Biographical Note
Lois Lenski (October 14, 1893-September 11, 1974) was an author and illustrator of children’s literature. Lenski was born in Springfield, Ohio, and she completed her BS in Education and received a teaching certificate from Ohio State University in 1915. She attended Westminster School of Art in London, England. In the following years, she moved to New York City, and later to London and Italy to study art and work as an assistant to artist Arthur Covey (June 13, 1877 – February 5, 1960), whom she married in 1921. After becoming a successful illustrator, publishers encouraged Lenski to write about her drawings. Lenski began to write and illustrate children’s books, starting with Skipping Village (1927).

A noted author and artist of children's books, Lois Lenski received numerous literary awards for her work, including the John Newberry Medal for Strawberry Girl (1946). She illustrated all of her own works, and she illustrated 57 children's books by other authors. Due to declining health in the 1940s, Lenski and her family left Connecticut and moved to Louisiana and later Florida. Her experiences there would serve as the basis for her “regional” books, describing children’s lives in the American South. Lenski’s final publication was her autobiography in 1972.

Scope and Content
The Lois Lenski Collection is housed in 11 archival boxes. This collection includes books and articles by/about Lois Lenski, biographies, awards, personal letters and postcards, mostly dating from the 1940s, 1950, and 1960s.

Provenance
Unknown.

Restrictions
None.

Processor
Spring 2008; records rearranged and inventory rewritten by Special Collections Staff.

Container List
Box 1 (8 folders)
   “College Library Selected for Author’s Home” Indiana Evening Gazette, October 25, 1956.
Ram, Dr. Marie L. “Cultural Aspects of the Lois Lenski Literature.” University of Buffalo (mimeograph)
   Wagner, Ruth H. “Corn Farm Boy.” Reprinted from Midland Schools, October 1954, c.1, c.2.
   Yngve, Victor H. “Computer Programs for Translation.” Scientific (Using poem “the Little Train” for Electronic computing)
3. Articles by Lois Lenski:
   “Beyond the Rim of Our Own World.” 1950, c.1, c.2
   “Can a Child Think?” reprinted from Education, November 1954
   “Helping Children to Create.” Reprinted from Childhood Education, Nov. 1949. c.1, c.2
   “Seeing Others as Ourselves.” The Horn Book Magazine, July/August 1946, pp. 283-293 (Children behind regionals)
“Living with Others.” *Thoughts of God for Boys and Girls, 1952*

5. Advertising Materials:
   “All About Mr. Small”
   “An Invitation to Boys and Girls.” C.1, c.2. (Roundabout America books)
   “Boom Town Boy.” c.1, c.2.
   “Coal Camp Girl.” c.1, c.2.
   “Corn Farm Boy.” c.1, c.2.
   “Cotton in My Sack.” c.1, c.2.
   “The Davy Books by Lois Lenski.”
   “Frank Luther Sings Lois Lenski Songs.” (Mr. Small)
   “Easter Rabbit’s Parade.” Easter Card
   “Houseboat Girl.” c.1, c.2.
   “Judy’s Journey.” c.1, c.2.
   “Lois Lenski: American Author/artist for Young Americans.” c.1, c.2.
   “Lois Lenski, Author and Artist.” (for Strawberry Girl)
   “Adventure in Understanding.”
   “Lois Lenski; Paintings and Watercolors.” For Weyhe Gallery exhibit.
   “Roundabout America Stories.” c.1- c.4.
   “San Francisco Boy.” c.1, c.2.
   “Shoo-fly Girl”
   “Skipping Village”
   “A Small Book about Mr. Small.”
   “Songs of the City”
   “Songs of Mr. Small”
   “Strawberry Girl.” c.1, c.2.
   “Texas Tomboy.” c.1, c.2.
   Three short plays for children about migrants
   “We are Thy Children.” Hymnbook c.1, c.2.
   “What is a Read-and-Sing Book?” c.1, c.2.

6. Awards:
Lois Lenski: Recipient of 1969 Regina Medal (bookmark)
University of Southern Mississippi Special Children’s Collection Medallion (booklet)

7. Biography:
    Album of Biographical photos- Lois Lenski
    “Lippincott Authors Biographical Notes for Library Files”
    “Lois Lenski.” n.d.
    “Lois Lenski: An Appreciation.” 1963
“Lenski Memorial.” (for RCH Lenski- Lois’ father) The Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.

