

VÁLLAS (ANTAL AND FAMILY) PAPERS
(Mss. #4439)
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

2008

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SUMMARY

Size	2.25 linear feet, 5 msv
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Hungary, Nicaragua
Inclusive Dates	1831-1995
Bulk Dates	1841-1968
Languages	English, Hungarian, German, French, Spanish, Latin
Summary	Correspondence, printed items, personal papers, and photographs of the Antal Vállas family, Hungarian immigrants to Louisiana. Papers relate to Vállas's career as an educator at the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and an Episcopalian minister, the professional activities and family life of his children and descendants, as well as continued contact with relatives in Hungary, through the 20 th century.
Access Restrictions	None
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Copyright	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Related Collections	Vallas (Anthony) History, Mss 965
Citation	Antal Vállas and Family Papers, Mss. #4439, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	109:33-34; J: 26-27; OS:V; Vault:1

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Antal Vállas was born on May 18, 1809, to parents János Vállas and Theresia Weidling in Pest, Hungary, the present day city of Budapest. Vállas received degrees in liberal arts from both the University of Pest and the University of Vienna in the 1830s, where his main focus was on mathematics. In 1837, he was elected to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Throughout his teaching and professional career in Hungary, Vállas published several works on mathematics and geography and strove to improve the standard of education in his country. When the reform government came to power in Hungary during the Revolution of 1848, they named Vállas a professor of mathematics at the Royal University of Pest. Once the Habsburg government regained power in 1850, Vállas was fired from this position and forced to leave the country despite his lack of any other political involvement.

Along with his family, Vállas briefly moved to Nicaragua in 1851, a country experiencing its own political turmoil. By 1853, Vállas moved his family again to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he would spend the next eight years teaching in private schools. During this time, he also was ordained as an Episcopalian minister by Bishop Leonidas Polk. In 1859, Vállas was the first professor elected to the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning in order to teach mathematics and natural philosophy. When Superintendent William T. Sherman resigned in 1861, Vállas briefly took over his post, stepping down in June 1861. He remained a professor until 1863 when his Union sympathies caught up with him during the Civil War. After moving back to New Orleans, Vállas served as the minister at Trinity Episcopal Church and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He died on July 20, 1869.

Vállas married Antonia Schüller in 1842 in their native Hungary. They had six children: Antonia, Adrian, Gizella, Horace, Marczel and Cornelia. His son Horace, a newspaper editor for the New Orleans *Times-Democrat*, married Kate Halliday and had six children: Edna, Bryson, Adele, Schüller, Miner and Beverly.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Antal Vállas and Family Papers consist of correspondence, printed items, personal papers and photographs related to the personal and professional life of Vállas and his descendents. The correspondence relates to the move of Vállas' family from his native Hungary to Nicaragua and eventually New Orleans and his employment as a professor at the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy and as an Episcopalian minister. Whenever Vállas moved to a new location where a different language was spoken, he would use the localized form of his name. Therefore, he is either referred to as Antal, Antonio, or Anthony. The correspondence of his descendents principally deals with family matters and their continued contact with cousins in Hungary. The printed items consist of Vállas' Hungarian publications, as well as clippings, invitations and programs. The personal papers contain financial and legal documents, diplomas, certificates, genealogy files, school records, and Vallas' sermons. The photographs feature Vállas family and friends.

LIST OF SERIES

- I. Correspondence, 1851-1995, undated**
- II. Printed Items, 1841-1961, undated**
- III. Personal Papers, 1831-1995, undated**
- IV. Photographs, 1873-1991, undated**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: Correspondence, 1851-1995, undated (.5 linear feet)

This series consists of letters and postcards in English, German, Hungarian, French and Spanish pertaining to the professional and personal life of Antal “Anthony” Vallas, his son Horace and grandchildren Edna, Beverly and Miner.

