

# Allan Rohan Crite papers

JWJ MSS 357



Monika Lehman

2021

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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:** JWJ MSS 357

**TITLE:** Allan Rohan Crite papers

**DATES:** 1927-1968

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection includes artwork and other materials created by Allan Rohan Crite. Included are Crite's sketchbooks and letterbooks, which Crite made by stapling together incoming and outgoing carbon copies of correspondence and ink sketches. Crite sometimes typed correspondence on stationery with his photocopied art. The letterbooks include both work related and personal correspondence, particularly between Crite and the churches he worked with. Visits to churches, art works commissioned for churches, and upcoming meetings are included in the topics discussed in the correspondence. Crite's class notes, church newsletters, and two illustrated liturgical drama typescripts are also included.

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

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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.crite>.

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 James Cummins Bookseller on the Alfred Z. Baker Jr. Fund, 2021.

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## Biographical / Historical

Allan Rohan Crite was an artist, writer, and librarian. He was born in Plainfield, New Jersey on March 20, 1910. Crite attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and graduated in 1936. Crite worked with the Works Progress Administration followed by a position as a draughtsman at the Boston Naval Yard from 1940 to 1974. Working in a variety of media including watercolors, drawings, lithographs, and oil paintings, Crite often depicted scenes of everyday African American life. Throughout the Depression and into the 1940s, Crite painted a series of neighborhood paintings focused on his Roxbury neighborhood. Crite also focused on religious themes in his art including illustrating church service programs for parishes and painting murals on churches.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection includes artwork and other materials created by Allan Rohan Crite. Included are Crite's sketchbooks and letterbooks, which Crite made by stapling together incoming and outgoing carbon copies of correspondence and ink sketches. Crite sometimes typed correspondence on stationery with his photocopied art. The letterbooks include both work related and personal correspondence, particularly between Crite and the churches he worked with. Visits to churches, art works commissioned for churches, and upcoming meetings are included in the topics discussed in the correspondence. Crite's class notes, church newsletters, and two illustrated liturgical drama typescripts are also included.

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## Arrangement

The material is grouped by subject and format.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-2	Church newsletters and related materials In addition to church newsletters, includes receipts, correspondence, schedules, and clippings.	1933–1966
b. 1, f. 3	<i>General Report to my Friends Concerning my trip to the Hospital</i> , cartoon photocopies	circa 1970
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Redemption: A Liturgical Drama</i> typescript draft	1959
b. 1, f. 5	<i>Lyrics</i> , typescript draft Includes a series of thirty-five poems attached and under the title <i>Lyrics</i> .	1959
b. 1, f. 6	<i>Redemption: A Liturgical Drama</i> , typescript draft	undated
b. 1, f. 7	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i> , printed pages	1954
b. 1, f. 8	Sketchbook Includes pencil sketches of city life, religious related scenes, and portraits.	1927
b. 1, f. 9	Sketchbook Includes pencil sketches of city life, landscapes, and portraits.	1927
b. 2, f. 10	Class notes and papers	circa 1968
b. 2, f. 11	Correspondence	1962–1964
b. 2, f. 12	Letterbook The letterbook is labeled as "Commissions".	1964 January
b. 2, f. 13	Letterbook	1961–1968
b. 2, f. 14	Letterbook	1963
b. 2, f. 15	Letterbook	1961–1966
b. 2, f. 16	Correspondence, illustrations, and writings	1962–1965
b. 2, f. 17-19	Illustrations Includes works of art on religious themes.	1967–1968