

EUGENE M. VIOLETTE COLLECTION

(Mss. 615, 893)

Inventory

by

Luana Henderson

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

Revised 2009

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EUGENE M. VIOLETTE COLLECTION
1785-1945

Mss. 615, 893
Special Collections, LSU Libraries

SUMMARY

Size.	4.3 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri.
Inclusive dates.	1785-1945.
Bulk dates.	1922-1937.
Languages.	English, French, German, Portuguese.
Summary.	Correspondence, printed material, writings, and LSU memorabilia comprise the Eugene M. Violette papers. Correspondence is of a professional nature reflecting Violette's association with the University, professional organizations, publishers, and colleagues. Printed items include newspapers and clippings related to Louisiana, football, World Wars I and II, and Huey Long's assassination. Imprints and publications pertain to a variety of topics including early LSU history.
Source.	Gift.
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by Creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Eugene M. Violette Collection, Mss. 615, 893, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack location.	Z:3-4, OS:V, Range 99:V.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Eugene M. Violette was born in Pittsville, Missouri, Sept. 4, 1873. He received degrees from Central College, Fayette, Missouri and the University of Chicago. He did postgraduate work at Harvard (1902-1903, 1906-1907) and at London University (1914). His teaching career began at the University of Missouri while he was still enrolled as a student, and he later served at the university as acting assistant professor of history (1899-1900). He continued as a professor of history at State Teachers' College in Kirksville until 1923 when he was offered an appointment to the faculty of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. During his teaching career, Professor Violette also served as visiting scholar at the Universities of Texas, Colorado, and Minnesota. He remained on the faculty at LSU until his death, March 26, 1940.

Violette was a prolific writer, authoring numerous articles, studies, and papers. Among his works are *English Constitutional Documents Since 1832* and *Spanish Land Claims in Missouri*. He was an active member of state, regional, and national historical associations. He served as program chairman, chairman of the executive committee, and member of the editorial board of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. Violette also served on several committees of the American Historical Association.

Violette is credited as one of the forerunners in the establishment of the "Dixie Museum" in the LSU Memorial Tower, or Campanile; it later became known as the Historical Museum. The museum was comprised of two smaller exhibitions, each housed in a wing of the Tower. One held material of a military interest and the other contained items related LSU history.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is divided into two major subgroups: the Eugene M. Violette Papers and the Museum Records.

Eugene Violette Papers contain correspondence, printed material, writings, and memorabilia pertaining primarily to LSU and campus activities. Correspondence is mainly of a professional nature that includes official University memoranda and reflects Violette's association with the University, professional organizations, publishers, and his colleagues. Printed items include Louisiana newspapers and clippings related to Louisiana, football, and World Wars I and II. Printed items also include booklets and imprints pertaining to a variety of topics including sugar cane and early LSU history. Writings include notes, drafts of professional papers presented at conferences, short biographical sketches, and a partial manuscript of a book. Memorabilia include posters, handbills, flyers, and programs concerning student politics, football, social functions, campus events, and religious organizations.

Museum Records consist of correspondence, much of which concerns donors and museum equipment, historical manuscripts, and textiles and artifacts. Among the historical papers are printed items; land documents of Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana (1841-1881); legal documents; an autobiography of James Starr (1889) reflecting 19th century life; and photographs of individuals and buildings, most of which are unidentified. However, photographs do include one of Abraham Lincoln (undated) and two New Orleans scenes (ca. 1847). Historical manuscripts also contain correspondence, including two Civil War letters and a letter from a United States congressman from Mississippi (1875) reflecting upon the political scene during Reconstruction.

