



The New York Public Library  
Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and  
American Literature

Guide to the

**M. B. Goffstein papers**

1965-2011

Berg Coll MSS Goffstein

Processed by Marilyn Brooke Goffstein.

## Summary

**Creator:** Goffstein, M. B.

**Title:** M. B. Goffstein papers

**Date:** 1965-2011

**Size:** 6.89 linear feet (33 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Marilyn Brooke Goffstein, 2011

**Abstract:** The M. B. Goffstein papers document the life and work of award winning American author and artist Marilyn Brooke Goffstein (1942-2017). The collection consists of original illustrations, artist's proofs, notebooks, photographs, paintings, print books, miniatures, and realia. The papers provide insight to Goffstein's penchant for knowledge and life, while offering a glimpse of the artist's process and rich thematic exploration.

**Preferred citation:** M. B. Goffstein papers, Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Marilyn Brooke Goffstein.

## Creator History

Marilyn Brooke Goffstein was an American author, artist, photographer and painter renowned for her illustrations 2 3/4 by 3 1/4 inches in size, and the stories she told in as little as seven sentences. Awarded the Caldecott Medal and Jane Addams Children's Book Award, her themes are rich in friendship, family, natural history, and following one's vocation.

She was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on December 20, 1940, attended St. Paul Central High School, and graduated from Bennington College, Vermont, in 1962. Author of more than 30 books for children and adults, Goffstein also taught the art of children's books at New York's Parsons School of Design and University of Minnesota's Split Rock summer program. After a long illness, Goffstein died on her 77th birthday, December 20, 2017.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The M.B. Goffstein archive spans the history of Goffstein's career, 1966, when her first book, *The Gats* was published, to 2011, though the bulk of the material is undated. The collection primarily consists of original illustrations and working artist's proofs for Goffstein's many books. Other materials include notebooks, photographs, paintings, print books, miniatures (furniture, figurines, household decor, set pieces), and realia.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Book illustrations  
Field notes  
Realia  
Stories without words

### **Subjects**

Children's literature, American  
Miniatures (object genre)  
Women authors -- United States -- 20th century

### **Names**

Goffstein, M. B.

## Container List

### Series I: Small Original Illustrations undated

- b. 1 "Artist, An" (23 leaves)  
See also Box 2 in Series II: Mid-Size Illustrations and Miscellaneous Material
- b. 2 "Brookie and her lamb" (32 leaves)
- b. 3 "Fish for supper" (22 leaves)
- b. 4.1 "Gats, The" (30 pages)  
Box 1 of 2
- b. 4.2 "Gats, The" (12 leaves)  
Box 2 of 2
- b. 5 "Laughing latkes" (21 leaves)
- b. 6 "Little Schubert, A" (25 leaves)
- b. 7 "Me and my captain" (23 leaves)
- b. 8 "My crazy sister" (32 leaves)
- b. 9 "My Noah's ark" (25 leaves)
- b. 10 "Natural history" (21 leaves)  
See also Box 2 in Series II: Mid-Size Illustrations and Miscellaneous Material
- b. 11 "Sleepy people" (30 leaves)

### Series II: Mid-Size Illustrations and Miscellaneous Material

- b. 12 "Across the sea" undated (Printing stencils, 39 leaves)
- b. 12 "Sophie's picnic" undated (8 leaves)
- b. 13 "Artist, An" undated (40 leaves)  
See also Box 1 in Series I: Small Illustrations
- b. 14 "Artists helpers enjoy the evenings" undated (21 leaves)
- b. 15 "Goldie the dollmaker" undated (13 leaves)
- b. 16 "My editor" undated (21 leaves)

### Miscellaneous

- b. 17 Unpublished and In-Progress Material undated (16 leaves)
- b. 17 Collection of notes on blue paper in author's hand undated (15 leaves)
- b. 17 "Me and my captain" previously titled "On the Shelf" Working proof undated (5 leaves)
- b. 17 5 photographs for "Fish for supper" undated (10 leaves)
- b. 17 "Paper doll" Working proof 1991-1993 (6 leaves)
- b. 17 6 original paintings on paper undated (1 leaf)
- b. 17 Illustration with caption: "Don't Be Cross Because / Because You have to hem- / up. My Coat, because / heres a picture For you" undated (3 leaves)
- b. 17 3 photographs with captions on separate page: "The house was haunted"; "wild animals made it their home. / clothes by Kate Spohn"; "Kate Spohn" undated (1 leaf)
- b. 17 Illustration with caption: "Cubits?" undated (1 leaf)
- b. 17 Illustration with caption: "Rembrandt, / Manet, / Giacometti— / they all had / curly hair" undated (1 leaf)
- b. 18 "Neighbors" undated (Illustration with caption: "Now I know why they write love songs" 41 leaves)

Series II: Mid-Size Illustrations and Miscellaneous Material (cont.)

