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Jane Trigére Papers

1926-2021

9 boxes (10 linear feet) Call no.: MS 1220

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Read collection overview

Born in 1948 to Robert Trigére and Jane Ellis, Trigére grew up in New York City and Argentina. Her parents divorced when she was young, and she remained close to both. Trigére attended the Lycee Francais de New York, a preparatory high school that taught in French. She was accepted to Sarah Lawrence College in 1969, which she attended for two years before transferring to the University of Boston to study Architecture. She moved to western Massachusetts in 1992 and became involved in a myriad of community organizations and projects. Notably, in 1997, Trigére helped found the Hatikvah Holocaust Education and Resource Center and served as the first director. Trigére was also active in several Jewish schools and educational centers as both an instructor and a leader. She and her husband, Ken Schoen, lived and operated a rare Jewish Bookstore out of the old firehouse in Deerfield, Massachusetts. She was on several committees dedicated to the preservation of the town, such as the Deerfield Historical Commission and she helped to create other community organizations such as the Deerfield Arts Bank. In 2016, Trigére was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and died in 2018.

The bulk of this collection dates from the time when Jane Trigére finished her undergraduate studies in 1975 to her passing in 2018, although there are some photographs and correspondence from her childhood. The collection includes materials that relate to her education and employment, artwork and writing, and community involvement as well as correspondence and family materials. Within the family materials are items related to Pauline Trigére, a prominent fashion designer.

Background on Jane Trigére

Jane Trigére was an active citizen of the Pioneer Valley. After moving to the area 1992, she became involved in a myriad of community organizations and projects; most of which involved the Jewish Community. Notably, in 1997, Trigére helped found the Hatikvah Holocaust Education and Resource Center and served as the first director. Trigére was also active in several Jewish schools and educational centers as both an instructor and a leader. She and her husband, Ken Schoen, lived and operated a rare Jewish Bookstore out of

the old firehouse in Deerfield, Massachusetts. She was on several committees dedicated to the preservation of the town, such as the Deerfield Historical Commission and she helped to create other community organizations such as the Deerfield Arts Bank.

Jane Trigére's life leading up to her time in Deerfield was filled with diverse experiences. Born in 1948 to Robert Trigére and Jane Ellis, Trigére grew up in New York City and Argentina. Her parents divorced when she was young and she remained close to both. Trigére attended the Lycee Francais de New York, a preparatory high school that taught in French. She was accepted to Sarah Lawrence College in 1969 which she attended for two years before transferring to the University of Boston to study Architecture.

Trigére married Larry Besserman and had two daughters. The family lived in the Adams House at Harvard University where Besserman was a member of the faculty. In the early 1980's, they moved to Kfar Giladi, a kibbutz in Jerusalem, Israel. While living in Jerusalem, Trigére learned Hebrew and became increasingly involved in the Jewish faith. Besserman and Trigére divorced and Trigére moved back to the US with her daughters. She worked as a writer, mostly for the publication, "Women's News."

Throughout her life, Trigére enjoyed a close relationship with her aunt, Pauline Trigére. Pauline and her Brother Robert (Jane Trigére's father) founded a fashion house which became quite successful. Pauline Trigére was a notable fashion designer throughout her life.

In 1991, Trigére met and began a relationship with Ken Schoen who lived in the Pioneer Valley. She decided to move to the area to live with him and the two were married in 1994. Schoen had three children from a previous marriage. The two ran Schoen Books and were active members of the community.

Trigére attended the Jewish Theological Seminary from 2003-2005 and earned her Masters of Arts in Arts and Material Culture. Her studies focused on book binding and other arts related to books. At this point, Trigére began making several art pieces. The most notable of her projects is "Women of the Balcony" which was made in 2006. The project consisted of 3 works made from the fabric of cushions left on the balcony seats of a synagogue that had been closed. This series was featured in articles and displayed in several museums.

