



**Maine Historical Society  
Coll. 2696**

**Jones family  
Jones family collection  
1914 - 1946**

**Accession #:** unknown, found in backlog (possibly came around 1980 – also possibly MS77-12)

**Processed by:** Emily Gendrolis, volunteer, with initial processing by Stephanie Gold

**Access:** Unrestricted

**Copyright:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the MHS Images Services Coordinator.

**Size:** 3.5 linear feet, and oversize materials (located in O.S. Box 14)

**Dates:** 1914 – 1946

**Bulk Dates:** 1930s and 1940s

**Biographical Note:** Rufus Horton Jones, Jr., was born on July 23, 1907, to the Reverend Rufus Horton Jones and Mabel Lord Hersom Jones, in Portland, Maine. He attended Butler Grammar school and Portland High School – both in Portland – before attending Harvard College, earning his degree in French in 1928. He went on to attend Harvard Business School, graduating in 1932. During his time at Harvard, Rufus and his mother exchanged letters filled with updates on collegiate life – particularly his diet.

After completing his formal education, he worked as an editorial assistant at Barron's Magazine in Boston from 1934 to 1935 before entering the advertising world in New York City, where he would spend much of his career. From 1935 to 1940, Rufus worked as an advertising copywriter and publishing assistant at Doremus & Company; until 1942 he worked as an assistant account executive at McCann-Erickson, when he went to work at Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York as Director of Agency Publicity.

In 1940, Rufus married Ruth Sheldon Fosdick, daughter of Frank and Myrtilla Fosdick. Ruth was born January 24, 1909, in Buffalo, New York. After earning her master's in English from Mount Holyoke College in 1933, Ruth taught at various schools in New York, including the Elmwood School and Ten Acre, and worked at McMillian & Co. in the royalty department.

During the summers Ruth and their first child, Debby – and later, little Rufus – would reside at the Jones summer house in West Boothbay Harbor. During this separation, Rufus and Ruth would exchange letters daily, often including newspaper articles or advertisements for items they were interested in purchasing with their letters. Ruth's letters are filled with her daily activities, local gossip, and any trouble the children got themselves into, while Rufus' letters often commented on the political climate of World War II and his opinions and predictions of events and world leaders.

The Jones collection offers several perspectives unique to an upper-class couple living in the 1940s. The correspondence exchanged between Rufus and Ruth provides a portal into the personal lives of a couple very much in love – in their letters they address each other with a variety of pet-names, and sign off each letter with declarations of their mutual love and devotion. Rufus's letters are filled with his opinions on the war, including his predictions of Stalin's intentions for Russia after the war. Ruth shares humorous stories about their children – including little Rufus's wetting of his snowsuit shortly after being zipped into it.

After moving back to Maine from New York, Rufus had continued to work in advertising, namely Simonds Payson Co., where he was vice president and treasurer. For his efforts to promote advertising in Maine he was awarded the Advertising Federation of America's Printers Ink Silver Medal Award in 1963.

Rufus and Ruth had four children (Deborah, Candace, Rufus III, Nathaniel), and were married until Ruth's death in 1973 after a stroke. Ruth authored two children's books and was a trustee of the Portland Public Library. Rufus remarried in 1976, but passed away just six months later.

**Scope and Content:** The Jones Collection is primarily composed of correspondence between Rufus Horton Jones, Jr., and his mother, Mabel Lord Hersom Jones, and between Rufus Horton Jones, Jr., and his wife, Ruth Fosdick Jones. Other items in the collection include photographs, resumes, news articles, and an assortment of family papers belonging to members of Rufus's family, including his grandmother, Dr. Jane Lord Hersom, and his father, Rev. Rufus Horton Jones.

**Processing note:** Letters arrived to MHS in pre-sorted bundles in chronological order. This order has been maintained, however, bundles have been combined to reflect the exchange of those letters – i.e. letters from Rufus Jones and from Ruth Jones have been combined, alternating between senders to create the illusion of conversation and to maintain chronological order throughout the collection.

Newspaper clippings that were included in the letters have been photocopied (to save the letters from acid-related damage) and have been kept with the letter that they accompanied to maintain the authenticity of the correspondence. Some of the photographs sent with letters have been kept with those letters, while others were compiled in separate folders in the boxes with the letters with which they were originally sent.

**In Museum:** 3 canning labels: MS77-12.6-.11

**See also:**

Coll. 199: Jones family papers, 1833-1930, ca. 9 linear ft., consisting primarily of correspondence representing several family generations. Rufus Horton Jones family of Portland, Me.

Coll. 1727: Rufus Jones papers, 1893-1949, 7+ boxes, collection of papers belonging to Rufus H. Jones, Sr. and to Rufus H. Jones, Jr. as well as some material of Mabel Hersom Jones, wife of Rufus Sr.

