

Flora Field Collection
1876-1972

FLORA FIELD (1876-1972)

Collection: NAC-328

Size: one cubic foot

Accession Number: 02-015

Location: J3

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The material is organized into six categories: Biographical Information, Published Materials, Unpublished Materials, Correspondence, Photographs, and Miscellaneous.

NOTE:

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

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Flora Field, who preferred the sobriquet Flo, was an exceptional woman of her time. Field was a distinguished journalist, writer, playwright, and tour guide to the French Quarter. Furthermore, Field was made an Official Historian of New Orleans by Mayor Victor Schiro.

Field published her first article in the Times-Democrat in 1893, shortly after she withdrew from Newcomb Academy, which she attended from 1891 to 1893. She continued writing in such newspapers as the New York Times, Times-Democrat, and Times Picayune for a large portion of her life.

Field wrote such columns as the successful "Round About Gossip," "Aunt Pemberton-Wicklow," and the "Jones Family" of the Times-Democrat. She later relocated to the Times-Picayune, where she wrote a daily women's column called "Eve Up to Date," reported meetings, and wrote Sunday features.

Field wrote many short stories and verses that appear in such leading magazines as the "Delineator" and "Harper's Bazaar." In addition, she also wrote the play, "A La Creole," which is a whimsical reflection of Creole life in New Orleans, in 1927.

Eventually, Field left the literary world and became the "official" tour guide and interpreter of the French Quarter. She was perfect for the job because she knew the old city, its people, and its particularities.

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In 1972, Field stated to compile a book of her recollections. But, she died before she could complete it.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The bulk of this collection is published articles, booklets, letters, and paraphernalia on the subject of New Orleans and related topics. The material, which covers the period of the 1890s to 1972, may be helpful to researchers interested in the subject of New Orleans in this era.

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I. Biographical Information

A. Newspaper Articles

1. article from Leslie's Weekly on February 12, 1903 that describes Field as one of the "Southern Women Who Have Made Their Mark in Journalism"
2. article that calls Field a "Distinguished Little Newspaper Woman"
3. article from the Times-Picayune on February 27, 1927 that honors Field
4. copy of an article on April 12, 1950 on Field's early childhood
5. article from the New Orleans Item on May 7, 1950 that announces an event where Field will be honored
6. article from the Times-Picayune that discusses a Christmas program Field will be participating in
7. article from the Vieux Carre Courier on November 12, 1965 that describes Field's carriage ride with Robert Preston
8. article that includes Field as a woman "Given Recognition for Community Service"
9. article from the Times-Picayune on May 22, 1966 on "N.O. Women Writers of Gay Nineties Cited"
10. article from the New Orleans States-Item on December 20, 1966 that characterizes Field as part of the "Authorship Racket" of New Orleans
11. article from the New Orleans States-Item on June 11, 1969 on Field's career
12. article from the New Orleans States-Item that discusses Field and Robert Preston's meeting
13. article from the Times-Picayune on March 7, 1971 on Field and her mother, Catharine Cole
14. article from the New Orleans States-Item in 1971 that describes Field as a "Lady of Grace"
15. article from the Times-Picayune that depicts Field as a "Most Unforgettable Character"
16. article from the New Orleans States-Item on May 24, 1972 that celebrates Field's ninety-sixth birthday
17. article from the Times-Picayune in February 1972 that calls Field a "Beautiful Activist"
18. obituary for Field in 1972

B. Magazine Articles

1. article in Regina Rosarii that discusses the "Unique Personalities" of Field as a storyteller, artiste, and writer
2. article in Dixie, the Times-Picayune States Roto Magazine, in 1951 that mentions Field as an essential part of Vieux Carre life

C. Materials Written On

1. Sydney Field's, Field's son, Biographical Notes on Flo Field

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2. Sydney Field's Biographical Sketch on Flo Field
3. Sydney Field's Tribute Speech to Flo Field

D. Miscellaneous

1. diary from the summer of 1889, while traveling in Europe with her mother, Catharine Cole
2. marriage certificate to Oskar von Cassel
3. engagement book from 1904
4. diary from 1926
5. draft of will from July 30, 1967, which leaves all of Field's possessions to Sydney Field
6. agreement with Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, Inc. for Field's funeral arrangements

II. Published Materials

A. Newspaper Articles

1. album of Field's newspaper articles, that include several entries of her columns "Round About Gossip," "Aunt Pemberton-Wicklow," and the "Jones Family" of the Times-Democrat
2. article from February 12, 1911
3. article from the Times-Picayune on April 9, 1911 from the "Roundabout Gossip" series
4. article from the Times-Picayune on November 24, 1912 on the Eskimo explorer, Vilhjalmur Stefansson
5. article from the Times-Picayune on November 15, 1914 on a soldier who went to Old Miss
6. article from the Times-Picayune on December 13, 1914 on the "Pullman Efficiency School for Porters"
7. article from the Times-Picayune on December 27, 1914 on the "Trolley Troubles"
8. article from the Times-Picayune on January 24, 1915 on gypsies
9. article from the Times-Picayune on February 7, 1915 on how the "Carnival Circus Hibernates in New Orleans"
10. article from the Times-Picayune on February 28, 1915 on the "US Parcel Post"
11. article from the Times-Picayune on March 14, 1915 on "Louisiana's Great Dog of War"
12. article from the Times-Picayune on March 21, 1915 on how horses and mules are being shipped to "Warring Armies"
13. article from the Times-Picayune on April 25, 1915 on the "Fierce Pursuit and capture of Marshall Ney Alley"
14. article from the Times-Picayune on May 2, 1915 on "Francisco R. Villavicencio and Spirit of Mexico"

