

Guide to the Karla Kuskin Papers

GEN MSS 791



by Beinecke staff

December 2019

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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 791

CREATOR: Kuskin, Karla , author

TITLE: Karla Kuskin papers

DATES: circa 1880s-2009

BULK DATES: 1930–2009

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 126.08 linear feet (67 boxes) + 15 broadside, 5 rolls, 1 record album storage

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Karla Kuskin Papers, which span from 1880 to 2009, contain writings and artwork, along with business and personal papers related to Kuskin's life and work. The papers also contain correspondence, reviews, photographs, audiovisual materials, and born digital materials.

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

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.kuskin>.

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
 item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, Inc. on the Jockey Hollow Fund, 2010. Gift of the Estate of Karla Kuskin, 2010, and gift of Julia Kuskin, 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 30 (audiovisual materials): Restricted fragile material. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 33 (born digital): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 86 (record album storage): Restricted fragile material. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Karla Kuskin 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

Karla Kuskin Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Karla Kuskin

Karla Kuskin (1932-2009) was a writer and artist, most well-known for her works of children's literature both as an author and an illustrator. Born in New York, NY, Kuskin attended Yale University, graduating with a B.F.A in graphic design in 1955. Over the course of her career, Kuskin wrote over fifty books including "Roar and More", "ABCDEFGHJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ", and "The Rose on My Cake".

Scope and Contents

The Karla Kuskin Papers, which span from 1880 to 2009, contain writings and artwork, along with business and personal papers related to Kuskin's life and work. The papers also contain correspondence, reviews, photographs, audiovisual materials, and born digital materials.

Arrangement

Organized into twelve series: I. Writings, circa 1930s-2009. II. Correspondence, circa 1920s-2000s. III. Journals, 1934 - 2003. IV. Artwork, 1956 - 2008. V. Photographs, circa 1930s-1990s. VI. Business papers, circa 1960s-2000s. VII. Personal papers, circa 1880s-1990s. VIII. Awards and objects, circa 1979-2005. IX. Audiovisual materials, undated. X. Born digital materials, undated. XI. June 2017 acquisition, circa 1950s. XII. August 2017 acquisition, circa 1950-1953, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, circa 1930s-2009

15.33 linear feet (5 boxes) + 2 broadside, 5 roll

Contains writings, drafts, journals, and other materials related to Kuskin's creative work.

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition with the exception of some oversized materials.

b. 1	Poetry, writings, and speeches	1930s-1990s
	Contains unpublished stories, poems, and verses for music by Karla Kuskin. Titles include: "Rodeo Riders" and "Quong". Also includes material written by both her father and mother, Sidney T. Siedman and Mitzi Salzman Siedman, along with index cards with speech notes.	
b. 2	Manuscripts and speeches	1970s-2000s
	Contains speeches and manuscript material. Titles include: "The Flying Pig and Other Winged Creatures", "The Pittsburgh Steelers Go To Bed", "Space Story", "Channukah", "Sing For Joy", "The Man Who Nevered Snoozed", "Xingu", "ABCDEFGHJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ", "Jerusalem Shinning Still", "Rose Oh", "The Bear Who Saw the Spring", "Which Horse Is William?", "The Philharmonic Gets Dressed", "The Sky Is Always in the Sky", "James and the Rain", "I Am Me", "Paul", "Near the Window Tree", and "What Did You Bring Me".	
b. 3	Manuscripts and speeches	undated
	Contains speeches along with published and unpublished writings. Also contains reviews and Maurice Sendak materials.	
b. 34	Journal writings - notebooks	circa 1970s-1980s
b. 35 (Oversize)	Pittsburgh Steelers Go To Bed	circa 1986
b. 35 (Oversize)	Proofs of "What Is It Like To Be a Cat"	circa 2005
	Uncut page proofs	
b. 79 (Roll)	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	undated
b. 79 (Roll)	Any Me I Want to Be	undated
b. 80 (Roll)	The Bear Who Saw the Spring	undated
b. 80 (Roll)	A Boy Had a Mother Who Bought Him a Hat	undated
b. 80 (Roll)	The Great Train Robbery	undated
b. 80 (Roll)	June Spoon and Her Very Adventurous Search for the Moon	undated
b. 81 (Roll)	In the Middle of the Trees	undated
b. 81 (Roll)	Paul	undated
b. 82 (Roll)	Roar and More	undated
b. 83 (Roll)	Soap Soup	undated

