

FINDING AID FOR THE

YLLA ARCHIVE AG 138

Center for Creative Photography
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

For further information about the archives at the Center for Creative Photography, please contact the Archivist: phone 520-621-6273 or 520-626-5224; fax 520-621-9444

DESCRIPTION

Papers, photographic materials, and publications, 1937-1985, of the photographer Ylla (born Camilla Koffler, 1911-1955). Includes correspondence, writings, biographical information, clippings, photographs, transparencies, and publications. The bulk of the collection documents Ylla's career as an animal photographer.

The collection is inactive. 8 linear feet.

PROVENANCE

The collection was purchased in 1992.

RESTRICTIONS AND COPYRIGHT

Copyright to Ylla's papers and photographs is held by Pryor Dodge, from whom permissions should be obtained. Contact the Archivist for further information.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Ylla Collection was purchased in 1992 from Pryor Dodge, Ylla's godchild and heir, with additional donations accruing in the years since then. The collection contains correspondence, clippings, manuscripts, photographs, books, and other papers. The bulk of the correspondence in the collection, dating from 1954-1955, is from Charles Rado to Ylla and concerns commercial photography. Other correspondence and papers date from 1955 and are primarily concerned with Ylla's death. The clippings include articles written by Ylla, articles illustrated with her photographs, book reviews, and posthumous accounts of her life and work. The manuscripts include captions for Ylla's photographs, maquettes for her books and drafts of various stories. The photographs in the collection include a large number of animal photographs and a small number of portraits made by Ylla, and some portraits of Ylla by Ery Landau and other photographers. The books in the collection include English and foreign language editions of Ylla's many publications.

While the collection does contain photographs made while Ylla lived in Paris, there are no papers or records of her life and work prior to her arrival in the United States in 1940, and very little material related to her work between 1940 and 1954.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1911 Born Camilla Koffler in Vienna, Austria, to Rumanian and Hungarian parents.
- 1925 Rejoined her mother in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- 1927 Studied art in Belgrade.
- 1931 Studied art in Paris for six months.
- 1933 Began study of sculpture in Paris.
- 1933 Began work as an assistant to the photographer Ergy Landau in her Paris portrait studio.
- 1937 Published first books, *Yllas Dog Fancies*, *Chats par Ylla*, and *Chiens par Ylla*.
- 1940 Left France for the United States, after obtaining a visa with the help of the Museum of Modern Art.
- 1953 Made a 6,000-mile trip through Africa.
- 1953 With her mother, Ylla was a passenger in a small plane which crashed into the sea off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, July 8. Her mother and a second passenger died in the accident; Ylla and the pilot were rescued.
- 1954 Arrived in India, September 7.
- 1955 Injured while photographing a bullock cart race in Bharatpur, India, March 28. Ylla died a few days later, March 30.

INVENTORY OF COLLECTION

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS

Description: Magazine articles, newspaper clippings, telegrams, and other accounts containing biographical information.

Arrangement:

Quantity: 4 folders

- AG 138:1/ 1 Magazine articles
2 Clippings: Arrival in U.S (ca. 1940): Plane crash (1953)
3 Clippings: Activities in India, 1954-1955
4 Death, 1955
5 Miscellaneous ephemera

CORRESPONDENCE

Description: Primarily between Ylla and her agent Charles Rado, of Rapho-Guillumette, this material is concerned with the progress of Ylla's assignments, business matters, travel plans, and reports of photographs submitted by Ylla from overseas; most of this correspondence is from Charles Rado to Ylla. Other correspondents include the Parisian photographer Ergy Landau and Suresh Vaidya. The letters are primarily in English, but there are some by Ylla in French.

Arrangement: Chronological

Quantity: 5 folders

- AG 138:1/ 6 January - July 1954
- 7 August - December 1954
- 8 January - March 1955
- 9 April - July 1955, 1960, 1969, 1991
- 10 Suresh Vaidya to Charles Rado, 1955

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

Description: Brief reviews of Ylla's books, published in magazines and newspapers.

Quantity: 4 folders

- AG 138:1/ 11 Book Reviews: *Two Little Bears*, 1954
- 12 Book Reviews: *Animals in India*, 1958
- 13 Book Reviews: *Animal Babies*, 1959
- 14 Book Reviews: Miscellaneous

Magazine articles

Description: Miscellaneous magazine articles by Ylla, or articles which include, as illustrations, photographs by Ylla.

