



Smithsonian

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

## Guide to the Shirley Leonard Papers

NMAH.AC.0919

C. Jeremy Barney, intern; supervised by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archives technician.

2007

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Shirley Leonard Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1931-1998 (bulk 1938-1957)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0919
<b>Creator:</b>	Jones, Shirley May, 1922-2004 (Creator) Connick, Kathleen D. (Donor) Leonard, Shirley, 1922-2004
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Cubic feet (16 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English. Some clippings and a newspaper in Spanish.
<b>Summary:</b>	Papers documenting the life and career of Shirley May Jones, stage name Shirley Leonard, an exotic dancer from Cincinnati, Ohio. The papers, photographs, and clippings document her childhood, early life, and professional career.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Purchased by the National Museum of American History from Cowan's Historic Americana Auction in 2005. Addendum donated to the Archives Center in 2006 by Kathleen D. Connick, a relative of Shirley May Jones.

### Separated Materials

The Division of Culture and the Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life) holds artifacts related to this collection including some of Jones' costumes and accessories.

### Processing Information

Processed by C. Jeremy Barney, intern, July-August, 2007; supervised by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archives technician.

### Preferred Citation

The Shirley Leonard Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

**Physical Access:** Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves. Researchers must use reference copies of audio-visual materials. When no reference copy exists, the Archives Center staff will produce reference copies on an "as needed" basis, as resources allow. Researchers must use photocopies of scrapbooks due to the fragility of the originals, unless special access is approved.

Technical Access: Viewing film and listening to audio disc recordings is only possible by special arrangement, please inquire.

## Conditions Governing Use

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

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## Biographical / Historical

Exotic dancer, active during the 1940s and 1950s.

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## Scope and Contents

Papers documenting the life and career of exotic dancer Shirley May Jones, stage name Shirley Leonard, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Leonard performed primarily throughout the Midwest but also worked in Florida, California, and Louisiana. The collection includes family, performance, venue, and publicity photographs, photographs of other entertainers (some inscribed), correspondence, clippings, a childhood scrapbook, sheet music, recorded music, printed materials, home movies, and financial and business records such as contracts and wage slips.

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## Arrangement

The papers are divided into five series.

### **Series 1: Personal Papers**

### **Series 2: Business, Financial, and Legal Records**

### **Series 3: Performance Materials**

### **Series 4: Photographs**

### **Series 5: Audiovisual Materials**

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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:

- Burlesque (Theater) -- 1920-1970
- Burlesque shows -- 1920-1970
- Striptease -- 1920-1970
- Stripteasers -- 1920-1970

### Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Motion pictures (visual works)
- Photographs -- 20th century

Scrapbooks -- 20th century  
Sheet music

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Personal Papers, 1931-1980, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	Childhood scrapbook, 1931, undated Notes: Restricted – see Box 1 Folder 1 for reference photocopies (TO BE PHOTOCOPIED)
Box 2, Folder 1	Childhood scrapbook, reference photocopies, 1931-, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Childhood scrapbook, loose clippings, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Childhood scrapbook, loose clippings, oversized, 1935, undated
Box 8, Folder 3	Childhood scrapbook, loose clippings, reference photocopies, 1936-1937, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Childhood scrapbook, Curious World by William Ferguson, loose clippings, reference photocopies, 1934, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Childhood scrapbook, Curious World of Ours, The, by William Ferguson, loose clippings, reference photocopies, 1934
Box 2, Folder 6	Childhood scrapbook, Ripley's Believe It or Not, loose clippings, reference photocopies, 1934-1936, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	The Loom, Sewing Vocational High School publication, Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1936, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	The Forget-Me-Not, Sewing Vocational High School yearbook, Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1938
Box 2, Folder 9	Cartoon, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Graduation announcement, Sewing Vocational High School, 1938
Box 8, Folder 2	Diploma, Sewing Vocational High School, 1938
Box 2, Folder 11	School address and autograph book, 1937
Box 2, Folder 12	Handwritten statement, 1940
Box 3, Folder 1-0	Correspondence to Margaret Connick Jones, 1939-1950, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Western Union money order messages to Margaret Connick Jones, 1947-1950

