

# **John Vance Cheney Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2011**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011032>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm77015651>

Prepared by Grover Batts

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Vance Cheney Papers

**Span Dates:** 1847-1927

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1898-1922)

**ID No.:** MSS15651

**Creator:** Cheney, John Vance, 1848-1922

**Extent:** 3,150 items ; 9 containers plus 1 oversize ; 4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Poet, essayist, and librarian. Family correspondence, general correspondence, a diary, manuscripts of poems, short stories, articles, and drafts of Cheney's unpublished autobiography, and other papers.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence.

Burton, Richard, 1861-1940--Correspondence.

Carman, Bliss, 1861-1929--Correspondence.

Cheney family--Correspondence.

Cheney, John Vance, 1848-1922.

Cheney, Simeon Pease, 1818-1890--Correspondence.

Garland, Hamlin, 1860-1940--Correspondence.

Hubbard, Elbert, 1856-1915--Correspondence.

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940--Correspondence.

Sherk, Jessie--Correspondence.

### Subjects

American literature.

American poetry.

Literature.

Poetry.

### Occupations

Essayists.

Librarians.

Poets.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of John Vance Cheney, poet, essayist, and librarian, were given to the Library of Congress in 1943 and 1944 by his secretary and assistant, Jessie Sherk.

### Processing History

The papers of John Vance Cheney were arranged and described in 1971. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

### Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Prints and Photographs Division.

## Other Repositories

A small collection of John Vance Cheney records relating to his tenure as librarian at the Newberry Library is at the Newberry Library Archives, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Vance Cheney is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Vance Cheney are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Vance Cheney Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Event</i>   |
|---------------|--|
| 1848, Dec. 29 | Born, Groveland, N.Y.  |
| 1865          | Graduated, Geneseo Academy, Geneseo, N.Y.                      |
| 1876          | Married Abbey Perkins (divorced)                               |
| 1887-1894     | Librarian, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1887          | Published <i>Thistle-Drift</i> . New York: F. A. Stokes        |
| 1894-1909     | Librarian, Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.                     |
| 1895          | Published <i>That Dome in Air</i> . Chicago: A. C. McClure     |
| 1903          | Married Sara Barker Chamberlain                                |
| 1905          | Published <i>Poems</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin              |
| 1909-1922     | Resided in San Diego, Calif.                                   |
| 1922, May 1   | Died, San Diego, Calif.  |

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Vance Cheney (1848-1922) span the years 1847 through 1927 with the bulk concentrated in the period from 1898-1922. There is a group of family correspondence, letters which Cheney wrote to his father, Simeon Pease Cheney, 1865-1875, which is of literary and social interest. The bulk of the general correspondence dates from 1900 through 1922 and consists of letters which Cheney received from various publishers, although there are a few letters from Susan B. Anthony, Richard Burton, Bliss Carman, Hamlin Garland, Elbert Hubbard, and Edwin Markham. There is also a group of correspondence consisting primarily of letters from Cheney to his secretary, Jessie Sherk.

A file of copyright manuscripts includes many of Cheney's poems, short stories, articles, and plays in holograph and typescript form, the draft of *That Dome in Air*, as well as drafts of his unpublished autobiography. The autobiography of his grandfather, Moses Cheney, is also included in the papers. There is a diary which Cheney kept during a trip to Europe in 1908.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material or topic.

## Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i>  |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1            | Diary, 1908  |
| BOX 1            | Family correspondence, 1865-1875                       |
| BOX 1            | General correspondence, 1900-1920                      |
| BOX 1            | Anthony, Susan B.                                      |
| BOX 1            | Burton, Richard  |
| BOX 1            | Carman, Bliss  |
| BOX 1            | Garland, Hamlin  |
| BOX 1            | Hubbard, Elbert  |
| BOX 1            | Markham, Edwin   |
| BOX 1            | Publishers   |
| BOX 1            | Miscellaneous  |
| BOX 2            | Sherk, Jessie, correspondence, 1898-1927               |
| BOX 3-4          | Literary manuscripts                                   |
| BOX 3-4          | Poems  |
| BOX 5-6          | Short stories and articles                             |
| BOX 7            | Short stories and articles                             |
| BOX 7            | Plays  |
| BOX 7            | Literary notes   |
| BOX 8            | <i>That Dome in Air</i> (1895)<br>Cheney, John Vance   |
| BOX 8            | Autobiography  |
| BOX 9            | Autobiography  |
| BOX 9            | Miscellany   |
| BOX 9            | Cheney, Moses, autobiography, 1847 <i>See Oversize</i> |
| BOX 9            | Drawings and bills                                     |
| BOX 9            | Printed matter   |
| BOX OV 1         | Oversize   |
| BOX OV 1         | Miscellany   |
| BOX OV 1         | Cheney, Moses, autobiography, 1847 (Container 9)       |