

Cerise C. Jack Papers Relating to the Sacco and Vanzetti Case
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2001

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79006060>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009170>

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009
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Collection Summary

Title: Cerise C. Jack Papers Relating to the Sacco and Vanzetti Case

Span Dates: circa 1921-1999

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1923-1930)

Creator: Jack, Cerise C.

Extent: 75 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79006060>

Summary: Friend and supporter of Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco, immigrant Italian anarchists tried and executed for murder. Correspondence from Vanzetti, Sacco, and Sacco's wife, Rose Sacco, during the time of Sacco and Vanzetti's incarceration. Also includes related correspondence, newsletters, pamphlets, and bulletins chiefly of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee and the Sacco-Vanzetti National League.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Jack, Cerise C.

Sacco, Nicola, 1891-1927--Correspondence.

Sacco, Rose--Correspondence.

Vanzetti, Bartolomeo, 1888-1927--Correspondence.

Wirth, Betty--Correspondence.

Organizations

Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee. Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee bulletins. 1926-1930.

Sacco-Vanzetti National League. Sacco-Vanzetti National League bulletins. 1929.

Subjects

Sacco-Vanzetti Trial, Dedham, Mass., 1921.

Trials (Murder)--Massachusetts.

Provenance

Copies of the papers of Cerise C. Jack relating to the Sacco and Vanzetti case were given to the Library of Congress by Frederick P. La Chapelle and the students of Sharon Senior High School, Sharon, Massachusetts, in 1979. The originals of these papers and additional material were given by Susan Tejada in 2001.

Processing History

The first gift of 1979 contained only photocopies of letters. The students of Sharon Senior High School had contacted Betty Wirth, the daughter of Cerise C. Jack, and had made copies of most of the correspondence for a class project and then donated the copies to the Library. These papers were organized and described as the Papers Relating to the Sacco-Vanzetti Case. In 2001, the entire collection of Cerise C. Jack Papers was given to the Library by Susan Tejada, including originals of all of the photocopies of the 1979 gift. The photocopies have not been retained. The collection title has been changed to reflect the provenance of the papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Cerise C. Jack 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, Cerise C. Jack Papers Relating to the Sacco and Vanzetti Case, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Cerise C. Jack Papers Relating to the Sacco and Vanzetti Case span the years circa 1921-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1923 to 1930. The collection consists primarily of letters written by Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti to Cerise C. Jack and printed matter.

Both Sacco and Vanzetti were working-class Italian immigrants, anarchists, and political activists. They were arrested for murder in 1920, tried in 1921, and executed by the state of Massachusetts in 1927. The case was highly controversial. Supporters believed that Sacco and Vanzetti had been wrongfully executed and victimized because of their political beliefs.

The papers collected by Cerise C. Jack, Sacco and Vanzetti's English-language teacher, friend, and supporter, include eighteen handwritten letters from Nicola Sacco, eight letters from Rose Sacco, wife of Nicola, and eleven handwritten letters from Bartolomeo Vanzetti sent to Jack or her daughter Betty during Sacco and Vanzetti's incarceration. Jack visited the men in prison, brought them gifts, brought gifts to Rose Sacco and the Sacco children, and supported efforts for judicial appeal. She also collected printed matter related to the case, including material from the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee and the Sacco-Vanzetti National League, and the booklet *Background of the Plymouth Trial* by Bartolomeo Vanzetti. Miscellaneous correspondence concerns Betty Wirth, daughter of Cerise Jack, and her former ownership of these papers and their use by scholars and students.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<i>Background of the Plymouth Trial</i> , by Bartolomeo Vanzetti, circa 1921
BOX 1	Citizen's National Committee for Sacco and Vanzetti, 1927
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Sacco, Dante, 1923
BOX 1	Sacco, Nicola, 1924-1925
BOX 1	Sacco, Rose, 1923-1932, undated
BOX 1	Vanzetti, Bartolomeo, 1924-1926, undated
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1927-1930, 1971, 1978-1982, 1999
BOX 1	Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee, 1926-1930
BOX 1	Sacco-Vanzetti National League, 1929