

JAMES B. ASWELL, JR. FAMILY PAPERS
Mss. 2453
Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

Reformatted 2003
Revised 2011
Updated 2017

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Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

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Publication. Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

Size.	9.75 linear ft., 22 manuscript v.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana
Inclusive dates.	1868-1961, undated
Bulk dates.	1930-1955
Language.	English
Summary.	Personal correspondence, papers, and manuscripts of James B. Aswell, Jr., a Louisiana writer
Organization.	Arranged categorically, then chronologically
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm. Originals of correspondence with F. Scott Fitzgerald, Walter Winchell, Erskine Caldwell, Westbrook Pegler, and Dashiell Hammett housed in the vault are not to be accessed. Use photocopies instead.
Related collections.	James B. Aswell, Jr. Papers, Mss. 3428. James B. Aswell Papers, Mss 1408,1426, 1468, 1483. James B. Aswell Letter, Mss. 3295 James B. Aswell, Jr. Letters, Mss. 3048
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	James B. Aswell Jr. and Family Papers, Mss. 2453, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	T:103-106, 79:85-90, N:10, OS:A, Vault:1

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

James B. Aswell Jr. was a novelist, syndicated columnist, political writer, and Louisiana State Director of Public Relations (1940-1942) from Natchitoches, La. His father, James B. Aswell Sr. (1869-1931), was Louisiana's State Superintendent of Schools (1904-1908). He unsuccessfully ran for governor of Louisiana in 1912, and served as representative for the 8th U.S. Congressional District of Louisiana between 1913 and 1931.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Correspondence concerning Aswell's literary career and interests and includes correspondence with literary agents, editors, authors F. Scott Fitzgerald, Erskine Caldwell, Westbrook Pegler, and others. Literary and non-fiction manuscripts include multiple drafts of published and unpublished works. Other writings include manuscripts of book reviews, newspaper columns, poetry, political and popular speeches, and motion picture scenarios.

Sam Jones Political Papers concern the gubernatorial campaign of 1940 and Jones' administration as Governor of Louisiana, 1940-1944. Included in the papers are correspondence, printed campaign materials, manuscripts of campaign and other speeches; and manuscripts of political articles written by Jones with the assistance of James B. Aswell, Jr.

James B. Aswell, Sr. Papers include family, business, and political correspondence, 1908-1931, and materials concerning the administration of Aswell's estate, 1931-1938.

Other papers include newspaper clippings and printed materials illustrative of Aswell's career and other activities.

Scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings, other printed materials, and correspondence illustrative of Aswell's literary career, including his early newspaper articles and columns; publicity releases about his novels; and newspaper clippings and other printed materials concerning the career and writings of F. Scott Fitzgerald.

CROSS REFERENCES

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Aswell, James B. (James Benjamin), 1869-1931.	1908-1938	Letters and other papers concerning Aswell's career as State Superintendent of Education, as President of the former Natchitoches State Normal School, and as Congressman from Louisiana, and discussing state
Cabell, James Branch, 1879-1958.	1927	Social letter to James B. Aswell, Jr.
Caldwell, Erskine, 1903-1987.	1937-1958	Friendly letters concerning Caldwell's and Aswell's literary work and publications, mutual friends in the literary world, and their long friendship.
Europe--Description and travel.	1923	Letters commenting on travels in France, Holland, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy, and England, and sentiments of American nationalism.
Fitzgerald, F. Scott (Francis Scott), 1896-1940.	1930, 1934, undated	Letters to James B. Aswell, Jr., commenting on his own and Aswell's writing.
Gardner, Erle Stanley, 1889-1970.		Friendly letter, May 11.
Greene, Graham, 1904-1991.	1953	Letter concerning the review of one of his books by James Aswell.
Hammett, Dashiell, 1894-1961.	1929	Author of mystery and detective novels.
Henry, Carmelite Garrett, 1871-1948.	1943	Louisiana patroness of the arts and collector of Louisiana paraphernalia.
Jones, Sam Houston, 1897-1978.	1939-1955	Correspondence, speeches, and printed campaign materials related to the gubernatorial campaigns of 1940 and 1952 and to Jones' administration as governor of Louisiana.
Lehr, Lew, 1895-1950.	1936	Comedian and entertainment executive.

