

## Joyce Lankester Brisley children's author: papers, 1903-1976

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### Introduction and summary description

Joyce Lankester Brisley

**Reference:** AAD/2007/4

**Extent:** 38 files

### Context

Joyce Lankester Brisley, children's writer and illustrator, was born on 6th Feb 1896 in Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. She was the second of three sisters; Nina was a year younger and Ethel the eldest. Joyce's father, George Brisley, was a local pharmacist whilst his wife, Constance, looked after the family. All three sisters attended evening classes at Hastings School of Art. By the time the girls were in their teens, Ethel was exhibiting at the Royal Academy and Joyce and Nina were contributing illustrations to *Home chat*.

After the break-up of the Brisley's marriage in June 1912, Constance Brisley and her three daughters moved to a small flat in Brixton, London. Joyce and Nina enrolled at Lambeth School of Art in Oct, seeking to overcome the loss of their father's income by earning a living from writing stories and illustrating Christmas cards, postcards and children's annuals.

The family were dedicated Christian Scientists and in 1918, when the family moved to Barons Court, a contact at their local Christian Science church encouraged both Joyce and Nina to submit stories and drawings to an American magazine, *The Christian Science monitor*. Joyce's first story of Milly-Molly-Mandy appeared in *The Christian Science monitor* in Oct 1925. Stories of the little girl proved popular and the first collection of them, *Milly-Molly-Mandy stories*, was published in the UK by George G. Harrap in 1928.

Nina Kennard Brisley married in 1933 and became the illustrator of Elinor Brent-Dyer's much-loved Chalet School series. Ethel Brisley died in 1961 and Joyce in Sept 1978, just a few months after Nina.

### Scope and content

The archive contains early manuscripts and typescripts by Joyce Lankester Brisley, including her diary from 1912 - 1919, individual stories, collections of poems, and two juvenile magazines spanning several years and produced in collaboration with Joyce's sister, Nina Kennard Brisley. Among the drawings are the set of original illustrations to *Milly-Molly-Mandy again*, published by George G. Harrap in 1948.

## Provenance

Gift of The Joyce Lankester Brisley Charitable Trust, Mar 2007.

## Access

This archive is available for consultation in the V&A Archive and Library Study Room, which is located at Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, Olympia, London, W14 0QX. The Study Room is open Tuesday to Friday between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm, by appointment only. To request an appointment please email [archive@vam.ac.uk](mailto:archive@vam.ac.uk) or telephone 020 7603 7493. Access to some files may be restricted; these are identified individually with the catalogue.

## Related Material

### Selected publications

*Milly-Molly-Mandy* books by Joyce Lankester Brisley:

*Milly-Molly-Mandy stories*, 1928.

*More of Milly-Molly-Mandy*, 1929.

*Further doings of Milly-Molly-Mandy*, 1932.

*Three little Milly-Molly-Mandy plays*, 1938.

*Milly-Molly-Mandy again*, 1948.

*Milly-Molly-Mandy & Co.*, 1955.

*Milly-Molly-Mandy and Billy Blunt*, 1967.

*The Milly-Molly-Mandy omnibus*, 1976.

*The Milly-Molly-Mandy second omnibus*, 1976.

*The Milly-Molly-Mandy storybook*, 1996.

Other books written or illustrated by Joyce Lankester Brisley:

*Hurrah for the trains*, 1919.

*Jolly days at the sea*, 1919.

*Jolly days at the zoo*, 1921.

*Jolly days with Neddy*, 1921

*Lambs'-tails and suchlike*, 1930.

*The dawn shops and other stories*, 1933.

*Marigold in godmother's house*, 1934.

*Die Verhaal van Josef*, 1934.

*Bunchy*, 1937.

*Adventures of the little wooden horse*, by Urusla Moray Williams, illustrated by Joyce Lankester Brisley, 1938.

*My Bible-book*, 1940.

*Adventures of Purl and Plain*, 1941.