LIST OF SUBGROUPS AND SERIES

Subgroup 1. Eugene M. Violette Papers, 1909-1945, undated

- I. University calendars, announcements, reports, 1923-1937, undated**
- II. Correspondence, 1922-1937, undated**
 - Subseries 1. University, 1930-1937**
 - Subseries 2. Professional, 1922-1937, undated**
 - Subseries 3. Personal, 1931-1936, undated**
 - Subseries 4. Other correspondents, 1916-1919**
- III. Writings, 1917-1933, undated**
- IV. Graphic material and printed items, 1909-1945, undated**
 - Subseries 1. Advertisements, 1911-1935, undated**
 - Subseries 2. Newspapers and clippings, 1909-1943, undated**
 - Subseries 3. Miscellaneous, 1914-1936, undated**
 - Subseries 4. LSU, 1912-1937, undated**
 - Subseries 5. Publications, 1911-1937**

Subgroup 2. Museum Records, 1830-1937

- I. Correspondence, 1926-1937**
- II. Miscellaneous, 1931-1933**
- III. Historical manuscripts, 1830-1919, undated**
- IV. Graphic material and printed items, 1929-1934, undated**
- V. Artifacts and textiles, undated**

SUBGROUP AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Subgroup 1. Eugene M. Violette Papers, 1909-1945. Papers reflect Eugene Violette's career as a member of the faculty at Louisiana State University.

I. University calendars, announcements, reports, 1931-1937, undated

University calendars list locations and times of scheduled social and athletic events as well as meetings for various student organizations. Announcements, which include news releases from the LSU News Bureau, report on campus news, upcoming events, publications, lectures, and available classes. This series also contains data on student enrollment and average academic performance. Arranged chronologically.

II. Correspondence, 1922-1937, undated

Subseries 1. University correspondence, 1930-1937

University correspondence contains letters and memoranda directed to students, staff, and faculty, but primarily the faculty, relaying information about campus activities, events, meetings, functions, classes, and exam schedules. Letters and memoranda of LSU Y.M.C.A. deal with scheduled events, financial matters, and Y.M.C.A. membership. Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 2. Professional correspondence, 1922-1937, undated

Professional correspondence reflects Eugene Violette's involvement with historical associations, universities, publishers, and colleagues. Letters relate to literary works, book purchases, Violette's own publications, and papers he presented at conferences. Among these is a series of letters (1931) pertaining to a paper on Senator Donelson Caffery, U. S. Senator from Louisiana. Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 3. Personal correspondence, 1931-1936

Letters predominately from the First Methodist Church and the Wesley Foundation, a Methodist student organization, requesting donations and informing members of church activities. Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 4. Other correspondents, 1916-1919

Correspondence [some in Portuguese] of William J. Brown, a teacher of foreign languages in Akron, Ohio and M. L. Bonham of the Historical Society of East and West Baton Rouge comprise this subseries. Letters to Brown concern his Portuguese language publication, and those to Bonham refer to a historical document related to the acquisition of East and West Florida by the United States and the publication of this document in the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly* (July 1, 1919). Also mentioned is the need to plan a celebration of this event (July 12, 1919). Arranged chronologically.

III. Writings, ca. 1900-1935

Writings consist of book reviews, editorials, instructional material, and drafts of Violette's papers presented at conferences, including his talk on Senator Donelson Caffery. Other items contained in the writings are Senator Caffery's speech entitled *The New South* (ca. 1900), a biographical sketch of Arthur Lee Willard (undated), and Richard Thomas Deval's Civil War experience (undated). Additionally there is an incomplete manuscript pertaining to Dufur family members and their experiences during the Civil War. Arranged chronologically.

IV. Graphic material and printed items, 1909-1945, undated

Subseries 1. Advertisements, 1911-1937, undated

Advertisements include handbills, flyers, and broadsides offering information and services. Also included are publishers' booklists, catalogs, and flyers announcing upcoming publications (1931-1935, undated). Other items include advertising booklets and flyers containing recipes and medicinal remedies. Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 2. Newspapers and clippings, 1909-1943, undated

This subseries consists of newspapers clippings [photocopies] (1909-1935, undated) and original newspapers (1914-1943). Newspapers, predominately from Louisiana and with a bulk date of 1926, give local and national news for that year; other issues pertain to World War I, the assassination of Huey P. Long (1935), and World War II. Clippings cover historical events, World War I, Louisiana landmarks, monuments, political figures, and prominent Louisiana residents. Other clippings concern college football in general and LSU football in particular (1929-1934, undated). Additionally, there is a scrapbook of newspaper articles written by and about Bernard Gruenstein, an Arkansas journalist (1924). Pasted into the scrapbook is a letter written to Gruenstein by an anonymous member of the Ku Klux Klan (undated) threatening Gruenstein with violence if he does not refrain from writing about the Klan. Newspapers are arranged alphabetically by title, then chronologically; clippings are arranged chronologically.