English translations of German letters from 1851-1868, are available, including some of the German originals. These letters between the Vallas family in Nicaragua and New Orleans and their relatives in Europe pertain to family life and the political conditions of the places in which the correspondent was located. In a letter dated July 9, 1851, Anthony Vallas described his family’s journey to Nicaragua and provided a detailed picture of the conditions he found when he arrived in the country (original also available). A subsequent letter by Vallas explains the political turmoil in Nicaragua and his intention to move to North America (May 5, 1852; original also available). Upon reaching New Orleans, Vallas describes the condition of the city and his family during the yellow fever epidemic of 1853 (Sept. 7, 1853; original also available). Letters to the Vallas family from friends and family describe the turbulent political times in Austria and Hungary, including a war between Austria and Prussia (1866-1868).

During his tenure at the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy, Vallas received letters from administrators and students. Three letters from Superintendent William T. Sherman discuss issues with student fees and applications, as well as class times (1860). P.G.T. Beauregard asked Vallas to tutor his son in mathematics (Jan. 16, 1860). Through two letters, Governor Thomas Overton Moore of Louisiana mentions the housing of weapons at the school and expresses his dislike of Sherman (1861). George Mason Graham, the Vice President of the Board of Supervisors discusses the need for an evacuation of students due to the imminent arrival of enemy forces (March 15, 1864). In addition, Vallas often received letters of introductions from parents of cadets and inquiries from potential students, including A.A. Batchelor (1860-1862). During the Civil War, former students serving as soldiers sent letters from the field (1861-1862).

Vallas also received letters from Episcopal clergymen in Louisiana, including Charles Goodrich, Amos D. McCoy, and Henry V. Ogden, in which they discussed issues with their parishes and offered Vallas advice (1858-1865). Bishop Leonidas Polk sent Vallas a letter congratulating him on his appointment to the Louisiana State Seminary and mentions a chapel in Pineville, La., in which he could preach (Dec. 9, 1859). Charles Goodrich also counseled Vallas that it would be acceptable for him to abstain from preaching in order to focus on his teaching duties (Jan. 21, 1860).

From 1893-1900, Joseph Burian of Hungary sent Horace Vallas information on his father and family before they left Hungary and on the Schüllers who remained there. Burian

assisted with family genealogical research and translated documents into English for Horace. He also translated letters from their first cousin Stefan Schüller, one of which

describes the family history (May 31, 1893). One translation of interest is the marriage agreement and dowry between Anthony Vallas and his father-in-law, Johann Schüller (Dec. 23, 1894).

For the children of Horace Vallas, their correspondence discussed family and professional matters, as well as responses to requests for information from researchers studying their grandfather. One major correspondent was their aunt Jane Halliday. Edna Vallas received three letters from World War I soldiers thanking her for knitting them sweaters through the American Red Cross (1917-1918). Edna and Beverly Vallas also received two letters from their nephew serving in World War II (1944-1945). Another letter of interest from Miner H. Vallas provides information on their family history, which he sent to a researcher (Sept. 9, 1926).

From 1944-1967, Beverly Vallas also received letters from her relatives in Hungary, principally Maria Schüller. The majority of these letters are in Hungarian. Because of the Soviet control in Hungary during this time period, the Schüllers lacked money and resources. Therefore, they often begged for aid from their American cousins, for items such as clothing, food and medicine. A letter describing the CARE, Inc. that Beverly used to send them packages is included (Nov. 26, 1947).

The letters written by William T. Sherman, P.G.T. Beauregard, Thomas Overton Moore, and Bishop Leonidas Polk are in the vault, but copies are available within the collection.

Arranged chronologically.

Series II: Printed Items, 1841-1961, undated (.5 linear feet)

This series consists of publications by and about Antal Vállas, clippings, invitations, and programs.

Vállas published several atlases and mathematics books in Hungarian. The atlases, *Egyetemi Világismerete* (1844), *Kézi És Iskolai Atlasz* (1846), and *Általános Földrajzi Atlasz* (undated) cover Europe, Asia and Africa. *Elemi Tertani Tanítványai Számára* (undated) is a basic geometry textbook for students. Another untitled mathematics book (undated) is also included. A draft of a history of the early years of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy written by Vallas is also available (1864).