Arrangement: By magazine title; chronological thereunder

Quantity: 13 folders

- AG 138:2/ 1 *Collier's*
- 2 *Coronet*
- 3 *Elks Magazine*, "In the Dog House, with Ed Faust"
- 4 *New York Times Magazine*
- 5 *Parade*
- 6 *Sports Illustrated*
- 7 *This Week*
- 8 Miscellaneous U.S. magazines
- 9 Miscellaneous English, French & Italian magazines
- 10 Miscellaneous German & Scandinavian magazines

- 11 Unknown magazines
- 12 Illustrations: Miscellaneous magazine & newspaper
- 13 Illustrations: Miscellaneous advertising

Books

Description: Between 1937 and 1968 more than twenty books were published in English and other languages by Ylla or her estate; a number of these books were still in print as late as 1985. Also included in this series are book maquettes including photographs by Ylla, a 1940 calendar illustrated by Ylla, and drafts of the text for various projects. See Appendix A for a list of books.
Location: The books can be found on the storage area bookshelves

AG 138:3 Book maquettes: Two untitled maquettes; and maquettes for *Here's Jellybean Reilly* and *Let's Face It*
Calendar: *Wild Life Calendar*, 1940
Miscellany: Captions, article drafts

Model Releases

Description: Releases signed by animal owners allowing Ylla use of photographs.
Arrangement: By subject category
Quantity: 1 box

AG 138:4 Model releases

PHOTOGRAPHS

Description: Primarily 8x10-inch unmounted photographic prints; here are also color transparencies, 8x10-inch mounted, and 11x14-inch unmounted prints. These include photographs of animals and portraits made by Ylla, portraits of Ylla by Ergy Landau, and photographs of an exhibition installation.

Arrangement: By subject
Quantity: 12 boxes

AG 138:5 Miscellaneous: Color transparencies; ASMP scroll; Audiocassette tape of *Animal Language* interview from French radio, dated November 18, 1952

AG 138:6 Mounted Photographs [5 11x14-inch]

AG 138:7 Portraits by Ylla; Miscellaneous portraits of Ylla; Portraits of Ylla by Ergy Landau; Exhibition installation photographs

AG 138:8 Fish, Aquatic Animals, Turtles; Squirrels; Wild Animals—Aardvarks, ankole cattle, antelope, box turtles, buffalo, bulls, bullfrogs, camels, chameleons, crocodiles, deer, desert fox, dolphins, ferrets, Galapagos tortoises, gazelles,

giraffes, gnus, groundhog, hippopotamus (regular and pygmy), hyena, iguana, impalas, kangaroos, koalas, lesser pandas, llamas, nutria, otters, polecats, raccoons, red pandas, rhinoceros, squirrels (alone or paired with bullfrogs, cats, cockatoos, dogs, skunks and a leopard skin), tapir, tree kangaroo, waterbucks, water buffalo, wombats, zebras (177 photos)

- AG 138:9 Circus Animals; Elephants; Polar Bears; Monkeys; India—Baboons, bears, buffalo, capuchins, chimpanzees, colobus monkeys, deer, dogs, elephants, gibbons, gorillas, horses, leopards, macaques, mongooses, orangutans, panther, people, rhinoceros, sea lions, snakes, squirrel monkeys, tigers (219 photos)
- AG 138:10 Dogs; Cocker—Afghans, African ridgebacks, Alaskan malamutes, basset hounds, beagles, bloodhounds, boxers, bulldogs, bull terriers, chows, cocker spaniels, collies, coonhounds, dachshunds, Dalmatians, English setters, Irish setters, keeshonds, Labrador retrievers, Maltese, Pekinese, pointers, poodles, pugs, setters, sheepdogs, Springer spaniels, St. Bernards, terriers, weimaraners, misc. puppies and mutts (260 photos)
- AG 138:11 Bear cubs; Duck book—duck with beagles, boxers, camels, chimpanzees, cocker spaniels, deer, elephants, goats, hippopotamus, lions, orangutans, rabbits, terriers, tigers, tortoises, roosters; Horses; "Iron Liege and Kentucky Horses" for *Sports Illustrated* (164 photos)
- AG 138:12 Farm animals—cows, donkeys, goats, pigs, rabbits, sheep; cows; baby animals—moholi bushbaby, hedgehog, toed sloth; seals; birds—African Grey parrots, barn owls, cockatoo, crane, crested screamers, ducks, flamingos, geese, gulls, hawks, hens, hornbills, macaws, marabous, myna birds, ostrich, pelicans, penguins, pigeons, puffins, roosters, seagulls, secretary birds, snowy owls, storks, swans, turkeys, vultures (191 photos)
- AG 138:13 Cats—solo, in groups, with goldfish, mice, turtles or people; Lions—cheetahs, jaguars, ocelots, panthers, tigers or hunting, with birds, kittens, people, rabbits, zebras or hunting; Dogs and Cats (269 photos)
- AG 138:14 Prints not in books (Paris stamp); Prints not in books (51st Street Stamp)
- AG 138:15 Prints not in books [11x14-inch]
- AG 138:16 Book prints from *Animal Babies*; *Animal Language* (1938); *Big & Little* (1938); *Cats* (1937); *Dogs* (1937); *Dogs* (1945); *Dogs* (1950); *Here's Jellybean Reilly* (1966); *I'll Show You Cats* (1964); *India* (no date); *Listen, Listen* (1961); *The Little Elephant* (1956); *The Little Lion* (1947); *Look Who's Talking* (1962); *Petits et Grands* (1938); *Polar Bear Brothers* (1960); *Sleepy Little Lion* (1947); *Two Little Bears* (1954); *Whose Eye Am I?* (1968): (134 photos)
- AG 138:17 Book prints from *Africa* (no date); *Animals* (1951); *Animals in Africa* (1953); *The Duck* (1952); *Here's Jellybean Reilly* (1966); *I'll Show You Cats* (1964); *Look Who's Talking* (1962); *They All Saw It* (1944); *Tico Tico* (1950); *Whose Eye Am I?* (1968) : (112 photos)

