

# Guide to the Josephine Boardman Crane Papers

YCAL MSS 292



by Christopher Geissler, Tom Hyry, and Beinecke Staff

July 2008

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:** YCAL MSS 292

**CREATOR:** Crane, Josephine Boardman, 1873-1972

**TITLE:** Josephine Boardman Crane papers

**DATES:** 1912-1972

**BULK DATES:** 1926-1963

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8.13 linear feet (20 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of correspondence, diaries, event files, and personal papers that document Josephine Boardman Crane's role as a socialite, patron, and philanthropist. These materials record Crane's daily activities, including a broad range of cultural events and numerous social contacts.

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

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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.jbcrane>.

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

Gift of Josephine Boardman Crane Estate, 1977.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Josephine Boardman Crane 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

Josephine Boardman Crane Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Za Crane.

The correspondence was arranged alphabetically by name by Louise Crane with the assistance of Chester Page. Diary transcripts were produced under the direction of Louise Crane and accompanied the original gift of materials. Remaining material was largely unprocessed until 2008.

Additional descriptive information used in the inventory of this finding aid was derived from folder notes and catalog cards created by previous staff members of the Beinecke library.

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## Associated Materials

Related material includes the Josephine Boardman Crane Papers Relating to the Dalton School, YCAL MSS 1002, which contains material related to Crane's support of Helen Parkhurst's educational plan known as the Dalton plan and practiced at the Dalton School, New York, New York.

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## Josephine Boardman Crane

Josephine Boardman Crane was born November 1, 1873 in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of William Jarvis Boardman and Florence Sheffield. The family moved to Washington, D.C. where she met and, in 1906, married Winthrop Murray Crane, then United States Senator from Massachusetts. Between 1907 and 1917, Josephine and Winthrop Crane had three children: Stephen, Bruce, and Louise. Following her husband's death in 1920, Josephine Boardman Crane moved to New York City where she pursued philanthropic interests, serving as trustee for a number of cultural institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Morgan Library. Crane's interest in education led to her early support of Helen Parkhurst's Dalton plan and eventually of the Dalton School in New York. From the 1920s through the early 1960s, Crane hosted a range of cultural events, including musical performances, lectures, and literary gatherings that brought together performers, artists, and members of New York society. During this period she maintained extended relationships with the writers Padraic Colum, Marianne Moore, and Glenway Wescott. On July 9, 1972, Josephine Boardman Crane died at her home in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, diaries, event files, and personal papers that document Josephine Boardman Crane's role as a socialite, patron, and philanthropist. The correspondence dates from 1912 through Crane's death in July 1972 and is focused on cultural events hosted by Crane, with the bulk of the material dated from 1926-1963. Though there is limited personal material, the series includes significant correspondence with Padraic Colum, Marianne Moore, and Glenway Wescott documenting Crane's extended relationship with the three writers. The diaries provide a record of Crane's daily life from 1924 through 1963 when her eyesight worsened and she was unable to maintain the practice. Though

she generally refrained from critical commentary, the diaries provide documentary evidence related to the cultural milieu in which Crane acted. Event files include a range of materials related to events hosted by Crane, such as guest lists, correspondence, menus, invitations, lecture notes and scripts. The limited personal papers incorporate miscellaneous materials including notebooks, clippings, travel arrangements, and related correspondence.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1912-1972. II. Diaries, 1926-1963. III. Event Files and Personal Papers, 1920-1964.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1912-1972

(5 boxes)

The series includes correspondence, primarily of a routine personal nature, the bulk of which relates to cultural events hosted by Crane.

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name.

b. 1, f. 1	"A" general	1934-1961
b. 1, f. 2	Abbott, Jere	1961, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Aberconway, Christabel	1950-1953, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Acton, Harold	1950-1958
b. 1, f. 5	Adams, F. B., Jr.	1951-1958
b. 1, f. 6	Adams, J. Quincy	1940, 1945
b. 1, f. 7	Allen, Hervey	1925
b. 1, f. 8	"B" general	1930-1963
b. 1, f. 9	Barber, Samuel	1944-1945
b. 1, f. 10	Barzun, Jacques	1944-1960
b. 1, f. 11	Beddington, Claude, Mrs.	1957-1960
b. 1, f. 12	Berle, Adolf and Beatrice	1941, 1961
b. 1, f. 13	Berman, Eugene	1952
b. 1, f. 14	Blixen, Karen Correspondence, guest lists, and arrangements related to 21 January 1959 event in honor of Baroness Blixen. Includes one ALS from Karen Blixen addressed to JBC.	1958-1960
b. 1, f. 15	Bosworth, Welles	1957-1964
b. 1, f. 16	Burden-Muller, Rowland	1958-1964
b. 1, f. 17	"C" general	1918-1961, undated
b. 1, f. 18	Canby, Henry S.	1944-1945, undated
b. 1, f. 19	Caturla, María Luisa	1945-1956
b. 1, f. 20	Colefax, Sibyl	1940-1950, undated
b. 1, f. 21	Colum, Mary M.	1940-1954, undated

