

English, Fanny manuscript and illustrations of Peter Rabbit

Fanny English manuscript and illustrations of Peter Rabbit
1907-1918

Title Statement

English, Fanny manuscript and illustrations of Peter Rabbit
Guide to the Fanny English manuscript and illustrations of Peter Rabbit MSS.16959

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
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Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4110
URL: <https://small.library.virginia.edu/>

4 May 2026

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.16959

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1912

Unit Date

1907-1918

Mixed Materials [X032762938]

1 (folder)

Language

English

Extent

0.03 Cubic Feet One letter-size file folder

Condition Description

Good.

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection has been minimally processed and is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Marginalia Rare Books by the Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia on 1 April 2026.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16959, Fanny English manuscript and illustrations of Peter Rabbit, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Content Description

This collection contains a manuscript album created by Fanny Hutchinson King English (1871–1944) as a gift for her daughter Mary (1904–1976) in 1907, when Mary was three years old. A bookseller's ticket is affixed to the pastedown, and a gift inscription reading "Mary Dennis English. March 10, 1907" appears on the opposite pastedown. The album comprises twenty-eight pages of manuscript and watercolor illustration and contains three pieces of correspondence laid in. One side of the dos-a-dos book duplicates a post-1903 edition of Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" in manuscript and watercolor illustration, identifiable as a post-1903 edition by the substitution of "Peter shed big tears" for the first edition's "Peter wept." The reverse side contains six original botanical and landscape watercolors by Mary English, executed at an unspecified later date. Two watercolors are laid in: a collection of daisies inscribed "Mama darling" on verso, and a horse labeled "Limerick" on recto with the inscription "To darling, darling Mummy from Mary" on verso, dated 1918. The three pieces of correspondence laid in include letters from Mary's grandmother Rachel Anne English (1832–1920) and from Fanny to Mary, written across Mary's childhood and adulthood.

Keywords

watercolors (paintings)

Sketchbooks

Children's books

Children's art