

**LAWRENCE MANN PAPERS**

Mss. 5161

Inventory

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

2014

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size.</b>	1 linear ft.
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Texas, Louisiana, Germany, Bavaria.
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1862-2013.
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1890-1930, 1946, 1952.
<b>Language.</b>	English, German.
<b>Summary.</b>	Collection is comprised of correspondence related to the relationship of Lawrence Mann, Jr. and Suzanne Alcus before their marriage, and genealogical material and family photographs of their families. Correspondence and photographs of 1945 and 1946 relate to Mann's military service during World War II.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	German mark, 1944 – Access restricted, use copy located in box 2, folder 5.
<b>Copyright.</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Lawrence Mann, Jr. Papers, Mss. 5161, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack locations.</b>	U:309-310, OS:M, Vault:1

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Lawrence Mann, Jr. was born February 12, 1926 to Lawrence Mann, Sr. and Sophie Mendelsohn Mann of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He attended public schools in Baton Rouge, graduating from high school in 1942. He entered Louisiana State University in the fall of 1942. In 1943, at the age of seventeen, he joined the United States Army Air Corps. He was called to active duty in 1944, serving in the United States for the duration of the war. While stationed at Pyote Air Force Station in Texas he began corresponding with Suzanne Alcus. After the war, he was stationed in Germany as part of the Allied occupation forces. It is during this period that the letters he wrote to Suzanne Alcus depict post-war Germany. After his discharge in 1946, he returned to his studies at LSU and graduated in 1949 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He continued his postgraduate studies at Purdue University. After receiving a master's degree, he returned to Baton Rouge and began working as an engineer in the oil industry. Mann joined LSU in 1959 as an industrial engineering instructor. In 1962, he enrolled in the doctorate program at Purdue University, and after receiving his PhD, he joined the engineering faculty at LSU.

Larry Mann married Suzanne Alcus on August 23, 1952. They had two children: Nancy Lee and Lawrence A. "Chip" Mann. Suzanne was the daughter of Ethel and Richard Irving Alcus of New Orleans, Louisiana.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Collection is comprised of personal correspondence related to the relationship of Lawrence Mann, Jr. and Suzanne Alcus before their marriage, and genealogical material and photographs pertaining to their family genealogy. His war letters written from Pyote Air Force Base in Texas and from Germany describe military life and his personal activities. His letters written in 1952 discuss his work, social activities and their upcoming marriage.

Genealogical material contains legal documents, printed items, and writings relating to the Mann, Mendelsohn, Alcus, and Loeb families. Legal documents make up a large part of this group, with the birth, marriage, military, and death records of family members.

Photographs of family members were taken over a period of one hundred years. Photographs taken by Mann in 1946 depict conditions in Germany at the end of World War II.

**LIST OF SERIES**

- Series I.       Correspondence, 1897-1952.**
- Series II.       Genealogical Material, 1862-2013, undated.**
- Series III.      Photographs, ca. 1890s-1994, undated.**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. Correspondence, 1897-1952.**

Correspondence is personal in nature with a large part comprised of letters from Larry Mann to Suzanne Alcus. His war letters written primarily after the war from Pyote Air Force Base in Texas and from Germany describe military and personal activities. He typically reports on routine military life and often includes descriptions of food, accommodations, and travel. From time to time, he also comments on his student days at Louisiana State University before his enlistment. His letters discuss his work as a radar navigation instructor (1945), the transport of troops to France and Germany (Dec. 2, 1945), and the state of Germany after the war (1946). In his letters from Germany, he describes the people, the destruction (Dec. 20, 1945), post-war living conditions (Jan. 15, 1946), and landscape (March 8, 21, 1946). He comments that since German citizens are not allowed to have guns there is an over population of rabbits eating crops (April 4, 1946). He criticizes the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (Feb. 17, 1946). From Freising, Bavaria he describes his work of inventorying the equipment and supplies left behind at the end of the war (April 24, 1946). In a letter, Mann gives a short history of General Troy Middleton's association with LSU (March 21, 1946). Of particular interest are comments made about the courtroom setting during the trial of Hermann Goering and Rudolf Hess (May 1, 1946).

The second large group of letters written by Mann to Suzanne Alcus discuss his work, social activities and their upcoming marriage (1952). Correspondence by family members includes two letters by Isadore Mendelsohn to his fiancée, Aline Block shortly before their marriage (April 1897), and Max Mann's letter of advice to his children (May 12, 1928).

### **Series II. Genealogical Material, 1862-2013, undated.**

This series is comprised of legal documents, printed items, and writings relating to the genealogy of the Mann, Mendelsohn and related Alcus and Loeb families. Legal documents make up a large part of this group, with the birth, marriage, military and death records of family members. Military records document participation of Solomon Loeb in the Civil War (1862), service of Lawrence Mann, Sr., and Richard Irving in World War I (1918), and Lawrence Mann, Jr. in World War II (1945). Vital records include official delayed certificates of birth issued in 1943 and 1945 for Lawrence Mann, Sr., Sophie Mendelsohn and Richard Irving Alcus. Official birth and death records, in German, for members of the Loeb family of Germany who were born or died between 1827 and 1841 (1907).

Writings contain an autobiography by Lawrence Mann, Jr. (1996), tributes to Isadore J. Mendelsohn (1923), and notes and ancestry charts (2009, undated). In his autobiography, Mann describes the Baton Rouge of his youth and provides biographical sketches of family members. Printed items consist of clippings, wedding announcements, obituaries

and a photocopy of Sophie Mendelsohn's school yearbook (1915). Also included are two internet articles on Jewish communities in Baton Rouge and St. Francisville (2010, 2013) <http://www.isjl.org/>

**Series III. Photographs, ca. 1890s-1994, undated.**

This series is comprised of card photographs, tintypes, snapshots, group photographs, portraits, and copy prints with the majority taken of family members over a period of one hundred years. The earliest images show the ancestors of Lawrence Mann, Jr. and Suzanne Alcus Mann, as well as photographs of them as children (ca. 1890-1930s). Several snapshots taken while Mann was stationed in Germany at the end of World War II depict the landscape and the damage to buildings and structures (1946). There is also an early night scene of downtown Baton Rouge (1912) and copy prints of the Wolf-Schlesinger House before its renovation in 1981 (ca. 1981). Group photographs include the Mendelsohn family reunion, which took place in 1994.



**INDEX TERMS**

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Series</b>
Alcus family.	I-III
Baton Rouge (La.)--Description and travel.	II
Germany--History--1945-1955.	I, III
Jewish families--United States.	I-III
Jews--Social life and customs.	II-III
Loeb family.	II
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College--Students.	I
Mann family.	I-III
Mendelsohn family.	II-III
Pyote Air Force Station (Pyote, Tex.)	I
Wolf-Schlesinger House (La.)	III
World War, 1939-1945--Destruction and pillage.	I, III
World War, 1939-1945--Germany--Personal narratives, American.	I
World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Jewish.	I-III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
<b>U:309</b>	1	1-16	<b>Series I.</b> Correspondence, 1897-1952.
	2	1-10	<b>Series II.</b> Genealogical Material, 1862-2013, undated.
<b>OS:M</b>		1	Insurance certificate, 1907; marriage certificate 1926; genealogy charts, undated.
<b>Vault:1</b>			German mark, 1944. Access restricted, use copy in box 2, folder 5.
<b>U:310</b>	3	1-6	<b>Series III.</b> Photographs, ca. 1890-1994, undated. ca. 1890s-ca. 1910.
	4	1-6	1912-1994.