

Jaffe-Lankes Family Correspondence

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1930-1942, 1980-1985



Title Statement

Jaffe-Lankes Family CorrespondenceJaffe-Lankes Family Correspondence, 1930-1942, 1980-1985
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2025-03-17 Ella Winterling added Existence and Location of Copies.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2019.014

Unit Date

1930-1942, 1980-1985

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English .

Abstract

This collection contains two main sets of materials: Correspondence between Louis I. Jaffe and J. J. Lankes from 1930 to 1942 and correspondence between Alice Jaffe (Louis' widow) and J. B. Lankes (J. J.'s son) from 1980 to 1985. In addition, there is a small folder of notes and letter excerpts created by J. B. Lankes in the early 1980s.

Creator

Jaffe, Louis I. (Louis Isaac), 1888-1950

Creator

Lankes, Julius J., 1884-1960

Creator

Jaffe, Alice Cohn Rice, 1905-1994

Creator

Lankes, J. B. (Julius B.), 1915-2010

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish material from Jaffe-Lankes Family Correspondence must be obtained from Special Collections, Virginia Tech.

Acquisition Information

The Jaffe-Lankes Family Correspondence was purchased by Special Collections in May 2017.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Jaffe-Lankes Family Correspondence was completed in April 2019.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Jaffe-Lankes Family Correspondence, Ms2019-014, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note: Alice Rice Jaffe

Alice Cohn Rice was born to Henry L. and Mary Cohn Rice in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1905. In May of 1942, she married Louis I. Jaffe (1888-1950). During the 1960s and 1970s, Alice Jaffe was an art teacher at Old Dominion College (later Old Dominion University). She died in January of 1994 in Norfolk, Virginia. She is buried with her husband in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Additional manuscript collections relating to Alice (and Louis) Jaffe can be found at [Old Dominion University](#) and the [University of Virginia](#).

Biographical Note: Louis I. Jaffe

Louis Isaac Jaffe was born to Philip and Lotta Kahn Jaffe in February of 1888. Jaffe was raised around Durham, North Carolina, attending Durham High School and Trinity College (later Duke University). He began his career as a newspaper writer and editor in college, later going to work for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. He served in France during World War I and after the war, became the editor of the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, the position he would hold until his death. During this lengthy term as editor, he had a reputation as a defender of civil liberties and a promotor of the arts. He helped write key elements of legislation against lynching in Virginia (passed in 1928). In 1920, Jaffe married Margaret Davis; the couple divorced in 1939. In the mid-1930s, Jaffe helped found the Norfolk branch of Virginia Union University (now Norfolk State University). In 1942, Jaffe married Alice Cohn Rice. In 1950, Jaffe suffered a heart attack and died. He is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Norfolk, Virginia.

Additional information about Louis Jaffe can be found in his biographical entry in the [Encyclopedia Virginia online](#). Additional manuscript collections and papers created by or about Jaffe can be found at [multiple archives in Virginia](#), including the University of Virginia, Old Dominion University, and the College of William and Mary.

Biographical Note: J. B. Lankes

Julius B. (J.B.) Lankes was the oldest of four children born to Julius John (J. J.) and Edee Bartlett Lankes. Lankes

died in Michigan in 2010 and is buried in Newport News, Virginia.

The collection of [Rosemary Sprague at Longwood University](#) contains two boxes of correspondence with J. B. Lankes.

Biographical Note: J. J. Lankes

Julius John (J. J.) Lankes was born in 1884 in Buffalo, NY. He began working as a draftsman in 1902, but spent the majority of his professional life known for his woodcuts. In 1914, he married art student Edee Maria Bartlett (1885-1958). Between 1915 and 1924, the couple had four children. Lankes' career as an artist spanned decades, during which he created woodcuts and illustrations for authors, among others. In addition to Sherwood Anderson, he worked with Robert Frost and Beatrix Potter. Lankes wrote and illustrated *A Woodcut Manual*, published by Henry Holt in 1932. In 2006, The University of Tampa published a new edition of this book with selected letters and other writings, edited by Welford Dunaway Taylor. (A copy of the 2006 edition is housed in Special Collections. A copy of the 1932 edition is available at the University Libraries' Art & Architecture Library.) In addition to his illustrations and work as an artist, Lankes taught at Wells College from 1933 to about 1940. From 1943 to 1950, Lankes worked for the reproduction section of the National Advisory Council for Aeronautics (NACA, later NASA). He retired in 1951 and died in April 1960.