b. 1, f. 22-23	Colum, Padraic	1927-1967, undated
b. 1, f. 24	Cook, Walter W. S.	1953-1962, undated
b. 1, f. 25	Cooke, Dwight	1948-1956, undated
b. 1, f. 26	Coolidge, Grace	1929
b. 1, f. 27	Cortissoz, Royal	1929-1930
b. 1, f. 28	Crothers, Rachel	1946
b. 1, f. 29	Cunard, Emerald	1942-1945
b. 2, f. 30	"D" general	1927-1962, undated
b. 2, f. 31	Dali, Salvador	1940, undated
b. 2, f. 32	Dewey, John	1929-1930, undated
	Dinesen, Isak See: <a href="#">Series I., Box 1, Folder 14, Blixen, Karen</a>	
b. 2, f. 33	"E" general	1938-1955
b. 2, f. 34	Ede, H. S.	1939-1965
b. 2, f. 35	Einstein, Lewis	1950-1963
b. 2, f. 36	Engle, Paul	1933-1954
b. 2, f. 37	Ervine, St. John	1928-1929
b. 2, f. 38	"F" general	1944-1958
b. 2, f. 39	Faÿ, Bernard	1927-1955
b. 2, f. 40	Frost, Robert and Lesley	1947-1959, undated
b. 2, f. 41	"G" general	1922-1961, undated
b. 2, f. 42	Gamson, Arnold U.	1951, 1954
b. 2, f. 43	Gogarty, Oliver St. John	1939-1957, undated
b. 2, f. 44	Golding, Louis	1928-1942, undated
b. 2, f. 45	Granville-Barker, Harley and Helen	1944-1948, undated

b. 2, f. 46	Graves, Robert	1958
b. 2, f. 47	"H" general	1928-1956, undated
b. 2, f. 48	Harrod, Roy, Sir	1949-1967
b. 2, f. 49	Howard, Isabella, Lady	1946-1962
b. 2, f. 50	Huxley, Aldous	1947-1957
b. 3, f. 51	"I" general	1949-1956, undated
b. 3, f. 52	"J" general	1928-1962, undated
b. 3, f. 53	"K" general	1928-1962, undated
b. 3, f. 54	Kennedy, William	1958-1961, undated
b. 3, f. 55	Kung, H. H. and Madame	1932-1958
b. 3, f. 56	"L" general	1928-1961
b. 3, f. 57	Littlefield, Lester	1940, undated
b. 3, f. 58	Lyndon, Andrew	1955-1966
b. 3, f. 59	"M" general	1926-1960
b. 3, f. 60	Masters, Edgar Lee	1929-1944
b. 3, f. 61	Maurois, André and Simone	1930-1960, undated
b. 3, f. 62	Menotti, Gian-Carlo	1937-1954
b. 3, f. 63	Michalopoulos, André	1945-1960
b. 3, f. 64	Michałowski, Roman	1956-1961
b. 3, f. 65-66	Moore, Marianne Includes bills and correspondence related to medical and travel expenses	1940-1967
b. 3, f. 67	Maugham, W. Somerset	1942-1953, undated
b. 4, f. 68	"N" general	1929-1951, undated
b. 4, f. 69	Newton, Elbert Includes third-party correspondence related to the weekly literature class taught by Newton	1932-1939, undated
b. 4, f. 70	"O" general	1955-1960



b. 4, f. 71	Orrick, James B.	1956-1963
b. 4, f. 72	"P" general	1915-1963, undated
b. 4, f. 73	Pechkoff, Zinovi	1949-1956
b. 4, f. 74	Porter, Katherine Anne	1943-1958
b. 4, f. 75	Priest, Alan	1942-1965, undated
b. 4, f. 76	Prokosch, Frederic	1942-1963, undated
b. 4, f. 77	"R" general	1927-1963, undated
b. 4, f. 78	Rasponi, Lanfranco	1940-1972
b. 4, f. 79	Reed, Henry H., Jr.	1955-1956
b. 4, f. 80	Ridge, Lola	1928-1931
b. 4, f. 81	Roberts, Cecil	1940-1963
b. 4, f. 82	"S" general	1927-1962
b. 4, f. 83	Sandoz, Maurice	1945-1958
b. 5, f. 84	Sforza, Count	1937, undated
b. 5, f. 85	Shih, Hu	1927-1958
b. 5, f. 86	Sitwell, Edith	1948-1956, undated
b. 5, f. 87	Sitwell, Osbert	1949-1957
b. 5, f. 88	Snow, Charles P., Sir Correspondence, guest lists, and arrangements related to C. P. Snow speaking engagement, 8 December 1960. Includes two TLS from C. P. Snow addressed to JBC.	1960
b. 5, f. 89	Spender, Stephen	1947-1949, undated
b. 5, f. 90	Starkie, Walter	1929-1961
b. 5, f. 91	Stein, Gertrude	1934
b. 5, f. 92	Stephens, James	undated
b. 5, f. 93	Stokes, Muriel	1951-1959
b. 5, f. 94	Storrs, Ronald, Sir	1939-1954
b. 5, f. 95	Stringfield, Lamar	1929-1930, undated

