

Catharine Cole Collection
1853-1898

CATHARINE COLE (1853-1898)

Collection: NAC-327

Size: one cubic foot

Accession Number: 02-015

Location: ~~IX~~ ~~233~~ 233 ✓

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:

Donation by Catherine Field Bacon

RESTRICTIONS:

None

PROCESSOR:

Claire Thorin, Newcomb Class of 2004

ORGANIZATION AND ARRANGEMENT:

The material is organized into five categories: Biographical Information, Photographs, Correspondence, Published Materials, and Miscellaneous.

NOTE:

A tape from Cole's descendent, Catherine Field Bacon, is in the Oral History File.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Catharine Cole, whose actual name was Martha R. Field, was an extraordinary woman of her time. Cole was one of the South's first female journalists and a crusader for women's right to work and prevention of the cruelty to animals in New Orleans. She helped start New Orleans' Training School for Nurses, the Women's Exchange, kindergartens in New Orleans, and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Cole published her first article in the New Orleans Republican in 1869 when she was fifteen years old. She continued writing in such newspapers as the San Francisco Post, New Orleans Republican, Commercial Bulletin, New Orleans Times-Democrat, and Daily Picayune for the rest of her life.

Cole wrote such columns as the successful "Social Melange," "Catharine Cole's Intercepted Letters," and "Over the Tea Cups" of the Daily Picayune. In 1881, Cole toured the entire state on Louisiana and sent her findings back articles on her findings. Her trip gave her much material for short stories and further articles, as well as made her an authority on the resources of Louisiana. In 1887, she went to cover the Irish Troubles and consorted with such patriots as Sir John Dillon and William O'Brien. Cole used the information that she gained on her travels when she attended the World Fair of 1893 in Chicago, where she was on the Board of Awards. With the accumulated fatigue from her trips and the effort of writing a daily column her health broke.

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Cole went to Germany for special treatment and several operations for paralysis agitans, but her condition worsened. Remarkably, in 1897 she was able to write Catharine Cole's Book, which was a compilation of her newspaper articles and thoughts. Catharine Cole died on December 20, 1898 when she was forty-four years old.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The bulk of this collection is published articles, booklets, and books on the subject of New Orleans and related topics. The material, which covers the period of the early 1880s to 1898, may be helpful to researchers interested in the subject of New Orleans in the late 1800s.

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I. Biographical Information

A. Newspaper Clippings

1. article from the Daily Picayune on May 16, 1976 on Cole as an "Avid Crusader from Women's Jobs"
2. article from the Daily Picayune on May 8, 1904 on a concert to raise money for a memorial
3. obituary for Cole on December 24, 1898
4. obituary for Cole in 1898

B. Written Materials On

1. section on Cole in Some Notables of New Orleans from 1896 by Mary W. Mount
2. Flo Field's, Cole's daughter, Biography of Catharine Cole
3. Flo Field's Biographical Tribute to Catherine Cole
4. notes on Cole's life by Flo Field
5. paper on Cole by a Newcomb College student

C. Miscellaneous

1. map of the cemetery Cole is buried in and a picture of her gravestone

II. Photographs

- A. portrait of Cole
- B. portrait of Cole with her signature
- C. portrait of Cole's father, Walter Marion Smallwood
- D. copy of a portrait of Walter Marion Smallwood
- E. copy of a portrait of Cole's mother, Emmeline Smallwood
- F. family portrait showing a young Emmeline Smallwood
- G. two photographs of Cole's house on Burdette Street

III. Correspondence

- A. letter from Ida N. Mazurette, on March 9, 1968, to Flo Field that quotes from an article Cole had written about her visit to Northern Louisiana in 1892
- B. letter from Erma E. Beasley, on October 3, 1972, to Sydney Field, Cole's grandson, that recounts an incident on the streetcar when Cole's "old negro" was saved from a rioting mob as he took her copy to the Daily Picayune

IV. Published Materials

A. Articles

1. album of Cole's newspaper clippings of her travels and columns from the 1880s to 1890s

B. Booklets

1. Summer Land: A Little Guide to New Orleans that was reprinted in 1916
2. The Story of the Old French Market

C. Books

1. Catharine Cole's Book from 1897, which is a compilation of her newspaper articles and thoughts

D. Poems

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1. "New Orleans" from circa 1890

V. Miscellaneous

- A. poem "To Catharine Cole on the Eve of her Departure of Europe, May 1889"
- B. copy of a souvenir program from a benefit for Cole on June 29, 1894
- C. collection of aphorisms of Cole's
- D. dinner card featuring remarks made by Cole
- E. letter from Catherine Field Bacon, Cole's great-granddaughter, regarding the collection
- F. inventory of items concerning Cole
- G. information on Elizabeth Smallwood Shield, Cole's sister