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Long, Earl Kemp, 1895-1960.	1952	Letters from Julius Long discussing his brother's political career, and concerning the gubernatorial campaigns of 1940 and 1952.
Long, Huey Pierce, 1893-1935.	1927, 1941, 1952	Letter discussing his campaign for Governor of Louisiana; Letters from Westbrook Pegler discussing his assassination; Letters from Julius Long discussing his political career.
Louisiana State Lottery Company.	1868-1893	Research notes, printed items, and multiple drafts of non-fiction manuscripts related to the history of the Louisiana Lottery.
Louisiana--Politics and government--20th century.	1939-1955	Correspondence, campaign and other political speeches, and other political materials concerning Louisiana politics, particularly the gubernatorial campaigns of 1940 and 1952 and the administration of governor Sam Jones.
Marshall, Edison, 1894-1967.	1957	Friendly letter.
Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956.	1926, 1948	Letters concerning literary submissions to Mencken's office.
Natchitoches Parish (La.)--Politics and government--20th century.	1940-1960	Political materials concerning local politics and the campaign of James B. Aswell for Congress and correspondence mentioning daily life.
Noe, James A.	1940	Letter to James B. Aswell, Jr. concerning state politics.
Northwestern State College of Louisiana.	1908-1910	Letters and other papers concerning the administration of James B. Aswell, Sr., as President of Natchitoches State Normal School.
Pegler, J. Westbrook (James Westbrook), 1894-1969.	1935-1941, 1942	Letters commenting on the assassination of Huey Long and on other political matters.
Photographic prints.		Photographs of James B. Aswell, Sr., James B. Aswell, Jr., and their wives.