Uncut page proofs (continued)

b. 83 (Roll)	Something Sleeping in the Hall	undated
b. 83 (Roll)	The Walk the Mouse Girls Took	undated
b. 83 (Roll)	Watson, the Smartest Dog in the U.S.A.	undated
b. 84 (Broadside)	"Alligators All Around" by Maurice Sendak	undated
b. 84 (Broadside)	Just like Everyone Else	undated
b. 84 (Broadside)	Unidentified page proof	undated
b. 85 (Broadside)	Square as a House	undated
b. 85 (Broadside)	Watson, the Smartest Dog in the U.S.A.	undated

Series II: Correspondence, circa 1920s-2000s*8.0 linear feet (10 boxes)*

Contains extensive correspondence between Kuskin and her family, along with other letters and cards from friends.

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 4	Letters and cards from friends Includes correspondence from Mark Strand.	1950–2009
b. 5	Letters and cards from friends Includes letters from school children (circa 1980s-1990s), faxes, and correspondence with Norman Schwatz (circa 1990s).	circa 1950s-2000
b. 6	Correspondence and related papers Contains correspondence with Sidney T. Siedman and Mitzi Salzman Siedman, as well as fan letters, work-related correspondence and letters from friends. Also contains a Karla Kuskin memorial booklet.	circa 1940s-2009
b. 7	Family correspondence Contains correspondence with Karla Kuskin's family, primarily her parents: Sidney T. Siedman and Mitzi Salzman Siedman.	circa 1920s-1950s
b. 8	Family correspondence Contains correspondence with Karla Kuskin's family, primarily her parents: Sidney T. Siedman and Mitzi Salzman Siedman.	circa 1920s-1950s
b. 9	Family correspondence Contains correspondence with Karla Kuskin's family, primarily her parents: Sidney T. Siedman and Mitzi Salzman Siedman.	circa 1920s-1950s
b. 10	Family correspondence Contains correspondence with Karla Kuskin's family, primarily her parents: Sidney T. Siedman and Mitzi Salzman Siedman.	circa 1920s-1950s
b. 11	Correspondence	circa 1950s-1980s
b. 12	Correspondence Contains fan letters, business correspondence, correspondence between friends, as well as letters between Karla Kuskin's grandparents and her parents.	circa 1920s-1990s
b. 13	Correspondence Contains correspondence and telegrams with Karla Kuskin's family, as well letters with Stanley David and Charles Kuskin.	circa 1940s-1980s

Series III: Journals, 1934–2003

2.33 linear feet (4 boxes)

Contains journals, datebooks, and notebooks used by Kuskin during her lifetime.

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 14	Journals and datebooks	1971–1995
b. 15	Journals and databooks	1996–2003
b. 16	Journals and notebooks	1940–1999
b. 17	Journals and notebooks Also contains Mitzi Salzman Siedman’s journal (circa 1934-1982).	circa 1934-1980s

Series IV: Artwork, 1956–2008*57.75 linear feet (33 boxes) + 2 broadside*

Contains sketches, drawings, and other artwork related to Kuskin's creative output and her work as a children's book illustrator.

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition with the exception of some oversized materials.

b. 18	Sketchbooks and artwork	undated
b. 19	Artwork related to "Alexander Soames" and "How Do You Get from Here to There?"	circa 1962
b. 20	Graphic works Contains raw materials and photocopies used for artwork and homemade cards. Also includes some desk materials.	undated
b. 35 (Oversize)	Traces and graphics	2008
b. 36 (Oversize)	Alexander Soames: His Poems	1962
b. 36 (Oversize)	What Did You Bring Me?	1973
b. 37 (Oversize)	All Sizes of Noises	1962
b. 37 (Oversize)	Dogs and Dragons, Trees and Dreams	1980
b. 38 (Oversize)	The Animals and the Ark	1958
b. 39 (Oversize)	Any Me I Want to Be	1972
b. 39 (Oversize)	The Rose on My Cake	1964
b. 40 (Oversize)	The Bear Who Saw the Spring	1961
b. 41 (Oversize)	Big Enough	undated
b. 41 (Oversize)	City Dog	circa 1994
b. 42 (Oversize)	Boris The Lop Sided Bear	undated
b. 42 (Oversize)	Near the Window Tree	1975
b. 42 (Oversize)	Night Again	1981
b. 43 (Oversize)	A Boy Had a Mother Who Bought Him a Hat	1976
b. 43 (Oversize)	Look At Me	undated
b. 44 (Oversize)	Cat Poems - Two Cats	1991
b. 45 (Oversize)	The Dog That Lost His Family	undated
b. 45 (Oversize)	Something Sleeping In the Hall	1985
b. 46 (Oversize)	Future Book?	undated
b. 47 (Oversize)	Future Book?	undated

