

Guide to the Richebourg McWilliams Collection

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Richebourg Gaillard McWilliams, 1901-1986

Title: Richebourg McWilliams Collection

Dates: 1698-1993 (Bulk 1800s)

Quantity: 12 linear feet

Abstract: Collection features various writings, including fiction, short stories, research, and translations, microfilm, photographic negatives, prints, logs, maps, and journals.

Accession: 319-1996 (96-09-319)

Languages: English, French

Biographical Note:

Richebourg Gaillard McWilliams was born in Oak Hill, Alabama, on June 24, 1901. He received his early education at a local school with a curriculum centered on Latin and mathematics. In 1922, McWilliams earned a B.S. in Biology from the University of Alabama, followed by an M.A. from the same institution in 1925. To support his graduate studies, he taught Spanish and French at the university. In the summer of 1927, McWilliams studied German at the University of Wisconsin. Between 1927–1928 and 1934–1935, he continued his graduate work at Harvard University, earning a second master's degree in English in 1933.

McWilliams maintained a long career in academia and literature. From 1928 to 1942, he served as an assistant, associate, and full professor at **Birmingham-Southern College**, where he also held the positions of Chair of the English Department and Head of the Humanities Division. Following his retirement in 1970, McWilliams spent two years as a Research Professor at the **University of South Alabama**. A noted scholar of Gulf Coast history, his major publications include *Fleur de Lys and Calumet* (1953) and *Iberville's Gulf Coast Journal* (1981). His contributions were recognized in 1954 with the *Palmes Académiques* and the Louisiana Library Association's Certificate of Merit. Richebourg Gaillard McWilliams died in 1986.

Scope and Content:

The Richebourg McWilliams Collection consists of 5 linear feet of research materials and manuscripts, including short stories, fiction, and academic research. A primary focus of the collection is McWilliams's extensive scholarship on early French exploration, specifically his translations and analysis of the Pénicaut Narrative. This narrative, written by ship's carpenter André-Joseph Pénicaut, provides a 22-year eyewitness account of the French colony in Louisiana and the journeys of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville (Chevalier d'Iberville). The collection includes 2 linear feet of microfilm containing research from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the Library of Congress. Additionally, there are 2 linear feet of research logs, journals, and glossaries compiled by McWilliams. These records feature detailed research and translations of early French colonial documents, specifically those concerning French Colonial Mobile and Louisiana, the exploratory voyages of Captain John Smith, and the missions of d'Iberville. The collection also contains photographic negatives of historical maps and illustrations depicting early French interactions with Indigenous tribes along the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River Valley.

Provenance:

Gift of Tennant McWilliams November 11, 1996.

Arrangement:

Collection is arranged by subject.

Access Restrictions:

This collection is open to research.

Usage Restrictions:

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Preferred Citation:

[Title of Item], Title of Collection, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.

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Guide updated by: Daniel Shemwell, Deborah Gurt

Guide last updated: 3/5/26

Related Content:

Richmond F. Brown Collection (794-2022)

Content List:

Box # 1 *Fleur de Lys & Calumet* - 1949-1954, & undated

1. Penicaut Correspondence, 1949-1950
2. Penicaut's Narrative of Louisiana
3. Correspondence, LSU Press – McWilliams, 1952
4. Correspondence, LSU Press – McWilliams, 1953
5. Correspondence, LSU Press – McWilliams, 1954
6. Newspaper Articles and Book Reviews on *Fleur de Lys and Calumet*
7. Photos of *Fleur de Lys and Calumet*

Box # 2 *Iberville's Gulf Journals* - 1960 & undated

8. Correspondence, University of Alabama – McWilliams, 1960
9. Information on Iberville
- 10a. Abstract on Iberville's journals
- 10b. First Voyage
- 10c. Second and Third Voyages
- 10d. Bibliography, Notes and Maps
11. Photos – Maps and Iberville
12. Negatives and Photos
- 13a. Notes to the Editor
- 13b. Compass
- 13c. Abstract
- 13d. First Voyage
- 13e. Second Voyage

- 13f. Third Voyage
- 13g. Notes to Journal 1
- 13h. Notes to Journals 2 & 3

Box # 3 Continuation of *Iberville's Gulf Journals* - undated

- 13i. Bibliography
- 14. Material from the Alabama Historical Association
- 15. Reviews
- 16. "Armadillo – Alabama's Armored Pig"
- 17. "Dramatic History of Dauphin Island"

Box # 4 Annotated Writings - undated

- 18. Annotated Works 1 of 2
- 19. Annotated Works 2 of 2

Box # 5 Fiction/Short Story Writings 1929-1953, & undated

- 20. "Seven Sons Were Born"
- 21. "Not Every Man? But the Poet, Will Be Thy Guide"
- 22. "A Kingdom Beyond the Rockies and Near the Vermillion Sea"
- 23. "The Seven Golden Cities of Cibola"
- 24. "Belltree"
- 25. "Christmas in the Black Belt"
- 26. The Gilded Man
- 27. Automobile Story
- 28. After the Surrender
- 29. H and the Game Cock
- 30. The Master and the Minder, 1951, published in the Georgia Review
- 31. "Vignette in Southern Culture"
- 32. "Dirt Eaters Version"
- 33. They Were Seven, 1935
- 34. Charnel House of the Birds, c. 1951-53
- 35. Education Ad Lib, c. 1951-53
- 36. Jack of Borcas, c. 1948-1950
- 37. Spare the Larks Nest and Yale Review, 1942

