

A Guide to the Jesse Belle Rittenhouse Collection

Jesse Belle Rittenhouse Collection 1902-1932
1902-1932

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 8449
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
1997

History

Processed by: Special Collections Department Staff
Date Completed: 1997
Encoded by: Courtney Boissonnault

Title Statement

A Guide to the Jesse Belle Rittenhouse Collection

Subtitle: Rittenhouse, Jesse Belle.

Collection: 8449

Author: Processed by Special Collections Dept. staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Courtney Boissonnault

Sponsor: Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

File size: 35 Kilobytes

Date: © 1997 By the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia. All rights reserved.

Publisher: University of Virginia Library

[Conditions of Use](#)

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from WordPerfect. [Date of source: 1997.]

Language Usage: Description is in English.

Revision Description

Feb 17, 2004	PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::00667::Jesse Belle Rittenhouse Collection)//EN" "ViU00667.sgm" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).
Feb 27, 2004	converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number
8449

Language
English

Extent

ca. 50 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

Deposit 1963 Dec 17[1966 Nov 30]

Funding Note

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Preferred Citation

Jesse Belle Rittenhouse Collection, Accession 8449, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Item Listing

Manuscripts

Poem, " The Star"

Unit Date 1919 Dec 28

Extent

AMsS,
1 p.

Poem, " Tenants"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMsS,
1 p.

Poem, " Transience"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMsS,
1 p.

Poem, " The Star"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Unrest"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " The Dream"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Protest"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " The Alter"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Two That Pass"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Fame and the Muse"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Seven Songs"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Magic"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " The Veil"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Transformation"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " The Miracle"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " Unsung"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Poem, " The Wall"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMs,
1 p.

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto [Curtis Hidden Page]

Unit Date Tuesday

Extent

TNS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Accompanies preceding poems, indicating they are "passing moods -that will not pass."]

Letters

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1902 Oct 2

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Expresses regret at missing his visit; invites him to join her at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Gilchristin Arlington; describes her itinerary in coming weeks including lectures at Rutlandand Bennington, Vermontand a Western lecture tour beginning in February.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1912 [Jul]

Extent

APCS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Describes travels in Italyto Rome, Florence, Veniceand the lakes.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1914 Jan 5

Extent

ANS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Comments on his Christmas greeting, her trip to Europeand the many demands on her time since returning; invites him to her annual poets' party; expresses hope that Lizette Woodworth Reeseand several others will be present and invites him to an Arts Club dinner.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1915 Jan 11

Extent

ANS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Announces the dates for her poets' party and the Poetry Society [of America]dinner; requests his presence at both; state her expectation that Alice Brown, Elsa Barker, Vachel Lindsey, Olive Darganand the New Yorkgroup will attend; expresses appreciation for the evening spent together; hopes she will have the opportunity to discuss with him a book Houghtonwishes to publish.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1916 Jan 3

Extent

ANS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Invites him to her poets' party and [Poetry Society of America] dinner; expects [Robert] Frost and [Edgar Lee] Masters to speak.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1920 Feb 18

Extent

ALS,
8 p.

Scope and Content

[Comments on letters received from him during his travels; outlines her lecture tour; describes the overwhelming hospitality she receives at every stop and the difficulty of writing poetry under such circumstances; expresses desire to lecture less and write more; describes the Poetry Society [of America] dinner attended by Lawrence Housman, Siegfried Sassoon, [William Butler] Yeats, Gilbert [Cannon], Yone Noguchi; comments on the ghostly presence of those no longer there: Edith Thomas, Joyce Kilmer, and [Madison] Cawein.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1924 Feb 8

Extent

ALS,
9 p.

Scope and Content

[Thanks him for the inscribed book of Japanese poetry; expresses her admiration for it; mentions a young cousin, Arthur Armstrong, who will be attending Dartmouth, her living accommodations with her mother at Carmel, completing The Little Book of Modern British Verse and plans for beginning "Pioneering for Poetry"; states plans to marry Clinton Scollard and divide the year between California and the Berkshires.]

