

John Vance Cheney Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Grover Batts



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
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Collection Summary

Title: John Vance Cheney Papers

Span Dates: 1847-1927

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1898-1922)

ID No.: MSS15651

Creator: Cheney, John Vance, 1848-1922

Extent: 3,150 items; 9 containers plus 1 oversize; 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Poet, essayist, and librarian. Family correspondence, general correspondence, a diary, manuscripts of poems, short stories, articles, and drafts of Cheney's unpublished autobiography, and other papers.

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.

People

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence.

Burton, Richard, 1861-1940--Correspondence.

Carman, Bliss, 1861-1929--Correspondence.

Cheney family--Correspondence.

Cheney, John Vance, 1848-1922.

Cheney, Simeon Pease, 1818-1890--Correspondence.

Garland, Hamlin, 1860-1940--Correspondence.

Hubbard, Elbert, 1856-1915--Correspondence.

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940--Correspondence.

Sherk, Jessie--Correspondence.

Subjects

American literature.

American poetry.

Occupations

Essayists.

Librarians.

Poets.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of John Vance Cheney, poet, essayist, and librarian, were given to the Library of Congress in 1943 and 1944 by his secretary and assistant, Jessie Sherk.

Processing History

The papers of John Vance Cheney were arranged and described in 1971. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Prints and Photographs Division.

Other Repositories

A small collection of John Vance Cheney records relating to his tenure as librarian at the Newberry Library is at the Newberry Library Archives, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Vance Cheney is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Vance Cheney are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Vance Cheney Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1848, Dec. 29	Born, Groveland, N.Y.
1865	Graduated, Geneseo Academy, Geneseo, N.Y.
1876	Married Abbey Perkins (divorced)
1887-1894	Librarian, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, Calif.
1887	Published <i>Thistle-Drift</i> . New York: F. A. Stokes
1894-1909	Librarian, Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.
1895	Published <i>That Dome in Air</i> . Chicago: A. C. McClure
1903	Married Sara Barker Chamberlain
1905	Published <i>Poems</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1909-1922	Resided in San Diego, Calif.
1922, May 1	Died, San Diego, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Vance Cheney (1848-1922) span the years 1847 through 1927 with the bulk concentrated in the period from 1898-1922. There is a group of family correspondence, letters

which Cheney wrote to his father, Simeon Pease Cheney, 1865-1875, which is of literary and social interest. The bulk of the general correspondence dates from 1900 through 1922 and consists of letters which Cheney received from various publishers, although there are a few letters from Susan B. Anthony, Richard Burton, Bliss Carman, Hamlin Garland, Elbert Hubbard, and Edwin Markham. There is also a group of correspondence consisting primarily of letters from Cheney to his secretary, Jessie Sherk.

A file of copyright manuscripts includes many of Cheney's poems, short stories, articles, and plays in holograph and typescript form, the draft of *That Dome in Air*, as well as drafts of his unpublished autobiography. The autobiography of his grandfather, Moses Cheney, is also included in the papers. There is a diary which Cheney kept during a trip to Europe in 1908.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material or topic.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Diary, 1908
BOX 1	Family correspondence, 1865-1875
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1900-1920
BOX 1	Anthony, Susan B.
BOX 1	Burton, Richard
BOX 1	Carman, Bliss
BOX 1	Garland, Hamlin
BOX 1	Hubbard, Elbert
BOX 1	Markham, Edwin
BOX 1	Publishers
BOX 1	Miscellaneous
BOX 2	Sherk, Jessie, correspondence, 1898-1927
BOX 3-4	Literary manuscripts
BOX 3-4	Poems
BOX 5-6	Short stories and articles
BOX 7	Short stories and articles
BOX 7	Plays
BOX 7	Literary notes
BOX 8	<i>That Dome in Air</i> (1895)
	Cheney, John Vance
BOX 8	Autobiography
BOX 9	Autobiography
BOX 9	Miscellany
BOX 9	Cheney, Moses, autobiography, 1847 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 9	Drawings and bills
BOX 9	Printed matter
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Cheney, Moses, autobiography, 1847 (Container 9)