Trigére continued making art and being involved in the community. In 2016, Trigére was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and passed in 2018. Knowing she was near the end of her life, Trigére helped write her own eulogy. In it she referred to her treatment as a "negotiation" with cancer rather than a "battle." She explained that she has never been trained in fighting, so in calling it a negotiation she thought she'd have a better chance at winning.

Scope of collection

Jane Trigére kept records throughout most of her adult life. The bulk of this collection is from when she finished her undergraduate studies in 1975 to her passing in 2018. There are some photographs and correspondence from her childhood. Additionally, there are some materials from before she was born that appear to have belonged to one of her parents. There are also a few documents from after her passing such as an obituary and a eulogy.

The collection is divided into 3 major series. The largest is Trigére's personal items which include her schoolwork, employment records, and community involvement. Second is all documents relating to her family including a genealogy project she conducted. The final series is correspondence which include letters written to Trigére from friends and family throughout her life. The family and correspondence series contain materials relating to fashion designer Pauline Trigére who was Jane's aunt.

Jane Trigére is referred to by several names in the materials. It appears her full name is Pauline Jane Trigére, though she seemed to always be called Jane by family and friends. She changed her last name to Besserman when she married her first husband. While in Israel, she appears to have adopted a Jewish name which is Hanna Besserman. After her divorce from Larry Besserman, she changed her surname back to Trigére and kept that name throughout the rest of her life.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Personal 1950-2018 5 boxes

This is the largest of the series and includes all personal documents relating to Jane Trigére's identity, education, employment, artwork, and community involvement. There is significant overlap between her employment, artwork and community activities. This series is divided into several sections:

- · Personal materials
- · Educational materials
- · Employment materials

- Artwork and writing
- Community involvement

Personal materials include documents related to Trigére's identity such as government issued ID's, photographs, and passports. This section also has photographs, journals, and calendars. The educational documents span from the time she was in primary school through receiving her M.A. although the bulk of materials are from her post-secondary education and consists mainly of papers and assignments she wrote for various courses as well as portfolios and reports on internships. Artwork and writing includes art projects, plans, and creative writings. Later in life, Trigére had some notable pieces such as "Women of the Balcony," but she engaged in arts and creative writing throughout her life. Her employment materials include resumes, portfolios, and any paperwork related to paid work she conducted. Finally, the community involvement materials are all related to the various organizations and initiatives she took part in during her life. There are meeting agendas, regulations, event fliers, and a myriad of other documents relating to her community involvement.

<u>Series 2: Family</u> 1947-2013 1.25 boxes

This series pertains to Jane Trigére's family. Trigére kept documents of her family including birth records, divorce decrees and articles. There are several materials that relate to her husband, Ken Schoen. This includes some report cards and resumes. In this series there is also documents and article relating to Trigére and Schoen's marriage. Among these is the program for their wedding in 1994. The couple made a mockup of a newspaper titled "Union News."

The other significant portion of the series are materials related to Pauline Trigére, Jane's aunt. Pauline and Robert Trigére (Jane's father) founded a fashion house together in the 1940's. Pauline Trigére continued her career as a prominent fashion designer and gained considerable notoriety. Pauline and Jane shared a close relationship. Materials relating to Pauline Trigére include marketing materials, articles, and a length of fabric with her moniker.

Series 3: Correspondence 1926-2014 0.75 boxes

Jane Trigére saved correspondence from throughout her lifetime. Beginning in the 1950's when she was staying in New York with relatives while her mother was in Argentina and carrying through to her emails with friends and coworkers in the late 2010's. There are a significant number of correspondence from both her mother and her father. Trigére's parents divorced in 1951 and both kept contact with their daughter.

Trigére was fluent in French and around one third to one half of the correspondence are written in French. There are also a few in Hebrew while the rest are English. There are also many letters between Trigére and her aunt Pauline. Among the correspondence, are letters which Trigére herself wrote and sent to family members.

