

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Arthur Lee Diaries and Papers

GEN MSS 1732



by Beinecke staff

June 2021

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1732

**CREATOR:** Lee, Arthur, 1881-1961, author

**TITLE:** Arthur Lee diaries and papers

**DATES:** 1908-1998

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 18.92 linear feet (40 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** The bulk of this collection consists of diaries kept by sculptor Arthur Lee between 1914 and 1959. The diaries document Lee's artistic and intellectual life in Greenwich Village and New York City throughout the middle of the 20th century, and include some drawings. The collection also includes sketchbooks, drawings, photographs, correspondence, printed material, and other papers by or relating to Lee.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.arthurlee>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Estate of Ingeborg Lee Muller, 2014.

## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Arthur Lee Diaries and Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Arthur Lee Diaries and Papers. General Collection. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Arthur Lee

Arthur Lee was an American sculptor and artist. Born in Trondheim, Norway in 1881, he emigrated to the United States with his family at the age of eight. Lee studied at the Arts Students League in New York (where he later taught) and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Lee passed away at his Connecticut home on May 14, 1961.

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## Scope and Contents

The bulk of this collection consists of diaries kept by sculptor Arthur Lee between 1914 and 1959. The diaries document Lee's artistic and intellectual life in Greenwich Village and New York City throughout the middle of the 20th century, and include some drawings. The collection also includes sketchbooks, drawings, photographs, correspondence, printed material, and other papers by or relating to Lee.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I: Diaries, 1914 - 1959. II: Artwork, photographs, and other papers, 1924 - 1998. III: Printed materials, 1908 - 1929.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Diaries, 1914–1959

13.75 linear feet (33 boxes)

This series consists of diaries kept by Arthur Lee between 1914 and 1959.

Diaries are arranged chronologically.

b.1	Diary	1914 June
b.1	Diary	1914 July
b.1	Diary	1914 July
b.1	Diary	1915 March- April
b.1	Diary	1915 May
b.1	Diary	1916 January
b.1	Diary	1916 May
b.1	Diary	1917 March
b.1	Diary	1917 April
b.1	Diary	1917 May
b.1	Diary	1917 September
b.1	Diary	1918 January
b.1	Diary	1918 February
b.1	Diary	1918 March
b.1	Diary	1918 April
b.2	Diary	1918 May
b.2	Diary	1918 May
b.2	Diary	1918 May-July
b.2	Diary	1918 June-July
b.2	Diary	1918 July- August
b.2	Diary	1918 August
b.2	Diary	1918 September
b.2	Diary	1918 November
b.2	Diary	1918 December

b. 2	Diary	1919 January
b. 2	Diary	1919 April
b. 2	Diary	1919 May
b. 2	Diary	1919 June
b. 2	Diary	1919 July
b. 2	Diary	1919 September- October
b. 2	Diary	1919 October- November
b. 2	Diary	1919 November
b. 3	Diary	1919 November- December
b. 3	Diary	1919 December- 1920 January
b. 3	Diary	1920 January
b. 3	Diary	1920 January- February
b. 3	Diary	1920 March
b. 3	Diary	1920 March- April
b. 3	Diary	1920 April-May
b. 3	Diary	1920 May-June
b. 3	Diary	1920 June-July
b. 3	Diary	1920 July
b. 3	Diary	1920 July- August
b. 3	Diary	1920 August- September
b. 3	Diary	1920 September- October
b. 3	Diary	1920 October
b. 3	Diary	1920 October- November

b. 3	Diary	1920 November- December
b. 3	Diary	1920 December-1921 January
b. 3	Diary	1921 January
b. 3	Diary	1921 January- February
b. 3	Diary	1921 February- March
b. 3	Diary	1921 March
b. 4	Diary	1921 March- April
b. 4	Diary	1921 June-July
b. 4	Diary	1921 July-August
b. 4	Diary	1921 August- September
b. 4	Diary	1921 September- October
b. 4	Diary	1921 October- November
b. 4	Diary	1921 December-1922 January
b. 4	Diary	1922 January
b. 4	Diary	1922 March
b. 4	Diary	1922 May
b. 4	Diary	1922 June- August
b. 4	Diary	1922 August- October
b. 4	Diary	1922 October- November
b. 4	Diary	1922 December
b. 4	Diary	1923 March- April
b. 4	Diary	1923 June

