

**The New York Public Library
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

**Joe Laurie Jr. Drawings Collection
1914 - 1952 and undated**

***T-VIM 2013-208**

Summary

Title: Joe Laurie Jr. Drawings Collection, 1914 - 1952 and undated

Size: 2.9 linear feet (1 box)

Preferred citation: Joe Laurie Jr. Drawings Collection, *T-VIM 2013-208, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Biographical note

Comedian and author Joe Laurie Jr. (ca. 1894-1954) was born on the Lower East Side of New York City. He entered vaudeville in his teens, later performing in a number of shows on Broadway and across the U.S. Laurie and his first wife, Aleen Bronson, performed together in vaudeville until 1918; they had a son, Bryant. In 1922, Laurie married June Butcher and they lived in Forest Hills, N.Y. Laurie was a star of the radio version of *Can You Top This?* He was the author of numerous vaudeville skits, screenplays, radio and television programs, plays, and syndicated columns, as well as the author of 2 books on vaudeville: *Show Biz, from Vaude to Video* (with Abel Green) (Holt, 1951); *Vaudeville: From the Honkytonks to the Palace* (Holt, 1953). After a long illness, Laurie died at St. Clare's Hospital, New York City at about age 61 (sources vary).

Scope and content note

Original caricatures and sketches, mostly black and white and mostly of Joe Laurie Jr. There are also cartoons, comic strips, etchings, reproductions, and paste ups of 2 syndicated newspaper features by Laurie, "Heads and Tales" and "Pen-Grins." The Friars Club and the Lambs Club are represented in several pieces. Artists include W.A. Carlson, Gregory d'Alessio, Jerry Doyle, George Fayko, Ving Fuller, Leo Garel, Frank Godwin, Rube Goldberg, Vic Guinness, Will B. Johnstone, Darrell McClure, George McManus, and Zito Vincenzo; most pieces are signed.

Arrangement note

By format, then by artist.

Container list

Original Drawings, 1914 - 1952 and undated

By W.A. Carlson, ca. 1930s - 1940s

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	7	Cartoon Christmas Cards, ca. 1940s-1950s Includes 3 items: 2 Christmas cards, 1 with duplicate; signed.
1	7	Cartoon - Joe Laurie Jr. and Dahme, ca. 1930s Includes ink on stock; "W.A. Carlson 50-50 Dahme" on bottom.
1	2	By Gregory d'Alessio, 1952 Mar. 13 Includes charcoal on paper sketches of Laurie with bow tie and cigar; both are signed and drawings are very similar.
		By Jerry Doyle, ca. 1940s
1	7	Cartoon - <i>Can You Top This?</i> - Joe Laurie Jr. - <i>You Can't Top Him</i> - <i>He's Tops</i> (Includes ink on stock; signed.)
1	10	Political Cartoon - <i>The Tourist of Today</i> Includes ink on stock political cartoon with inset drawing of Joe Laurie Jr. ; signed "To Joe & June - Remember Mexico?;" "N.Y. Post - Rec. Syn" also on cartoon.
1	14	By [Charles J.?] Dunn - Comic Strips on Vaudeville - "Done by Dunn", ca. 1930s Includes 2 black and white with blue comic strips on stock.
1	2	By "J.M.F.", ca. 1944 Includes pencil sketch of Joe Laurie Jr.; <i>Can You Top This</i> commercial copy on verso.
		By George Fayko, 1936 Aug. - 1945 Aug.
1	13	Caricature of Joe Laurie Jr. - <i>A Busy Day at Fire Island</i> , 1936 Aug. Includes ink with brown on illustration board; signed.
1	2	Letter and Envelope with Caricature of Joe Laurie Jr., 1945 Aug. Includes handwritten letter (in blue pencil) and envelope with ink caricature.
1	5	By F. Fenton - Painted Caricature - Laurie & Aleen, 1914 Includes color on board painting of 2 small children in footed pajamas huddling; signed; fragile condition.
1	12	By Ving Fuller - Birthday Card Cartoon for Friars Club 25th Anniversary, 1929 Includes ink on stock cartoon; signed "Happy Birthday from a New Member - Ving Fuller."
1	11	By Leo Garel - Caricature Sketch of Joe Laurie Jr., ca. 1940s? Includes black and brown sketch on paper; signed "To Joe - Leo Garel."
1	4	By Frank Godwin - Etchings, ca. 1943 Includes 6 etchings; signed; "Cuba," "Havana," "Trinidad" on 3 etchings.
1	12	By Rube Goldberg - Birthday Card Cartoon for Friars Club 25th Anniversary, 1929 Includes ink on stock cartoon; signed "Happy Birthday from Rube Goldberg."
		By Vic Guinness, 1942 - 1944 and undated
1	2	Anniversary Cartoon, 1942 Includes ink on paper (U.S. Marine Corps stationery) drawing with anniversary and birthday wishes; "signed" by Lauren Guinness.
1	2	Envelope, 1944 Aug. 11 Includes Navy Department envelope with ink caricature of Laurie; "Capt. Guinness" printed over return address; "Post Graduate Hospital" handprinted in ink under caricature.
1	15	"Finis - Burlesk Revel", 1937 Apr. 16 Includes color on illustration board; signed; top left and lower right corners torn and taped.
1	2	"Joe Laurie Jr. - "Tops of All Great Guys" - Your Pal - W. Vic Guinness", ca. 1930s
1	12	By [Walter] Hoban - Caricature of Joe Laurie Jr., ca. 1930s Includes ink on stock; signed; torn on bottom; pencil notes on verso.

