



ArchivesSpace

Catharine Cole Collection NA.118

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Newcomb Archives

Newcomb Center for Research on Women

Seltzer-Gerard Reading Room

62 Newcomb Place

New Orleans, LA 70118

sbruner@tulane.edu

URL: <http://www.tulane.edu/~wc/collections/index.htm>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Newcomb Archives
Creator - cre:	Cole, Catharine (Martha R. Field)
Source - dnr:	Bacon, Catherine Field
Title:	Catherine Cole papers
ID:	NA.118
Date [inclusive]:	1853-1898
Physical Description:	0.5 Linear Feet 1 legal size document box
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Manuscripts Collection NA-118, Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library Special Collections, Newcomb College Institute, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70118.

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Biographical / Historical

Catherine Cole was a journalist in the latter half of the nineteenth century and was also the first female reporter of New Orleans. Catherine Cole was her pen name; her real name was Martha J. Field, and she was born in Lexington, Missouri, in 1853.

Cole published her first article in the "New Orleans Republican" in 1869, when she was only 15 years old. She continued writing in such newspapers as the "San Francisco Post," "New Orleans Republican," "Commercial Bulletin," "New Orleans Times-Democrat," and "Daily Picayune" for the rest of her life.

Cole wrote such columns as the successful "Social Mélange," "Catharine Cole's Intercepted Letters," and "Over the Tea Cups" of the "Daily Picayune." In 1881, Cole toured the entire state of Louisiana and sent articles back on her findings. Her trip gave her plenty of material for short stories and further articles, as well as made her an authority on the resources of Louisiana. Cole used the information she gained on her travels when she was on the Board of Awards at the World's Fair of 1893 in Chicago.

Not long after the World's Fair, Cole's health severely declined. Cole travelled to Germany for special treatment and several operations for paralysis agitans, but her condition worsened. In 1897 she was able to write "Catharine Cole's Book," a compilation of her newspaper articles and thoughts. Cole died on December 20, 1898, at the age of 44.

In addition to her career as a journalist, Cole was known as a crusader for women's right to work and the prevention of animal cruelty in New Orleans. She helped start New Orleans' Training School for Nurses, the Women's Exchange, kindergartens in New Orleans, and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the newspaper articles, biographical material, photographs, scrapbooks, and publications of Catherine Cole, a New Orleans journalist in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Much of the biographical materials were written by Cole's daughter, Flora Field, who was also a journalist in New Orleans. The collection also contains clippings of Cole's articles as well as poems and other writings and publications. Also included are photographs of Cole's family members and home.

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Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Finding aid revised and updated by Sam Bruner. 2016-11-22

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Related Materials

Location of additional material

A tape from Cole's descendent, Catherine Field Bacon, is in the Oral History File.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Women journalists
- Women as journalists
- Women journalists -- Louisiana -- New Orleans.
- Women as authors
- Women as poets
- Women -- Employment -- New Orleans.
- Bacon, Catherine Field

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Box 1		
Newspaper Clippings, 1894-1976	box 1	folder 1

Date [inclusive]: 1894-1976

Catherine "Toni" Field Bacon Scrapbook on Catherine Cole, 2003-12-29 <u>Date: 2003-12-29</u>	box 1	folder 2
"Some Notables of New Orleans" by Mary W. Mount, 1896 <u>Date: 1896</u>	box 1	folder 3
Biographical Materials on Catherine and Flo Cole	box 1	folder 4
Flo Field Tribute to Catherine Cole and Correspondence, 1936-1941 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1936-1941</u>	box 1	folder 5
Flo Field's Biographical Notes on Catherine Cole	box 1	folder 6
Paper on Catherine Cole by Newcomb College Student	box 1	folder 7
Biographical Material	box 1	folder 8
Grave Location and Photo of Tombstone	box 1	folder 9
Photographs	box 1	folder 10
Correspondence, 1968-1972 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1968-1972</u>	box 1	folder 11
Booklets	box 1	folder 12
Poems	box 1	folder 13
"Catherine Cole's Book", 1897 <u>Date: 1897</u>	box 1	folder 14
Miscellaneous	box 1	folder 15
Clippings Scrapbook	box 1	folder 16
Articles (Copies)	box 1	folder 17