

Virginia Lee Burton papers, ca. 1937-1962

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Burton, Virginia Lee, 1909-1968
Title	Virginia Lee Burton papers
Dates	ca. 1937-1962 (inclusive) 1937 1962
Quantity	11 linear feet, (9 containers)
Collection Number	Ax 839
Summary	Virginia Lee Burton (1909-1968) was an illustrator and author of children's books. The collection includes sketches and finished illustrations for the books Calico the Wonder Horse; Or the Saga of Stewy Slinker, CHOO CHOO, The Story of the Little Engine Who Ran Away (both by Burton), The Emperor's New Clothes (written by Hans Christian Anderson) and others.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SCUA 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room. Collection or parts of collection may be stored offsite. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives in advance of your visit to allow for transportation time.
Additional Reference Guides	See the Current Collection Guide for detailed description and requesting options.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Virginia Lee Burton (1909-1968) wrote and illustrated many children's books, including *The Little House*, which was awarded the Caldecott medal in 1943.

She was born in Newton Centre, Massachusetts on August 30, 1909, and later studied art and ballet in California. Her drawings have appeared in the *Boston Transcript*, where she was a member of the staff for two years. She married George Demetrios, who had been her sculpture teacher, and they had two children. For many years they lived in Folly County, Gloucester, Massachusetts. She died in 1968.

The Virginia Lee Burton Papers are an important addition to the University of Oregon's Children's Collection because it demonstrates the stages of work involved in illustrating, from initial sketch to

finished book. The numerous preparatory sketches, the reworking of illustrations that had not proven satisfactory, and the demands for quality reproduction of the artwork indicate the attention to detail required.

Content Description

The Virginia Lee Burton Papers contain sketchbooks, preliminary sketches, and final illustrations for both first and second editions of Calico, the Wonder Horse, or the Saga of Stewy Slinker (written by Burton) and The Fast Sooner Hound (written by Arna Bontemps and Jack Conroy).

Also included are final illustrations for the books CHOO CHOO, The Story of the Little Engine Who Ran Away, Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel, and The Emperor's New Clothes (written by Hans Christian Anderson). Proofs for the book Life Story are also included.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

Description

[Guide to the Virginia Lee Burton Papers](#)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Children's literature, American--Illustrations
Illustrated children's books--United States
Illustration of books--United States--20th century
Women illustrators--United States
Young adult literature, American--Authorship

Personal Names :

Andersen, H. C. (Hans Christian), 1805-1875
Burton, Virginia Lee, 1909-1968

Form or Genre Terms :

Book illustrations

Processing staff. Finding aid updated by Alexa Goff and Rachel Lilley.
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