

JOSEPH GIROD AND FAMILY PAPERS

Ms. 4379

Inventory

Compiled by
Louise Hilton

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

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GIROD (JOSEPH AND FAMILY) PAPERS

1830-1935

Mss. 4379

LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

SUMMARY

Size	1 linear ft. & 1 manuscript volume
Geographic locations	New Orleans, La., St. Charles Parish, La., Paris, France
Inclusive dates	1830-1935
Bulk dates	1850-1880
Languages	English, French
Summary	The papers of Joseph Girod, planter of St. Charles Parish. The papers consist mostly of personal and business letters between family members and a variety of legal and financial documents pertaining to the Nicolas Girod estate. Most of the letters, notes, and other handwritten materials are in French.
Related collections	Joseph Girod Papers, Mss. 838, 853
Copyright	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation	Joseph Girod and Family Papers; Mss. 4379; Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections; LSU Libraries; Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s)	UU:129, J:21, OS:G

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Joseph Marie Girod was a planter of St. Charles Parish and resident of New Orleans. Originally from Bordeaux, France, he came to America in 1816. He was the son of Jacques-Antoine Girod and the nephew of Nicolas Girod, the first elected mayor (1812-1816) of New Orleans. Joseph's brother, François, lived in New Orleans and Paris, France, where he died on February 8, 1870.

Joseph Girod married Constance Perret (1813-1858), the daughter of Charles Perret Jr. and Constance de Vaugine. He served as president of the French Mutual Benevolent Association in New Orleans from 1863-1875. He died in 1878. Girod's granddaughter Marie Dumestre, writer and principal of the French Union School in New Orleans, is also represented in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Joseph Girod and Family Papers are arranged into four series: Correspondence, Financial and Legal Records, Marie Dumestre Papers, and Miscellaneous. The papers consist mostly of personal and business letters between family members and a variety of legal and financial documents pertaining to the Nicholas Girod estate. Most of the letters, notes, and other handwritten materials are in French.

SERIES LIST AND DESCRIPTIONS**Series I. Correspondence, 1832-1874, undated**

The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters to and from brothers François and Joseph Girod. Letters from Joseph are primarily written from New Orleans, and from his plantation in St. Charles Parish, while letters from François are from Paris, France. A letter dated September 8, 1840, from Joseph to François relates news of their Uncle Nicolas' death. Also included are letters from Joseph to various business associates in New Orleans. Handwritten notes include a compilation by Joseph Girod entitled, "The Age of My Children" (in French), stories, poems, and recipes. The collection also contains an undated handwritten genealogical history of the Girod family with information on births, deaths, and marriages.

Series II. Financial and Legal Records, 1830-1877

Financial documents include Joseph Girod's tax receipts (1849-1871), receipts from the rental of the Girod family's various apartments and houses (primarily in New Orleans), and receipts from the New Orleans Auditor's Office. The collection also contains an 1803 account book used by François Girod to record transactions from 1859 to 1869 and an account book belonging to Joseph Girod dated 1855 to 1877.

Legal documents include a deed of sale of property in New Orleans from André Doriocourt to Joseph Girod (November 19, 1850) and a deed of sale of property, also in New Orleans, from Marie Julie Fortin, Clément Ramas, and Oscar Reinecke to Joseph Girod (February 4, 1851). Also included are a report from the Baton Rouge Auditor's Office confirming Girod had furnished a receipt for purchase of property in New Orleans (June 25, 1855), and bills from the New Orleans Surveyor's Department for shelling on the streets in front of two of Girod's properties (December 26, 1859), as well as an undated document determining that Joseph Girod will be reimbursed for the amount he paid for construction on the streets in front of one of his properties in New Orleans. Also included is a legal document in French detailing François Girod's estate and which family members will receive his possessions (notarized May 18, 1870).

Series III. Marie Dumestre Papers, 1880-1918, undated

The Marie Dumestre material relates primarily to her education in Catholic schools and her later teaching and principal duties at l'Union Française School in New Orleans. Her papers include personal correspondence, business correspondence, school exercises in French, and programs from various awards ceremonies and commencement exercises at l'Union Française School.

Series IV. Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1869-1935, undated

The miscellaneous series includes a Girod family genealogical history text, written in French, from around 1869; a small souvenir from the New Orleans Exposition in 1884; a typewritten essay on Joan of Arc from 1935; and several undated handwritten notes (mostly in French).

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CONTAINER LIST

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
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		3	Correspondence, 1860-1874
		4	Correspondence, undated
OS:G	--	1	Oversized letter, May 15, 1859
Series II. Financial and Legal Records, 1830-1887, undated			
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		9	New Orleans Exposition souvenir, 1884
		10	Typewritten essay on Joan of Arc, 1935
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