38. After the Surrender, c. 1940
39. Voice of the Bee Man, c. 1935-36
40. My Friend Butch Davis, c. 1935-36
41. As the Crow Flies from Beuchtesgarden, c. 1935-36
42. Positively No Trespassing, c. 1936
43. Van and the Black Game Cock, c. 1934-35
44. The Altar in the Wall, c. 1933-35
45. The Colossal Rabbit Hunt, c. 1935-46
46. The Return of the Pigeon, c. 1931
47. Bud Gene's Long Walk, c. 1929-1932

Box # 6 Continued Fiction/Short Stories Writing - undated

48. Committee on Fellowships
49. Newspaper Clippings
50. Fleur de Lys and Calumet
- 51a. The Monsieur and connected papers
- 51b. The Monsieur and connected papers
- 52a. Puerto Rico Story
- 52b. Puerto Rico Story

Box #7 Continued Fiction/Short Stories Writing - undated

53. The Murder
54. The Boy from La Roche
55. Narcissus
56. Germany and Some Beer Facts
57. Notes from Autobiography
- 58 "Homosapiens and His Pretties"
- 59a. Various Essays
- 59b. Various Essays

Box # 8 Various Files and Documents (*) - 1994 & undated

60. Miscellaneous
61. Photos
- 62a. Various Documents and Letters

- 62b. Various Documents and Letters
- 63a. Lecture Notes
- 63b. Lecture Notes
- 64. Richebourg McWilliams Scholarship
- 65. Rosenwald Application
- 66. Financial Documents
- 67. Letter, Sunday, March 27, 1994

Box # 9 Microfilm 1851-1946, & undated

- 68. Voyage and Discovery of Captain John Smith in Virginia.
- 69. Bibliotheque Nationale #6
- 70. Louisiana Francise by Marc de Villes Du Jenge, Historique de Chevalier D'Iberville.
- 71. Test Strip
- 72. Unlabeled
- 73. Voyage of Discovery of Captain John Smith
- 74. Unlabeled
- 75. New York Times 1851-1946, 35 Memorable Pages
- 76. Iberville Journal

Box # 10 Microfilm - undated

77-85, unlabeled microfilm

Box # 11 Microfilm - undated

86-94, unlabeled microfilm

Box # 12 Microfilm and related prints - 1716-1753, & undated

**has notes for 8 rolls of microfilm*

- 95. French Map
- 95b. French Map Negative
- 96. Portrait of Captain John Smith
- 97. Photograph of a travel log
- 97b. "Sauvages" Negative
- 97c. "Sauvage En Habit Le River"
- 97d. "Explication Des chiffres"
- 97e. "Golfo o Ensenada de México"
- 97f. "Explication des chiffres"

- 97g. "Plan du Fort, Prisonier de Cadre"
- 97h. "Temple de Sauvages"
- 97i. "Dessins de Sauvages"
- 98. Relation concernant la establishment des Francis a la Louisane...1698 a 1721 *notecard (1)
- 99. Burton translation of Pierre Margry's Journals of Iberville, unpublished *notecard (2)
- 100. Penicaut Relations...Ms. [Ayers] *notecard (3)
- 101. "4. Approximately 15 letters, concerning exploration, c 1700." *notecard (4)
- 102. "5. The early history of Louisiana as recounted by the Chronicler Andre Penicaut, 1699-1704." *notecard (5)
- 103. "6. Penicaut Ms., from Francis Parchman papers." *notecard (6)
- 104. "7. St. Denis's second expedition from Louisiana to Rio Grande, 1716-1719" *notecard (7)
- 105. "8. Memoirs (Histories) a Demont du Montigny, 1753" *notecard (8) (damaged)
- 106. "9. Mobile Baptismal Records" *brittle
- 107. "Reel 9, Notes to Fleur de Lys and Calumet, #1"
- 108. "Reel 10, Notes to Fleur de Lys and Calumet."
- 109. "Iberville's 3rd and 2nd Voyages"

Box #13 Logs and Notes 1699 & Undated

- 110. Log of Chevalier d'Iberville's Voyage on the King Ship La Renommee, in 1699, from Cap. Francais to the Mississippi Coast, and his return.
- 111. Third voyage: Notes from the Burton MS
- 112. Proper names in the Iberville Journals
- 113. Burton Notes: Iberville's 2nd voyage, the Log of the Renommee, Service Hydrographique de la Marine, Carton 14, no. 3
- 114. "Iberville's Second Voyage continued, Bienville's Voyage to the [Yalache] Overland]"
- 115. "Iberville's First Voyage"
- 116. "Burton Text" Iberville's first Voyage Service Hydrographique de la Marine, Carton 14, No. 2
- 117. "First Voyage" Burton notes (continued)

Box #14 Logs and Notes 1701-1702 & undated

- 118. First Voyage (continued)
- 119. "Third voyage The [Sevier] d'Iberville's Journal From December 15, 1701 to April 27,

1702

120. McWilliams Research Notes

121. French Research

122. French Research

123. French Research

124. "Notes Lacking on" (Various topics of research included in notebook)

125. "Notes regarding Manuscript Text"

Box #15 Journals, Logs, and Notes - Undated

126. Havana Writing Journal

127. McWilliams Journal

128. Third Voyage Notes

129. Operations on the ship

130. First Voyage Notes

131. Second Voyage Notes

132. Navigation Notes

133. Glossary of French words from McWilliams Research

Box #16 Research Index Cards

Box #17 Research Index Cards

Box #18 Oversized

Maps