

CHARLES E. COATES PAPERS

Mss. 2283

Compiled by
Luana Henderson

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

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SUMMARY

Size.	3 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana
Inclusive dates.	1849-1952
Bulk dates.	1915-1948
Language.	English
Summary.	Correspondence, reports, patents, photographs, and postcards created and accumulated by Charles E. Coates pertaining primarily to sugar science, sugarcane cultivation, and sugar research at Louisiana State University.
Restrictions on access.	None
Related collections.	Charles E. and Ollie Maurin Coates Family Papers, Mss. 3579 Jesse Coates Oral History Interview, Mss. 4700.0291
Copyright.	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Citation.	Charles E. Coates, Mss. 2283, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	8:27-28, OS:C

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Charles E. Coates, the son of a physician, was born in Baltimore, Maryland in August 1866. As a youth, Charles E. Coates attended Westtown Boarding School in Chester County, Pennsylvania, after which he studied in Germany from 1888 until 1891. In 1893, he received a PhD in chemistry from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, and accepted a position at Louisiana State University in the Department of Chemistry. At LSU, he distinguished himself in the field of sugar chemistry and engineering. At the time of his appointment, he was the third faculty member in the history of LSU to have obtained a PhD. During his tenure, he served as head of the Department of Chemistry, dean of the Audubon Sugar School (1907-1931), and chair of the Graduate Division. Dr. Coates was recognized worldwide for his work in sugar chemistry research.

The Audubon Sugar School had its beginnings in New Orleans at the Sugar Experiment Station in Audubon Park, which was founded by the Louisiana Planters Association in 1887. Dr. C. W. Stubbs, a professor of agriculture, served as the first director. In 1891, a sugar mill added to the Sugar Experiment Station, and the following year it was renamed the Audubon Sugar School was established the following year. The main purpose of the Audubon Sugar School was to improve the Louisiana sugar industry through experimentation and data collection. In 1925, the Sugar School and Experiment Station moved to the new LSU campus in Baton Rouge. It was later renamed the Audubon Sugar Institute. Dr. Coates served as Dean from 1907 until 1931. Dr. Coates also coached the first LSU football team. As a former player at Johns Hopkins University, he organized the LSU first football squad shortly after he arrived. LSU lost to Tulane, 34-0, in the only game he ever coached.

Dr. Coates married Ollie Maurin in 1901, and they had four children: Charles Hunter (1903-1972), Victor Maurin (b. 1905), Jesse Penncock (1908-1994), and Caroline Penncock (b. 1917). Dr. Coates retired from LSU in June 1937. He died December 27, 1939 at the age of 73. Coates Hall, built on the new LSU Campus in 1924, was named in recognition of his achievements in the field of chemistry and engineering, and his distinguished career as a member of the faculty at the University.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers reflect the academic career of Dr. Charles E. Coates, professor of chemistry, engineering and sugar research at the Audubon Sugar School, Louisiana State University. His research studied the chemistry of sugar, and the cultivation and processing of sugar and sugar by-products. His papers contain research reports on sugar plants, with a focus on sugarcane, and sugar byproducts. Correspondence, scientific reports and writings, printed items and photographs comprise the collection.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

- Series I. Correspondence, 1907-1936.**
- Series II. Analytical Data Files, 1891-1952, undated.**
Subseries 1. Research Reports, 1891-1952, undated.
Subseries 2. Student Class Reports, 1891, 1897, 1917-1941, undated.
Subseries 3. Bibliographies, 1906-1948, undated.
- Series III. Photographs and Illustrations, 1894-1935, undated.**
- Series IV. Printed Items, 1849-1948, undated.**
Subseries 1. Patents, 1849-1940.
Subseries 2. General Printed Items, 1906-1948, undated.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1907-1936.

Correspondence illustrates Charles Coates's role as a prominent chemist, researcher and expert in the field of chemistry. Letters reflect the exchange of information on research projects, and request Coates to conduct chemical analyses and share research results. Topics include sugar production, forest products, water analyses, as well as research in agricultural chemistry and chemical engineering. Several letters discuss sugarhouse machinery; some provide specifications of the equipment. For the most part letters written in 1936 are requests for Coates's booklet on "ramie." Correspondents include colleagues, federal and state agencies, and members of the sugar and lumber industries.

Series II. Analytical Data Files, 1891-1952, undated.