NOTE: See appendix A for a complete list of newspapers.

Subseries 3. Miscellaneous (1915-1936, undated).

Miscellaneous subseries consists of conference programs and other printed material produced by various historical and academic associations including the Southwestern Social Science Association, American Historical Association, National Council for Social Studies, and American Association of University Professors. Other material includes invitations, programs, flyers, blank forms, and applications. Also included are a sample of \$1000 gold bonds and accompanying certificate issued for Confederate veterans and their widows (1928), maps of Louisiana (1929) and LSU campus (1928-1929, undated), and blue prints for a display case (1935). Moreover, there are two caricatures drawn by G. Rohlving (undated) and illustrated wall calendars (1930-1933)

Subseries 4. LSU, 1912-1937, undated

Printed items related to LSU include programs (1931-1935, undated) for conferences, student orientation, LSU Diamond Jubilee (1935), religious convocations and recitals for the School of Music. Posters (1928-1937, undated) comprise a large portion of this subseries, presenting information on lectures, social activities, theatrical and musical productions. Many posters were produced by students of the LSU Departments of Music, Fine Arts, and Speech. Also included are Tulane vs. LSU football tickets (1920, 1934), handbills and flyers concerning student activities and campus politics. Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 5. Publications, 1911-1937

Among the publications are newsletters of the American Foundation and Lindenwood College (March 1917); *The Museum News* (Nov. 1, 1934); and *The Bell Tel News* (1934-1935). In addition imprints include *Sugar Cane Variety Report* (1933) by C. B. Gouaux and E. C. Simon and *The Early History of Louisiana State University* (1928) by J. Fair Hardin. Monographs include *Army Y.M.C.A. in Camp Beauregard* (1917), *For Our Soldiers! -- Addresses given by His Eminence Cardinal Mercier ...* (1916), *Treaty between the United States and Spain ...* (1911) issued by the Government Print Office, *Twenty-five Silver Years Golden with ...*, *Very Reverend P.M.H. Wynhoven* (1934) by Roger Baudier, and *The Coronation of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth* (1937). Newsletters arranged chronologically, monographs arranged alphabetically by title.

Subgroup 2. Museum Records, 1830-1919

Material collected by Eugene Violette in his capacity as director of the Louisiana State University Historical Museum.

I. Correspondence, 1926-1937, undated

The majority of correspondence between Violette and others discusses acquisition of artifacts, photographs, and manuscripts by the museum. Included are short biographical sketches of William Blount Robertson, Jr. and Thomas Chinn Robertson who served in the Confederate States Army (May 21, 1931). Additional correspondence relates to the purchase and shipment of museum display equipment. Arranged chronologically.

II. Miscellaneous, 1931-1933, undated

Various handwritten notes and note cards, shipping documents related to museum equipment, and a survey of Confederate pensions (Feb. 1, 1933). Arranged chronologically.

III. Historical manuscripts, 1830-1919, undated

Legal papers, correspondence, and printed material comprise this series. Legal papers document an ownership dispute (undated), the sale of property in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana (1841-1881),

sale of slaves with the land (August 26, 1850), and certification ownership in Ouachita, La. (August 1, 1838) and. Other items include a petition (April 1, 1850) requesting leniency for Dr. J. Hammil of Port Hudson in an assault conviction, true bill for theft issued by the Grand Jury of East Feliciana Parish (1854), and a legal opinion of the Mississippi Supreme Court (1882) in the civil case of Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railroad vs. John W. Scurry. Papers also contain a loyalty oath (July 3, 1865); a small account book listing dry goods and prices (1867-1868); a brief biographical sketch of William Blount Robertson (Dec. 2, 1898); lease for property situated on Main St., Baton Rouge; tax receipts from Madison County, Miss. (1895-1897); constitution of the Patrons Cooperation Society of Madison County (undated), an agriculture association; certificates (1899-1916) and diploma (1903) of Campbell Blackshear Hodges; and the charter of the Louisiana College of Medicine (1907) [typescript]. Of particular interest is the autobiography of James Starr (1889) detailing life in the 19th century, with an account of the difficulties endured by Union civilians during the Civil War, especially encounters with Confederate soldiers.

