



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Ernest Dudley Chase Papers

NMAH.AC.0886

Cathy Keen

Undated

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Ernest Dudley Chase Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0886
<b>Date:</b>	1924-1966 (bulk 1930-1940)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
<b>Creator:</b>	Chase, Ernest Dudley, fl. 1920s Holland, Frances Holland, Frederic
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	A collection of greeting cards, pictorial maps, and travel diaries by artist Ernest Dudley Chase. Chase created greeting cards for Clara Holland during their courtship and later marriage. The cards were hand painted by Chase in water color with cut- paper details. Many of the cards include romantic letters or poems composed by Chase.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The greeting cards were donated to the Archives Center in 2005 by Ernest Dudley Chase's stepson, Fred, and Frances Holland. Fred Holland donated pictorial maps in July, 2010 and travel diaries in September, 2010.

### Related Materials

#### Materials in the Archives Center

Norcross Greeting Card Collection (AC0058)

Olive Leavister 19th Century Handmade Valentine Collection (AC0396)

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Greeting Cards (AC0060)

### Processing Information

Processed by Anne Jones (volunteer), 2005; revised by Alison Oswald, archivist, September 2011. Biographical note written by Cathy Keen, archivist.

### Preferred Citation

Ernest Dudley Chase Papers, 1924-1940s, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

## Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning intellectual property rights. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

## Accruals

Pictorial maps and travel diaries were added to the collection in 2010.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ernest Dudley Chase was born in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1878 but is most associated with the town of Winchester, Massachusetts where he was a well known artist. Chase created a unique body of work, an array of views of various Winchester homes and buildings and whimsically illustrated maps. After attending the Lowell Textile School and the Vesper George Art School in Boston, Chase joined the Butterfield Printing Company in 1900. In 1906, he joined the printing firm of W.T. Sheehan in Boston. He began his own greeting card company in 1908, Des Arts Publishers which eventually became Ernest Dudley Chase Publishers. In 1921, Chase Publishers was purchased by Rust Craft. Chase worked at Rust Craft until 1958 in the position of vice president of creative design. His other duties at Rust Craft included advertising manager and editing the company's newsletter *The Rustler* and the greeting card industry periodical *The Greeting Card*.

Chase married three times. His first marriage was to Idelle Clark and his second marriage was to Wilhelmina Graham. In 1937, Chase married for a third time to Clara Holland. On all holidays and special occasions, he gave his wife, Clara elaborately crafted, personally designed cards in which he generally included a very affectionate sentiment or on occasion a poem. One of Chase's hobbies was creating enormous greeting cards, gathering thousands of signatures on them and sending them to United States presidents or other famous persons around the world. Chase also enjoyed traveling and documenting his travel experiences in diaries.

According to the book *Winchester Artists* by Ellen E. Knight, Chase produced more greeting cards than anyone in the United States. He authored the first definitive history of the greeting card business, *The Romance of Greeting Cards*, which was published in 1926. Chase retired from Rust Craft in 1958 and died in 1966.

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## Scope and Contents

A collection of greeting cards given by artist Ernest Dudley Chase to Clara Holland in the years during their courtship and marriage, pictorial maps drawn by Chase, and nine travel diaries. The cards were hand-painted by Chase in water color with cut-paper details. Many of the cards include romantic letters or poems composed by Chase.

**Series 1, Greeting Cards, circa 1937-1966**, consists of hand crafted, personally designed cards that Chase created for his wife Clara Holland. The cards generally include a very affectionate sentiment or on occasion a poem. The cards were done in water color and embellished with cut-paper details and

calligraphy. Also included are Monday Morning Letters that Chase wrote to his wife Clara whom he called his "Lovely Little Lady" or "L.L.L."

**Series 2, Maps (pictorial), 1935-1947 and undated**, consists of maps designed and signed by Chase featuring meticulous illustrations of famous landmarks, flora, fauna and other features.

**Series 3, Travel Diaries, 1924-1937**, consists of nine volumes of bound, typescript travel diaries maintained by Chase from his travels, to Alaska, the Mediterranean, Carribean, Germany, Holland, Central Europe, Sicily, France, England, Scotland, and Ireland. The diaries are arranged chronologically.

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## Arrangement

The collection is divided into three series.

**Series 1, Greeting Cards, circa 1937-1966**

**Series 2, Maps (pictorial), 1935-1947 and undated**

**Series 3, Travel Diaries, 1924-1938**

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## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Collection stored off-site. Arrangements must be made with the Archives Center staff two-weeks prior to a scheduled visit.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Artists
- Courtship
- Greeting cards -- 20th century
- Love

Types of Materials:

- Letters (correspondence) -- 1900-1950
- Love letters
- Maps -- 1880-1940
- Maps -- 1940-1950
- Poems
- Valentines
- Watercolors

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Greeting Cards, undated

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Anniversary cards, undated
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Birthday cards, undated
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Christmas cards, undated
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Easter cards, undated
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Mothers Day cards, undated
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Valentines, undated <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 13-19	Monday Morning Letters, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Miscellaneous, undated

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## Series 2: Maps (pictorial), 1935-1947 and undated

Map-folder 1	Boston Birthplace of the Telephone, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company , 1947
Map-folder 1	Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, undated
Map-case 1	Pacific Victory, 1944
Map-folder 1	Pacific Battle Map, 1942
Map-case 1	Victory War Map, 1942
Map-folder 1	France, 1935
Map-folder 1	Europe (2 copies), 1938
Map-folder 1	Spain and Portugal (2 copies), 1935
Map-folder 1	World Onders, 1939
Map-folder 1	Bristish Isles, 1935
Map-folder 1	America the Wonderland, 1940 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Map-folder 1	Boston and Vicinity (photocopy), 1938
Map-folder 1	New England States, 1938
Map-folder 1	Italy and Vatican City (photocopy), undated
Map-folder 1	South America, 1942 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Map-folder 1	Germany, 1935
Map-folder 1	Switzerland, 1936
Map-folder 1	Norway, Sweden, Denmark, 1937
Map-folder 1	Total War Battle Map (2 copies), 1942
Map-folder 1	Stamps of America, undated

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## Series 3: Travel Diaries, 1924-1937

Box 2, Folder 1-2	Mediterranean Travels (2 copies), 1924
Box 2, Folder 3	Alaska , 1925
Box 2, Folder 4	Carribbean, 1927
Box 3, Folder 1	Germany and Holland, 1928
Box 3, Folder 2	Central Europe, 1929
Box 3, Folder 3	Sicily, Italy and France, 1930
Box 3, Folder 4	Trip to Europe, 1936
Box 3, Folder 5	England, Scotland, Ireland, 1937 Summer

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