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undated Box 9

Series 3: Correspondence

1926-2016

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Chevlowe, Susan

undated Box 7: 35

Correspondence: Joan

undated Box 7: 36

Correspondence: unknown author and recipient

undated Box 7: 37

Correspondence: Gussie and Josie to Trigére, Jane

undated Box 7: 38

Correspondence: Schoen, Rebecca to Besserman, Rachel

undated Box 7: 39

Correspondence: Lelleitir, Emanud

undated Box 7: 40

Correspondence: Deb to Trigére, Jane

undated Box 7: 41

Correspondence: Burick, Marcea to Schoen, Ken

undated Box 7: 42

Correspondence: Trigére, sioma to Radinsky, Lazare

1926-1932 Box 7: 43

Correspondence: Trigére, Robert to Trigére, Jane

1949 Box 7: 44

Correspondence: Kleiuman, Roberta to Trigére, Celia

1954 Box 7: 45

Correspondence: Gussie and Josey to Trigére, Jane

1956 Box 7: 46

Correspondence: Ellis, Jane to Trigére, Jane

1956-1957 Box 7: 47

Correspondence: Ellis, Jane to Trigére, Jane

ca.1957 Box 7: 48

Correspondence: "Papa" to Trigére, Jane

1957 Box 7: 49

Correspondence: Phillips, Steff to Trigére, Jane

1957 Box 7: 50

Correspondence: Ellis, Jane to Trigére, Jane

1957 Box 7: 51

Correspondence: Amesbury, Cecile to Trigére, Jane

1957 Box 7: 52

Correspondence: postcards from family

1957 Box 7: 53

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1957-1966 Box 7: 54

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1957-1966 Box 7: 55

Correspondence: Ellis, Jane

1966 Box 7: 56

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

2005 Box 7: 57

Correspondence: Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1970-1984 Box 7: 58

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1973-1982 Box 7: 59

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1974-1980 Box 7: 60

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1974-1981 Box 7: 61

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1975-1981 Box 7: 62

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

2005 Box 7: 63

Correspondence: Besserman, Hanna

2005 Box 7: 64

Correspondence: Whitman, Ruth to Besserman, Hanna

2005 Box 7: 65

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1980 Box 7: 66

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Ellis, Jane

1981 Box 7: 67

Correspondence: Trigére, Sioma to Trigére, Jane

1981 Box 7: 68

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane family update

1988 Box 7: 69

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Karen

1989 Box 7: 70

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane; Linden, Rick; Schwab, Joel; Urbas, Stanley; Palvin, Richard; Moline, Jack;

Isaak, Daniel

1986 Box 7: 71

Correspondence: Cynthia to Trigére, Jane

1990 Box 7: 72

Correspondence: Chris to Trigére, Jane

ca.1990 Box 7: 73

Correspondence: Solomon, Helen Gray to Trigére, Jane

1990 Box 7: 74

Correspondence: Perle to Trigére, Jane

1990 Box 7: 75

Correspondence: Jeb to Trigére, Jane

1990

Box 7: 76

Correspondence: Trigére, Terrie

1991 Box 7: 77

Correspondence: Thorins, Romaneche

1991 Box 7: 78

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Schoen, Ken

1991 Box 7: 79

Correspondence: Schoen, Ken to Trigére, Jane

1990-1992 Box 7: 80-84

Correspondence: Thaller, Ofer to Trigére, Hanna

1992 Box 7: 85

Correspondence: Avui-Vuid Hasalil, Johar and Yehuda to Trigére, Jane

1990 Box 7: 86

Correspondence: Farewell cards and letters to Trigére, Jane

1992 Box 7: 87

Correspondence: Wechsler, Renée

1992 Box 7: 88

Correspondence: no name birthday card

1992 Box 7: 89

Invitation: Bruderlein, Louis and Micheline

1990 Box 7: 90

Corresondence: Low, Francis (Gomez Foundation for Mill House

1992 Box 7: 91

Correspondence: Sue to Trigére, Jane

1993 Box 7: 92

Correspondence: Evelyn to Trigére, Jane

1993 Box 7: 93-94

Correspondence: Basevitz, Pesach

1993 Box 7: 95

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Temie, Tamar and Yudit

1993 Box 7: 96

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Andy

ca.1993 Box 7: 97

Correspondence: Lika and Emannuel

1994 Box 7: 98

Correspondence: Shelie to Trigére, Jane

1994 Box 7: 99

Correspondence: Ellis, John G. Jr.

