

Guide to the Jeanne Russell Janish Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Janish, Jeanne R., 1902-1998
Title:	Jeanne Russell Janish Papers
ID:	MS-00355
Date [inclusive]:	1833 to 1994
Date [bulk]:	1894 to 1994
Physical Description:	12.10 Cubic Feet (16 boxes, 3 oversized boxes, 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	16.08 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Jeanne Russell Janish Papers (1833-1994; bulk dates 1894-1994) consist of journals, diaries, research files, academic records, correspondence, photographs, and paintings and drawings that document the life and work of the illustrator and watercolorist. The paintings and drawings consist of approximately 140 watercolors and pencil sketches of various scenes and subjects, created in China, Florida, and the American Southwest. The collection also includes writings by Jeanne's husband, Carl F. Janish.

Preferred Citation

Jeanne Russell Janish Papers, 1833-1994. MS-00355. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1c59n>

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Biographical Note

Jeanne Russell Janish was born on October 20, 1902 in Marshall, Iowa. She spent her early years in St. Louis, Missouri, where her father, Francis, was a Presbyterian minister. The family later moved to Santa Clara, California. Janish attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, her mother Lucile's alma mater, and graduated in 1924 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa with a major in Latin and a minor in geology. After graduation, she entered Stanford University, graduating

in 1926 as the first woman to receive a Master of Arts degree in geology from the institution. While in school, Stanford paleontologist James Perrin Smith noticed Jeanne's creative abilities and encouraged her to study scientific illustration. Her career led her to illustrate thirty-two major scientific manuscripts, several field guides, and numerous scientific articles.

In 1929, Jeanne left for China on a visit, but stayed to work as a rug designer for her cousin Helen Fette at the latter's Fette-Li Rug Company. Her experiences at the company are recorded in her diaries. She met Carl F. Janish, a former United States Marine working for the *New York Times* in Beijing, and the couple married in late 1929. In 1934, the Janishes returned to the United States.

The couple spent seven years in California, where Jeanne worked as a freelance illustrator and Carl ran a summer camp, before making several moves around the country in the 1940s and early 1950s. In 1952, the couple settled in Carson City, Nevada for a short time before moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1954. Carl Janish, a professional engineer, worked as a contractor at the Nevada Test Site and the Clark County Library District, while Jeanne pursued her career as an illustrator and focused on local botany.

Jeanne Russell Janish died in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 4, 1998.

Source:

"Jeanne Russell Janish." *Women in Nevada History*. Accessed March 26, 2019. <https://www.womennvhistory.com/portfolio/jeanne-russel-janish/>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Jeanne Russell Janish Papers (1833-1994; bulk dates 1894-1994) consist of journals, diaries, research files, academic records, correspondence, photographs, and paintings and drawings that document the life and work of the illustrator and watercolorist. The materials include artifacts such as dried flowers, two hand-woven rugs from the Fette-Li Rug Company in China, and art supplies and tools. The paintings and drawings consist of approximately 140 watercolors and pencil sketches of various scenes and subjects, created in China, Florida, and the American Southwest. In addition to a book manuscript written by Jeanne R. Janish on scientific illustration techniques, the materials also include a manuscript on Chinese silkworms and news reports from China written by Jeanne's husband, Carl F. Janish.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by type.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Jeanne Russell Janish, transferred all right, title and interest they had in the Jeanne Russell Janish Papers (MS-00355) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1995 by Jeanne Russell Janish; accession number 95-31.

Processing Note

Material was partially processed in 1995 by Marie Imus. In 2015, Joyce Moore processed the remainder of the collection and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech rehoused the materials and updated the finding aid to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2025, Landon Paljusaj processed additional material and updated the finding aid.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

Jeanne Russell Janish Photograph Collection, 1918-1974. PH-00296. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1pw89>

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Names and Subjects

- Watercolor painting
- Women illustrators
- National Conservation Areas

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Artifacts	
Boxed oil paints, undated	box 01
Draftsman's pencil pointer, undated	box 01
Drawing tools, undated	box 01 box 02
Drawing tools, woodblocks, and <i>Campfire Memories</i> incense sticks, undated	box 01
Frederick W. Russell's engraved desk set, undated	box 01
French talc, coasters, and drawing, undated	box 01
Leather wallet, undated	box 01
Magnifying glass, undated	box 01
Print roller in gray box, undated	box 01
Shells, fossils, beadwork, and copper desk ornaments in a Christmas box, undated	box 01
Three woodblocks, including a 1924 tree at Vassar College, 1924, undated	box 01
Dr. B. P. Russell's core samples from Nebraska, 1890s	box 02
Geology research notes, undated	box 02
Sierra Club Songbook, 1925	box 02
"Sierra Club of California," tin cup, undated	box 02
Tooled leather folder, undated	box 02
<i>Three Blind Women</i> , 1833	box 11
Frederick W. Russell's baby hair, undated	box 11