AG 138:18 Posters

AG 138:19 Album of snapshots (copies) illustrating Ylla's life
Postcards with Ylla photographs
Copies of published materials on Ylla
Bibliographies of Ylla's published work

APPENDIX A: BOOKS PUBLISHED BY YLLA, OR BY HER ESTATE

Box 1:

Ylla. *Animals*. New York: Hastings House, 1951.

Ylla. *Dogs*, London: Harvill Press, no date.

Ylla, and Jules Supervielle. Ylla's Dog Fancies. London: Methuen, 1937.

---, and Paul Léautaud. Chats par Ylla. Paris: Editions OET, 1935 or 1937; New York: Dover Publications, 1988; 85 Gatti. Torino: S.A.I.E., 1952; 85 Chats. Edition Gallimard; 85 Chats. Lausanne: La Guilde du Livre, 1952. [7 total copies]

---, and Jules Supervielle. Chiens par Ylla. Paris: Editions OET, ca 1937; and Rudolph Reidtmann. Hunde. Zurich: Fretz & Wasmuth Verlag AG, 1950; and C.A. Cingria. Chiens. Editions Jean Marguerat, 1949. [3 total copies]

---. Big and Little. London: Country Life Press; Paris: Arts et Metiers, 1938. [2 total copies]

---, and Julian Huxley. Animal Language. London: Country Life Press, 1938.

---, and Margaret Wise Brown. They All Saw It. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1944.

---, and Jacques Prévert. The Little Lion. Paris: Arts et Metiers Graphiques, 1947; Turin: SAIE; Paris: Irar-Lan/Eta/Irudi-Lan; London: Harvill Press; Zürich: Fretz & Wasmuth; New York: Harper & Brothers; Paris: Editions Gallimard; (Japanese translation, printed NY) [5 total copies]

---, and Margaret Wise Brown. The Sleepy Little Lion. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1947; London: Harvill Press, 1948; New York: Harper & Row, 1975; (Japanese translation) [4 total copies]

---, and Jacques Prévert. Des Bêtes. France: Jombart, 1984. Von Tieren. Edition Gallimard, 1950. [2 total copies]

Box 2:

---, and Margaret Wise Brown. The Duck. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1952; and François Cali. Le Canard Blanc. London: W.R. Royle & Son LTD. [3 total copies]

---, and L. S. B. Leakey. Animals in Africa. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1953; Animaux

d’Afrique. Paris: Revue Neuf, 1953; Auf Frier Wildbahn in Afrika. Hamburg: Christian Wegner Verlag, 1953. [3 total copies]

---. Two Little Bears. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1954; and Paulette Falconnet. Deux petits ours. Bourges: Tardy Quercy, 1978; and Hans Georg Lenzen. Zwei Kleine Baren. Hamburg: Verlag Friedrich Oetinger, 1977; Fwee kleine beertjes; (Israeli translation), 1954; Bjornungene. Oslo: Dreyers Forlag, 1956;(Japanese translation). [19 total copies]

---, and Arthur Gregor. The Little Elephant. New York: Harper & Row, 1956; London: Hamish Hamilton, 1956; and Astrid Lindgren. Den lille elefanten. Stockholm: A.B. Rabén & Sjögren; and Jorgen Arup Hansen. Den lille Elefant. Copenhagen: S.L. Møller, 1957; and Paulette Falconnet. Le petit éléphant. Lausanne: La Guilde du Livre; and Velia Giacosa. L’Elefantino. Torino: S.A.I.E., 1956. [6 total copies]

Box 3:

---. Animals Big & Little. Japan: Heibonsha, 1957.