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Political campaigns-- Louisiana.	1940-1952	Correspondence, speeches, and other manuscript and printed materials related to gubernatorial campaigns in Louisiana.
Rascoe, Burton, 1892-1957.	1940-1958, undated	Friendly letters concerning literature, literary writers, and his own and Aswell's writings.
Scrapbooks.	1921-1958	Scrapbooks containing correspondence, clippings, and other printed material relative to the literary careers of James Aswell and F. Scott Fitzgerald.
Speeches.		Campaign and other political speeches of Louisiana Governor Sam Jones and James B. Aswell, Jr. and miscellaneous speeches given by Aswell.
Winchell, Walter, 1897- 1972.	1939-1940	Letters.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
T:103	1	1-46	Sam Jones political papers (1939-1949, undated); Julius T. Long correspondence (1952)
		47-62	James B. Aswell, Sr. papers (1908-1940, undated)
		63-70	James B. Aswell, Jr., family correspondence (1920-1935)
T:104	2	1-30	James B. Aswell, Jr., family correspondence (1936-1950)
T:105	3	1-37	James B. Aswell, Jr., family correspondence (1950-1953)
T:106	4	1-10	James B. Aswell, Jr., family correspondence (1954-1955, undated)
		11-16	Other letters and papers of James Aswell, Jr. (1940-1955, undated)
		17-19	Newspaper clippings, scrapbook (1921-1937), scrapbook loose items.
79:86	5	1-85	James B. Aswell, Jr., literary manuscripts (undated)
79:87	6	1-92	James B. Aswell, Jr., literary manuscripts (undated)
79:88	7	1-53	James B. Aswell, Jr., article manuscripts (undated)
		54-55	Articles by Sam Jones (undated)
		56-66	James B. Aswell, Jr., book reviews (undated)
		67-68	James B. Aswell, Jr., newspaper columns (1937, undated)
		69	James B. Aswell, Jr., poems (undated)
		70-77	James B. Aswell, Jr., political campaign speeches (1939, undated)
79:89	8	1-2	James B. Aswell, Jr., motion picture scenarios (undated)
		3	James B. Aswell, Jr., drama fragments (undated)
		4	James B. Aswell, Jr., fiction bibliography (undated)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			5	Editorial comments on "The Birds and The Bees" (undated)
			6	Reviews of Aswell's books by others (undated)
			7	Press releases concerning Aswell's publications. (undated)
			8-19	Research Materials for "Chicken in the Wind," "Louisiana Lottery," and Miscellaneous notes (undated)
			20-21	Mimeographed sheets (1930-1950)
			22-23	Broadsides (1939, 1948, 1970, undated)
			24	Cartoon by Rosalind Hightower (1931)
			25	Programs and invitations (1931-1959, undated)
			26	Cards (1933-1954, undated)
			27	Articles about Aswell (1934-1955, undated)
			28	Articles about Aswell in full magazines (1955)
			29-31	<i>The Birds and the Bees</i> (1953, 1956, undated)
79:89		8	32	<i>The Midsummer Fires</i> (1953, undated)
			33	<i>There's One In Every Town</i> (1951, 1956, undated)
			34	Articles by Aswell (1934-1951, undated)
			35	Articles by Aswell in full magazines (1933, 1934)
			36	Alcoholics Anonymous (1942, 1953, undated)
			37-38	Business investments (1950-1959)
			39	Cemeteries (1942-1959, undated)
			40	Cotton Growing (1944, undated)
79:89		8	41	Gambling (1958-1959, undated)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			42-45, 47	Gardening (1940-1948, 1952-1955, undated)
			46	Hypnosis (1950, 1956, undated)
			48	International affairs (1951-1960, undated)
			49-50	Poultry (1948-1954, undated)
			51-58	Miscellaneous (1916-1961, undated)
			59-62	Full Magazines (1929, 1938, 1945, 1947)
			64-65	Maps (1940-1958, undated)
79:90		9	1	James B. Aswell, Sr., photographs (undated)
			2	James B. Aswell, Jr., portraits (undated)
			3	Burning of Midsummer Fires (undated)
			4	Memory Lawn Cemetery (undated)
			5	Prominent individuals (undated)
			6-7	1939 scandals (undated)
			8	Aswell obituaries (undated)
			9	Articles concerning James B. Aswell, Jr. (undated)
			10	Articles by James B. Aswell, Jr. (undated)
			11	<i>The Birds and the Bees</i> (undated)
			12	“Book Looks” and other Aswell book reviews. (undated)
			13	“My New York” columns (1936)
			14	Cemeteries
			15	Cotton
79:90		9	16	Crime (1-2)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			17	Crime (2-2)
			18	Crime—Robert E. Dunn Case
			19-62	Newspaper clippings (1931-1960, undated)
79:85		10		Badges, stamp (1940)
N:10				Manuscript Volumes Address Book (undated) 2 Memorandum Books (1952, undated) 2 Notebooks (undated) 2 Passports (July 23, 1931, May 13, 1935) 2 Time Books (1938-1940) 13 Scrapbooks (1921-1927, 1939-1943, 1953-1958)
OS:A		1		v. 21-22; “Shreveport Artists and Writers Guild” certificate, 1950-1951.
			1	Scrapbook pages (Nov. 1933, Jan., Aug. 1936); Louisiana Lottery promotional poster (undated); anti-Earl Long political broadside (ca. 1948).
OS:A		2		Road map of East Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi, circa 1949, anti-Earl Long political broadside (ca. 1948), miscellaneous printed material.
G:1				Saturday Home Magazine section of the Chicago <i>Herald American</i> (1949-1950)
Vault:1				Original correspondence by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Walter Winchell, Erskine Caldwell, and Dashiell Hammett [see photocopies within collection]