Box 3, Folder 1-0	Correspondence to Walter Jones, Jr., 1940-1952
Box 3, Folder 7	Correspondence written, general, 1939-1980
Box 3, Folder 8	Blank specialty Christmas and New Year's Day cards, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Correspondence from Walter Jones, Jr., 1944-1953
Box 3, Folder 10	Correspondence from friends and fans, 1938-1957, undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Correspondence from Edward J. Barry, 1946-1949
Box 3, Folder 12	Correspondence from Robert A. Deal, 1945-1946
Box 3, Folder 13	Correspondence from Lois Davis, 1949
Box 3, Folder 14	Correspondence from Harold J. Maupin, 1945, undated
Box 3, Folder 15	Correspondence from William A. Perry, 1944-1945, undated
Box 3, Folder 16	Correspondence from Len Wahl, 1947
Box 4, Folder 1	Correspondence from Margaret Connick Jones to Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Scudder, 1951
Box 4, Folder 2	Correspondence from Leonard Jones to Margaret Connick Jones, 1938-1940
Box 4, Folder 3	Correspondence from WSAI, Cincinnati, Ohio, to Margaret Connick Jones, 1951
Box 4, Folder 4	Correspondence, death of Leonard Jones, 1946
Box 4, Folder 5	Address books, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	Addresses, loose, undated
Box 4, Folder 7	Horoscope books, 1942-1944
Box 4, Folder 8	Hollywood Star Diet Book, 1956
Box 4, Folder 9	Humor materials, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Religious materials, 1949, undated
Box 4, Folder 11	Louis Armstrong autograph, undated

Box 4, Folder 12

Personal ephemera, undated

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**Series 2: Business, Financial, and Legal Records, 1939-1959, undated**

Box 4, Folder 13	Request for Appearance, Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, Cincinnati, Ohio, to Margaret Connick Jones and Shirley Leonard, 1938
Box 4, Folder 14	Venue contracts, numbered, 1947-1953
Box 4, Folder 15	Venue contracts, A-D, 1945-1953, undated
Box 4, Folder 16	Venue contracts, E-L, 1946-1953
Box 4, Folder 17	Venue contracts, M-Q, 1946-1953, undated
Box 4, Folder 18	Venue contracts, R-Z, 1945-1955, undated
Box 4, Folder 19	Payroll, wages, and deductions, 1943-1945
Box 4, Folder 20	IRS forms, 1944-1953
Box 4, Folder 21	Social Security records, 1942-1959
Box 4, Folder 22	Identification cards, licenses, and permits, 1950-1953, undated
Box 4, Folder 23	American Guild of Variety Artists records, 1941-1957
Box 4, Folder 24	Agency records, general, 1942-1947, undated
Box 4, Folder 25	Business cards, undated
Box 4, Folder 26	Hotel statements, 1943-1953, undated
Box 4, Folder 27	Hotel receipts, 1943-1953, undated
Box 4, Folder 28	Hotel envelopes, undated
Box 8, Folder 3	Railway Express Agency Non-negotiable Live Stock Contract, 1949
Box 4, Folder 29	Railway Express Agency receipts, 1949-1952, undated
Box 4, Folder 30	Statements, general, 1944-1953, undated
Box 4, Folder 31	Receipts, general, 1947-1954, undated
Box 5, Folder 1	Reference letters for Shirley Leonard, 1939, undated
Box 5, Folder 2	Business correspondence written, undated

Box 5, Folder 3	Business correspondence received, 1941-1955, undated
Box 5, Folder 4	Business correspondence to Margaret Connick Jones, 1939-1941
Box 5, Folder 5	Hospitalization Policy, Pioneer Mutual Casualty Company, Cincinnati Hospitalization Agency, 1944
Box 5, Folder 6	Club Peachtree injury claim, 1954
Box 5, Folder 7	Travel records, 1940-1951, undated
Box 5, Folder 8	Travel records, Jaboul's Vest Pocket Directory of Streets and Transportation Guide of Chicago-Suburbs, 1950
Box 5, Folder 9	Journal, 1942-1952
Box 5, Folder 10	Calendar book, 1946

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## Series 3: Performance Materials, 1939-1996, undated