Announcement of the marriage of Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Clinton Scollard

Unit Date 1924 Mar 20

Extent

Note

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date Jan 22

Extent

TLS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Regrets missing the events of the Poetry Society [of America] and [Anne Hempstead] Branch's reception due to her mother's poor health; describes her literary life in Winter Park, [Florida] where she is president of the Poetry Society of Florida and teaches at Rollins college; mentions other writers in the area: Percy [MacKaye], Robert Herrick, Mary Aldis, Cale Young Rice, Alice Hegan Rice, [Irving] Bacheller and his wife, Fred Lewis Pattee and [Hamilton] Holt.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date Mar 4

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Comments on Poetry Society [of America]election of trustees; describes her activities as President of the Poetry Society [of Florida], teaching at Rollins College; states her intention to attend spring meetings [of the Poetry Society of America]; mentions other writers living in the [Winter Park] area: Percy MacKaye, Cale Young Rice, Alice Hegan Rice, Irving Bacheller, Robert Herrickas well as noted people in other fields; sends a program of the Animated Magazine.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date Mar 21

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Requests that he act as a judge in the Ponce de LeonPrize contest in the Poetry Society of Florida, the other judges being Lady [Leona ?] Speyerand Margaret Widdenmer; describes the contest and method of judging; states her intention of attending the April meeting of the P[oetry] S[ociety of America]and her sense of anticipation at being in New York.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date Mar 25

Extent

TLS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Describes weather, social and intellectual life of [Winter Park], Florida; mentions the MacKayes, Rices, Robert Herrick, Robert Morse Lovett, the Bachellers, Albert Shaw, Oswald Garrison Villard, Lincoln Steffins, Raymond Robbins, Dr. [Hamilton] Holt, as well as the Institute of Statesmanship, which has brought Professor Bruce of Dartmouth; comments on [Martha Dickinson] Bianchi's talk on Emily Dickinsonand the discovery of new Dickinson poems.] (Incomplete)

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date Apr 3

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Expresses pleasure that he will serve as judge [of a poetry contest]; explains the balloting procedure; states he is to receive poems from Arthur Guiterman; requests he select a third judge; mentions Leonora [Speyer ?], [Joseph] Auslander, or a member of the Poetry Society [of America]as possibilities; describes the poems a well done in general; writes that the best of them are by Rollins Collegestudents.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date Jun 5

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses affairs of the [Poetry] Society [of America], the selection of chairman and secretary of the awards committee; indicates her vote will go to Witter and Grace Conkling; mentions the possibility of awarding 2 medals; mentions [Edwin Arlington] Robinson, [Robert] Frost and [Marian Nevins] MacDowell as possible recipients; suggests Robert Haven Schauffler or David Morton as potential candidates for president but urges Page to continue that office if possible.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date Jul 8

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Comments on her surprise and delight at receiving a silver tea service from her friends; expresses her intention of writing personal thanks to the hundred contributors; states the poor health of her mother-in-law will prevent travel abroad this season; describes [Mrs. Scollard] as a brilliant woman, knowledgeable about politics, unlike herself who declares "the world is full of things more beautiful."]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date [ca. 1921] Aug 23

Extent

ALS,
11 p.

Scope and Content

[Describes injuries sustained from being thrown from a horse drawn trap and her subsequent convalescence; expresses hope that he will visit her home in Kent, Connecticut; describes alternate routes to her cottage; mentions her plans to travel to Grafton, Massachusetts, through the White Mountains to New York City; states a new collection of her poems, The Lifted Cap, will be published in autumn, including a group of poems written to Page.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date [ca. 1918] Nov 18

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Scolds him for not sending her a picture of himself in uniform as he had to Elsa Parker; inquires about his life in the army; describes a recent illness, plans to travel and lecture in the West and South; mentions talks at Brooklyn Institute and her longing to go to Italy when travel resumes.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AL,
8 p.

Scope and Content

[Describes her summer in the Green Mountains near Arlington, [Vermont] and her trip with another member of the Poetry Society [of America] Mr. Gilchrist and his wife, to bring Robert Frost to give a reading to a group of "summer folk"; states that on the way they stopped in Hanover, Connecticut; describes her trip to Page's home and her discovery that it had been sold; extolls the beauty of the area and her love of the mountains; describes her mother's recovery from serious illness, her own renewed vigor and upcoming lectures at Columbia [University], Indianapolis, the West and South.] (Incomplete)