1994 Box 7: 100

Correspondence: Anita to Trigére, Jane

1994 Box 7: 101

Correspondence: Steiner, Betty

1996

Box 7: 102-103

Correspondence: Wechsler, Renée

1994 Box 7: 104

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane RE: resigning from Hatikvah

1999

Box 7: 105

Correspondence: Cohen, David to Trigére, Jane

1999 Box 7: 106

Correspondence: Goodman, E.

1999 Box 7: 107

Correspondence: Noel to Trigére, Jane

1999 Box 7: 108

Correspondence: Merlin, Jacques

2000 Box 7: 109

Correspondence: Maía (Helles)

2000 Box 7: 110

Correspondence: Schou, Anita

2001 Box 7: 111

Correspondence: Merlin, Jacques

2001 Box 7: 112

Correspondence: Sullivan, Tracy

2001 Box 7: 113

Correspondence: Kissiloff, Trudi

2002 Box 7: 114

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Sister of the Women's Chevre

2004 Box 7: 115

Correspondence: Mann, Vivian

2004 Box 7: 116

Correspondence: Callahan, Ruth

2005 Box 7: 117

Correspondence: Mann, Barbara

2005 Box 7: 118

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Blank, Debra Reed

2005 Box 7: 119

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Pietrogallo, Katy Artel

2007 Box 7: 120

Correspondence: Whitaker, Jan to Trigére, Jane

2007 Box 7: 121

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane

2008 Box 7: 122

Correspondence: Merlin, Jacques and Selma

2010 Box 7: 123

Correspondence: Trigére, Jand and Schoen, Ken

2012 Box 7: 124

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Tov, Lika and Schoen, Ken

2016 Box 7: 125

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Graubart, Phil

2016 Box 7: 126

Correspondence: Larry

2016 Box 7: 127 Correspondence: Pauline Trigére

1968-2001

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1968 Box 7: 128

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Trigére, Pauline

ca.1968 Box 7: 129

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline and Triére, Jane

1968 Box 7: 130

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Trigére, Pauline

1971-1978 Box 7: 131

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1975-1976 Box 7: 132

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1978-1979 Box 7: 133

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1980-1983 Box 7: 134

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1984-1986 Box 7: 135

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Pualine, Andy and Len

1987 Box 7: 136

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1988 Box 7: 137

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1991 Box 7: 138

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Trigére, Pauline

1991-1992 Box 7: 139

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane to Trigére, Pauline

1992 Box 7: 135

Correspondence: Lucille Subject: Trigére, Pauline

1993 Box 7: 136

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

1996 Box 7: 137

Correspondence: Kollek, Teddy to Trigére, Pauline

2000 Box 7: 138

Correspondence: Trigére, Pauline

2000 Box 7: 139

Correspondence: Trigére, Jane RE: Trigére, Pauline event

2001 Box 7: 140

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Ken Schoen

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Search terms

Subjects

- Deerfield (Mass.)
- Fashion designers
- Jewish Theological Seminary of America
- Jewish art
- Pioneer Valley (Mass.)
- Trigére, Pauline

Contributors

- Trigére, Jane [main entry]
- Schoen, Ken
- Trigére, Pauline
- Trigére, Robert Sioma
- Ellis, Jane

Genres and formats

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Personal Papers
- Photographs
- Portfolios (groups of works)
- Printed ephemera
- Research (documents)
- Writings

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