

**MS-151, Jane Reece Photographic Collection**

**Collection Number:** MS-151

**Title:** Jane Reece Photographic Collection

**Creator:** Reece, Jane, 1868-1961

**Dates:** 1903-1944

**Summary/Abstract:** This collection consists of the glass plate and film negatives of an internationally known Dayton photographer, an associate of Steiglitz and Steichen, and one of the first professional female photographers in the United States. The collection contains over 10,000 images and is roughly divided into two portions: the portraits, many of prominent individuals, by which Reece made her living; and, the creative photographs of her salon.

**Quantity:** 62 linear feet

**Language:** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:**

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection. However please note that nitrate and safety negatives are in cold storage for preservation, requiring 7 days advance notice prior to viewing.

**Restrictions on Use:**

Copyright restrictions apply. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository *and* the copyright holder, Dayton Art Institute.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Description of Item, Date], MS-151, Jane Reece Photographic Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

**Acquisition Information:** The collection has been on deposit from the Dayton Art Institute since 1978.

**Sponsor:** In 1978, National Endowment for the Arts generously supported a one year project for the processing and conservation of the glass plate and nitrate negatives.

**Existence and Location of Originals:** The Dayton Art Institute holds 400 Jane Reece photographs. Most of the negatives in this collection do not have contact prints.

**Other Finding Aid:** Special Collections and Archives maintains a Microsoft Access database with item level description of the photographic materials in the collection.

**Related Materials:**

MS-185 Jane Reece / Richard Fullerton Collection

<http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms185.pdf>

MS-193 Josephine Schwarz / Jane Reece Photograph Collection

<http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms193.pdf>

SC-74 Jane Reece Studio Collection

<http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/sc74.pdf>

MS-437 Shivell Family, Jane Reece Collection

<http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms437.pdf>

**Processing Information:** The collection was processed by Roberta Ritchie in 1979. Finding aid written by Toni Vanden Bos, 2016 November.

**Biographical Sketch:**

Jane Reece was a photographer, born in 1868, near West Jefferson, Ohio. Reece developed her talent with little formal training. She began her career in Dayton, Ohio, in 1903, opening her first photography studio in Dayton, Ohio. Reece became interested in Pictorialism, a style of photography that achieves a soft, romanticized look through experimentation with using various filters, lenses, developing and printing processes, and techniques to manipulate the image, such as hand shading with pencil. During her 40 years of work, Reece worked out many innovative photographic techniques, received numerous awards and tributes, participated in hundreds of exhibitions, and influenced, and was influenced by many of the pioneer artistic photographers of her day, such as the Photo-Secessionists. Reece died in Dayton in 1961.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The majority of the collection consists of over 10,000 gelatin dry plate negatives and over 3000 nitrate and acetate film negatives spanning 1903-1944. About half of the negatives are size 5x7 glass plates, about a third are 8x10 glass plates, and the rest are 6 ½ x 8 ½ or 4x5 glass plates. In addition there are several sizes of cellulose nitrate and acetate film negatives. Numerous negatives are hand-shaded by Reece with pencil, evidence of Reece's Pictorialism style.

Images are roughly divided into two portions: the portraits by which Reece made her living; and the creative photographs of her salon. Jane Reece photographed many recognizable names in Dayton's history, including Milton and Katharine Wright (father and sister of the Wright Brothers), Paul Katz (founder and long-time conductor of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra) and his wife Phyllis, Josephine and Hermene Schwarz (founders of the Dayton Ballet), and hundreds of other individuals from the area. Reece also photographed visitors to the area, including the poet Robert Frost.

A card file index created by the collection processor, is maintained with the collection, and the data has also been entered into a Microsoft Access database. Information in the database includes: type of negative and dimensions, portrait description, date, notes, and Dayton Art Institute information.

**Subject Terms:**

**Persons/Families**

Reece, Jane, 1868-1961 -- Photographs

**Places**

Dayton (Ohio)

**Subjects (General)**

Photography – Negatives -- 20<sup>th</sup> century

Photographers – Ohio – Dayton – 20<sup>th</sup> century

Pictorialism (Photography movement)

**Material Types**

Photographs – 20<sup>th</sup> century

Black-and-white negatives

Gelatin dry plate negatives

Studio portraits