

# **Rowland V. Lee Papers**

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



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

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

**2012**

**Revised 2014 February**

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012083>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm82054346>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff  
Revised by Laura Kells with the assistance of Brian McGuire

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Rowland V. Lee Papers

**Span Dates:** 1907-1971

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1917-1959)

**ID No.:** MSS54346

**Creator:** Lee, Rowland V., 1891-1975

**Extent:** 1,200 items ; 22 containers plus 1 oversize ; 9.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Director, producer, actor, and dramatist. Scripts, scrapbooks, photographs, printed matter, and other papers relating to Lee's career in motion pictures as a silent film actor, director, and producer during the period 1917-1959.

## 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

Ince, Thomas H.

Lee, Rowland V., 1891-1975.

### Subjects

Drama--Stories, plots, etc.

Motion picture industry.

Motion picture plays, American.

Motion pictures--Production and direction.

Motion pictures.

Silent films.

World War, 1914-1918.

### Places

California--Description and travel.

### Occupations

Actors.

Dramatists.

Motion picture directors.

Motion picture producers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Rowland V. Lee, director, producer, actor, and dramatist, were given to the Library of Congress by Lee in 1974.

### Processing History

The papers of Rowland V. Lee were housed and described in 1975. The collection was partially processed and the finding aid was revised in 2012.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Rowland V. Lee is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Rowland V. Lee 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, Rowland V. Lee Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1891, Sept. 6	Born, Findlay, Ohio
1911	Left Columbia University, New York, N.Y. to act with the Neill Co., theatrical stock company
circa 1915-1916	Stage actor, New York, N.Y.
1916	Moved to California
1917	Acted in first film, <i>Wild Winship's Widow</i>
1918-1919	Second lieutenant, 132nd Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces, France
1919-1920	Acted in motion pictures
1920	Directed first film, <i>A Thousand to One</i>
1923	Married Eleanor Worthington
1945	Directed last film, <i>Captain Kidd</i>
1958	Producer and writer, <i>The Big Fisherman</i>
1975, Dec. 21	Died, Palm Desert, Calif.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Rowland Vance Lee (1891-1975) span the years 1907-1971, with the bulk of the material dating from 1917 to 1959. They focus on his career in motion pictures, first as a silent film actor in Thomas H. Ince productions, and mainly as a director of more than fifty films, starting in the silent era and continuing into the 1940s. His work as a writer and producer is also documented. Types of material include scripts, scrapbooks of reviews and press coverage of his films, personal photographs and production stills, items compiled for an autobiography, and printed matter.

The largest group of material consists of Lee's scripts for the films he directed. They include *A Thousand to One* (1920), *The Cup of Life* (1921), *Desire* (1923), *Alice Adams* (1923), *Barbed Wire* (1927), *Zoo in Budapest* (1933), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1934), *Mother Carey's Chickens* (1938), *Son of Frankenstein* (1939), and *Tower of London* (1939).

Other items include photographs, clippings and memorabilia Lee compiled to accompany an autobiography that is not part of the collection. These items relate to his career as a silent film actor from 1917-1920, his trip to California in 1916, and his military service during World War I. A photograph album contains photographs taken during the filming of *The Silver Treasure* (released 1926). Included in a group of books is an annotated copy of *Alice Adams* by Booth Tarkington that Lee

used while preparing his film adaptation of the book. There is a large array of material relating to his last film, *The Big Fisherman* (released 1959).

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Scripts
BOX 1	1920-1922 (10 folders)
BOX 2	1923-1925 (8 folders)
BOX 3	1926-1927 (7 folders)
BOX 4	1929-1932 (6 folders)
BOX 5	1933 (3 folders)
BOX 5	1934 (1 folder)
BOX 6	(1 folder)
BOX 6	1935
BOX 6	1936 (1 folder)
BOX 7	(1 folder)
BOX 7	1937-1938 (3 folders)
BOX 8	1939 (5 folders)
BOX 9	(4 folders)
BOX 10	1958 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Miscellany
BOX 10	"Autobiography," related material
BOX 10	Excerpts of letters from 1919, undated
BOX 10	Index, 1971, undated
BOX 10	Photographs and illustrations
BOX 10	Vol. I, 1911-1939 (3 folders)
BOX 10	Vol. II, 1923-1945
BOX 11	Photographs
BOX 11	1920-1940 <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)
BOX 11	1958 (4 folders)
BOX 12	(2 folders)
BOX 12	Press clippings, loose, 1926, 1931
BOX 13	Photograph album, 1924-1925
BOX 13	Photographs, 1958
BOX 13	Printed matter, 1925, 1940

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 14	Scrapbooks
BOX 14	Vol. A, 1920s-1930s
BOX 15	Vol. B, 1923-1925
BOX 16	Vol. C, 1936-1939
BOX 17	Vol. D, 1936
BOX 18	Vol. E, 1958-1959
BOX 19	Printed matter
BOX 19	Miscellaneous, 1935-1938, 1958-1959, 1965 (3 folders)
BOX 19	Published books
BOX 19	1922-1936
BOX 20	1937-1959
BOX 21	1960-1967
BOX 22	1961-1971
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Photographs, 1936 (Container 11)