

BROOKE WHITING HOUSE OF ART

BROOKE WHITING ARCHIVES

BROOKE WHITING BOOK COLLECTION

Record Group 1 of the Whiting Archives

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The personal library of F. Brooke Whiting II contains over 1500 volumes and mainly includes modern literary first editions; children's and illustrated books; Asian art exhibition catalogues and resources; and 19th-century Americana, mainly titles relating to Virginia and Maryland. The collection begins in 1792, then skips to 1811 and to 1825, followed by 1826, 1828, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1836-1838, 1840, 1841, 1845, 1848, 1850, 1851, 1855, 1856, 1859, 1863, 1864, 1866, 1869, 1871, 1874-1929, 1930-1998, 2002, before ending in 1993. The bulk of the library is from 1930 - 1959.

Care was taken to retain the original order of the collection; it is divided into six separate series and arranged by room. The series are the back sitting room, the master bedroom, the butler's pantry, the oriental sitting room, the guest bedroom, and the library.

A considerable portion of the collection concerns children's books. These works are arranged alphabetically by author and are housed in the oriental sitting room and the library. Particular strengths are the *Oz* collection by L. Frank Baum and the *Doctor Dolittle* series by Hugh Lofting. Other noteworthy authors represented include, but are not limited to, E. B. White, Emma Speed Sampson, Lewis Carroll, A. A. Milne, Rudyard Kipling, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, Diana Wynne Jones, and Joel Chandler Harris. The complete first-edition *Boys' and Girls' Bookshelf* series also comprises this section.

Another significant aspect of the collection involves illustrated books that are located in the oriental sitting room and the library. Illustrators of particular importance are Edmund Dulac, Sir Max Beerbohm, Howard Pyle, Hugh Lofting, Aubrey Beardsley, Sir John Tenniel, William Blake, Arthur Rackham, W. Heath Robinson, Janet Laura Scott, Ernest H. Shepard, Tasha Tudor, Theodore Nadejen, Harry Clarke, Kate Greenaway, and Sir William Nicholson.

There are several titles relating to Virginia and Maryland histories that are found in the back sitting room and the guest bedroom. Brooke Whiting's paternal ancestry inhabited Virginia, the areas that became Hampshire and Hardy County, West Virginia following the Civil War and Prince William, Gloucester, and Fauquier Counties of Virginia. Many of the volumes concerning Virginia belonged to Brooke Whiting's Aunt Anna Whiting Stubblefield. She researched the Inskip, Whiting, and Skinker genealogies. The Maryland histories cover the state generally and the city of Cumberland specifically. Titles of particular note are the first-edition *History of Allegany County*, Vol. I and II, by Thomas and Williams; the extremely rare, first-edition

Biographical Sketch of the Life of the Late Captain Michael Cresap by J. M. Buchanan; and the *Queen City Brewing Company Manual* belonging to F. Brooke Whiting I.

A large portion of the collection consists of modern literary first editions and are housed in the back sitting room, the library, the oriental sitting room, and the guest bedroom. Authors included are Dorothy Parker, T.S. Eliot, O. Henry, Gertrude Stein, Willa Cather, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Sara Teasdale, Thomas Hardy, Virginia Woolf, C.S. Lewis, Lytton Stratchey, Henry James, Rudyard Kipling, Oscar Wilde, John Galsworthy, and more. Additionally, there are Asian art exhibition catalogues in the Guest Bedroom and Butler's Pantry from worldwide museums and auction houses such as the Fung Ping Shan Museum in Hong Kong, S. Marchant and Son of London, the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Sotheby-Parke-Bernet, Inc. of New York, the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Seattle Art Museum, the Freer Gallery of Art of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C, the Hong Kong Museum of Art, and the National Museum in Singapore.

Other strengths of this collection are the various titles of notable rarity and exceptionality. Examples of such distinction previously unmentioned are Pierson's *Jefferson at Monticello*, 1862; Hedin's *Through Asia*, 2 vols., 1899; White's *Stuart Little*, 1945; Quiller-Couch's *The Sleeping Beauty*, 1920; Finney's *The Circus of Dr. Lao*, 1935; Eliot's *Old Possum's Book...Practical Cats*, 1939; Housman's *Princess Badoura*, 1913; Bemelmans's *Madeline*, 1939; Beerbohm's *A Peep Into the Past*, 1923; and Buell's (Marge`) *Little Lulu & Her Pals*, 1939. The weaknesses of this collection are the many unknown authors and dates and the outdated Asian art resources. Additional works pertaining to Allegany County's history would be helpful for historical research. However, this collection demonstrates the expertise of F. Brooke Whiting II as a children's and illustrated book collector. The exhibition catalogues and resources concerning his collection of art indicate his extensive knowledge of antiques. Moreover, his library reveals the literary taste of a prominent, twentieth-century family of Allegany County, Maryland. Amassing over 1500 titles in a lifetime is quite impressive and provides the community and the public abroad with a wealth of literature, history, amusement, and study.

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