

Jack Delano Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm98084274>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007117>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2023 March

Collection Summary

Title: Jack Delano Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1927-1995

Bulk Dates: 1941-1943

ID No.: MSS84274

Creator: Delano, Jack, 1914-1997

Extent: 700 items

Extent: 6 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm98084274>

Summary: Photographer and illustrator. Correspondence, notebooks, caption books, and an oral history interview relating to Delano as a photographer for the Farm Security Administration and the Office of War Information. Also material related to Elizabeth Kenny.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Delano, Jack, 1914-1997.

Kenny, Elizabeth, 1886-1952.

Organizations

Archives of American Art.

United States. Farm Security Administration.

United States. Office of War Information.

Subjects

Acadians--Maine.

Depressions--1929.

Farmers--Maine.

Photography.

Railroads--West (U.S.)

Places

Maine--Description and travel.

Puerto Rico--Description and travel.

Southern States--Description and travel.

Virgin Islands--Description and travel.

West (U.S.)--Description and travel.

Occupations

Composers.

Illustrators.

Motion picture producers.

Photographers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Jack Delano, photographer and illustrator, were given to the Library of Congress by Delano in 1996 and transferred from the Prints and Photographs Division to the Manuscript Division in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Jack Delano were arranged and described by Melinda K. Friend in 1999. The register was revised in 2007. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Some photographs were retained by the Prints and Photographs Division.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Jack Delano in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Jack Delano 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, Jack Delano Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1914, Aug. 1	Born Jacob Ovcharov, Kiev, Ukraine
circa 1922	Immigrated to the United States
1939	Married Irene Clara Esser
1939-1942	Photographer, Farm Security Administration
1942-1943	Photographer, Office of War Information
1944-1946	Military photographer, United States Army
1946	Moved to Puerto Rico
1997, Aug. 12	Died, Puerto Rico

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jack Delano (1914-1997) span the years 1927-1995, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1941-1943. From 1939 to 1943, Delano worked as a photographer first for the Farm Security Administration and then for the Office of War Information under the direction of Roy Emerson Stryker. His photographs depicted the Great Depression and documented the railroad industry from Chicago, Illinois, to New Mexico, life in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands, Acadian farmers in Maine, and the American South, particularly Greene County, Georgia. Delano was often accompanied on these trips by his wife, Irene Delano. Most photographs from the collection are housed in the Prints and Photographs Division, but his notebooks and caption books are contained in these papers. Of interest also is correspondence concerning Delano's photography, an oral history interview conducted by the Archives of American Art, and material related to Elizabeth Kenny.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in a personal file and a professional file and therein alphabetically by topic or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Personal file
BOX 1	Articles and exhibits re the Farm Security Administration, 1960-1963, 1979-1995, undated (4 folders)
BOX 1	Military records, 1943-1951, undated
BOX 1	Oral history interview, 1965-1966, 1983
BOX 1	Professional file
BOX 1	Captions
BOX 1	Farm Security Administration, 1940-1942, undated
BOX 1	Folios 1603-1803
BOX 1	Nos. 20500-21464
BOX 2	Nos. 41025-41060, 41644-44046, 44096-48185 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Office of War Information, 1942-1943
BOX 2	Cartoons, undated
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX 2	1939-1942 (2 folders)
BOX 3	1943-1947, 1956-1965, 1971-1979, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Datebooks, 1940-1943 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Georgia, Greene County, 1939-1943, undated
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1936, 1956-1957, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 4	New England, 1930-1940, undated
BOX 4	Notebooks
BOX 4	Air Transport Command, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	Atchison, Topeka, and Sante Fe Railway, 1943 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Chicago, Ill., railroads and the Senise family, 1942-1943
BOX 5	Georgia, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, 1941-1942 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, 1942
BOX 5	Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, undated
BOX 5	Military and ore boats, undated
BOX 5	Minneapolis, Minn., 1942
BOX 5	Miscellany, undated
BOX 5	Puerto Rico, undated
BOX 5	Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, 1941
BOX 6	Puerto Rico
BOX 6	Captions, 1946
BOX 6	Coanillas Hydro-Electric Project, 1946

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, 1937-1946, undated (2 folders)
BOX 6	Railroads, 1927, 1941-1947, 1972, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Professional file
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Maps, 1936 (Container 4)
BOX OV 1	Railroads
BOX OV 1	Map, 1941 (Container 6)
BOX OV 1	Map, 1942 (Container 6)