

Louis Cochran Papers

Mss. 4482

Inventory

Compiled by

Dana Statton

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

2014

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	5
INDEX TERMS	6
CONTAINER LIST	7

Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

Photocopying. Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. Do not remove items to be photocopied. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained. Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of original held by LSU Libraries), when available.

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

Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish. Any publication of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. Requests for permission to publish should be addressed in writing to the Head, Public Services, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803-3300. When permission to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the LLMVC.

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.	0.3 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Jackson, MS; Kansas City, MO; St. Louis, MO
Inclusive dates.	1923 – 1954
Bulk dates.	1929 – 1938
Language.	English
Summary.	Edward Louis Cochran (1899 – 1974) was a writer and F.B.I. agent from Mississippi. This collection contains correspondence to, from, and about Louis Cochran from 1923 to 1954 with most correspondence dates between 1929 and 1938. The correspondence contains information pertaining to the publication of his novels and discussions of contemporary literature, personal information, and family matters.
Restrictions on access.	There are no restrictions on access.
Copyright.	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Citation.	Louis Cochran Papers, Mss. 4482, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	7:32

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Edward Louis Cochran was born February 11, 1899 in Shannon, Mississippi. He attended the University of Mississippi from 1916 to 1920. His activities as a student included serving in the Student Army Training Corps, debate team, and editing the student newspaper and yearbook. Following graduation, Cochran spent time teaching English, coaching athletic teams in Cleveland and Crenshaw, Mississippi. He then earned his L.L.B degree in 1925 from Cumberland University and practiced law in Belzoni (1925-1928) and Jackson (1928-1935).

During the Great Depression, Cochran wrote political articles and his first collection of stories for children, *The Lowly Gnome and Other Stories* (1929). His semi-autobiographical novel, *Flood Tides* was published two years later in 1931. In 1935, Cochran became a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and for the next ten years he worked in Washington, D.C., Kansas City, St. Louis, and Los Angeles. He continued writing during this time and published *Black Earth* (1935), *Son of Haman* (1937), *Boss Man* (1939).

During World War II, Cochran was in the intelligence section of the United States Army Air Corps and he was later promoted to Branch Chief of the Office of Special Investigation in the United States Air Force. His best known work, *Row's End* was published in 1954. He then wrote *Hallelujah, Mississippi* in 1955. The latter works of Cochran's career tend towards themes of religion: *Fool of God* (1958), *Raccoon John Smith* (1963), and *Captives of the Word* (1969) co-authored with his wife, Bes Robbins White. In 1966, Cochran wrote about his 30-plus years' experience in his book *FBI Man: A Personal History*. He died on March 3, 1974 in Nashville, Tennessee where he spent the last ten years of his life.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Louis Cochran Papers are primarily composed of correspondence from Louis Cochran to his aunt, Josie E. Welch from the years 1929 to 1939. This correspondence outlines his thoughts on marriage, briefly mentions his work as an FBI agent, and asks for critical feedback on his novels. It includes passing information about contemporary literature and family matters.

Additional correspondence from Louis Cochran spans from 1939 to 1954. Cochran writes about family matters and publishing. Correspondence to Josie E. Welch from other sources include letters from Cochran's cousin, Jessie Archer as well as unsigned correspondence. Unsigned correspondence dates from 1923 to 1925 and contains information about family matters as well as a typed set of poetry and quotes.

The collection also contains correspondence to Louis Cochran from the publishers Lida, McCord, and Company and Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith Publishers as well as a postcard from his cousin, Jessie Archer. Correspondence about Louis Cochran spans from 1937 to 1954 and includes a marriage announcement, a book review by the Oregon Journal about *Son of Haman*, a book review by the St. Louis Post Dispatch about *Row's End*, and a newspaper clipping outlining Cochran's accomplishments.

INDEX TERMS

Cochran, Louis, 1899-1974	I.
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation.	I.
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation--Biography.	I.
Fiction--Male authors	I.
Organized crime investigation--United States.	I.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
7:32	1	1-3	Correspondence to Josie E. Welch from Louis Cochran, Jan. 3, 1929-March 30, 1939, undated
		4	Correspondence to Josie E. Welch from Jessie Archer, Jan. 2, 1935
		5	Correspondence to Josie E. Welch, Feb. 16, 1923-1925
		6	Correspondence to Louis Cochran, April 22, 1931-Aug. 5, 1940
		7	Correspondence from Louis Cochran, April 27, 1939-Sept. 17, 1954, undated.
		8	Correspondence about Louis Cochran, 1937-1954