

# Guide to the Susan Wilbur Jones Papers

WA MSS S-2350



by Diana M. Smith and Kathleen Burns

October 2006

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
SUSAN WILBUR JONES, b. 1893 .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Collection Contents .....	7
Series I: Correspondence, 1873-1970 .....	7
PERSONAL .....	7
PERSONAL BUSINESS .....	7
PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS .....	7
THIRD-PARTY CORRESPONDENCE .....	7
Series II: Diaries, 1912-1924 .....	8
Series III: Writings, n.d. ....	9
Series IV: Other Papers, 1879-1958 .....	10
Selected Search Terms .....	11

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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:** WA MSS S-2350

**CREATOR:** Jones, Susan Wilbur, 1893-

**TITLE:** Susan Wilbur Jones papers

**DATES:** 1873-1970

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.88 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, diaries, writings, and other papers recording Susan Wilbur Jones' years in Europe, Chicago, and Cambridge, Mass. as a student, editor, author, wife, and mother. In addition to much material on Susan's family life and life as a student, the papers contain references to the Chicago literary world, in which Susan and her husband Llewellyn socialized with Harriet Monroe, Floyd Dell, John Cowper Powys, Edgar Lee Masters, Carl Sandburg, and Mark Turbyfill. The correspondence is arranged into personal correspondence, business correspondence, and personal business correspondence. Principal correspondents include Katherine Lee Bates, and cousins Edward Brigham, E. P. Warren, and Cornelia Warren. Also included is a letter from her mentally ill aunt Susan Rice, and a letter from Gyp Taylor discussing life in Paris in 1932 mentioning Gertrude Stein, Natalie Barney, William Seabrook, and Ford Madox Ford. There are also family letters from Susan's mother and father, mostly dating from 1909 when Susan spent a year in Europe; as well as correspondence to Susan and her mother from Susan's great-aunt, Susan C. Warren, and from Susan's grandmother, Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur. The diaries are dated 1912, 1914-16, 1918-1919, 1921-1924. Writings include "Saint Nicholas Eve" and an incomplete essay entitled "Floyd and Margery Dell Throw a Party!". Other Papers include Isaac Levine's printed poem "The Queen of Elfland's Daughter (A Moon Fantasy)" inscribed to Susan and Llewellyn.

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

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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.wilburs>.

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  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from John Waite Rare Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 1999. Two additions purchased from Greg French-Early Photography on the Ramona Lazare Fund, 2005.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Susan Wilbur Jones Papers are 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

Susan Wilbur Jones Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Correspondence and other materials acquired in 2005 have been interfiled in the collection. The items includes correspondence from Susan C. Warren to Susan Wilbur Jones and her mother, Ellen G. Wilbur; correspondence from Susan's parents, including a substantial number of letters written during a trip to Europe that Jones took as a teenager; correspondence from Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur and a number of other letters. Folder numbers appended by a letter generally indicate material accessioned in 2005. Additionally, folders 34-37 were also acquired in 2005. Biographical information for Susan Wilbur Jones is drawn from Diana M. Smith's biographical treatment of George W. Wilbur and his family in the finding aid for the George W. Wilbur Family Papers, WA MSS S-1611. The bulk of the Description of Papers and the basic structure of the box and folder listing are based on Diana M. Smith's original description of the papers and container list.

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## SUSAN WILBUR JONES, b. 1893

Susan Wilbur Jones, daughter of George W. Wilbur (1851-1931) and Ellen Rice Wilbur (d. 1932) of Chicago, was born in Oak Park, Illinois on January 6, 1893. She attended the public schools in Oak Park and Wellesley College from 1909 to 1913, where she boarded with Katharine Lee Bates, majored in Greek and English Literature, and was elected Phi Beta Kappa.

Upon graduation, she returned to Chicago and attended the University of Chicago, receiving a Master of Arts in English Literature in 1914. She began her career in literature by reviewing books for Llewellyn Jones, literary editor of the *Chicago Evening Post*.

In March 1917, Susan Wilbur married Llewellyn Jones. They had three children: Llewellyn, born in 1919; Cornelia, born in 1920; and George, born in 1930. Susan's sons both attended Harvard; her daughter Cornelia was mentally ill and was institutionalized at an early age.

