



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jack Delano Papers, 1939-1943, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the
Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Collection Overview | |
| Administrative Information | 1 |
| Biographical / Historical | 2 |
| Scope and Contents | 2 |
| Arrangement | 2 |
| Names and Subjects | |
| Container Listing | |
| Series 1: Jack Delano Papers, 1939-1943 | 3 |

Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Jack Delano papers |
| Date: | 1939-1943 |
| Identifier: | AAA.delajack |
| Creator: | Delano, Jack |
| Extent: | 1 Microfilm reel |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The papers of photographer Jack Delano date from 1939 to 1943. The collection consists of correspondence, mostly with Roy Stryker, Chief of the Historical Section of the Farm Security Administration regarding assignments, philosophy, and equipment needs. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jack Delano lent his papers for microfilming 1965 and the collection was returned after filming.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to the lender, Jack Delano, after microfilming. Some of the papers were subsequently donated to the Library of Congress; some are on deposit at the Luis Munoz Marin Foundation, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed on reel NDA21. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel NDA21 and was returned to Jack Delano after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2024 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

Preferred Citation

Jack Delano papers, 1939-1943. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Archives of American Art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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Biographical / Historical

Jack Delano (1914-1997) was an illustrator and photographer in New York City, New York. Delano was a photographer for the Farm Security Administration photography project which documented urban and rural America during the Depression.

Scope and Contents

The papers of photographer Jack Delano date from 1939 to 1943. The collection consists of correspondence, mostly with Roy Stryker, Chief of the Historical Section of the Farm Security Administration regarding assignments, philosophy, and equipment needs.

Arrangement

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Names:

Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1893-1975
United States. Farm Security Administration. Historical Section

Occupations:

Illustrators -- New York (State) -- New York
Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Jack Delano Papers, 1939-1943

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is between Jack Delano and Roy Stryker or Clara Dean Wakeman of the Farm Security Agency. Stryker gives Delano his field assignments as a traveling photographer; discusses FSA policy and photographic techniques; describes his own philosophy about the work; and discusses the change in budget and focus because of defense emphases, the war, subjects that should be photographed, the activities of other personnel, and personal matters. Enclosed in some of the letters are written guides to areas of the United States, including information about New England prepared by Harold Ballou for the FSA.

Reel NDA21.delano, [Correspondence, 1939-1943](#)
Frame 1-156

[Return to Table of Contents](#)