

**EMMA T. STAFFORD.
SIDONIE DE LA HOUSSAYE
COLLECTION**

(Mss. 1445)

Revised by
Tara E. Zachary
June 2000

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

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size.	17 items, 1 m.s. volume
Geographic locations.	Louisiana.
Inclusive dates.	1882-1950
Bulk dates.	1932-1940
Languages.	English, French.
Summary.	Correspondence, addresses, printed items, scrapbook, and newspaper articles collected by Emma Stafford, granddaughter of Sidonie de la Houssaye, about de la Houssaye's life and writings.
Related Collections.	Sidonie de la Houssaye Papers, Mss. 105
Access.	No restrictions.
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Emma T. Stafford. Sidonie de la Houssaye Collection, Mss. 1445, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. ¹
Stack location.	U:104; Mss.Mf:S

¹ Collection previously known as the Sidonie de la Houssaye Papers.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Emma Tarleton Stafford was a granddaughter of Sidonie de la Houssaye (1820-1894), a French Louisiana author born August 17, 1820 to Ursin Perret and Francoise Pain of St. John the Baptist Parish and raised on Bellevue Plantation near Franklin. Married to Alexandre de la Houssaye, she resided first in St. Martinville and then Franklin, where she ran a school until the Civil War. After the death of her husband, she served as postmistress of Franklin and later reopened the school. When her daughter died in 1875 she assumed the responsibility of raising her eight grandchildren.

She began writing in the 1880s for New Orleans periodicals *L'Abeille*, *Le Meschacebe*, and *Le Franc-Louisianais*. In 1890 she was awarded the gold medal of the Athenee Louisianais, a society founded to preserve the French language in Louisiana. Her published works include three novels under her own name—*Pouponne et Balthazaar*, *Charles et Ella*, *Amis et fortune*, and a series, *Les quarteronnes de la Nouvelle Orleans*, under the pseudonym Louise Raymond. Sidonie de la Houssaye died Feb. 18, 1894.²

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection consists of correspondence (1934-1937) of Emma T. Stafford concerning Sidonie de la Houssaye and addresses about de la Houssaye and her writings. Newspaper clippings and a scrapbook (1888-1950) relate to the life and writings of de la Houssaye and include her death notice (1894). Printed items consist of a broadside announcing the opening of a private school by de la Houssaye and A. Willis in Franklin, Louisiana (1882); an item entitled "Le Porteur de L'abeille a aux Abonnes" (1884); a funeral notice of de la Houssaye (1894); and a post card photograph of the de la Houssaye home near St. Martinville, Louisiana.

²For more information about Sidonie de la Houssaye, see Joseph John Perret's LSU Ph.d dissertation *A Critical Study of the Life and Writings of Sidonie de La Houssaye with Special Emphasis on the Unpublished Works*, 1966, and Velma Savoie's LSU thesis *The Life and Writings of Madame Sidonie de la Houssaye*, 1936.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Personal Papers, 1934-1935, 1937, undated (6 items)

Correspondence and related items of Emma T. Stafford relating to Sidonie de la Houssaye, including letters from Alice M. Dugas of the LSU Historical Museum regarding a copy of de la Houssaye's *Amis et Fortune* for Stafford and Dugas's de la Houssaye collection and other manuscript materials, a letter of introduction for Stafford, an address about de la Houssaye (in French with an English translation) by James F. Broussard, LSU Dean of Administration and Head of the Romance Language Department given at Le Cercle Francais, ca. 1935, and a draft of a notice of a lecture by Stafford on her grandmother and her writings.

II. Newspaper Clippings, 1888, 1934, 1950, undated (4 items)

Table of contents of *Journal des Demoiselles*, May 1888; New Orleans *Times-Picayune* account of French decoration of James F. Broussard, September 16, 1934; reprint of Baton Rouge *Morning Advocate* article about Sidonie de la Houssaye by Jeanne Mayer in the Franklin (La.) *Banner-Tribune*, April 7, 1950; review of Arlin Turner's book on George W. Cable, undated

III. Newspapers, 1937, 1950 (3 items)

Two articles in the Franklin *Banner-Tribune* about the writings of Sidonie de la Houssaye and an LSU thesis about her works by Crowley native Velma Savoie, April 16, 1937, and June 25, 1937; "The Story of Mme. Sidonie de la Houssaye," Magazine Section, Baton Rouge *Morning Advocate*, April 2, 1950.

IV. Photograph, ca. 1932 (1 item)

Photograph of the de la Houssaye home, located across the bayou from St. Martinville. It was later demolished.

V. Printed items, 1882, 1884, 1894 (3 items)

Announcement of de la Houssaye's school in Franklin, 1882; "Le Porteur de L'Abeille Aux Abonnes," 1884 ("a message to the subscribers of the *Bee*," a New Orleans paper); funeral notice of de la Houssaye, 1894.

VI. Scrapbook, 1894, 1934, 1937, 1940, undated (1 ms. volume)

Funeral notice and newspaper article announcing the death of de la Houssaye; articles about de la Houssaye's writings and the study of her work by others, Stafford's activities promoting her grandmother's writing, and French literature and authors in Louisiana.

INDEX TERMS

Term

Found In

Authors, French--Louisiana.

I-III, V-VI

Broadsides.

V

Public schools--Louisiana--Franklin.

V

La Houssaye, Sidonie de.

I-VI

Scrapbooks.

VI

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
U:104 and Mss.Mf:S	1	1	Series I. Personal Papers
		2	Series II. Newspaper Clippings
		3	Series III. Newspapers
		4	Series IV. Photograph
		5	Series V. Printed items
	1	--	Series VI. Scrapbook