Metal stamps, undated	box 11
Jeanne's Phi Beta Kappa key from Vassar College and F. W. Russell's Sigma Chi Fraternity pin from the University of Nebraska, 1890	box 11
Acme paperweight calendar, 1891	box 11
Lock of Jeanne's hair, 1903	box 11
Handwoven wool rugs, Fette-Li Rug Company, undated Physical Description: 2 Items	oversized box 19
Diaries, journals, and personal correspondence	
Travel brochures, 1970s	box 03
Diary of Sierra Club trip, 1927	box 06
High Sierra trip notes, 1925	box 06
Scrapbook: Camp Wasibo and Sierra Club, 1928	box 06
Postcards of Rainier National Park, undated	box 07
Diaries, 1918-1973 Physical Description: 14 Items	box 10
Panama journal, undated	box 10
Correspondence, 1979-1992	box 11
Postcards from Europe, 1910	box 11
Postcards of Yellowstone and Rainier National Parks, 1924	box 11
Postcards of Pacific Coast of California, 1924-1925	box 11
<i>A Weeks Trip in the South</i> , journal, 1891 December 18	box 11
Personal correspondence, 1920-1978 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 13
Correspondence with Frederick W. Russell and notes, 1920, 1943, 1976	box 13
Correspondence, 1920-1945	box 13
Travel journal of Clara Cross, 1905	box 14
Journal page and newspaper clipping, 1915	box 14
Postcards from New Orleans, Louisiana and other locations, 1920s-1930s	box 14
Postcards, Rocky Mountain system, 1925	box 14
Cards, invitations, and announcements, 1897-1929	box 13
China	
Chinese Christmas cards, undated	box 08
Chinese-English dictionary, undated	box 08

Chinese language class workbook, 1940	box 08
Booklet on Chinese custom and history, undated	box 08
Pencil sketches of people, architecture, and landscape, 1930-1934 Physical Description: 45 Items	box 08
Panorama of the Forbidden City, 1930-1931	box 08
Pencil sketch of a man, 1930	box 08
Six watercolors, undated	box 08
Sketches of the Forbidden City, undated	box 08
Woodblock and place cards, undated	box 08
Photograph albums, China, 1928-1929 Physical Description: 4 Items	box 08
Photograph albums, China, 1929-1934 Physical Description: 3 Items	box 09
Original manuscript, <i>Silkworms in China</i> , by Carl F. Janish, undated	box 13
"Relics," correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs, 1929 to 1938 Language of the Material: Chinese	box 20
Various publications printed in China, 1926 to 1930	box 20
Photographic prints of people, places, and events in China, approximately 1927 to 1928	box 20
Mounted photographs of locations and people in Tibet, approximately 1910 to 1939	box 20
Small watercolor paintings of Peking, China, 1930 to 1932	box 20
Correspondence, business cards, and Chinese art and writings, approximately 1928 to 1939 Language of the Material: Chinese	box 20
Typescript news dispatches and drafts written by Carl F. Janish and Hallett Abend, approximately 1927 Physical Description: 7 Files Physical Access Note: The contents of these files are fragile and should be handled with extra care.	box 20
Personal memorabilia	
Brochure, "Koshare" dance troupe, Explorer Post 2230, La Junta, Colorado, 1960s	box 03
Newspaper clipping about the Cross home, 1993	box 11
<i>Church Calls</i> , by R. W. Russell, 1894-1919	box 13
<i>Contact Bridge</i> , by Eli Culbertson, 1944	box 13

<i>Delafield Reducing Plan for Men</i> , 1955	box 13
Carl Janish certificates, 1942-1955	box 13
Mercury, Nevada newsletter, 1955 February 22	box 13
<i>New Yorker Magazine</i> , "Scrolls for the Dead Sea", 1955 May 14	box 13
<i>American Mobile Home Living</i> advertisement, 1956	box 14
Newsletter and newspaper clipping, Henderson, Nevada Industrial Days, 1964	box 14
Pan-Presbyterian Day Program and Hilltop Vesper Service conducted by R. W. Russell, undated	box 14
Dozier grade cards, 1912-1915	box 14
Soldan High School grade cards, 1916-1920	box 14
Photographs	
Photograph album, 1918-1925	box 05
Photographs of landscapes of the Sierra Mountains and the desert, undated	box 06
Photographs removed from photograph album, 1927-1928	box 07
Photograph of the garden at the Russell family home, Palo Alto, California, 1937	box 07
Photograph taken by Janish during Sierra Mountains trip, published in <i>Sierra Club journal</i> , 1927	box 07
Photograph of the summit of Pike's Peak via the Cog Road, undated	box 07
Photographs of Willits, California, 1942-1946	box 07
Loose photograph album pages, 1927-1928	box 07
Commercially produced photographic slides of Seti's Tomb, 1981	box 07
Scrapbook of photocopied prints, undated	box 12
Photocopies of photographs and mementos removed from the collection, undated	box 13
Photograph album, 1952-1954	oversized box 16
Photographic negatives and photographic glass plates, in envelopes by location, 1920s Physical Description: 46 Items	box 18
Professional materials	
Academic journal articles with Janish illustrations, 1920s-1970s Physical Description: 3 Files	box 03
Nevada Archaeological Survey <i>Reporter</i> , 1968-1971	box 03