8. Book Jackets:
   a. Adventure in Understanding
   b. A-going to the Westward
   c. Berries in the Scoop
   d. Blueberry Corners
   e. Boom Town Boy
   f. Bound Girl of Cobble Hill
   g. Corn Farm Boy
   h. Cotton in My Sack
   i. Cowboy Small (2 copies)
   j. A Dog Came to School
   k. Flood Friday (2 copies)
   l. I Went for a Walk
   m. Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison
   n. Judy’s Journey
   o. A Little Girl of Nineteen Hundred (2 copies)
   p. The Little Auto
   q. Ocean-born Mary
   r. Peanuts for Billy Ben
   s. Phebe Fairchild: Her Book
   t. Prairie School (2 copies)
   u. Project Boy
   v. Puritan Adventure
   w. San Francisco Boy (2 copies)
   x. Strawberry Girl
   y. Surprise for Mother
   z. Texas Tomboy
   aa. We Live by the River
   bb. We Live in the City
   cc. We Live in the South

Box 2 (7 folders)

1. Booklists:
   “Are Lois Lenski’s Regional Stories too Realistic?”
   “Books for Boys and Girls.” Spring 1960, p.3.
   Book lists designed by Lois Lenski for local library, 1965.
   Lippincott Books for Children and Young People 1962-63.
   Lippincott Books for Young Readers 1962.
   “Lois Lenski: Author and Artist”
   A recommended List of Books for Young People … and for Gift giving by Christian Herald’s Family Bookshelf. (2 copies)
2. Bookmarks:
   a. *Bayou Suzette* (2 copies)
   b. *Bayou Suzette*, etc.
   c. *Blue Ridge Billy*
   d. *Boom Town Boy* (4 copies)
   e. *Corn Farm Boy*
   f. *Cotton in My Sack* (6 copies)
   g. *Cowboy Small*
   h. *Davy and His Dog*
   i. *A Dog Came to School*
   j. *Houseboat Girl*
   k. *Judy’s Journey* (6 copies)
   l. *Mama Hattie’s Girl* (6 copies)
   m. *Prairie School*
   n. *Mr. Small* (2 copies)
   o. *Roundabout America, etc.* (4 copies)
   p. *San Francisco Boy* (8 copies)
   q. *Strawberry Girl* (2 copies)
   r. *Texas Tomboy* (5 copies)
   s. With Comments from Lois Lenski (3 copies)

3. Christmas Cards:
   1 envelope
   1959 card to William LaFranchi (Director of Library and Media Services at IUP)
   1962 card to William LaFranchi
   1963 card to William LaFranchi
   1966 card to William LaFranchi
   1967 card to William LaFranchi

4. Collections of Lois Lenski:
   b. Lois Lenski Children’s Collection at Edward H. Butler Library, State University College for Teachers, Buffalo, New York (2 copies)
   c. The Lois Lenski Collection in the Florida State University Library, Tallahassee, Florida May 1966 (2 copies)
   e. “The Lois Lenski Collection at Florida State University Library.” in Ad Lib, Florida State University’s Library and Staff Association, April 6, 1966.
   g. Lois Lenski item List for collection at IUP, n.d. (3 copies)
   h. Collections of Lois Lenski (bound)
   i. The Lois Lenski Collection in the Florida State University Library. Nancy Bird. Tallahassee, Florida: The Friends of the Florida State University Library, 1966, (2 copies)

5. Correspondence
a. September 20, 1956 card: Ms. Lenski to Mr. LaFranchi
b. September 24, 1956 letter: Mr. LaFranchi to Ms. Lenski
c. October 8, 1958 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
d. October 10, 1958 letter: LaFranchi to Lenski
e. October 13, 1958 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
f. October 2, 1959 letter: Ms. Parnell to Ms. Lenski
g. October 20, 1959 letter: Mr. C. Adams to Mr. LaFranchi
h. October 26, 1959 letter: Parnell to C. Adams
i. October 6, 1960 letter: Parnell to Lenski
j. August 1, 1962 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
k. August 6, 1962 letter: LaFranchi to Lenski
l. August 12, 1962 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
m. August 15, 1962 letter: LaFranchi to Lenski
n. November 19, 1965 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
o. April 1, 1966 letter: LaFranchi to Lenski
p. August 29, 1967 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
q. November 15, 1967 letter: Parnell to Lenski
r. November 18, 1967 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
s. February 12, 1968 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
t. February 19, 1968 letter: LaFranchi to Lenski
u. August 3, 1968 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
v. August 27, 1968 letter: LaFranchi to Lenski
w. October 1, 1968 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
x. February 10, 1969 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
y. July 10, 1969 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
z. November 2, 1970 letter: Lenski to LaFranchi
aa. February 24, 1971 letter: Parnell to Lenski
bb. n.d. letter: LaFranchi to Lenski
cc. November 5, 1971 letter: Lenski to Parnell
dd. February 3, 1972 letter: Parnell to Lenski
ee. 1963-1968 memos: from Parnell concerning Lenski Collection
ff. 1966 letters: Parnell’s attempt to locate Lenski biographical material
gg. August 26, 1957 letter: to Ruth Saunders (with Houseboat Girl forum)
ii. January 4, 1958 letter: to children
kk. March 3, 1958 letter: to children
ll. April 8, 1958 letter: to Ruth Saunders (with photo of Lenski)
mm. April 8, 1958 letter: to children

6. Manuscripts:
   a. Adventure in Understanding (3 copies)
   b. My Story: Indian Captive
   c. “Play-Acting Real”
   d. White Girl Captive (play)

7. Mr. and Mrs. Noah Exhibit:
   a. Bookmarks for Mr. and Mrs. Noah (8)
b. Cover overlay from original illustration #8 from Mr. and Mrs. Noah

c. Photograph: Models for Mr. and Mrs. Noah figures

d. Photograph: Models of Noah’s Ark set

e. Photograph: homemade Noah’s Ark set

f. Three black and white overlays

8. Poems:


g. “I Like to Live on a Farm.” *Song Time and Music and Things.* 1965, p.3.