From 1917 to 1922 Susan was assistant editor of *Poetry*, literary editor of the *Continent*, and staff editor of Compton's *Pictured Encyclopedia's* volume on the ancient Mediterranean world. From 1923 to 1933 she joined her husband at the *Chicago Evening Post* as associate literary editor of the newly established book supplement. During this time she also served as literary editor for *Child Life*, and for the *Chicagoan*.

Susan Wilbur Jones had been a supervisor of the Illinois WPA Writer's Project for three years in 1938 when her husband accepted the editorship of the *Christian Register* in Boston. She moved her household and returned to school to pursue a masters in Slavic Languages from Radcliffe College. She received her degree in 1944.

Susan wrote several short works, as well as a history entitled *Egypt and the Suez Canal* (Chicago, 1925). She began a career in translation with the *Satyricon of Petronius Arbiter* in 1927. A Rockefeller grant obtained upon receiving her degree enabled her to translate Gudzy's *History of Early Literature* in 1949, which she followed with a translation of Romanov's *Russia in Manchuria* (Ann Arbor, 1952). She switched to Japanese in the 1950s and translated *Ages Ago: Thirty-seven Tales from the Konjaku Monogatari Collection* (Cambridge, 1959).

In her later years, Susan kept house in Cambridge for her youngest son George, and dabbled in translating. She died November 25, 1969.

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## Scope and Contents

The Susan Wilbur Jones Papers consist of correspondence, diaries, writings, and other papers documenting Susan Wilbur Jones' years in Chicago and Cambridge, Mass. as a student, editor, wife, and mother. In addition to much material on Susan's family life and life as a student, the papers contain references to the Chicago literary world, in which Susan and her husband Llewellyn socialized with Harriet Monroe, Floyd Dell, John Cowper Powys, Edgar Lee Master, Carl Sandburg, and Mark Turbyfill.

[Series I. Correspondence](#) is arranged into personal correspondence, business correspondence, and personal business correspondence. Principal correspondents include Katherine Lee Bates, and cousins Edward Brigham, E. P. Warren, and Cornelia Warren. Also included is a letter from her mentally ill aunt Susan Rice, and a letter from Gyp Taylor discussing life in Paris in 1932 mentioning Gertrude Stein, Natalie Barney, William Seabrook, and Ford Madox Ford. There are also letters written by Susan's mother and father during her youth. The bulk of parental correspondence in this collection is related to a 1909 trip Susan took to Europe at age sixteen. The letters reference Susan's travels and report on family life in Illinois, often inquiring about missing letters or packages. During this 1909 trip Jones sent her family in Illinois her diaries to keep them informed about her life abroad. There is also a significant collection of correspondence from Susan's great-aunt, Susan C. Warren, primarily to Susan's mother ("Nellie"), though letters to Susan and Susan's grandmother, Susan Caroline Warren Rice, are present. Warren's letters are filled with family news and inquiries, commiseration and sympathetic updates about health matters, and reference to travels abroad in Europe and Egypt. There is also a set of advice-filled letters to Susan and her mother from Susan's paternal grandmother, Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur.

[Series II. Diaries](#) consists of eight individual volumes. The diaries document the years 1912, 1914-1916, 1918-1919, 1921-1924.

[Series III. Writings](#) include "Saint Nicholas Eve" and an incomplete essay entitled "Floyd and Margery Dell Throw a Party!"

[Series IV. Other Papers](#) includes Isaac Levine's printed poem "The Queen of Elfland's Daughter (A Moon Fantasy)" inscribed to Susan and Llewellyn as well as a bound illustrated booklet published by Dorothy M. Prescott in Belmont, Massachusetts, in 1958, which tells the story of the Warren family of Waltham, Massachusetts, and how the Girl Scouts became entrusted with the Warren Mansion House and 76 acres

of family land. Several items were originally interlaid in this volume, including a note to Susan Jones from the Cambridge School about George's school supplies.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1873-1970