b. 4	Diary	1923 July
b. 4	Diary	1923 August- October
b. 4	Diary	1923 November
b. 5	Diary	1923 December
b. 5	Diary	1924 January
b. 5	Diary	1924 January- February
b. 5	Diary	1924 March
b. 5	Diary	1924 April
b. 5	Diary	1924 May-June
b. 5	Diary	1924 July- August
b. 5	Diary	1926 August- September
b. 5	Diary	1927 January- February
b. 5	Diary	1927 August- October
b. 5	Diary	1928 May-July
b. 5	Diary	1928 November- December
b. 5	Diary	1929 January
b. 5	Diary	1929 February- March
b. 5	Diary	1929 March- April
b. 5	Diary	1929 May-July
b. 5	Diary	1929 December-1930 January
b. 6	Diary	1930 December-1931 March
b. 6	Diary	1932 February- April
b. 6	Diary	1932 May-July



b. 7	Diary	1932 January- March
b. 7	Diary	1932 August
b. 7	Diary	1932 September
b. 7	Diary	1932 October
b. 7	Diary	1932 October- November
b. 7	Diary	1932 November- December
b. 7	Diary	1933 April
b. 7	Diary	1933 July- August
b. 7	Diary	1933 September- October
b. 7	Diary	1933 October- November
b. 7	Diary	1933 December
b. 8	Diary	1934 January- February
b. 8	Diary	1934 March
b. 8	Diary	1934 April
b. 8	Diary	1934 July- August
b. 8	Diary	1934 November
b. 8	Diary	1934 November- December
b. 8	Diary	1935 January
b. 8	Diary	1935 February
b. 8	Diary	1935 March- April
b. 8	Diary	1935 May
b. 8	Diary	1935 June
b. 8	Diary	1935 September
b. 8	Diary	1935 July
b. 8	Diary	1935 October

b. 8	Diary	1935 October- November
b. 8	Diary	1935 November
b. 8	Diary	1935 December
b. 9	Diary	1936 March
b. 9	Diary	1936 April
b. 9	Diary	1936 May
b. 9	Diary	1936 June
b. 9	Diary	1936 June
b. 9	Diary	1936 June
b. 9	Diary	1936 July
b. 9	Diary	1936 August
b. 9	Diary	1936 August
b. 9	Diary	1936 September
b. 9	Diary	1936 September
b. 9	Diary	1936 October
b. 9	Diary	1936 November
b. 9	Diary	1936 December
b. 9	Diary	1936
b. 9	Diary	1936
b. 9	Diary	1937
b. 9	Diary	1937 January
b. 9	Diary	1937 February
b. 9	Diary	1937 February
b. 9	Diary	1937 March
b. 10	Diary	1938
b. 10	Diary	1938 January
b. 10	Diary	1938 February
b. 10	Diary	1938 February
b. 10	Diary	1938 February
b. 10	Diary	1938 March

b. 10	Diary	1938 March
b. 10	Diary	1938 April
b. 10	Diary	1938 April
b. 10	Diary	1938 April
b. 10	Diary	1938 May
b. 10	Diary	1938 May
b. 10	Diary	1938 June
b. 10	Diary	1938 June
b. 10	Diary	1938 July
b. 10	Diary	1938 July
b. 10	Diary	1938 July
b. 10	Diary	1938 August
b. 10	Diary	1938 August
b. 10	Diary	1938 August
b. 10	Diary	1938 September
b. 10	Diary	1938 September
b. 10	Diary	1938 October
b. 10	Diary	1938 November
b. 10	Diary	1938 November
b. 10	Diary	1938 December
b. 11	Diary	1937 March
b. 11	Diary	1937 May
b. 11	Diary	1937 May
b. 11	Diary	1937 May
b. 11	Diary	1937 June
b. 11	Diary	1937 June
b. 11	Diary	1937 July
b. 11	Diary	1937 July
b. 11	Diary	1937 August
b. 11	Diary	1937 August