*The wide, wide world*, 1950. (Revision of Elizabeth's Wetherell's *The wide, wide world*, 1851).

*Another Bunchy book*, 1951.

*Children of the Bible days*, 1970.

*The New Testament story*, 1973.

*The Joyce Lankester Brisley book*, 1981.

Secondary sources on Joyce Lankester Brisley:

Factor, June, 'Joyce Lankester Brisley: an appreciation', *Children's literature in education*, vol. 10, no. 4 (Winter 1979), 163-173.

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## Detailed catalogue

### Diaries, 1912 - 1919

**Reference:** AAD/2007/4/1 to AAD/2007/4/7

**Extent:** 7 files

**Scope and content:**

The V&A's holdings begin with the '2nd book' in Feb 1912; the '1st book' and '6th book' are lacking.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2007/4/1	2nd book 1 file  Including an account of the break-up of her parents' marriage in June 1912 and her subsequent move to London.	22 Feb 1912 - 17 Apr 1914
AAD/2007/4/2	3rd book 1 file	20 Apr 1914 - 6 May 1917

AAD/2007/4/3	4th book 1 file Including accounts of air raids in London.	6 May 1917 - 19 Oct 1917
AAD/2007/4/4	5th book 1 file Including accounts of air raids in London.	21 Oct 1917 - 21 Mar 1918
AAD/2007/4/5	7th book 1 file Including accounts of air raids in London.	24 July 1918 - 8 Oct 1918
AAD/2007/4/6	8th book 1 file Including an account of Armistice Day, 11 Nov 1918.	9 Oct 1918 - 2 Dec 1918
AAD/2007/4/7	9th book 1 file	3 Dec 1918 - 31 July 1919

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## Juvenile magazines, 1907 - 1911

**Reference:** AAD/2007/4/8 to AAD/2007/4/22

**Extent:** 2 files

### Scope and content:

Joyce and Nina Brisley produced 'The spring echo' from July 1907 to Apr 1908 and 'The wanderer' from Feb 1909 to July 1911. Both titles include stories, poems, photographs and original illustrations; Joyce was editor and Nina sub-editor. The sisters used pseudonyms: 'Honeysuckle' (Joyce) and 'Clover' (Nina). Olive Higgott ('Bee') was an occasional contributor. The magazines include both manuscript and typescript material and are stitched with wool. Issues contain typical features, including illustrated title pages, contents pages, indexes, editorials, competitions, letters to the editor, etc.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2007/4/8 - 11	The spring echo 4 items Includes four issues: July 1907 ('second number'), Dec 1907, Mar 1908 and Apr 1908.	July 1907 - Apr 1908
AAD/2007/4/12 - 22	The wanderer 11 items Includes eleven issues: Feb 1909, Mar 1909, May 1909, Oct 1909, Feb 1910, Mar 1910, Apr 1910, Nov 1910, Mar 1911, May 1911 and July 1911.	Feb 1909 - July 1911

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## Stories by Joyce Lankester Brisley, 1908 - 1948

**Reference:** AAD/2007/4/23 to AAD/2007/4/40

**Extent:** 18 files

Includes manuscript and typescript stories.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/2007/4/23	Real fairy tales 1 item  Typescript includes: 'The fairy chrysalis', 'The little girl with wings', 'Through the lucky stone', 'The odd behaviour of a fan', 'The house in the wall', 'The giant kite', 'Out of the mirror', 'On midsummer eve'.	ca. 1920 - 1929
AAD/2007/4/24	Christmas Eve and A mermaid's tail 1 item  Includes two manuscript stories with illustrations.	1908
AAD/2007/4/25	Another tale of four children 1 item  Manuscript with pen-and-ink and watercolour illustrations.	June 1909
AAD/2007/4/26	Their lucky find 1 item  Manuscript with pen-and-ink illustrations.	Aug 1909
AAD/2007/4/27	The whitest, purest thing on earth : a fairy tale 1 item  Typescript with watercolour wash illustrations.	July 1909
AAD/2007/4/28	The ass who saw an angel and The man who tried to run away 3 items  Typescripts. Upper cover with added title: 'Bible Stories Retold (Children of Bible Days)'.	ca. 1920 - 1929
AAD/2007/4/29	Lady Anne St. Alban, née Castlemaine 1 item  Manuscript.	1909
AAD/2007/4/30	Light spots on a dark ground 1 item  Typescript. For original pen-and-ink illustration see AAD/2007/4/47.	ca. 1920 - 1929
AAD/2007/4/32	West Wind on Beachey Head 1 item  Typescript.	ca. 1920 - 1929
AAD/2007/4/33	The gnome guard 1 item  Typescript.	ca. 1920 - 1929
AAD/2007/4/34	The top storey 1 item  Typescript.	ca. 1920 - 1929
AAD/2007/4/35	Reprisals 1 item  Manuscript.	Apr 1917