Other publications in this series mention Vallas. A speech of remembrance called *Emlékbeszéd Vállas Antal* (1875) published by a Hungarian Academy of Sciences is available. Issues of the *Trinity Record* from the Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans (1900, 1923-1938) reference Vallas and include his portrait. Two issues of *The Alumnus* (1909), from Louisiana State University, chronicle the institution's history when Vallas was a faculty member. Publications of interest that do not mention Vallas are *The*

New Illustrated People's Calendar for Hungary and Transylvania (1900), a German atlas, and *Hungarian-American Historical Connections* by Eugene Pívany (1927), which chronicles Hungarians in America from the colonial period through the Civil War.

The clippings (1903-1960) include articles on the history of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy and New Orleans. Other clippings include information on the deaths of Miner and Edna Vallas, and an article on Bryson Vallas' appointment as the Superintendent of the Sewerage and Water Board in New Orleans. The invitations and programs relate to the graduations and other activities of the children of Horace Vallas (1902-1935).

The manuscript volumes include two other Hungarian publications by Antal Vállas, *Hetilap* (1845) and *Számvetés Elemei* (1846). Issues of the *St. Charles Weekly Mirror* (Feb. 1876-Feb. 1877) and *The Ledger* (Jan. 1880-Dec. 1881) edited by Horace Vallas are also available.

The oversize folders include issues of German newspapers, *Der Wanderer*, *Der Lloyd*, and *Kölnische Zeitung* (1850-1851), which discuss Vállas' dismissal as a professor from the Royal University at Pest. English translations of excerpts from these newspapers are also available. Hungarian maps of Pest, Pozsony Megye, Nyitra Megye, and Budapest Legujabb Tervrajza (1885-1894) are also included.

Arranged chronologically.

Series III: Personal Papers, 1831-1995, undated (.75 linear feet)

This series contains financial and legal documents, diplomas, certificates, sermons, genealogy files and school records for Antal Vállas and family.

The financial documents pertain to payments made by Vallas on land in Mississippi (1854-1864). Receipts of items sent by Beverly Vallas to her cousins in Hungary are also included (1947-1966). A legal document granting the succession of Vallas' estate to his son, Adrien A. Vallas in 1871 is also available.

The diplomas and certificates relate to Vallas' education and subsequent professional involvement in Hungary. This includes three diplomas in Latin (1831-1837), a certificate for a teaching position at the Technical Institute in Pest (1846). The oversize folders contain a copy of a membership certificate from the Royal Philosophical Society at Pest (1846) and his Hungarian academic credentials (1844).

A sermon by Vallas given in 1859, as well as a volume of sermons written between 1861-1866 from the Episcopal church are also included.

The genealogy materials consist of documents sent by Joseph Burian during his family research for Horace Vallas. A majority of the files are in Hungarian and German and relate to both the Vallas and Schüller families (1892-1931). A few English translations

are available, including the letters of baptism for the children of Antal Vállas. A document called "The Records of Stephan Schüller" presents a narrative history of Vállas (undated). Other speeches and remembrances of Vállas are also available (1869-1875, undated).

This series also includes the school records for Edna, Adele, Beverly and Miner Vallas from elementary schools in New Orleans, as well as Tulane University (1879-1923).

Arranged chronologically.

Series IV: Photographs, 1873-1991, undated (.6 linear feet)

This series consists of photographs of family and friends of the Vállas family in both the United States and Europe. Photographs of Anthony Vallas, his wife Antonia Schüller Vallas, their son Horace Vallas, and grandson Horace Anthony Vallas (undated) are included. Other photographs of interest depict the Vallas' Schüller relatives from Hungary, especially Stefan Schüller, a frequent correspondent to his American family (1873-1933). Photographs of Joseph Burian and his family are also included (1899). On the back of a majority of the Schüller photographs, Burian included short biographical information for each subject. A detailed listing of the people within the photographs can be found in the container list.