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

PERSONAL		
b. 1, f. 1	Bates, Katherine Lee	1913-25
b. 1, f. 2-3	Brigham, Edward	1943-61, n.d.
b. 1, f. 4	Drake, Dorothy L.	[1914-17]
b. 1, f. 5	Rice, Susan W.	[1916 Dec 23]
b. 1, f. 6	Warren, E. P.	1917-28
b. 1, f. 6a-d	Warren, Susan C.	1889-1899, n.d.
b. 2a, f. 6e	Wilbur, Ellen G. ("Mamma")	1892-1909
b. 2a, f. 6	Wilbur, George W. ("Papa")	1896-1909
b. 2a, f. 6g	Wilbur, Sarah Ann Cook	1892-1898, n.d.
b. 2a, f. 6h-10	Correspondence with others	1874-[70], n.d.
b. 2a, f. 11	Invitations and Christmas cards	1873-46, n.d.
b. 2a, f. 12	Other personal correspondence	1928 Feb 27
PERSONAL BUSINESS		
b. 2a, f. 13	Correspondence	1892-42
b. 2a, f. 14	Letter to Susan W. Rice	1919 Apr 3
PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS		
b. 2, f. 15	Correspondence	1919-47, n.d.
b. 2, f. 16	Letter to Llewellyn Jones	1955 Jun 15
THIRD-PARTY CORRESPONDENCE		
b. 2, f. 16a	TLS from Eugene M. Caffrey to Suburban Family Laundry With envelope and bill for repairs	1923 Sep 25

**Series II: Diaries, 1912-1924***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 2, f. 17	Diary	1912
b. 2, f. 18	Diary	1914-16
b. 2, f. 19	Diary	1918
b. 2, f. 20	Diary	1919
b. 3, f. 21	Diary	1921
b. 3, f. 22	Diary	1922
b. 3, f. 23	Diary	1923
b. 3, f. 24	Diary	1924



**Series III: Writings, n.d.**

b. 4, f. 25	"Floyd and Margery Dell Throw a Party! New Year's Eve in the Literary Capital," incomplete typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 4, f. 26	"Saint Nicholas Eve," typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 4, f. 27	Miscellaneous poetry	n.d.
b. 4, f. 28	Miscellaneous essay and short story fragments	n.d.

**Series IV: Other Papers, 1879-1958***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 4, f. 29	Levine, Isaac. <i>The Queen of Elfland's Daughter (A Moon Fantasy)</i> Inscribed to Llewellyn and Susan Wilbur Jones by Levine	1951
b. 4, f. 29a	Prescott, Dorothy M. "Cornelia Warren and the Story of Cedar Hill"	1958
b. 4, f. 29b	Materials removed from Prescott's "Cornelia Warren and the Story..."	1939-40, n.d.
b. 4, f. 30	Cancelled check	1916 Oct 30
b. 4, f. 31	Loan document, incomplete	[1930]
b. 4, f. 32	Harvard College Library card	1947 Feb 28
b. 4, f. 33	Photograph of two unidentified people	n.d.
b. 4, f. 34	Photograph of a Model T automobile	n.d.
b. 4, f. 35	Six negatives of unidentified people and places with printed Paul F. Grupe Pharmacist envelope, Oak Park, Ill.	n.d.
b. 4, f. 36	Universal Portland Cement Co., <i>Monthly Bulletin</i> , no. 88	1911 Sep
b. 4, f. 37	Headley, Rev. P. C. Memorial poem for Herbert A. Mason, Santa Barbara, Calif.	1879 Mar 18

## 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.

### Geographic Names

Chicago (Ill.) -- Intellectual life  
Paris (France) -- Intellectual life

### Genres / Formats

Diaries -- United States

### Subjects

Editors

### Names

Barney, Natalie Clifford, 1877-1972  
Bates, Katharine Lee, 1859-1929  
Brigham, Edward H.  
Dell, Floyd, 1887-1969  
Ford, Ford Madox, 1873-1939  
Jones, Llewellyn, 1884-1961  
Jones, Susan Wilbur, 1893-  
Levine, Isaac Don, 1892-1981  
Masters, Edgar Lee, 1868-1950  
Monroe, Harriet, 1860-1936  
Powys, John Cowper, 1872-1963  
Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967  
Seabrook, William, 1884-1945  
Taylor, Gyp  
Turbyfill, Mark, 1896-1990  
Warren, Edward Perry, 1860-1928  
Warren, Susan C., 1813-1893  
Wilbur, Ellen Rice, -1932  
Wilbur, George W. (George Willis), 1851-1931  
Wilbur, Sarah Ann Cook, 1864-1904

### Families

Wilbur family -- Archives

### Corporate Body

Wellesley College -- Students