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15. article from the Times-Picayune on September 26, 1915 on "Weather and the New Orleans Weather Bureau"
 16. article from the Times-Picayune on October 3, 1915 on "Children, Parents' Clubs, and Playgrounds"
 17. article from the Times-Picayune on November 14, 1915 on the "Work of the Canal Street Traffic-Police Squad"
 18. article from the Times-Picayune on January 23, 1916 on the "Deaf Mute and New Orleans Public Schools"
 19. article from the Times-Picayune on March 26, 1916 on the "Romance and Reality of Houseboat Life"
 20. article on the "Duties of Restaurant Chaperones and Hotel Chatelaines"
 21. article from the Times-Picayune on April 30, 1916 on the "Life and Work of Telegraph Messenger Boys"
 22. article from the Times-Picayune on May 14, 1916 on barges and tugboats
 23. article from the Times-Picayune on June 4, 1916 on the preservation of the New Orleans' cathedral
 24. article from the Times-Picayune on January 7, 1917 on "Love and Knowledge of Gems and Hard Stones," a volume by Helen Bartlett Bridgman
 25. article from the Times-Picayune on April 20, 1917 on the career of Honore Willis
 26. article from the Times-Picayune on May 13, 1917 on "Recruiting for the United States Marine Corps"
 27. article from the Times-Picayune on June 3, 1917 on "Louisiana State University and War Work"
 28. article on the different hats of the world
 29. article from the Times-Picayune on August 5, 1917 on "Post Office Jobs"
 30. article from the Times-Picayune on October 7, 1917 on "The Little Toy Man"
 31. article from the Item-Tribune on May 6, 1928 on a murder
 32. copy of an article on "Some Famous Combats"
- B. Magazine Articles and Short Stories
1. article in Harlequin on the proper practices of debutantes
 2. short story in the Delineator in October 1918 called "Lavinia"
 3. short story in the Delineator in November 1919 on "Mister Montague"
 4. short story in the Delineator in May 1921 on "Mister Montague's Premises"

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5. short story in Keynote in the Spring of 1957 called "Letters and Papers of Flo Cole" written by Field's granddaughter, Catherine Field

C. Booklets

1. copy of Rue Royal 1930, which was a tour booklet to the French

Quarter

D. Plays

1. "A La Creole," which is a satirical play about the French Quarter in New Orleans, from 1952

III. Unpublished Materials

A. Short Stories

1. "The Secret"
2. "Bayou Stories"
3. "New Orleans Memories"
4. "Dr. Frank Rizza"
5. "We Guide Them to Dreams"
6. "The Most unforgettable Character I've Met"
7. "Mr. Montague"
8. "Cajun Stories"

B. Poems

1. "Spring Song"
2. "Mexico"

C. Anecdotes

1. on George Broadhurst
2. on Roswell Field

IV. Correspondence

A. Letters from Field

1. letters to Sydney Field

B. Letters to Field

1. letters from Lyle Saxon
2. letters from Gelette Burgess
3. letters from Bill Spratling
4. letters from Oskar von Cassel, Field's husband
5. miscellaneous letters

V. Photographs

A. photographs of Field

B. photographs of several unspecified trips that Field went on

C. photographs of Field and son, Sydney Field

D. assorted photographs of assorted people and locations

VI. Miscellaneous

A. "A La Creole," a play by Field, Items

1. Memorabilia from "A La Creole"
 - a. program from a production in March 1927

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- b. program from a production in 1955
- c. photograph of a scene from the play
- 2. Newspaper Articles
 - a. article from the Item Tribute on February 13, 1927 that describes "A La Creole" as a "Drama of the Frail, Yet Beautiful"
 - b. article from 1927 that announces that "A La Creole" will be the first News Orleans play to be presented at the Little Theater
 - c. article that asserts "A La Creole" is like looking behind a mask into Field's soul
 - d. copy of an article on March 31, 1929 that states "A La Creole" is to be given a trial run in Philadelphia
 - e. copy of an article from the New Orleans States-Item on January 16, 1952 that discusses the revival run of "A La Creole"
 - f. copy of an article from 1952 announcing the opening of "A La Creole" for a seven-night run at the patio Playhouse
 - g. article reports the second debut of "A La Creole," as well as likens it to Tennessee William's "A Streetcar Named Desire"
 - h. article states that "A La Creole" is an "excellent play in conception and almost as excellent in execution"
 - i. copy of an article in New Orleans Item on April 10, 1953 declares "A La Creole" a gem
 - j. article from New Orleans Item on May 10, 1953 says that "A La Creole" may "lack somewhat of a freshness, of a novelty" to Orleanians
 - k. copy of an article in the New Orleans Item on September 29, 1955 states that "A La Creole" is "as genuinely local in flavor as cane syrup and gumbo"
 - l. copy of an article in New Orleans Item on October 2, 1955 declares "A La Creole" a New Orleans classic
- B. Tin Can Band Adventures
 - 1. Account of the Adventure by Field
 - 2. copy of an article stating that the "Sleepy City Challenged" when the band came to Philadelphia
 - 3. Sydney Field's Account of the Tin Can Band Adventure
 - 4. several photographs of the band
- C. Various Notes