Box 5, Folder 11	Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 1941
Box 6, Folder 1	Clippings scrapbook, 1940-1944, undated Notes: Restricted - see Box [ ] Folder [ ] for reference photocopies
Box 6, Folder 12	Clippings scrapbook, reference photocopies, 1940-1944
Box 6, Folder 13	Clippings scrapbook, loose clippings, reference photocopies, 1941-1950, undated
Box 6, Folder 14	Clippings, 1940-1996, undated
Box 6, Folder 15	Clippings, entertainer Jack Buchanan suicide, undated
Box 9, Folder 1	<a href="#">Clippings, Bust-Normalizing Leaflet, 1941</a>
Box 9, Folder 2	Newspaper, El Cristol, Segunda Edicion, Havana, Cuba, 1950
Box 8, Folder 8	Newspaper print block, undated
Box 8, Folder 4	Du Barry patterns catalog, undated
Box 5, Folder 16-18	Frederick's of Hollywood catalogs, 1957-1962, undated
Box 7, Folder 1	Lester Ltd. costume catalog, undated
Box 7, Folder 2	Loshin's catalogs, undated
Box 7, Folder 3	True Story Pattern Department envelopes, undated
Box 7, Folder 4	Spangles and bangles sample card, undated
Box 7, Folder 5	Event and performance programs, 1950-1952, undated
Box 7, Folder 6	City entertainment guides – Florida – Miami, 1949
Box 7, Folder 7	City entertainment guides – Georgia – Atlanta, 1953, undated
Box 7, Folder 8	City entertainment guides – Illinois – Chicago, 1952
Box 7, Folder 9	City entertainment guides – Indiana – Evansville, 1950-1952
Box 7, Folder 10	City entertainment guides – Michigan – Detroit, 1951-1952

Box 7, Folder 11	City entertainment guides – Ohio – Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo, 1944-1946, undated
Box 7, Folder 12	State entertainment guides – Kentucky, 1948
Box 7, Folder 13	Other performers, Boots King, 1939-1967, undated
Box 7, Folder 14	Other performers, undated
Box 7, Folder 15	Venue materials and advertisements, undated
Box 7, Folder 16	Photography advertisements, undated
Box 7, Folder 17	Perfume advertisement, John A. Oya & Company, undated
Box 7, Folder 18	Brochure, Pink Pussy Cat College of Strip Tease, undated
Box 7, Folder 19	Popular Album News, Monthly Magazine of the RCA Victor Popular Album Club, undated
Box 7, Folder 20	Membership cards, 1949, undated
Box 7, Folder 21	Television appearance, Truth or Consequences, 1960

### Subseries 3.1: Sheet Music, 1939-1950, undated

#### Box 7

Box 9, Folder 4	"A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody" (annotated), undated
Box 9, Folder 5	"And Her Tears Flowed Like Wine", 1944
Box 9, Folder 6	"Begin the Beguine" (annotated), 1939
Box 9, Folder 7	"Birth of the Blues, The", 1941
Box 9, Folder 8	"Black and Tan Fantasy", 1944
Box 9, Folder 9	"Bugle Call Rag" (annotated), 1940
Box 9, Folder 10	"Charleston", 1950
Box 9, Folder 11	"Chopin's Polonaise", 1950
Box 9, Folder 12	"Dance With a Dolly", 1944
Box 9, Folder 13	"Dawn on the Desert", 1939

Box 9, Folder 14	"Deep Purple", 1939
Box 9, Folder 15	"Doll Dance, The", undated
Box 9, Folder 16	"Five O'clock Whistle" (annotated), 1940
Box 9, Folder 17	"Five O'clock Whistle", "That Old Black Magic" (annotated), 1940-1942, 1940-1942
Box 9, Folder 18	"Heat Wave" (annotated), 1946
Box 9, Folder 19	"Holiday For Strings", 1943
Box 9, Folder 20	"I'm a Big Girl Now", 1946
Box 9, Folder 21	"Indian Love Call" (artist's copy), 1939
Box 9, Folder 22	"Irving Berlin's Musical Comedy Medley", undated
Box 9, Folder 23	"Jalousie (Jealousy)" (annotated), undated
Box 9, Folder 24	"Jersey Bounce" (annotated), 1941
Box 10, Folder 1	"Jungle Drums (Canto Karabali)", 1941
Box 10, Folder 2	"Knock Me a Kiss", "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" (annotated), 1942
Box 10, Folder 3	"Lazy River", undated
Box 10, Folder 4	"Me and My Shadow", 1945
Box 10, Folder 5	"Oh, Brother!", 1945
Box 10, Folder 6	"Old Piano Roll Blues, The" (annotated), 1950
Box 10, Folder 7	"Over There", undated
Box 10, Folder 8	"Prisoner of Love", 1946
Box 10, Folder 9	"Saint Louis Blues", 1942
Box 10, Folder 10	"Saint Louis Blues March" (annotated), 1948
Box 10, Folder 11	"Song of India" (annotated), 1940
Box 10, Folder 12	"Song of India" (artist's copy), undated
Box 10, Folder 13	"Song of the Islands (Na Lei O Hawaii)" (annotated), 1942