b. 5, f. 96	"T" general	1935-1959, undated
b. 5, f. 97	Taft, William Howard	1912, undated
b. 5, f. 98	Thomas, Norman	1957-1967
b. 5, f. 99	Thomson, Virgil	1939-1959
b. 5, f. 100	Toklas, Alice B.	1947-1948
b. 5, f. 101	"V" general	1961, undated
b. 5, f. 102	"W" general	1927-1965, undated
b. 5, f. 103-104	Wescott, Glenway	1937-1963
b. 5, f. 105	Wheeler, Monroe	1944-1963, undated
b. 5, f. 106	White, Newman	1939-1945
b. 5, f. 107	Wilder, Thornton	1930-1955
b. 5, f. 108	Williams, Stanley T.	1925
b. 5, f. 109	Wind, Edgar and Margaret	1942-1963
b. 5, f. 110	Young, Stark	1945-1948, undated
b. 5, f. 111	Zabel, Morton D.	1960

**Series II: Diaries, 1926-1963***(13 boxes)*

Prior to the 1977 gift, typescripts of the diaries were produced under the direction of Louise Crane.

Diaries and transcripts are integrated and arranged chronologically. In some instances, due to space limitations, a corresponding typescript will be housed in the next consecutive box. The full run of diaries and transcripts is followed by three boxes of use copies of the diary transcripts.

b. 6, f. 112-117	Diaries and transcripts 5 volumes (1924-1943), 1 transcript (1926-1933)  Crane's diary dated January 1934 to December 1943, differs from the preceding and successive volumes in that it is typewritten and spiral bound and exclusively documents events in terms of guest lists and menus. There is no transcript for this volume.  There is a handwritten diary for 1943, which documents Crane's routine experiences. The transcript for this volume follows in the next box.	1924-1943
b. 7, f. 118-122	Diaries and transcripts 2 volumes (1944-1945), 3 transcripts (1943-1945)	1943-1945
b. 8, f. 123-127	Diaries and transcripts 3 volumes (1946-1948), 2 transcripts (1946-1947)	1946-1948
b. 9, f. 128-132	Diaries and transcripts 3 volumes (1949-1950), 2 transcripts (1948-1949)	1948-1950
b. 10, f. 133-136	Diaries and transcripts 2 volumes (1951-1952), 2 transcripts (1950-1951)	1950-1952
b. 11, f. 137-140	Diaries and transcripts 2 volumes (1953-1954), 2 transcripts (1952-1953)	1952-1954
b. 12, f. 141-145	Diaries and transcripts 2 volumes (1955-1956), 3 transcripts (1954-1956)	1954-1956
b. 13, f. 146-150	Diaries and transcripts 3 volumes (1957-1959), 2 transcripts (1957-1958)	1957-1959
b. 14, f. 151-156	Diaries and transcripts 3 volumes (1960-1962), transcripts (1959-1961)	1959-1962
b. 15, f. 157-159	Diaries and transcripts 1 volume (1963), 2 transcripts (1962-1963)	1962-1963
b. 16, f. 160-166	Diary transcripts (use copies)	1926-1948
b. 17, f. 167-173	Diary transcripts (use copies)	1949-1955
b. 18, f. 174-181	Diary transcripts (use copies)	1956-1963

**Series III: Event files and personal papers, 1920-1964**

(2 boxes)

	Event files	1942-1960
	The series includes materials related to social and cultural events given and sponsored by Crane, including guest lists, correspondence, menus, invitations, lecture notes and scripts	
	Discussions and musicales	
b. 19, f. 182-188	General	1942-1956
b. 19, f. 189	Robert Graves (speaker), February 10, 1958	1958
b. 19, f. 190	Salvador de Madariaga (speaker), April 16, 1959	1959
b. 19, f. 191	Music: Frances Poulenc and Denise Duval, March 15, 1960	1960
b. 19, f. 192	Journals	1936-1945
b. 19, f. 193	Menus	1941-1943, undated
b. 19, f. 194-195	Miscellaneous guest lists	1929-1955, undated
b. 20, f. 196	Miscellaneous invitations Autograph and printed outgoing invitations	undated
b. 20, f. 197-199	Programs Includes performances by Paul Robeson and Lawrence Brown, the Renaissance Chamber Orchestra, and numerous events sponsored by the American Chamber Opera Society	1925-1956
	Scripts	
b. 20, f. 200	W. B. Yeats, "The Words upon the Window Pane" Annotated typescripts and cast list	undated
b. 20, f. 201	Miscellaneous performances	undated
	Personal papers	1920-1964, undated
b. 20, f. 202	Book notes Journal including notes, clippings, and recipes	1920-1942
b. 20, f. 203	Political interests Contributions and correspondence	1932-1944
b. 20, f. 204	Travel Materials related to a trip to Mexico	1934
b. 20, f. 205	Miscellaneous notes and clippings Includes an envelope of material designated "for scrapbook"	1923-1964, 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**

American literature -- 20th Century  
Art patrons -- United States  
Music patrons -- United States  
Philanthropists -- United States  
Women philanthropists -- United States

### **Names**

Colum, Padraic, 1881-1972  
Crane, Josephine Boardman, 1873-1972  
Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972  
Wescott, Glenway, 1901-1987