b. 11	Diary	1937 August
b. 11	Diary	1937 September
b. 11	Diary	1937 September
b. 11	Diary	1937 October
b. 11	Diary	1937 October
b. 11	Diary	1937 November
b. 11	Diary	1937 November
b. 11	Diary	1937 December
b. 11	Diary	1937 December
b. 12	Diary	1939 January
b. 12	Diary	1939 January
b. 12	Diary	1939 January
b. 12	Diary	1939 January
b. 12	Diary	1939 February
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b. 12	Diary	1939 July
b. 12	Diary	1939 July
b. 12	Diary	1939 August

b. 12	Diary	1939 August
b. 12	Diary	1939 August
b. 13	Diary	1939 September
b. 13	Diary	1939 September
b. 13	Diary	1939 September
b. 13	Diary	1939 October
b. 13	Diary	1939 October
b. 13	Diary	1939 October
b. 13	Diary	1939 November
b. 13	Diary	1939 December
b. 13	Diary	1939 Xmas
b. 13	Diary	1940 January
b. 13	Diary	1940 January
b. 13	Diary	1940 January
b. 13	Diary	1940 February
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b. 13	Diary	1940 April
b. 13	Diary	1940 April
b. 13	Diary	1940 May
b. 13	Diary	1940 May
b. 13	Diary	1940 May
b. 14	Diary	1940 June
b. 14	Diary	1940 June
b. 14	Diary	1940 June
b. 14	Diary	1940 June

b. 14	Diary	1940 July
b. 14	Diary	1940 July
b. 14	Diary	1940 August
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b. 14	Diary	1940 October
b. 14	Diary	1940 November
b. 14	Diary	1940 November
b. 14	Diary	1940 November
b. 14	Diary	1940 December
b. 14	Diary	1941 January
b. 14	Diary	1941 January
b. 14	Diary	1941 February
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b. 14	Diary	1941 February
b. 15	Diary	1941 March
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b. 15	Diary	1941 November

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b. 15	Diary	1941 December
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b. 15	Diary	1941 December
b. 16	Diary	1942 January
b. 16	Diary	1942 January
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b. 16	Diary	1942 December
b. 17	Diary	1943 January
b. 17	Diary	1943 January
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b. 17	Diary	1943 April-May

b. 17	Diary	1943 June
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b. 26	Diary	1953 August
b. 26	Diary	1953 September
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b. 26	Diary	1953 December
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b. 26	Diary	1954 January
b. 25	Diary	1954 February

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b. 28	Diary	1955 April
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b. 28	Diary	1955 November
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b. 28	Diary	1955 December
b. 28	Diary	1955 December
b. 28	Diary	1956 January
b. 28	Diary	1956 January
b. 28	Diary	1956 January
b. 28	Diary	1956 January
b. 29	Diary	1956 February

b. 29	Diary	1956 February
b. 29	Diary	1956 March
b. 29	Diary	1956 March
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b. 29	Diary	1956 July
b. 29	Diary	1956 July
b. 29	Diary	1956 August
b. 29	Diary	1956 August
b. 29	Diary	1956 August
b. 29	Diary	1956 September
b. 29	Diary	1956 September
b. 29	Diary	1956 September
b. 29	Diary	1956 September
b. 29	Diary	1956 October
b. 30	Diary	1956 October
b. 30	Diary	1956 October
b. 30	Diary	1956 November
b. 30	Diary	1956 November



b. 30	Diary	1956 November
b. 30	Diary	1956 November
b. 30	Diary	1956 December
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b. 30	Diary	1957 March
b. 30	Diary	1957 March
b. 30	Diary	1957 April
b. 30	Diary	1957 April
b. 30	Diary	1957 April
b. 30	Diary	1957 April
b. 31	Diary	1957 May
b. 31	Diary	1957 May
b. 31	Diary	1951 May
b. 31	Diary	1957 May