Jessie Belle Rittenhouse to Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

ALS,
8 p

Scope and Content

[Discusses her mother's poor health, the upcoming poets' party; expects [William Butler] Yeats, [Siegfried] Sassoon, [Yone] Noguchi, Gilbert [Cannon ?], Lawrence Housman, the [John] Drinkwaters and Cecil Roberts to attend in addition to the "usual" American group; describes her participation in a luncheon at the Biltmore with John Drinkwater and Gilbert [Cannon ?]; comments on Cecil Roberts' endearing qualities; mentions that Professor [John Livingston] Lowes will speak at the annual dinner [of the Poetry Society of America?]; outlines her lecture tour of the West and South; indicates she is sending several poems [" Transformation, " " The Miracle, " " Unsung, " and " The Wall"] inspired by Page's departure and describes the circumstances in which she wrote them.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouse to Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AL,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Describes summer vacation with her aunt, Mrs. Taft, at Bear Island on Lake Winnepesaukee, [New Hampshire] and at the MacDowell estate in Peterboro, [New Hampshire] with its lovely studios and living facilities.] (Incomplete)

Jessie Belle Rittenhouse to Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date [ca. 1932]

Extent

ANS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Printed card of thanks for Page's expression of sympathy; includes handwritten note describing Clinton [Scollard]'s apparent good health and the shock of his death; describes her activities in Winter Park, teaching at Rollins College, and editing Clinton's poems for MacMillan Co.; mentions Page's rare book venture.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouse to Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

ANS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Indicates she is sending a "brief lyric" she finds charming; praises his poem " Lady from Tripoli" and encourages him to write more; comments on her reading of [August] Strindberg; mentions sending for "

The Road to [Castaly ?]".]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

ANS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses "Harriet," whose dinner conflicted with another one given by the [Poetry Society of America?]; mentions plans for the [John] Masefieldluncheon and her hope Page will be present.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

ANS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Expresses pleasure that Page will be present at the "poets' evening" and dinner; comments on his retreat "among the pines" and her hopes of having the opportunity during his visit of hearing some of his work; lists those expected to attend the poets' night as Richard Burton, Clinton Scollard, Percy MacKaye, Josephine Peabody, Sara Teasdale, Harriet Monroe, Herman Hagedorn, Cale Young Rice, [Alice Hagen] Rice, [Martha Dickinson] Bianchi, Mark [Arms ?], Edith Thomas, [Frederick Ridgely] Torrence, [Charles Hanson] Towne, [Edwin Arlington] Robinson, and [William Bliss] Carman.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

Postcard

Scope and Content

[Includes autograph; comments on her mother's illness, her lecture tour, an upcoming month of work at Brooklyn Institute, her hope Page will be coming to New York; praises his poem and urges him to write more; mentions a lecture in Montclair, [New Jersey]in postscript.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TLS,
3 p.

Scope and Content

[Expresses gratitude for Page's help in judging poems competing for prize; mentions " Anaesthesia" the winner of the competition, " Exile, " " The Flute of Krishna, " " Protest, " and " Beauty Secret"; expresses her willingness to speak on the history of the Poetry Society [of America]; gives details on its founding; mentions Mrs. Markham, Miss Haste, Richard Burton, Madison Cawein, Mildred McNeil Sweeney, [Cale Young] Riceand [Alice Hagen] Riceand Maurice Browne.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1924

Extent

Card, w/ANS

Scope and Content

[Sends Christmas greetings and the hope that work is going well; notes good notices on the [Ronsard ?].]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1926

Extent

Card, w/ANS

Scope and Content

[Sends Christmas greetings; comments on plans to spend the winter in Florida.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date 1927

Extent

Card, w/ANS

Scope and Content

[Compliments Page on his talk to the Poetry Society [of America] upon taking office; expresses confidence in his leadership; describes working with Rollins Collegestudents, to assist Dr. [Hamilton] Holt; states intention of sending Floridapoets and poems to the P[oetry] S[ociety] of A[merica]; expresses hope that Page will like her Third Book of Modern Verse which she considers her best.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

Card, w/ANS

Scope and Content

[Invites him to her poets' party; comments on lectures given at Columbiaand Brooklyn Institute; expresses anticipation of seeing Page and hearing of his work.]

Jessie Belle Rittenhouseto Curtis Hidden Page

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

Card, w/ANS

Scope and Content

[Encourages him to come to Winter Park; mentions summer spent in Europefrom which she "just escaped in time."]

Miscellaneous**Poetry Society of America Committee on Awards and Fellowships**

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

DS,