b. 48 (Oversize)	Harrison Loved His Umbrella	undated
b. 48 (Oversize)	In the Flaky Frosty Morning	1969
b. 49 (Oversize)	Herbert Hated Being Small	1979
b. 49 (Oversize)	How Do You Get from Here to There?	1962
b. 50 (Oversize)	In the Middle of the Trees	1958
b. 50 (Oversize)	Which Horse Is William?	1959
b. 51 (Oversize)	James and the Rain	1957
b. 52 (Oversize)	Just like Everyone Else	1959
b. 53 (Oversize)	Artwork	undated
b. 54 (Oversize)	Artwork	undated
b. 55 (Oversize)	Artwork	undated
b. 56 (Oversize)	Drawings for "Poster III"	undated
b. 57 (Oversize)	Roar and More - woodcuts	1956
b. 58 (Oversize)	Roar and More	1956
b. 59 (Oversize)	Soap Soup	1992
b. 60 (Oversize)	Traces	2008
b. 61 (Oversize)	The Walk the Mouse Girls Took	1967
b. 62 (Broadside)	Watson, the Smartest Dog in the U.S.A.--mechanicals	circa 1968
b. 63 (Broadside)	Watson, the Smartest Dog in the U.S.A.--mechanicals	circa 1968
b. 64 (Oversize)	What Shall We Do and Allee Galloo!	undated
b. 65 (Oversize)	Who Woke The Sun	undated
b. 66 (Oversize)	Yale artwork	undated

Series V: Photographs, circa 1930s-1990s

3.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 21	College-era photographs	circa 1950s-1960s
b. 22	Photographs	circa 1930s-1990s
b. 31	Color photographic slides	undated
b. 32	Color photographic slides	undated
b. 67 (Oversize)	College-era photographs	circa 1950s-1960s

Series VI: Business papers, circa 1960s-2000s*4.92 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Contains business papers, reviews, and other publicity materials related to Kuskin's work.

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 35 (Oversize)	Publicity materials (2 folders)	circa 1970s
b. 23	Reviews and publicity materials Contains reviews, biographical material, and publicity specifically related to Karla Kuskin's works.	circa 1970s-2000s
b. 24	Reviews and publicity materials Contains reviews and magazines, along with other business paper including contracts, permissions, and publishing correspondence.	circa 1970s-2000s
b. 35 (Oversize)	Reviews and publicity materials	circa 1970s
b. 25	Reviews and writings Contains business and and personal papers related to Karla Kuskin and her works. Titles of writings include: "Alexander Soames", "The Animals and the Ark", "City Dog", "Any Me I Want to Be", "Dogs and Dragons, Trees and Dreams", "I Am Me", "A Great Miracle Happened There: A Chanukah Story", "Moon, Have You Met My Mother?", "The Sky Is Always in the Sky", "So, What's It Like to Be a Cat?", "Something about the Author Autobiography Series", "Square as a House", "Toots the Cat", "The Walk the Mouse Girls Took", "Under My Hood I Have a Hat", "Which Horse Is William?", "The Bear Who Saw the Spring", and others.	circa 1960s-2000s

Series VII: Personal papers, circa 1880s-1990s*36.83 linear feet (14 boxes)*

Contains Kuskin's personal papers including posters and some artwork.

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition with the exception of some oversized materials.

b. 26	Personal papers Contains personal papers including family papers (birth, death and marriage certificates), mementos, and homemade cards.	circa 1880s-1970s
b. 27	Personal papers Contains personal papers including seasonal cards, autobiographical materials, and Karla Kuskin's school papers.	circa 1950s-1970s
b. 35 (Oversize)	Posters Contains posters for The Downtown Baltimore Children's Centers.	1992
b. 68 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 1	undated
b. 69 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 2	undated
b. 70 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 3	undated
b. 71 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 4	undated
b. 72 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 5	undated
b. 73 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 6	undated
b. 74 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 7	undated
b. 75 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 8	undated
b. 76 (Broadside)	Just Like Everyone Else, panel 9	undated
b. 77 (Broadside)	Poetry in Motion subway posters--"The Question"	undated
b. 78 (Broadside)	Posters Includes posters for Jerusalem Still Shining and The Dorian Woodwind Quintet.	1987

Series VIII: Awards and objects, circa 1979-2005

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)





Contains awards and certificates given to Kuskin, along with ink rollers used in the creation of Kuskin’s artwork.