Nevada plant journals, 1970s	box 03
<i>Arizona Highways</i> magazine, 1990-1991	box 03
Ware collection of glass plants, booklets and postcards, 1946, 1963	box 05
Geology field class notes, 1971	box 06
<i>A Collection of Contemporary Sporting and Wildlife Art</i> , 1976	box 06
Professional and personal correspondence, 1941-1990	box 06
<i>Flowering Plants of the Lake Mead Region</i> , booklet, undated	box 06
<i>Fremontia</i> , a journal of the California Native Plant Society, 1987 January	box 06
Newspaper clippings about Janish's work, 1966-1986	box 06
Note cards on how to draw scientific illustrations, undated	box 06
Ripley, H. Dwight, <i>Impressions of Nevada, Northern Nevada Native Plant Society</i> , 1978 November	box 07
<i>The Art of Scientific Illustrations</i> , book project, chapter I, 1953	box 07
Illustration, list of books, and a book jacket, undated	box 11
<i>Geological Society of America List of Papers</i> , 1922	box 11
<i>Flowers of the Southwest Mesas</i> , a book by P. M. Patraw, 1951	box 11
<i>Flowers of the Southwest Mountains</i> , a book by L. P. Arnberger, 1962	box 11
<i>Flowers and Ferns of the Muir Woods</i> , a book by G. L. Smith, 1963	box 11
<i>Flowers of Point Reyes National Seashore</i> , a book by R. S. Ferris, 1970	box 11
<i>Brittonia</i> magazine, 1979 April-June	box 11
<i>Northern Nevada Native Plant Society</i> newsletter, 1980	box 11
Newspaper clippings and poems, 1964, undated	box 11
Distinguished Service Award, New York Botanical Garden, 1987	box 13
Original manuscript, <i>Pen and Pencil Drawings</i> , by Jeanne Janish, undated	box 13
Zayante Creek Girl Scout Camp "Flying W" history, 1936	box 13
Topographical map of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, California, 1952	box 13
<i>Fremontia</i> and <i>Douglasia</i> newsletters, 1987, 1994	box 14
Botanical specimens, undated	box 14
Botanical specimens, 1969 Physical Description: 5 Items	oversized box 16
Plant specimen collection notes, 1969	oversized box 16
Botanical print by J. A. Vorobik, 1993	

oversized
box 16

Watercolor sketch: botanical, 1918

oversized
box 16

Sketches, drawings, and paintings

Pencil drawings of people and places, 1920s

box 06

Family portraits, undated

box 06

Mixed sketches: watercolor and pen, undated

box 07

Partially completed watercolor and two notes, undated

box 11

Seashell sketches, 1924-1925

box 11

Matted watercolors and pencil sketches, undated

Physical Description: 19 Items

oversized
box 15

Watercolor sketches: High Sierras, California, 1953

Physical Description: 6 Items

oversized
box 16

Watercolor sketches: southwestern United States, undated

Physical Description: 28 Items

oversized
box 16

Watercolor sketches: Miami, Florida, undated

Physical Description: 14 Items

oversized
box 16

Watercolor sketches: Central Park, New York City, New York, undated

Physical Description: 4 Items

oversized
box 16

Pencil drawing: profile of a man, 1934

oversized
box 16

Early hand drawn map of Vassar College, undated

flat file
17

Hand-drawn map of China, probably approximately 1929-1934

flat file
17

Watercolor panorama of the Forbidden City, China, annotated on reverse, 1930-1931

flat file
17

Two portraits of Chinese men in uniform, undated

oversized
box 19

Matted watercolor sketches: southwestern United States, 1949

Physical Description: 2 Items

oversized
box 19

Matted pencil sketches, undated

Physical Description: 5 Items

oversized
box 19

Stanford University

Geology field class notes, 1924

box 06

Geology 103, final examination, 1926 March

box 07

Geology paper on the Bitterroot Mountains, Montana, 1924	box 07
<i>Glaciation in the Kings River Canyon of the Sierra Mountains</i> , MA thesis, draft and bound copy, 1925 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 07
Music programs from Stanford University, 1926	box 07
<i>Stanford Earth Scientists</i> , a registry, 1985	box 07
<i>Stanford School of Earth Sciences: a report to the alumni</i> , 1990-1991 Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	box 07
Master of Arts, diploma and commencement program from Stanford University, Berkeley, California, 1926	box 11
Etching, "Stanford Chapel," original by Alec Stern, signed	oversized box 16
Vassar College	
Geologic field course notes, 1924	box 04
Janish graduation invitation, 1924	box 04
Janish's mother's Vassar diploma, 1895	box 04
Letters from Janish, 1920 September-1921 June	box 04
Photograph album, 1925-1928 Physical Description: 2 Items	box 04
Student handbook, 1921	box 04
Notes for oral presentations, undated	box 05
Personal correspondence, 1920-1970s Physical Description: 6 Files	box 05
Postcards to and from Janish's family, 1921-1922	box 05
Recommendation for admission, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1916-1920	box 05
School materials, 1920-1955	box 07
<i>Vassar: A Photographic Celebration</i> , by Mark C. Borton, 1984	box 14
Vassar College grade cards, 1920-1925	box 14