

**John Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2024**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2012085764>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019041>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019  
Revised 2024 February

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1929-2012

**ID No.:** MSS85764

**Creator:** Wolfe, John Jacob, 1903-1990

**Creator:** Wolfe, Esther Blum, 1909-1999

**Extent:** 1,750 items

**Extent:** 5 containers plus 3 oversize

**Extent:** 2.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2012085764>

**Summary:** John Jacob Wolfe, dentist and physician; and his wife, Esther Blum Wolfe. Correspondence, writings, wartime journal, lectures, memorabilia, photographs, press clippings, and other documents pertaining primarily to their life and work in China and India in the 1930s and 1940s and his service as a medical officer with the United States Tenth Air Force in the China-Burma-India Theater during World War II.

## 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

Di Belatini Hadzsy, Duci.

Singh family.

Singh, Ganga, Maharaja of Bikaner, 1880-1943.

Wolfe, Esther Blum, 1909-1999. John Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe papers. 1929-2012.

Wolfe, John Jacob, 1903-1990.

Wolfe, Meera. Meera Wolfe writings. 2004, undated.

### Organizations

United States. Air Force--Medical personnel.

United States. Air Force. Air Force, 10th.

### Subjects

Americans--China.

Americans--India.

Dentistry--China.

Dentistry--India.

Oral medicine--China.

Oral medicine--India.

World War, 1939-1945--Medical care--Burma.

World War, 1939-1945--Medical care--China.

World War, 1939-1945--Medical care--India.

World War, 1939-1945--Medical care--United States.

### Titles

*Esther Blum Wolfe papers*

*John Jacob Wolfe papers*

### Occupations

Dentists.

Physicians.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of John Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe were given to the Library of Congress by their daughter, Meera Wolfe, in 2012 and 2013.

## Processing History

The papers of John Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe were arranged and described by Laura J. Kells in 2019. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Transfers

Sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the John Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe Papers.

## Other Repositories

A small collection of John Jacob Wolfe Papers, consisting of correspondence and other materials pertaining to the Wolfe's time in Bikaner, India, during the early 1940s can be found at the Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of John Jacob Wolfe, Esther Blum Wolfe, and Meera Wolfe in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe 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 Jacob Wolfe and Esther Blum Wolfe Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

### John Jacob Wolfe

Date	Event
1903, June 4	Born, Dublin, Ireland
1923	L.D.S., Royal Dental Hospital, London University, London, England
1925	D.D.S., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1931	Married Esther Blum
1932-1935	Chief of dental clinic, Peiping Union Medical College, Peiping (now Beijing), China

1933	M.D., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1934	Daughter Meera Wolfe born
1935-1936	Private practice for oral surgery, Peiping and Tientsin, China
circa 1936-1938	Resident in otolaryngology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
1938-1940	Surgeon specialist, Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay (now Mumbai), India
1940-1942	General surgeon to Bikaner government, Bikaner, Rajputana (now Rajasthan), India
1942-1945	Medical officer, United States Tenth Air Force, China-Burma-India Theater
1945-1946	Medical officer, United States Tenth Air Force, O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Mo.
1946	Became United States citizen
1946-1977	Oral surgeon in Louisville, Ky.
1977	Retired as head of plastic surgery department, University of Louisville School of Medicine
1990, Apr. 12	Died, Naples, Fla.

### **Esther Blum Wolfe**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1909, Dec. 13	Born, Hamden, Conn.
1931	Married John Jacob Wolfe
1932	Moved to Peiping (now Beijing), China
1934	Gave birth to daughter, Meera Wolfe Returned to New Haven, Conn.
1935	Returned to Peiping, China
circa 1936	Returned to the United States
1938	Relocated with family to Bombay (now Mumbai), India
1942-1943	Secretary, United States Air Forces in India headquarters, New Delhi, India
1944	Returned to the United States
1947	Moved to Lexington, Ky.
1999, Aug. 2	Died, Naples, Fla.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of John Jacob Wolfe (1903-1990) and Esther Blum Wolfe (1909-1999) span the years 1929-2012. Although the papers touch on their entire married lives, the major portion of the collection pertains to their experiences while living in China and India in the 1930s and 1940s while John worked as a dentist and surgeon and served as a medical officer during World War II.

A chronological run of correspondence comprises the largest portion of the collection, and it consists primarily of letters that Esther wrote to her family from China and India and those that John (nickname, Jack) wrote to Esther (nickname, Jill) while he was serving as a medical officer with the United States Tenth Air Force. Esther's letters contain details about her daily life in China and India. Their writings provide additional accounts of their experiences, including their interactions with Ganga Singh, Maharaja of Bikaner, and his family. John's wartime journal chronicles his thoughts about his service in the China-Burma-India Theater. Additional writings by their daughter, Meera Wolfe (called Judy, Julia, and Meera at various times in her life), provide additional insights into her parents and her life with them.

Other material includes a file of material pertaining to their friend, Duci di Belatini Hadzsy, a Hungarian sculptor who was the official court painter for the Maharaja of Bikaner.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1929-1942 (15 folders)
BOX 2	1943-1950, 1956-1959 (14 folders)
BOX 3	1964-1979, 1989-1999, 2012, undated (3 folders)
BOX 3	Duci di Belatini Hadzsy file
BOX 3	Correspondence, 1942-1954, 1975 (6 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1948-2000
BOX 3	Writings about her
BOX 3	By Esther Blum Wolf, undated
BOX 3	By Meera Wolfe, 2006, undated
BOX 4	Memorabilia, 1938-1944, undated
BOX OV 1	Memorabilia, illustrated maps, short snorter, 1942-1944, undated
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1945, undated
BOX 4	Peiping Union Medical College, Peiping, China, lawsuit, 1932-1939, 1946-1947, 1957-1962
BOX OV 2	Photograph album, China, 1930s, 1987
BOX OV 3	Photograph album, India, 1930s-1940s
BOX 4	Photographs, 1935-1950, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Press clippings, 1932-1987 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Speeches and remarks
BOX 4	By Esther Blum Wolfe, 1944-1945, undated
BOX 4	By John Jacob Wolfe, 1945, undated
BOX 4	Writings
BOX 4	By Esther Blum Wolfe, 1933-1993 (2 folders)
BOX 5	By Esther Blum Wolfe, 1933-1993 (2 folders)
BOX 5	By John Jacob Wolfe
BOX 5	Journal, 1943-1945
BOX 5	Miscellaneous, 1941, undated
BOX 5	By Meera Wolfe, 2004, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn., 1940-1943, 1950, 1960, 1994-1995, 2012