Correspondence contains a typescript of a letter (original date 1785, typescript date ca. 1928) by George Washington in which he makes reference to sitting for the painter "Pike" (Robert Edge Pine). A Civil War letter reflects a Confederate soldier's frustration with the inaptitude of the officers in charge of the army (Sept. 4, 1863). Another Civil War letter discusses an exchange of prisoners (Dec. 7, 1864). In a later letter, Otho Robards Singleton, congressman from Mississippi, reflects the political climate at the time of Reconstruction and offers his opinion on the possible impeachment of Governor Ames of Mississippi (Dec. 27, 1875). Other correspondence includes typescripts of letters concerning the return of the Louisiana Pelican flag, which was taken from the state by a Union soldier of the Massachusetts 31st regiment at the end of the Civil War (1877). **Note:** a facsimile of the George Washington letter is available - Misc.: W].

Printed material consists of photographs; published items; advertisements; and Confederate currency (1862-1864). Photographs of Abraham Lincoln standing on a porch (undated), New Orleans scenes (ca. 1847), Camp Beauregard (n.s.), and several portraits of unidentified persons and buildings comprise the photographs. Published items include expenses paid to various individuals for services provided in the removal of the Cherokee people (ca. 1835); the *Daily Evening Transcript* [facsimile] (July 24, 1830); an issue of *The Liberator* (Aug. 16, 1839) featuring anti-slavery views; Georgia Citizen *Extra* [facsimile] (July 23, 1865); constitution and bylaws of the Patrons of Husbandry (1872-1873); and that organization's publication on cooperative stores (1875). Also included is an article written about the Invalid's Hotel in Buffalo, N. Y. Among the advertisements are medicinal remedies (1855, undated); catalog for women's apparel (1874); a recipe booklet (1876); and a listing of police and fire stations in the New Orleans area (1885). Arranged chronologically.

IV. Graphic material and printed items, 1929-1934, undated

Printed material consists almost entirely of advertisements and catalogs for museum display equipment, but also includes reports from ... *Royal Museum Van Oudheden at Leiden* [in Dutch] and the American Association of Museums (April 30, 1934).

V. Artifacts and textiles, undated

A cloth-covered folder with fabric samples, a official seal of the Auditors Office of Louisiana, engraving instruments, and United Confederate Veterans medals. Arranged by type of item.

INDEX TERMS

Agricultural societies	2.III
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Confederate veterans	1.II.3, 2.II, 2.IV
Gruenstein, Bernard	1.IV.2
Lincoln, Abraham – Photograph	2.III
Long, Huey Pierce – Assassination.	1.IV.2
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Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.) – History	1.IV.3, 1.IV.2 1.IV.4, 2.IV
Louisiana – History	1.II.4, 1.IV.2, 1.II.5
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Mississippi – History	2.III
New Orleans (La.) – History – Pictorial works	2.III
Rohlfing, G.	1.IV.3
Slaves	2.III
Wesley Foundation	1.II.3
World War I	1.IV.2
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History--Societies, etc.--United States	1.II.1, 1.IV.5