b. 31	Diary	1951 June
b. 31	Diary	1957 June
b. 31	Diary	1957 June
b. 31	Diary	1957 June
b. 31	Diary	1957 June
b. 31	Diary	1957 July
b. 31	Diary	1951 July
b. 31	Diary	1957 July
b. 31	Diary	1957 July
b. 31	Diary	1957 July
b. 31	Diary	1957 July
b. 31	Diary	1957 August
b. 31	Diary	1957 August
b. 31	Diary	1957 August
b. 31	Diary	1957 August
b. 31	Diary	1957 September
b. 31	Diary	1957 September
b. 31	Diary	1957 September
b. 31	Diary	1957 September
b. 31	Diary	1957 September
b. 31	Diary	1957 October
b. 31	Diary	1957 October
b. 31	Diary	1957 November
b. 31	Diary	1957 November
b. 32	Diary	1957 November
b. 32	Diary	1957 December
b. 32	Diary	1957 December
b. 32	Diary	1957 December
b. 32	Diary	1958 January
b. 32	Diary	1958 January

b. 32	Diary	1958 January
b. 32	Diary	1958 January
b. 32	Diary	1958 February
b. 32	Diary	1958 February
b. 32	Diary	1958 February
b. 32	Diary	1958 February
b. 32	Diary	1958 February
b. 32	Diary	1958 March
b. 32	Diary	1958 March
b. 32	Diary	1958 April
b. 32	Diary	1958 April
b. 32	Diary	1958 May
b. 32	Diary	1958 May
b. 32	Diary	1958 May
b. 32	Diary	1958 June
b. 32	Diary	1958 June
b. 32	Diary	1958 July
b. 32	Diary	1958 July
b. 32	Diary	1958 July
b. 32	Diary	1958 September
b. 32	Diary	1958 September
b. 32	Diary	1958 October
b. 33	Diary	1958 October
b. 33	Diary	1958 November
b. 33	Diary	1958 December
b. 33	Diary	1958 December
b. 33	Diary	1959 January
b. 33	Diary	1959 January
b. 33	Diary	1959 June
b. 33	Diary	1959 June- August

b. 33	Diary	1959 December
b. 33	Diary	1959
b. 33	Diary	undated
b. 33	Diary	undated
b. 33	Diary	undated
b. 33	Diary	undated
b. 33	Diary	undated
b. 33	Diary	undated
b. 33	Diary	undated

## Series II: Artwork, photographs, and other papers, 1924–1998

4.92 linear feet (6 boxes)

This series consists of sketchbooks and drawings by Arthur Lee, photographs, correspondence, a scrapbook, slides, catalogs and other papers.

b. 34	Sketchbooks <i>6 Folders</i>	undated
b. 34	Art This file contains photographs of art, notes, printed material and correspondence.	circa 1930-1996
b. 34	Photographs <i>2 Folders</i> These files contains photographs of sculpture and drawings.	circa 1937–1965
b. 34	Art Students League of New York	1937-1942
b. 34	Catalogs	1924, 1938, 1939
b. 34	Correspondence	1957-1998
b. 35	Greek art	undated
b. 35	Photographs <i>4 Folders</i> These folders contain black and white photographs of drawings.	undated
b. 35	Sketches and notes	undated
b. 36	Slides	undated
b. 37	Wooden box containing crayons	undated
b. 38 (Oversize)	Drawings <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 39 (Oversize)	Scrapbook	undated
b. 39 (Oversize)	Photographs This file contains black and white photographs of sculptures.	undated

**Series III: Printed materials, 1908–1929***0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

This series consists of three books owned by Arthur Lee.

b. 40	Contemporary American sculpture	1929
b. 40	Chefs-d'œuvre du Tintoret (1518-1594)	1908
b. 40	Troilus and Cressida Annotated in an unidentified hand.	undated

## **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**

Art, American -- 20th Century  
Sculptors -- United States -- 20th Century --  
Archives

### **Geographic Names**

Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.) --  
Intellectual life -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Drawings (visual works)  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks

### **Occupations**

Sculptors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Lee, Arthur, 1881-1961