Box 10, Folder 14	"Song of the Islands" / "Hawaiian War Chant" / "Ahhohaoe," (artist's copy), undated
Box 10, Folder 15	"Sophisticated Lady" (annotated), undated
Box 10, Folder 16	"Strip Medley" (artist's copy), undated
Box 10, Folder 17	"Taboo" (annotated), 1941
Box 10, Folder 18	"Temptation", undated
Box 10, Folder 19	"That Old Black Magic" (annotated), 1942
Folder 20	"That Old Black Magic" (artist's copy), undated
Box 10, Folder 21	"Third Man Theme, The", 1950
Box 10, Folder 22	"You Never Say Yes You Never Say No!", 1944
Box 10, Folder 23	Sheet Music, unidentified, undated

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## Series 4: Photographs, 1937-1998, undated

Box 11	Youth, family, and friends, 1938-1998, undated
Box 11	Performances, 1951, undated
Box 8, Folder 5	Performances, undated
Box 11	<a href="#">Publicity, 1937-1945</a>
Box 12	Publicity, undated
Box 7, Folder 22	Publicity, 8x10, undated
Box 8, Folder 6	<a href="#">Publicity, 1940</a>
Box 13	Venues, 1947-1949, undated
Box 8, Folder 7	Venues, Beverly Country Club, undated
Box 14	<a href="#">Other entertainers, identified, 1941-1948, undated</a>
Box 14	Other entertainers, unidentified, 1941-1942, undated
Box 9, Folder 3	Photograph scrapbook, 1939-1941, undated
Box 15	Photograph album, 1941-1946, undated

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## Series 5: Audiovisual materials, undated

Box 16, Folder 1      Audio disc cover, Barth, Belle, If I Embarrass You-Tell Your Friends, undated

Box 16, Folder OD  
919.1      If I Embarrass You-Tell Your Friends, undated  
1 Sound recording (Duration: 44:00; 33 1/3 RPM, 12 inch vinyl disc)  
Notes:      Copyright:  
                 Creator: Barth, Belle  
                 Corporate Creator: After Hour Records  
                 Content Description: Live recording of two performances (midnight and four a.m.) by comedienne Belle Barth at Belle Barth's Pub, Miami, Florida

Box 16, Folder 2      Audio disc cover, Paderewski, Jan, Let's Have a Party (inscribed), undated

Box 16, Folder OD  
919.2      Let's Have a Party, undated  
1 Sound recording (Duration: 40:00; 33 1/3 RPM, 12 inch vinyl disc)  
Notes:      Copyright:  
                 Creator: Paderewski, Jan  
                 Corporate Creator:  
                 Content Description: Jan Paderewski plays piano and tells jokes before an audience in this live recording. Music played includes "Malaguena", "Moon River," "Autumn Leaves," "Warsaw Concerto," and "Voodoo Moon."

Box 16, Folder 3      Audio disc cover, Wray, Jay, Have a Funderful Evening with Jay Wray (inscribed), undated

Box 16, Folder OD  
919.3      Have a Funderful Evening with Jay Wray, undated  
1 Sound recording (Duration: 40:00; 33 1/3 RPM, 12 inch vinyl disc)  
Notes:      Copyright:  
                 Creator: Wray, Jay  
                 Corporate Creator: Jacco Records  
                 Content Description: Live recording of a Jay Wray comedy performance at the Tale O'The Tiger Lounge, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Box 17, Item OT7  
919.1;      Truth or Consequences television appearance, 1960  
Box 17, Item OT7  
919.2;      1 Sound recording  
Notes:      Includes 7 inch open reel audio tape, [length] and 3 inch open reel audio tape, [length]  
Box 17, Item OT3  
919.1



Box 17, Folder OF  
919.1

Christmas on Saybrook, Cincinnati, Ohio, undated

1 Film reel (black and white, silent, camera original reversal; 8mm, 50 feet)

Notes: Footage of a Christmas celebration with Shirley Leonard, Walter Jones, Jr. (brother), and Margaret Connick Jones (mother) at the family home on Saybrook Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. Includes shots of a set table, Shirley Leonard opening a refrigerator, the family cat, and outside scenes of dogs and parked automobiles.

Box 17, Folder OF  
919.2

Cookout and Christmas with family and friends, circa 1957

1 Film reel (color, silent, camera original reversal; 8mm, 120 feet)

Notes: A compilation reel depicting scenes at a cookout and during a Christmas celebration, including many shots of a decorated Christmas tree and presents.

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