9. Poems in Books:


b. “City Child.” *Doorways.* Ira E. Aaron, A. Sterl Artly and 10 others.


10. Hymns:


Box 3 Oversize Illustrations
1. Early illustrations from nursery rhymes and fairy tales (17)
2. From Arabella and Her Aunts (p.55)
3. From Bayou Suzette (p.64)
4. From Betsy-Tracy by Maude Hart Lovelace. (26 printer’s proofs and 8 originals)

Box 4 Oversize Illustrations
1. From Blueberry Corners (pp. 16-17)
2. From The Book Dial (cover, 4 water colors and spots through the booklet)
3. From Coal Camp Girl p. 67
4. From Cotton in My Sack p. 86
5. From Davy’s Day #10
6. From Grandmother Tippytoe p. 57
7. From Houseboat Girl p. 88
8. From I Like Winter #20
9. From Let’s Play House #9
10. From Phoebe Fairchild: Her Book (p.159)
11. From San Francisco Boy p. 61
12. From Strawberry Girl p. 57
13. From Surprise for Davy #6
14. From This Singing World by Louis Untermeyer. #14
15. From We Live in the Southwest p. 122
16. From Read-to-Me Storybook 2 originals

Box 5 Linoleum Block Prints
1. The Crooked Street
2. On the Rocks
3. Saturday Lane
4. Lithographs
   a. Backyard Pines
   b. Bridge in the Woods
   c. Down to the Sea
   d. Farm by the Road
   e. Girl at the Pump
   f. Hill Road
   g. Old Harwinter Road
   h. The Pasture Child
5. Proofs of Early Illustrations (11)
6. Wood Cuts
   a. The Glorious Fourth
   b. Hot Summer Day
   c. Orchard Beach
7. Illustrations in Books

Box 6 Miscellaneous
1. Paperweight to commemorate Mr. Small’s 25th birthday (1934-1959)
2. “The Little Auto” published 9-6-1934
3. Photographs: Lenski at typewriter, c.1, c.2
5. Reading stimulants for Tarpon Springs public library, (2 copies)
7. Signs for display: letters, four signs, small cards

Box 7 Books by Lois Lenski
1. Little Sioux Girl (1958)
2. Indianernas fange (1941)
3. Judy’s Journey (1947)
4. Prairie School (1967)
5. My Friend the Cow (1946)
6. The Little Farm (1942)
7. The Little Autoe (1943)
8. Das Kleine Auto (1962)
10. *White Girl Captive*
11. *Songs of the City* (1955) 2 copies
12. *Strangers in a Strange Land* (1952)
13. *Up to Six* (1956)
14. *We are the Children* (1950) 2 copies

**Box 8 Books by Lois Lenski**
1. *The Lois Lenski Collection in the Florida State University Library* (1966) 2 copies
2. *Blue Ridge Billy* (1946)
3. *A Change of Heart* (1952)
4. *Cotton in My Sack* (1949)
5. *Burmese Papa Small* (1951)
7. *Charlie en flicka i Texas* (1958)
8. *La Granja Pequena* (1968)
9. *Couboi smaull* (1949) 2 copies
10. *Cowboy Klein* (1949)
12. *Benny and His Penny* (1931)
14. *Flood at River Bend* (1956)
15. *The Bean-Pickers* (1952)

**Box 9 Books with articles by Lois Lenski**

**Box 10 Books with Poems by Lois Lenski**
1. *Out and Away*
2. *All About Me*
3. *Something To Tell*
4. *Sing of Life & Faith*
5. *Rolling Along Manuel*
6. *Ready To Roll Manuel*
7. *The World of Language Book E*
9. *Moving Ahead Manuel*
10. *Keep a Poem in Your Pocket*
11. *The Arts and Skills of English*
12. *An Invitation to Poetry*
13. *Happiness Hill*
14. *God is in Many Places*
15. *Families*
16. *Doorways*
17. *A Beginning Book of Poems*
18. *With Skies and Wings*
19. *Town Family*
20. *Tomorrow and Back*
21. *To Light Candles in the Dark, A Study Guide*
22. *Let’s Take a Trip*
23. *Meet Some New Friends*
24. *Poems and Verses about the City*
25. *Poems about Fur and Feather Friends (2 Copies)*
26. *World Topics Year Book, 1961*

**Box 11 Books by Lois Lenski**
1. *I Like Winter* (1950)
2. *Davy and His Dog* (1957) 2 copies
4. *A Dog Came to School* (1955)
5. *Flood Friday* (1956)
7. *We Live by the River* (1956)
8. *Mr. and Mrs. Noah* (1948)
10. *Puritan Adventure* (1944)
12. *Cowboy Small* (1949)

**Books Illustrated by Lois Lenski**
1. *Once on Christmas* (1938) 2 copies
2. *Chimney Corner Stories: Tales for Little Children* (1925)