- b. 19 "Natural history" undated (Original illustrations, 48 leaves)  
See also Box 1 in Series I: Small Illustrations
- b. 20 "Our snowman" undated (Original illustrations, 22 leaves)
- b. 21 Oversized miscellaneous original illustrations undated
- b. 22 "School of names" undated (Original illustrations, 20 leaves)
- b. 23 "Two piano tuners" undated (Original illustrations, 12 leaves)
- b. 24 "Your lone journey" undated (Original illustrations, 20 leaves)
- b. 25 "Writer, A" undated (Original illustrations, 14 leaves)

Series III: Large Original Illustrations undated

- b. 26 "Actor, An"
- b. 26 Illustrations (27 leaves)
- b. 26 Original illustrations for "An actor" (16 leaves)
- b. 26 Miscellaneous illustrations on acetate (10 leaves)
- b. 26 Title page for "A Little Schubert" (1 leaf)
- b. 27 "Family scrapbook" (Working proofs with original illustrations, 26 leaves)
- b. 27 "Up at the lake" (Original cardboard props and illustrations, 14 leaves)

Series IV. Books, Miniatures, and Realia

- b. 29 "Brookie and her lamb"  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1967. First edition.
- b. 29 "Gats, The"  
Pantheon Books, 1966. First edition.
- b. 29 "House, a home, A"  
Harper & Row, 1989. First edition.
- b. 29 "Little Schubert, A"  
Harper & Row, 1972. First edition.
- b. 29 "My crazy sister"  
The Dial Press, 1976. First edition.
- b. 29 "Underside of the leaf, The"  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1972. First edition.
- b. 30 Miniatures undated (Six plastic boxes of miniature dollhouse items for "A House a Home" and "Our New Prairie Home," 100 items)
- b. 30 1 plastic lobster
- b. 30 1 white wooden boat
- b. 30 1 ceramic vase
- b. 30 1 ceramic pitcher
- b. 30 1 ceramic dog
- b. 30 2 woven hats
- b. 30 1 metal table
- b. 30 1 metal sewing machine table
- b. 30 1 clock
- b. 30 4 metal figurines
- b. 30 1 set of ceramic dishes with note in author's hand: "I saw an identical set in a museum / in Honfleur"
- b. 30 1 striped pillow

Series IV. Books, Miniatures, and Realia (cont.)

Miniatures (cont.)

- b. 30 1 woven basket
- b. 30 1 white dress
- b. 30 2 books
- b. 30 3 drinking glasses
- b. 30 1 beaded felt piece
- b. 30 2 pairs of scissors
- b. 30 3 knives
- b. 30 1 souvenir book
- b. 30 1 candle holder
- b. 30 1 bunch of glass grapes
- b. 30 2 knit blankets, 1 sewn blanket
- b. 30 4 carved wood figures
- b. 30 1 carved cat
- b. 30 2 beaded velvet pouches
- b. 30 1 crocheted flower
- b. 30 1 tulle veil with 1 accordion book in plastic housing
- b. 30 1 ribbon in small plastic box
- b. 30 1 pillow
- b. 30 9 pieces of cut wood
- b. 30 1 piece of found wood
- b. 30 9 felt scraps
- b. 30 2 squares of cardboard
- b. 30 1 metal clipping
- b. 30 1 mesh clipping
- b. 30 2 fabric scraps
- b. 30 9 rugs
- b. 30 1 weaving on metal rod
- b. 30 1 plastic toy
- b. 30 1 cardboard and paper window
- b. 30 1 small hand saw
- b. 30 1 dog head pin
- b. 30 1 set of green dishes
- b. 30 1 piano
- b. 30 1 book
- b. 30 1 metal camera
- b. 30 1 blue chair
- b. 30 1 wooden chair
- b. 30 1 white doll
- b. 30 Loose: 3 metal sinks
- b. 30 1 green table
- b. 30 1 metal chair

Series IV. Books, Miniatures, and Realia (cont.)

- b. 31.1     **Realia**
  - Box 1 of 2
  - b. 31.1     1 gold X-acto knife
  - b. 31.1     1 Waterman's fountain pen
  - b. 31.1     1 spiral- bound notebook, with notes in author's own shorthand
  - b. 31.1     1 green drawing pad, blank
  - b. 31.1     1 dark red carbon paper pad, blank
  - b. 31.1     1 brown pad of colored paper, blank
  - b. 31.1     1 instruction manual for the Hermes "Rocket" typewriter
  - b. 31.1     1 instruction manual for the Hermes "Baby Rocket" typewriter
  - b. 31.1     1 box of Hermes typewriter ribbons with 4 ribbons inside
  - b. 31.1     1 ceramic dog, with note in author's hand: "Whieldon dog / c. 1770" c. 1770
  - b. 31.1     1 ceramic sculpture of two rabbits reading. Bunnykins series, "Storytime,"  
Doulton and Co., Ltd, ca. 1974 1974
  - b. 31.1     1 catalog clipping of a desk and chair, with note in author's hand: "My desk  
1970-1995 / Drawers & shelf were / on right. / I used it at middle height"  
1970-1995
  - b. 31.1     2 small, clear plastic envelopes
  - b. 31.1     3 medium, sealable plastic pouches
  - b. 31.2     1 metal case containing fourteen small paintbrushes
    - Box 2 of 2
  - b. 31.2     1 metal Gabi Box containing fifteen watercolors with instruction manual  
and metal trough
  - b. 31.2     1 box of Koh-I-Noor "plastic-clear erasers," containing one eraser
  - b. 31.2     1 Riley's Toffee box containing four quills, three loose nibs, and two razor  
blades
  - b. 31.2     1 white ceramic inkwell
  - b. 31.2     1 black rubber Higgins inkwell, ink bottle removed
  - b. 31.2     2 Rowney kneadable putty rubbers
  - b. 31.2     2 blending stumps
  - b. 31.2     1 small ink-stained cloth
  - b. 31.2     1 small sea sponge
  - b. 31.2     1 wooden malette
  - b. 31.2     1 chisel