Subseries 1. Research Reports, 1891-1952, undated.

For the most part, this subseries contains the results of experiments and analyses based on the scientific research of sugarcane, sugar processing and sugar products. Topics include chemical analyses, cultivation, disease, processing and manufacturing of various sugar crops, and uses of sugar by-products. Also present are reports on other sugar crops, the chemical analysis of water (1910-1917), uses for bagasse and ramie, the production of rum, as well as equipment and machinery used in the manufacturing of sugar. Blueprints and blue line prints of equipment designs accompany some reports. Several flow sheets accompany reports on a process of using decolorizing carbons at White Plantation (undated). This process calls for the use of activated carbons made by the Darco Sales Corporation (undated). A. L. Mathews writes on the manufacturing of white sugar in Java in a 149 page report (ca. 1912), and a report by Segundo Diaz Labayen on the study of sugar manufacturing at the Calamba Sugar Estate in the Philippines (1915). Also found in this subseries are paper samples made of bagasse and rice (undated).

Subseries 2. Student Class Reports, 1891, 1897, 1917-1941, undated.

This subseries is comprised mostly of reports submitted by students who conducted experiments and collected data for class assignments. Also present is a document stating that a Mr. R. M. Parrs at John Hopkins University was associated with the German Chemical Corporation, Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft (Feb. 9, 1891).

Subseries 3. Bibliographies, 1906-1948, undated.

This subseries contains lists of publications pertaining to the processing of sugar and petroleum.

Series III. Photographs and Illustrations, 1894-1935, undated.

This series is comprised of card photographs, copy prints, photographic postcards and illustrated postcards. Images include the Louisiana Sugar Experimental Station in New Orleans (1894), sugar factories and sugarcane fields in the United States, Jamaica and the Philippines (1911, 1920, undated). There are also several photographs of the Audubon Sugar School of Louisiana State University located in New Orleans (undated).

Additionally, photographs include, the inauguration of Governor John Parker (1920), Atkinson Hall at LSU and an aerial view of LSU (1921).

Series IV. Printed Items, 1849-1948, undated.

Subseries 1. Patents, 1849-1940.

This subseries consists of patents submitted for inventions and scientific methods developed for the processing of sugar and sugar byproducts.

Subseries 2. General Printed Items, 1906-1948, undated.

Articles, newspaper clippings, ephemera, newsletters, booklets, and advertisements comprise this group. There is also a volume in loose-leaf format that contains reprints of articles on sugar research and manufacturing (1917-1931).

INDEX TERMS

Audubon Sugar School.	I, III
Bagasse industry.	II.1-2
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Chemistry--Experiments.	II.2
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College teachers--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I-IV
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.- -Dept. of Chemistry--Faculty.	I-IV
Petroleum--Bibliography.	II.3
Rum--West Indies.	II.1
Sugar analysis.	II.1-2
Sugar--Bibliography.	II.3
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Sugar--Research--Louisiana.	I, II.1-2, IV
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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
	8:27	1	1-18	Series I. Correspondence, 1907-1936.
				Series II. Analytical Data Files, 1891-1952, undated.
		1	19-66	Subseries 1. Research Reports, 1891-1949, undated.
8:28	2	1-9		Subseries 1. Research Reports, undated.
OS:C			Oversize folder 1	Subseries 1. Research Reports: Data and manufacturing reports for sugar factories, 1917, 1928, 1943, 1947.
			Oversize folder 2	Subseries 1. Research Reports: Blueprints, 1919-1939, undated; comparative report for Georgia Plantation for 1929-1930.
			Oversize folder 3	Subseries 1. Research Reports: Sugar factories on Bayou Teche from mouth to Morbihan, 1910; blueprints, blue line prints, 1932-1952.
8:28	2	10-43		Subseries 2. Students Class Reports, 1891, 1897, 1917-1941, undated.
			44-54	Subseries 3. Bibliographies, 1906-1948, undated.
8:28	2	55-59		Series III. Photographs and Illustrations, 1894-1935, undated.
				Series IV. Printed Items, 1849-1948, undated.
8:28	3	1-27		Subseries 1. Patents, 1849-1940.
	3	28-53		Subseries 2. General Printed Items, 1906-1948, undated.
OS:C			Oversize folder 1	Subseries 2. General Printed Items: Sugar production charts, 1943, 1947.