at Dartmouth, with descriptive brochure, 1962

**Folder
8**