In addition to Virginia Tech, J. J. Lankes manuscript collections and artworks can be found in [multiple archives around Virginia](#), including the University of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Scope and Content

This collection contains two main sets of materials: Correspondence between Louis I. Jaffe and J. J. Lankes from 1930 to 1942 and correspondence between Alice Jaffe (Louis' widow) and J. B. Lankes (J. J.'s son) from 1980 to 1985. In addition, there is a small folder of notes and letter excerpts created by J. B. Lankes in the early 1980s.

The majority of the letters are from Louis Jaffe to J. J. Lankes, represented by original letters, photocopies, and/or transcripts. These letters document their personal friendship, working relationship, and larger creative, literary, and political circles. Themes in their correspondence include Sherwood Anderson and his works, Lankes relocation to New York to take a job at Wells, visits with each other, and professional collaborations.

July 11, 1933, Louis Jaffe to J. J. Lankes: "Sometime in August I hope to knock off for a couple of weeks of rest. Maybe I will climb into the old Ford and wander west. This idea is stirring in my head-how would you like to join me in a gypsy expedition for a week? My plans are nebulous, but it might be possible to drive up to Marion and see Sherwood. He has just taken a bride-Eleanor-and they are to live at Ripshin, the stone keep that be built with the proceeds of Dark Laughter."

January 12, 1937, Louis Jaffe to J. J. Lankes: "'Spring Twilight' is one of the finest things you've done. I am proud to have a print of it and send you warm thanks. Excepting Wyeth, I think I must have by this time the best collection of Lanky-anna in private hands."

In addition, the collection contains 19 letters to and from Alice Jaffe and J. B. Lankes, discussing the distribution of Louis Jaffe and J. J. Lankes materials at different repositories, the whereabouts of original works (including items discussed in the Louis-J.J. correspondence), and Sherwood Anderson materials (both before and after Eleanor Anderson's death).

Related Materials

James T. Farrell Letters to Eleanor Copenhaver Anderson, 1952, 1954 (Ms2017-055). [Finding aid available online](#). This collection has been [digitized and is available online](#).

Marvin H. Neel Papers, 1933-1988 (Ms2016-022) [Finding aid available online](#).

Mary Sinton Leitch Correspondence with J. J. Lankes, 1932-1950 (Ms2017-001). [Finding aid available online](#).

Sherwood Anderson Correspondence with Llewellyn Jones, 1916-1924, n.d. (Ms2015-044). [Finding aid available online](#). This collection has been [digitized and is available online](#).

Welford D. Taylor Collection on Sherwood Anderson, 1918-2006, n.d. (Ms2015-020). [Finding aid available online](#).

Keywords

Authors, American -- 20th century

Anderson, Sherwood (Sherwood Berton), 1876-1941

Jaffe, Louis I. (Louis Isaac), 1888-1950

Lankes, Julius J., 1884-1960

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Arrangement

Generally, the collection is organized in folders by correspondent (Louis to J. J.; J. J. to Louis; Alice to J. B.; J. B. to Alice) with the folder of notes and excerpts at the end. Within in each folder, letters are in chronological order.

Description of Subordinate Components

Louis I. Jaffe to J. J. Lankes

Unit Date 1930-1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Transcripts of Letters, Louis I. Jaffe to J. J. Lankes

Unit Date 1930-1933

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

J. J. Lankes to Louis I. Jaffe

Unit Date 1934, 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Alice Jaffe to J. B. Lankes

Unit Date 1980-1985

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

J. B. Lankes to Alice Jaffe

Unit Date 1980-1985

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

J. B. Lankes Notes & Collected Excerpts from Letters

Unit Date c.1982

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)