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			Subgroup 1. Eugene M. Violette Papers (1909-1945 undated)
Z:3	1	1-5	Series I. University calendars, announcements, reports (1923-1937, undated).
	1		Series II. Correspondence (1922-1937, undated).
		6-12	Subseries 1. University (1930-1937)
		13-19	Subseries 2. Professional (1922-1937, undated)
		20	Subseries 3. Personal (1931-1936, undated)
		21	Subseries 4. Other correspondents (1916-1919)
		22-23	Series III. Writings, 1917-1933, undated
			Series IV. Graphic material and printed items (1909-1945, undated)
		24-29	Subseries 1. Advertisements (1911-1935, undated)
		30-31	Subseries 2. Newspapers and clippings (1909-1943, undated)
		32-34	Subseries 3. Miscellaneous (1915-1936, undated).
		35-44	Subseries 4. LSU (1912-1937, undated)
	2	1-10	Subseries 5. Publications (1911-1937)
			Subgroup 2. Museum Records (1830-1937)
Z:4	3	1-3	Series I. Correspondence (1926-1937)
		4-5	Series II. Miscellaneous (1931-1933)
		6	Series III. Printed material (1929-1934, undated)
	4	1-11	Series IV. Historical manuscripts (1830-1919, undated)
		12	Series V. Artifacts and textiles (undated): cloth samples
Z:4	5	--	Series IV. Historical manuscripts: photographs, engraving (ca. 1847, undated)
	6	--	Series V. Artifacts and textiles (undated): United Confederate Veterans medals, engraving instruments, Louisiana State seal.
			Subgroup 1. Eugene M. Violette Papers
Z:4	7	--	Series IV. Graphic material and printed items: LSU posters (undated); G. Rohlfing caricatures (undated), calendars (1930-1935).
	8	--	Series IV. Graphic material and printed items: scrapbook

OVERSIZE MATERIAL

Subgroup 2. Museum Records

- | | | | |
|------|----|----|--|
| OS:V | -- | 1 | Series IV. Historical manuscripts: certificates (1838-1916), true bill (1854) |
| | -- | 2 | Historical manuscripts: newspapers (1830-1893), <i>Georgia Citizen Extra</i> (1861), handbills (1864-1866), Patrons of Husbandry publication (1875). |
| OS:V | 2 | -- | Historical manuscripts: certificate (1899), diploma (1903). |
| | -- | 6 | Historical manuscripts: photograph of Camp Beauregard (undated) |

Subgroup 1. Eugene M. Violette Papers

- | | | | | |
|------|----|---|---|--|
| OS:V | -- | 3 | Series IV. Graphic material and printed items: LSU posters (undated) | |
| | -- | 4 | Graphic material and printed items: newspapers clippings (ca. 1912-1935, undated). | |
| | -- | 5 | Printed items: sample bonds and certificate (1928) maps (1928-1929, undated), blue prints 1935), advertisements (1934-1937, undated). | |
| | | 1 | -- | Graphic material and printed items: LSU posters (1928-1937, undated). |
| 99:V | | 1 | -- | Printed items: newspapers (1914-935). |
| | | 2 | -- | Printed items: <i>The Times-Picayune in Trench and Camp</i> (1918), <i>Times Picayune</i> (1918-1943). |

APPENDIX A

List of Newspapers

Alexandria Daily Town Talk (1926:April 30, May 1, May 3, May 25,)
The Catahoula News (1926:May 8)
The Guardian - Journal (1927:May 18)
The Item - Tribune (1926:May 2)
Lake Charles American Talk (1926:April 30, May 1, May 3, May 25)
Nashville Tennessean (1934:October 27) [Newspaper fragments]
New Orleans Courier (1935:April 1)
The New Orleans Item (1918:November 11; 1926:April 30, May 1)
New Orleans States (1925:July 12)
The New York Times - Complimentary Issue: "Why England and Germany Went to War"
(1914:August 23, 24)
Port Allen Observer (1926:May 14)
The Reveille (1935:February 22, April 30, May 17, July 12)
State Times (1935: May 29, Sept.10, November 11,) [Newspaper fragments]
Thibodaux Commercial Journal (1926:May 1, May 8)
The Times - Picayune (1918:November 12; 1926:April 30, May 1, May 2; 1943: July 26, July 27, August 11)
The Times - Picayune in Trench and Camp, Army Section (1918:July 8 - December 28)
True Democrat (1915: November 27, 1918: November 23)
Vernon Parish Journal (1926:May)