Materials within this series maintain the original physical organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 28	Certificates and awards	1979–2005
b. 29	Ink rollers	undated

Series IX: Audiovisual materials, undated*0.67 linear feet (1 box) + 1 record album storage*

Restricted fragile material. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 30,  39002137217304	<i>Good Conversation! A Talk with Karla Kuskin</i> <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:23:13 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> No HiFi audio is present. The video is distorted at times. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1991
b. 30,  39002137217312	<i>Good Conversation! A Talk with Karla Kuskin</i> <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:21:56 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> No HiFi audio is present. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1991
b. 30,  39002137217320	<i>Poetry for Children: The Symposium</i> <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:27:29 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> No HiFi audio is present. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1991
b. 30,  39002137217338	National Book Awards, Karla Kuskin section <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:09:29 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> No HiFi audio is present. High amounts of hiss are present. Poor audio quality. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1998
b. 30	<i>Between the Lions</i> <i>1 Optical Disc (DVD)</i>	
b. 86 (Record album storage)	<i>Poetry Parade: Poets Read Their Poetry For Children</i> records	undated

Series X: Computer media, undated*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 33	PowerBook G3 Backups 12-01-03 2010-genm-37635-0001 <i>1 CD-R</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
b. 33	ARF 2010-genm-37635-0002 <i>1 DVD-RW</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
b. 33	Casual 2010-genm-37635-0003 <i>1 ZIP Disk</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
b. 33	4 weeksville outline Herbert Hated BHS Teachers College SEUSS James & Rain Madelene B. Bear who Saw Maddie Madelene Blore 2010-genm-37635-0004 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
b. 33	Love is Trouble - Verses CBC POETRY Holiday I & It;-- Holiday 2 2010-genm-37635-0005 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
b. 33	deMejo (disc #2) I AM ME Hicksville Speech 4 speeches Lear Intro to Sky Describe a day 2010-genm-37635-0006 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
b. 33	LAWRIE Maddie's Boat 2010-genm-37635-0007 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
b. 33	Jool's amazin' animals + etc.s 2010-genm-37635-0008 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 33	<p>2 Minerva C. Notes to MS death more summer -- so big cards Karla's Books 10 of Us Need to Read 2010-genm-37635-0009 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>[no label information] 2010-genm-37635-0010 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>[no label information] 2010-genm-37635-0011 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>[no label information] 2010-genm-37635-0012 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>[no label information] 2010-genm-37635-0013 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>1 Bell - Wm. RODEO Balt. Speech QVONG Toots 10 St Tigers Pounce Amaryllis --> Our stones in p??y speech BAAL SHEM TOV 2010-genm-37635-0014 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>summer CATS CODICIL 2010-genm-37635-0015 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>READING ALOUD MaryAnne Maddie's Pic M. Laughs I cannot picture you 2010-genm-37635-0016 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>
b. 33	<p>Disk 2 2010-genm-37635-0017 <i>13.5_floppy_disk</i></p> <p>Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</p>

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| b. 33 | Disk 3 Charlotte 2. speech
2010-genm-37635-0018
<i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i>
Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. |
| b. 33 | Nick's Disc Seuss review APPEARS TO BE BLANK 12/2002
2010-genm-37635-0019
<i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i>
Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. |
| b. 33 | de Mejo APPEARS TO BE BLANK 12/2002
2010-genm-37635-0020
<i>1 3.5_floppy_disk</i>
Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. |

Series XI: June 2017 acquisition, circa 1950s

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Includes photograph negatives of Karla Kuskin at Yale and New York City, as well as photographic prints.

Gift of Julia Kuskin, 2017.

Photograph negatives and photographic prints within this series are arranged in the original physical organization found at time of acquisition.

b. 87

Black and white negatives and photographic prints
6 Folders

circa 1950s

Series XII: August 2017 acquisition, circa 1950-1953

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Includes photographic prints and black and white negatives by Karla Kuskin.

Gift of Julia Kuskin, 2017.

b. 88	Photographic prints, black and white negatives, and transparencies <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1950-1953
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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 -- 20th Century
Children's literature -- United States

Genres / Formats

Illustrations -- United States -- 20th Century

Occupations

Illustrators -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Kuskin, Karla