**Provenance:** Unknown (possibly Estate of Rufus Jones)

## Inventory

### Box 1

- Folder 1: Photographs
- Folder 2: Letters from Rufus to Mabel, 1927
- Folder 3: Theater programs
- Folder 4: Miscellaneous documents and letters, 1917
- Folder 5: Miscellaneous documents and letters
- Folder 6: Letter to Dr. Jane Lord Hersom from Mabel Jones, 1926
- Folder 7: Undated miscellaneous correspondence
- Folder 8: Rufus, 1914 - 1923
- Folder 9: To Rufus, January 1925
- Folder 10: Rufus, 1925
- Folder 11: Rufus, 1925
- Folder 12: Rufus, 1926 - 1930
- Folder 13: Rufus – Clubs and Activities while at Harvard
- Folder 14: Rufus – Notices from Harvard – Academic and Bursar
- Folder 15: Rufus – Bills collected at Harvard
- Folder 16: Rufus – Soliciting materials

### Box 2

- Folder 1: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, September 1924
- Folder 2: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, October 1924
- Folder 3: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, November 1924
- Folder 4: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, December 1924
- Folder 5: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, January 1925
- Folder 6: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, January 1925
- Folder 7: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, February 1925
- Folder 8: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, March 1925
- Folder 9: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, April 1925
- Folder 10: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, May 1925
- Folder 11: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, June 1925
- Folder 12: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, October 1925
- Folder 13: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, November 1925
- Folder 14: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, December 1925
- Folder 14B: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, January 1926
- Folder 15: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, February 1926
- Folder 16: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, March 1926
- Folder 17: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, April 1926
- Folder 18: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, May 1926

Folder 19: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, June 1926  
Folder 20: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, September 1926  
Folder 21: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, October 1926

**Box 3**

Folder 1: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, November 1926  
Folder 2: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, December 1926  
Folder 3: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, January 1927  
Folder 4: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, February 1927  
Folder 5: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, March 1927  
Folder 6: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, April 1927  
Folder 7: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, May 1927  
Folder 8: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, June 1927  
Folder 9: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, October 1927  
Folder 10: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, November 1927  
Folder 11: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, December 1927  
Folder 12: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, January 1928  
Folder 13: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, February 1928  
Folder 14: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, March 1928  
Folder 15: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, April 1928  
Folder 16: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, May, June 1928  
Folder 17: Mabel Jones Correspondence, 1926 – 1928  
Folder 18: To Rufus Jones from Mabel Jones, July 1930  
Folder 19: To Rufus Jones from Mabel Jones, August 1930  
Folder 20: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, October 1930

**Box 4**

Folder 1: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, July 1932  
Folder 2: To Rufus Jones from Mabel Jones, July 1932  
Folder 3: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, August – September 1932  
Folder 4: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, 1932  
Folder 5: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, April – May 1933  
Folder 6: To Rufus Jones from Mabel Jones, May, June 1933  
Folder 7: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, June 1933  
Folder 8: To Rufus Jones from Mabel Jones, September 1933  
Folder 9: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, September 1933  
Folder 10: To Rufus Jones from Mabel Jones, October 1933  
Folder 11: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, October 1933  
Folder 12: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, July, August 1934  
Folder 13: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, October 1935  
Folder 14: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, May 1936  
Folder 15: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, June 1936  
Folder 16: To Mabel Jones from Rufus Jones, August – October 1936

Folder 17: To Ruth Fosdick, September - December 1938

Folder 18: To Ruth Fosdick, 1939

Folder 19: To Ruth Jones from Rufus Jones, August 1940

### **Box 5**

Folder 1: To Rufus from Ruth, August 1940

Folder 2: To Ruth from Rufus, July – August 1941

Folder 3: To Rufus from Ruth, July – August 1941

Folder 4: To Ruth from Rufus, August 1942

Folder 5: To Rufus from Ruth, August – September 1942

Folder 6: To Ruth from Rufus, September 1942

Folder 7: To Rufus from Ruth, July – September 1943

Folder 8: To Ruth from Rufus, July – September 1943

Folder 9: To Rufus from Ruth, July – October 1944

Folder 10: To Ruth from Rufus, July – October 1944

Folder 11: To Ruth from Rufus, July – October 1945

### **Box 6**

Folder 1: To Rufus from Ruth, July – October 1945

Folder 2: To Ruth from Rufus, June – September 1946

Folder 3: To Ruth from Rufus, September – October 1946

Folder 4: To Rufus from Ruth, June to October 1946

Folder 5: Miscellaneous notes to Ruth from Rufus, undated

Folder 6: Photographs, 1943, 1946

Folder 7: Larrabee / Jones Family Tree

Folder 8: Miscellaneous Photographs

Folder 9: Mabel Jones Miscellaneous

Folder 10: Lydia Winslow Jones Miscellaneous

### **Box 7**

Folder 1: Augustus C. Jones Miscellaneous

Folder 2: Rev. Rufus Horton Jones Miscellaneous

Folder 3: “Master” Rufus H. Jones Junior Miscellaneous

Folder 4: Dr. Jane Lord Hersom Miscellaneous

Folder 5: Miscellaneous Jones Papers

Folder 6: Rufus Jones Resumes, 1939

Folder 7: Rufus Jones – Rejection Letters, 1934

Folder 8: Rufus Jones – Correspondence regarding malpractice allegations against mother’s doctor, 1937

Folder 9: Rufus Jones – Low Cost Housing Report

Folder 10: Miscellaneous – name cards, notebooks, baby hair, letters, other

Folder 11: Diaries, 1881,1908 (unknown author)

Folder 12: Calling cards

**O.S. Box 14**

Folder 1: Winslow papers

Folder 2: Mabel Lord Hersom papers

Folder 3: Maps

Folder 4: Augustus Jones

Folder 5: Mabel Jones

Folder 6: John Jones

Folder 7: Larrabee papers

Folder 8: "Smith Hall" photograph and floor plan