Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott Files

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Acquisition Information
Material collected by the Library; some material donated by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Eisenstat

Extent
3 linear feet

Abstract
The Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott Files contain book and magazine illustrations, Christmas cards, correspondence, and audio recordings.

Contact Information
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Preferred Citation
Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott Files, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials
Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott Photographs; Students of Howard Pyle Files; Huger Elliott Papers
Biography of Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott

Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott is known through her work for *Harper's Magazine*. In 1901 she began an exclusive contract that lasted for the next twenty-three years, to October 1924.

She was born Elizabeth Shippen Green, to Jasper Green and Elizabeth Shippen Boucle Green on September 1, 1871. She began serious art study at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts night classes. She spent one year in antique class, drawing from plaster casts, and two years in life class, studying live models; her teachers included Thomas Anshutz, Thomas Eakins, and Robert Vonnoh.

Upon graduation from the Academy, Elizabeth began illustrating articles for several of the Philadelphia newspapers. She worked for the *Philadelphia Times* and *The Public Ledger*. Within a year after commencing this work she was doing advertising illustration for Strawbridge and Clothier. From 1895 to 1901 she illustrated articles, stories, and children's pages in many of the leading magazines of the day.

Elizabeth Shippen Green also enrolled in both the afternoon and night classes that Howard Pyle taught at Drexel in 1897. Her study with Pyle was most important, and she once credited him with not only teaching her how to draw but also how to interpret life. In Pyle's classes Elizabeth Shippen Green met Jessie Willcox Smith and Violet Oakley. These two women became her lifelong friends. At the age of twenty-eight she moved out of her parent's home and into studios shared with Violet and Jessie. She also traveled to Europe. Her career off to a fine start with the *Harper's* contract and a 1902 article by the noted art critic Harrison S. Morris proclaiming her an exciting new illustrator, Elizabeth seemed to be settled. By 1905* Elizabeth, along with Violet and Jessie, was comfortably situated at "Cogslea," their studio and home located along the Wissahickon Creek in Germantown outside of Philadelphia. The property belonged to patrons of the trio, Mr. and Mrs. George Woodward. Soon after the three women moved in, the Woodwards introduced them to a young architect who taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Huger Elliott. Huger was attracted to Elizabeth, and, after a short time, they were engaged. Elizabeth would not consent to marriage, however, until after her parents had died. She was their sole support and did not want to burden Huger. Elizabeth and Huger were married in 1911.

Huger had a very successful career and thus the couple moved, first to Providence, Rhode island, then to Boston, back to Philadelphia, and finally to New York City. Elizabeth continued illustrating, even increasing her output. On the Elliotts' second move to Philadelphia, when Huger was appointed Director of what is now the Philadelphia College of Art, they acquired a small house in Germantown they called "Little Garth" (a quaint term for "garden"). Huger died in New York in 1951, and Elizabeth returned to Philadelphia. She died among her friends of long standing in 1954.

Elizabeth Shippen Green’s style always contained decorative elements, a heritage from her days with Howard Pyle. She particularly enjoyed, and was adept with, pen and ink. One of her last efforts, *An Alliterative Alphabet Aimed at Adult Abecedarians*, written with her husband and
published in 1947, is totally in pen and ink and shows her fine draughtsmanship and equally fine wit.


*should be 1906

**Organization of the Collection**
Series I. Biographical Information
Series II. Correspondence
Series III. Illustrations
Series IV. Manuscripts
Series V. Printed Matter
Series VI. Photographs
**Description of the Collection**

**Box 1**

**Series I. Biographical Information**

Folder
1. Biographical
2. Cathy Straker interview with Edith Emerson about ESGE, c. 1975 (cassette and WAV and MP3 files on CD)

**Series II. Correspondence**

Folder
3. Correspondence between Richard Wayne Lykes and Elliott, 1946-1948 (photocopies)

**Series III. Illustrations**

Folder
5. *American Magazine*, 1919
7. *The Book Buyer*, 1902
13 *The Century Magazine*, 1904
14 Christmas cards, 1923-1947 (see also Box 3)
15 *Collier’s*, 1906
16 *Country Life*, 1906
17 *Delineator*, 1902
18 *Good Housekeeping*, 1918-1927
19 *Harper’s Bazar*, 1903
20 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1901-1902
21 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1903-1904
22 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1905-1906

**Box 2**

Folder
1 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1907-1908
2 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1909
3 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1910
4 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1911-1913
5 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1914-1916
6 *Harper’s Monthly*, 1917-1919, 1923
7 *Harper’s Weekly*, 1901-1911
8 *Ladies’ Home Journal*, 1896-1926
9 *Saturday Evening Post*, 1899-1918
10 *Woman’s Home Companion*, 1901
11 Unidentified
Box 3

Series III. Illustrations – Oversize

Christmas cards (matted)

Box 4

Series IV. Manuscripts

Folder
  1  An Alphabet of Birds and Beasts (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Eisenstat)
  2  Cabbages & Old Lace – one manuscript, two typescripts (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Eisenstat)

Series V. Printed Matter

Folder
  3  Exhibition catalog – Drexel’s Great School of American Illustration: Violet Oakley and Her Contemporaries, Drexel University Museum, November 15-May 31, 1985
  4  Exhibition catalog – The Studios at Cogslea, Delaware Art Museum, February 20-March 28, 1976

Box 5

Series VI. Photographs