



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

Celebrating 175: Florence Knoll Bassett, Letters (1960s), 1961-1968

Extracted on Feb-06-2023 03:29:00

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Archives of American Art as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Archives of American Art website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Archives of American Art or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Archives of American Art. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

PROLOGUE

MAEVE

[[SNOOPY CARTOON STRIP]]

[Scene 1]

His was a story that had to be told. [Snoopy sitting on dog house typing on a typewriter]

[Scene 2 - Snoopy is just sitting there]
1965[??] United Feature Syndicate Inc

[Scene 3]

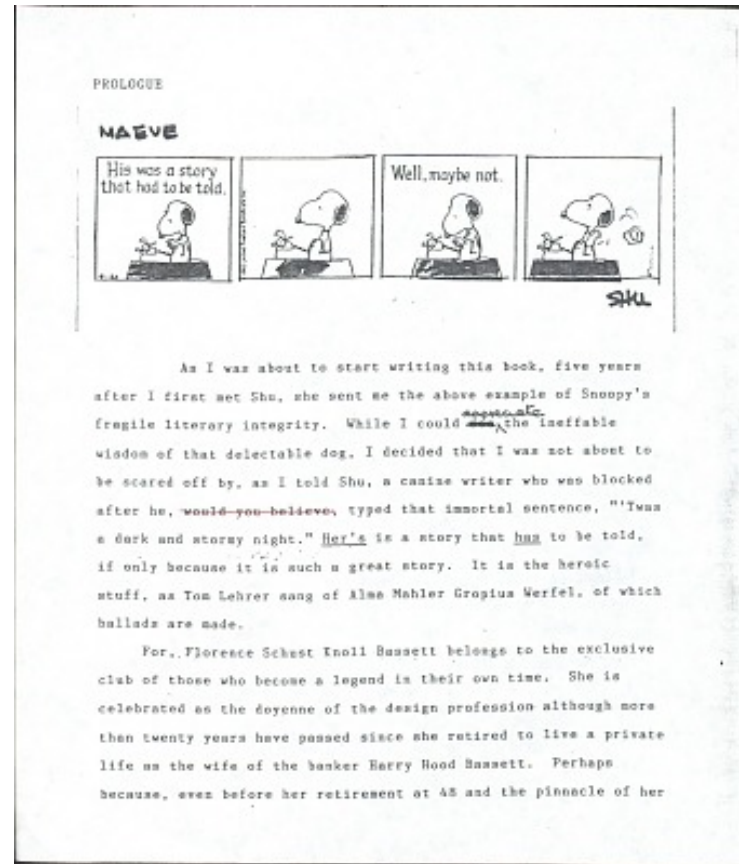
Well, maybe not. [Snoopy sitting on dog house typing on a typewriter]

[Scene 4 - Snoopy still sitting on top of dog house. It looks like he has pulled paper out of the typewriter, crumbled it up, and has thrown it behind him]

SHU

As I was about to start writing this book, five years after I first met Shu, she sent me the above example of Snoopy's fragile literary integrity. While I could appreciate [this is inserted in] the ineffable wisdom of that delectable dog, I decided that I was not about to be scared off by, as I told Shu, a canine writer who was blocked after he, would-you-believe, typed that immortal sentence, "'Twas a dark and stormy night." Her's is a story that has to be told, if only because it is such a great story. It is the heroic stuff, as Tom Lehrer sang of Alma Mahler Gropius Werfel, of which ballads are made.

For, Florence Schust Knoll Bassett belongs to the exclusive club of those who became a legend in their own time. She is celebrated as the doyenne of the design profession although more than twenty years have passed since she retired to live a private life as the wife of the banker Harry Hood Bassett. Perhaps because, even before her retirement at 48 and the pinnacle of her



Celebrating 175: Florence Knoll Bassett, Letters (1960s), 1961-1968
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Feb-06-2023 03:29:00



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)