---. Animals in India. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1958. (French editions only) [3 total copies]

---, and Luc Bouchage. Mères et Petits. Lausanne: Clairefontaine, 1958; Sötast i Världen. Stockholm: Raben & Sjögren, 1958. [2 total copies]

---, and Arthur Gregor. Animal Babies. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1958; Baby Animals. London: Hamish Hamilton, 1959; and Anja Hegemann. Tiermütter und Tierkinder. Verlag: Eugen Diederichs, 1959. [4 copies]

---, and Crosby N. Bonsall. Listen, Listen. London: Hamish Hamilton, 1961.

---, and Crosby N. Bonsall. Here's Jellybean Reilly. New York : Harper & Row, 1966.

---, and Crosby N. Bonsall. Whose Eye Am I? New York: Harper & Row, 1968.

Box 4: Books, magazines, and other materials received by gift from Ylla Estate, June 28, 2006

Room thermometer, “Compliments of Rio Club,” with “Kit and Cat” photograph by Ylla.

Press photographs:

John Huston and Ylla, February 7, 1955

John Huston and Ylla, February 6 or 7, 1955

Varian Fry in Marseilles

Varian Fry, Andre Breton, Max Ernst, and Jacqueline Lamba in Marseilles

Wilfredo Lam in Cuba

Books and calendars:

The Animal in Photography, 1843-1985 (The Photographers’ Gallery, 1986)

Classic Cata by Great Photographers (Flammarion, 2005)

My Fellow Dogs (TGreville, 1992)

In Focus (ASMP engagement calendar, 1993)

Morse, Frances Belkin. *Animals* (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing Co., 1938)
 Newcombe, H. S. *The Twin-Lens Camera Companion* (Focal Press, 1948)
 Coolishaw, Arthur E. and Sidney Denham. *Our Cats* (London: Nicholas Kaye, 1958)
 Silverman, Ruth. *Dog Days: A Book of Days* (Chronicle, 1989)
 Nützlich, Süß, und Museal: das fotografierte Tier (Steidl: Museum Folkwang, 2005)
 Les Chats Vus Par Les Grands Photographes (Flammarion, 2005)
 2002 Dogs [two calendars in two sizes] (Taschen, 2002)
 Animaux [two calendars in two sizes] 1998
 Cats [calendar] 1994

Magazines:

1958 National Geographic (May) “Mysore Celebrates the Death of a Demon”
 1957 Beauty and the Camera #21 “Ylla’s Animals”
 1956 Sports Illustrated (February) “Tiger Hunt in the Grand Manner”
 1954 Sports Illustrated (December) “Africa’s Big Game”
 1953 Picture Post (November) “Orphans on the Bottle [lion cubs]”
 1952 Collier’s (September) “Lion’s Club Luncheon-Kenya Style”
 1951 True (March) “Drinkers of the Wind [Arabian horses]”
 1950 Woman’s Day (January) cover
 Picture Post (February) cover
 Chicago Daily News, This Week Magazine (April 29)
 Good Photography (A Fawcett Book #12) “Ylla and the Animals”
 1949 Liberty (February) cover
 Popular Photography (December) “My Best of 1949”
 1948 Woman’s Day (May) cover
 1947 Lilliput (July)
 Life (November 17) cover
 1946 Lilliput (vol. 19, no. 4)
 Woman’s Day (February) cover
 1945 Popular Photography (February) cover
 The Family Circle (October 26) cover
 Lilliput (November)
 Look (March 6)
 Look (May 1)
 Look (November 27)
 1944 Picture Post (April) cover
 Lilliput (August)
 Lilliput (October)
 The Star Weekly (September)
 1942 Good Housekeeping (December)
 1939 Lilliput (January)
 Picture Post (January 7)
 Lilliput (April)
 Lilliput (June)
 Lilliput (July)
 Lilliput (September)
 1938 Lilliput (July)
 Lilliput (September)
 Lilliput (November)

1937 Mieux Vivre (April)

APPENDIX B: OTHER BOOKS WITH YLLA PHOTOGRAPHS

Prévert, Jacques. Jacques Prévert un poète. Edition Gallimard, 1980.

U.S. Camera 1951. New York: U.S. Camera Publishing Corp., 1950.

U.S. Camera 1955. New York: U.S. Camera Publishing Corp., 1954.

PROCESSING NOTE

Processed by Leon Zimlich Oct-Nov 1992.
Accruals added by A. Rule, July 2006.