

Register to the Wagner-Jenkins Correspondence

Misc. Ms. 345



Compiled by Richard Boursy

2013

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Gilmore Music Library
120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
(203) 432-0497
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

CALL NUMBER: Misc. Ms. 345

CREATOR: Jenkins, N. S. (Newell Sill)

TITLE: Wagner-Jenkins Correspondence

DATES: 1874–1891

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: In English and German.

SUMMARY: Correspondence between the families of Richard Wagner and Newell Sill Jenkins.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0345>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0345>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Newell Jenkins (grandson of Newell Sill Jenkins) in 1986.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the [Special Collections staff](#) to schedule an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

The Wagner-Jenkins Correspondence is the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

Preferred Citation

Misc. Ms. 345, The Wagner-Jenkins Correspondence in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

Dr. Newell Sill Jenkins (1840-1919) was an American dentist who spent most of his career in Europe, practicing chiefly in Dresden. He had many notable patients, including the composer Richard Wagner and his family. The Wagner family and the Jenkins family became friends, and they exchanged many letters. For more information about Dr. Jenkins, see John M. Hyson, Jr., "Dr. Newell Sill Jenkins: Progenitor of Cosmetic Dentistry," *Journal of the California Dental Association*, Vol. 31, No. 8, August, 2003, pp. 626-629. Dr. Jenkins was the grandfather of the American conductor Newell Jenkins (1915-1996).

Scope and Contents

The collection consists chiefly of correspondence between the families of the composer Richard Wagner and Dr. Newell Sill Jenkins. The Wagner family is represented by letters from Richard Wagner, his wife Cosima, and their children Siegfried and Eva, as well as Daniela von Bülow (Cosima's daughter by her previous marriage to Hans von Bülow). Only two of the letters are by Richard Wagner, but they are of particular interest; both dated 1880, they discuss his interest in visiting the United States or even moving there permanently, explaining that he would require a million dollars to do so. Jenkins tried to support Wagner's schemes, but they never came to fruition.

The original letters are accompanied by typed transcriptions, as well as English translations of the German-language letters. The collection also includes two Bayreuth performance schedules and two 20th-century articles.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence. II. Miscellaneous printed material.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1874-1891

Arranged chronologically, with undated items filed at the end.

b. 1, f. 1	Inventory	
b. 1, f. 2	From C. Wagner to Dr. Jenkins Bayreuth	1874 October 29
b. 1, f. 2	From Cosima Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Bayreuth	1877 October 9
b. 1, f. 2	From C. Wagner to Mrs. Jenkins Wahnfried	1879 February 2
b. 1, f. 2	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins [Walpurgisstrasse, Dresden]	1879 February 9
b. 1, f. 2	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins	1879 April 4
b. 1, f. 3	From Richard Wagner [to N.S. Jenkins] "Rec'd Dresden Febry. 12 1880."	1880 February 8
b. 1, f. 3	From N.S. Jenkins to [Richard Wagner] Dresden	1880 February 13
b. 1, f. 3	From [N.S. Jenkins] to A.D. White Dresden	1880 February 13
b. 1, f. 3	From Richard Wagner and C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Naples	1880 July 13
b. 1, f. 3	Draft of a letter from [N.S. Jenkins] to Wagner Naples	No date [after 1880 July 13]
b. 1, f. 3	From Kingsley Twining to Dr. Jenkins Oneida County, New York	1880 July 17
b. 1, f. 3	From J.S. Dwight to Dr. N.S. Jenkins Dresden	1880 August 2
b. 1, f. 3	From Newell Sill Jenkins to Mr. J.R. Folsom Dresden	1880 August 4
b. 1, f. 3	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Naples	1880 August 5
b. 1, f. 3	From B.J. Lang to Richard Wagner Boston	[1880] August 8

b. 1, f. 3	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Siena	1880 August 27
b. 1, f. 4	From N.S. Jenkins to Madame Wagner Paris	1880 September 6
b. 1, f. 4	From J.S. Dwight to Dr. N.S. Jenkins Boston	1880 September 10
b. 1, f. 4	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Siena	1880 September 10
b. 1, f. 4	From F.S.D [Davenport] to "Doc" [N.S. Jenkins] Bangor	1880 October 4
b. 1, f. 4	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Venice	1880 October 17
b. 1, f. 4	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins	1880 November 25
b. 1, f. 5	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Palermo	1881 January 17
b. 1, f. 5	From Joe to "Doc" [N.S. Jenkins] New York	1881 August 30
b. 1, f. 5	Card enclosed with Christmas gift to Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins	1881
b. 1, f. 5	From Daniela v. Bülow to [N.S. Jenkins] Bayreuth	1882 July 4
b. 1, f. 5	From C. Wagner to Mrs. Jenkins Bayreuth	1882 September 12
b. 1, f. 5	From Siegfried Wagner to Mr. Jenkins	1882 October 10
b. 1, f. 5	From Siegfried [Wagner] to Dr. Jenkins	1883 September 30
b. 1, f. 6	From Daniela v. Bülow to Dr. Jenkins Bayreuth	1884 August 11
b. 1, f. 6	From Carrie Pringle to Mr. Jenkins London	1886 December 20
b. 1, f. 6	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Bayreuth	1888 June 2
b. 1, f. 6	From C. Wagner to Mr. Jenkins Bayreuth	1889 January 21
b. 1, f. 6	From C. Wagner to Mrs. Jenkins Bayreuth	1889 June 9

b. 1, f. 6	From Eva Wagner to Dr. Jenkins Bayreuth	1891 June 30
b. 1, f. 7	From Siegfried Wagner to Dr. Jenkins	No date
b. 1, f. 7	From "Deinem Judenhasser" to Leo [Jenkins] This letter from a member of the Wagner family to a member of the Jenkins family is signed using an offensive anti-semitic term.	No date
b. 1, f. 7	Card from Frau Wagner to Mrs. Jenkins	No date
b. 1, f. 7	Calling card; "Frau Wagner/geb Liszt"	
b. 1, f. 7	Calling card of Richard Wagner	

Series II: Miscellaneous printed material

b. 1, f. 7	Bühnenfestspiele in Bayreuth. Calendar of performances.	1888
b. 1, f. 7	[Bühnenfestspiele in Bayreuth] Calendar of rehearsals and performances. The opera house and date are not named in this fragment, but it appears to be for the Bayreuth Festival in 1889.	1889
b. 1, f. 7	Klaus Liepman, "Wagner's Proposal to America," <i>High Fidelity</i> , December 1975, pp. 70-72.	1975
b. 1, f. 7	Bernard Levin, "The Unspeakable Wagners," <i>Times</i> [of London]	1978

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Composers -- Germany -- Correspondence

Names

Jenkins, Newell -- Gift, 1986

Contributors

Jenkins, N. S. (Newell Sill)
Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883
Wagner, Cosima, 1837-1930
Wagner, Siegfried, 1869-1930
Wagner family