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MS-154: Eileen Spinelli Papers

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MS-154: Eileen Spinelli Papers

**Description**
The collection consists mainly of materials used by Spinelli in the writing and publication processes of her books. Handwritten, typed, and word processed drafts from various stages of the books’ development are included. E-mail and written correspondence between Spinelli, publishers, and editors is also part of the collection. Several of the books were turned down by multiple publishing houses before being sold, and some manuscripts were never accepted at all. The electronic communication between the author and her editors provides insight into the complicated and lengthy process of revising childrens’ books for printing, as well as the task of choosing and collaborating with an illustrator.

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**Keywords**
Jerry Spinelli, children's author, book manuscripts

**Disciplines**
Children's and Young Adult Literature | English Language and Literature
Guide to the
Eileen Spinelli Papers

May 2, 2011

Dear Mrs. Spinelli,

Thank you for showing
us how books are made.

Where can I find one
of your books? Please can
I buy one next year? I loved
Three Dogs on a Skudder.
It's a real good book. When
I grow up I want to be
a writer. We made mobils
and I made a dancar.

Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives

Processed by Jenna Fleming
October 2013
MS-154: Papers of Eileen Spinelli
(3 boxes, approximately 3 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1987—2012
Bulk Dates: 2000—2012

Processed by: Jenna Fleming
October 2013

Provenance
The papers were donated to Musselman Library by Eileen Spinelli in 2012. Her donation followed one made by her husband, author Jerry Spinelli, winner of the 1991 Newberry Award and graduate of Gettysburg College, class of 1963.

Biography
Eileen Spinelli was born Eileen Mesi in 1942. She was raised in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and was inspired to become an author following her first visit to the local public library at the age of six. She worked as a creative writing teacher and a secretary prior to the publication of her first book, Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch, in 1991. Since then, Spinelli has written over sixty books for children, as well as poems and stories published in Highlights for Children and other magazines. Her books Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch and Hero Cat were recognized by the Christopher Awards in 1992 and 2007, respectively, for their “affirmation of the highest values of the human spirit.” Spinelli was presented with the Bank Street College of Education’s Best Children’s Book of the Year Award, the Philadelphia Children’s Reading Round Table Book of the Month Award, and 2010 National Green Earth Book Award for Miss Fox’s Class Goes Green, among other honors. She is also a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. She is married to Newberry Award-winning author Jerry Spinelli, Gettysburg College Class of 1963. The couple has six children and twenty-one grandchildren. Spinelli currently lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where she continues to write stories and poetry for children.

Scope and Content Notes
The collection consists mainly of materials used by Spinelli in the writing and publication processes of her books. Handwritten, typed, and word processed drafts from various stages of the books’ development are included. E-mail and written correspondence between Spinelli, publishers, and editors is also part of the collection. Several of the books were turned down by multiple publishing houses before being sold, and some manuscripts were never accepted at all. The electronic communication between the author and her editors provides insight into the complicated and lengthy process of revising childrens’ books for printing, as well as the task of choosing and collaborating with an illustrator.

In some cases, Spinelli’s research for her books, mostly in the form of articles printed from the internet, is included in the files. This is largely applicable to those books that are based in historical or factual information. Copies of published reviews, along with occasional notes from Spinelli’s publishers, are also part of the collection. A few files contain samples of cover art or illustrations, proofs of printed versions, information on book awards, or newspaper and
magazine articles announcing publications. The collection also contains a small selection of Spinelli’s personal papers, comprising of interviews and fan mail.

**Series Description**
This collection is divided into three Series. **Series 1**: Manuscripts: drafts, correspondence, reviews, research, and other publication information; **Series 2**: Personal Papers: author biography, interviews, and fan mail; **Series 3**: Proofs: oversized publication proofs.

**Box 1**
**Series 1: Manuscripts**
1-1 Advent Song: Drafts and Correspondence
1-2 Baby Animals: Draft
1-3 *Baby Loves You So Much* (published 2007): Drafts
1-4 *Baby Loves You So Much* (published 2007): Correspondence
1-5 *The Best Story* (published 2008): Drafts
1-6 *The Best Story* (published 2008): Correspondence and Cover Art
1-7 *A Big Boy Now* (published 2012): Drafts and Correspondence
1-8 *Buzz* (published 2010): Drafts
1-9 *Buzz* (published 2010): Correspondence
1-10 *Callie Cat, Ice Skater* (published 2007): Drafts
1-11 *Callie Cat, Ice Skater* (published 2007): Correspondence, Reviews, and Research
1-12 *Cold Snap* (published 2012): Drafts and Correspondence
1-13 *Coming Through the Blizzard* (published 2009): Drafts
1-14 *Coming Through the Blizzard* (published 2009): Correspondence and Reviews
1-15 *Do You Have a Cat?* (published 2010): Drafts
1-16 *Do You Have a Cat?* (published 2010): Correspondence, Reviews, and Research
1-17 *Do You Have a Dog?* (published 2011): Drafts
1-18 *Do You Have a Dog?* (published 2011): Correspondence and Research
1-19 *Do You Have a Hat?* (published 2004): Drafts
1-20 *Do You Have a Hat?* (published 2004): Correspondence
1-21 Emily Dickinson and Me: Drafts and Correspondence
1-22 *Farm Animals* (published 1992): Draft
1-23 *Heat Wave* (published 2007): Drafts, Correspondence, and Reviews
1-24 Her Sister’s Wedding: Draft and Correspondence
Box 2  
**Series 1: Manuscripts (continued)**  
1-45  *Miss Fox’s Class Earns a Field Trip* (published 2010): Drafts and Correspondence  
1-46  *Miss Fox’s Class Gets It Wrong* (published 2011): Drafts, Correspondence, and Proof  
1-47  *Miss Fox’s Class Goes Green* (published 2011): Drafts, Correspondence, Award Information, Proof  
1-48  *Peace Week in Miss Fox’s Class* (published 2009): Drafts, Correspondence, Reviews  
1-49  *Miss Fox’s Class Shapes Up* (published 2011): Drafts and Correspondence
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<th>Title and Notes</th>
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<td><em>Night Shift Daddy</em> (published 2000): Drafts, Correspondence, Reviews, and Cover Art</td>
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<td>1-51</td>
<td><em>Nora’s Ark</em> (published 2013): Drafts and Correspondence</td>
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<td>1-52</td>
<td><em>Now It Is Summer</em> (published 2011): Draft, Correspondence, Review</td>
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<td>1-53</td>
<td><em>Now It Is Winter</em> (published 2004): Drafts, Correspondence, Reviews</td>
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<td>1-57</td>
<td><em>Sharks</em> (published 1992): Draft</td>
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<td>1-58</td>
<td><em>Sing Til Sundown</em> (Song): Drafts, Correspondence, Published Copies</td>
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<td><em>Where I Live</em> (published 2007): Drafts</td>
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<td>1-66</td>
<td>You Be Sue: Drafts</td>
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**Series 2: Personal Papers**

| 2-1 | Biographical Information |
| 2-2 | Fan Mail |
| 2-3 | Writing Poetry for Children Workshop |

**Box 3**

**Series 3: Proofs**

| 3-1 | *The Best Story* (published 2008): Draft |
| 3-2 | *The Best Story* (published 2008): Final |
| 3-3 | *Heat Wave* (published 2007) |
| 3-4 | *Jonah’s Whale* (published 2012) |