- 1 10 By Will B. Johnstone - *Going into Reverse*, ca. 1930s
Includes ink on stock; pencil notes; signed; "Saturday" also on comic strip.
- 1 2 By Joe Laurie Jr. - *Sketches of Himself*, ca. 1930s - 1940s
Includes 4 pencil and ink sketches on 2 leaves; 1 is signed "Myself by Joe Laurie Jr."
- 1 14 By Darrell McClure - *Comic Strip with Little Annie Rooney and Zero*, 1939
Includes ink on stock with blue; signed; "To Joe - from Brandon" also on comic strip.
- 1 10 By George McManus - *Comic Strip on Vaudeville with Jiggs*, 1942 Nov. 15
Includes ink on stock; signed "To My Friend Joe Laurie, Jr." on comic strip.
- 1 6 By [Vincente (?)] Minnelli - *Painting of Joe Laurie Jr.*, ca. 1930s
Includes color on stock (?); matted; signed "Minnelli" (possibly Vincente).
- 1 11 By Jean Pastores - *Caricature of Joe Laurie Jr.*, ca. 1940s?
Includes black and white drawing on paper; signed "To Joe Laurie Jr. with Best Regards."
- 1 8 By Zito Vincenzo - *Caricature of Man as Dog; George Bancroft, Joe Laurie Jr.*, ca. 1940s
Includes 3 pencil and charcoal sketches and caricature; signed; 1 with "To June and Joe with Laughs - Lester;" drawing of George Bancroft also has sketch on verso.
Unsigned, ca. 1920s - 1940
- 1 13 Artwork - *Lambs Club Gambol* - "If You Don't Want Her, I Want Her - David Warfield, Collie," [1940 Mar.] **(Includes ink on illustration board.)**
- 1 14 *Comic Strips - Krazy Kat*, ca. 1920s?
includes 2 ink on stock comic strips, 1 pertaining to gravity; 1 with wagon of bricks.
Envelopes
- 1 11 *Caricature of Joe Laurie Jr. with Hat and Cigar*, ca. 1930s
Includes black crayon? drawing on 15 x 21" manila envelope; "P.S. - Picture of Norworth" also on envelope.
- 1 11 *Drawing of Woman in Bathing Suit and Caricature of Joe Laurie Jr. with Hat and Cigar*, ca. 1930s
Includes ink caricatures on 21 x 16" manila envelope; "Deliver to Lambs Club - 44 bet. 6 +7 - N.Y." also on envelope.
- Reproductions, Prints, ca. 1928 - ca. 1947 and undated
- 1 1 *Peter Arno Cartoons*, ca. 1930s-1940s
Includes 12 black and white printed cartoons (14 x 14 cm.) on paper; 1 is a duplicate.
- 1 3 *Big-Jawed Loafers of Gastrolaters - Two Figures; One on Donkey*, undated
Includes black and white print on paper.
- 1 3 *Jean de Bosschere (sp?) He Would Give It a Shove with His Leg*, undated
Includes color print on paper of figure on Noah's Ark.
- 1 3 *Vic Guinness - Lambs Gambol - Introducing Me New Champ "Tyrolian Gaxton" - William Gaxton and Joe Laurie Jr.*, 1936 Nov. 15 **(Includes black print on paper.)**
- 1 9 *Heads and Tales - Paste Up of Short Biographies of Show Business Personalities by Joe Laurie Jr. with Drawings by Vic Guinness*, ca. 1947
Includes 3 black and white stock panels with text and illustration attached to illustration board.
- 1 3 *Heads of Joe Laurie Jr. and Unidentified Man with Cowboy Hat and Pipe*, ca. 1930s? **(Includes 2 black prints of drawings on paper.)**
- 1 9 *Pen-Grins - Cartoon Paste Up of Panels with Humorous Quips by Joe Laurie Jr.*, ca. 1940
Includes 2 illustration boards with 16 black and white stock panels attached (8 on each).
- 1 3 *Satyr Eating Figure*, undated **(Includes print of black drawing on paper.)**
- 1 12 *Seasonal Greetings from Benjamin and Bio DeCasseres - 1928-1929*, ca. 1928
Includes black print mounted on paper with blue background, mounted on board.
- 1 3 *Thanks a Lot! - Caricature of Unidentified Man in Hospital Bed*, ca. 1930s
Includes black and white print on paper; illegible signature.