AAD/2007/4/36	The prince of exercise 39 1 item Manuscript.	June 1916
AAD/2007/4/37	The first boat 1 item Manuscript in notebook.	Oct 1911
AAD/2007/4/38	A party in the störs 1 item Typescript. For original illustration see AAD/2007/4/47.	16 Sept 1948
AAD/2007/4/39	A grain of sand 1 item Manuscript.	20 Apr 1911
AAD/2007/4/40	The old woman who lived in a vinegar bottle 1 item Published version of the story with two illustrations. For original scraperboard illustrations see AAD/2007/4/47.	ca. 1920 - 1929

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### Poems and verses by Joyce Lankester Brisley, 1912 - 1939

**Reference:** AAD/2007/4/41 AAD/2007/4/43

**Extent:** 3 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2007/4/41	Poems 1 item Collection of poems in a ring-bound folder, some annotated with a date and title of publication, including The Christian Science monitor, Sussex County magazine and Braille magazine. Also includes an annotated typescript of 'Apr madness', published on p. 52 of Lambs'-tails and suchlike, 1930.	ca. 1930 - 1935
AAD/2007/4/42	[Book of poems] 1 item Collection of manuscript poems in a brown exercise book, some annotated with a date and title of publication.	1912 - 1926
AAD/2007/4/43	[Sketchbook of poems] 1 item Collection of manuscript and typescript poems on the loose leaves of a sketchbook, each dated in pencil.	1925 - 1939

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## Miscellaneous, 1930 - 1952

**Reference:** AAD/2007/4/44 AAD/2007/4/46

**Extent:** 3 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2007/4/44	Dust jacket of <i>The Milly-Molly-Mandy</i> omnibus 1 item	1976
AAD/2007/4/45	Press opinions 4 items Typed press opinions of Joyce Lankester Brisley's books for children.	ca. 1930
AAD/2007/4/46	Transcripts of talks 4 items Including transcripts for a recording in Australia and for 'Milly-Molly-Mandy Dresses Up', BBC Home Service: Children's Hour (Friday 26 Sept 1952 at 5.00).	1952

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## Original illustrations, ca. 1920s - ca. 1948

**Reference:** AAD/2007/4/47 to AAD/2007/4/51

**Extent:** 5 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2007/4/47	Pen and ink illustration for <i>Light Spots on a Dark Ground</i> 1 folder	ca. 1920s
AAD/2007/4/48	Scrapboard illustrations for <i>The Old Woman Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle</i> 1 folder	ca. 1920s
AAD/2007/4/49	Original illustrations for <i>Milly-Molly-Mandy Again</i> , by Joyce Lankester Brisley, published by George G. Harrap, 1948 1 folder Contains original pen-and-ink illustrations for the text illustrations, watercolour illustration for the colour frontispiece and the printer's proofs of the endpaper illustrations depicting a map of the village.	1947
AAD/2007/4/50	Illustration for <i>A Party in the Störös</i> 1 folder Also contains description of the interior of a Swedish Störös.	ca. 1948
AAD/2007/4/51	Unidentified illustrations 1 folder Contains two illustrations.	Undated

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