Arranged chronologically.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

Term	Series
Atlases, Hungarian.	II
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Batchelor, Albert A. (Albert Agrippa), 1845-1905.	I
Beauregard, G.T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893.	I
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Episcopal Church--Sermons.	III
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McCoy, Amos D.	I
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Nicaragua--Description and travel--19 th century.	I
Ogden, Henry V.	I
Polk, Leonidas, 1806-1864.	I
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Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891.	I
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Vállas, Antal, 1809-1869.	All series
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Vallas, Horace, 1852-1909.	I, II, IV.
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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
				Series I: Correspondence
	109:33	1	1-40	Correspondence (1851-1995, undated)
			41	Letter Translations (1851)
			42	Empty Envelopes (1860, 1893-1895, 1923, 1925, undated)
	109:34	2	1	German Letter Translations (1851-1868)
			2	Correspondence (1854-1900)
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			44	<i>Egyetemi Világismerete</i> (Atlas) Volume 5 (1844)
			45	<i>Egyetemi Világismerete</i> (Atlas) Volume 6 (1844)
			46	<i>Egyetemi Világismerete</i> (Atlas) Volume 7 (1844)
			47	<i>Egyetemi Világismerete</i> (Atlas) Volume 8 (1844)
			48	<i>Egyetemi Világismerete</i> (Atlas) (1844)
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			54	German Newspaper Translated Excerpts (1850-1851)
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			56	Academy of Sciences (1868-1869)
			57	<i>Emlékbeszéd Vállas Antal</i> (Remembrance Speech for Antal Vállas) (1875)
			58	<i>The New Illustrated People's Calendar for Hungary and Transylvania</i> (German Almanac) (1900)
			59	<i>Trinity Record</i> (1900)
			60	Invitations and Programs (1902-1933)
			61	Clippings (1903-1960, undated)
			62	<i>Rohonczy Gedeon nyílt levele Gróf Andrássy Gyulához sa Válasz!</i> (Open Letter and Response) (1905)
			63-64	<i>The Alumnus</i> (1909)
			65	<i>Trinity Record</i> (1923-1938)
			66	<i>Hungarian-American Historical Connections</i> by Eugene Pívany (1927)
			67	Commencement Programs for Tulane, LSU, Warren Easton Boy's High School (1923-1935)
			68	<i>The Tulane News Bulletin</i> (1930)
			69	List of Vallas' Hungarian Publications (undated)
			70	<i>Általános Földrajzi Atlasz</i> (Atlas) (undated)

		71	<i>Der Projectirte Schifffahrte Canal</i> (undated)
		72	<i>Elemi Tertani Tanitvanyai Számára</i> (Basic Geometry for Students) (undated)
		73	Hungarian Mathematics Book (undated)
		74	European Care Package Advertisements (undated)
		75	Map of Slovenia, Postcards from Vienna (undated)
J: 26		Vol. 1	<i>Hetilap</i> (1845)
J:26		Vol. 2	<i>Számvetés Elemei</i> (1846)
J:27		Vol. 3	<i>St. Charles Weekly Mirror</i> (Feb. 1876-Feb. 1877)
J:27		Vol. 4	<i>The Ledger</i> (Jan. 1880-Dec. 1881)
OS:V		1	<i>Der Wanderer</i> (Apr. 17, 1850), <i>Der Lloyd</i> (Apr. 30, 1850), <i>Der Lloyd</i> (May 4, 1850), <i>Kolnische Zeitung</i> (May 23, 1850), <i>Der Lloyd</i> (May 30, 1850), <i>Der Wanderer</i> (March 19, 1851), <i>Churchwork</i> (May 1961)
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		77	Vallas Sermon (1859)
		78	Professional Certificates (1867-1870)
		79-81	Financial Documents (1844-1966, undated)
		82	Vallas Remembrances (1869-1875, undated)
		83	Antal "Anthony" Vallas Succession (1871)
		84	School Reports (1879-1923)
		85-86	Genealogy (1892-1931, 1995, undated)
		87	Miner Vallas School Report (ca. 1906-1907)
		88	Miner Vallas Stamp Collection (1913)
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		4-5	Genealogy (1892-1895, 1925)
		6	Miner H. Vallas School Records (1917-1919)
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		2	Stefan Schüller (1873-1931)
		3	Unidentified Schüller (1883, undated)
		4	Lenora Hamilton, Jeanne S. Howard (1887, 1899)
		5	Laszló Schüller, Erziebet Schüller, Joseph de Burian, and Mathild, Maria, Estella and Lajos Schüller (1893, undated)

	6	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph de Burian, Mary de Burian, Lulu Cushing Keefe (1899, undated)
	7	Stephan Schüller, Geza Schüller, Louis Kirchhof, Stefan Schüller (1902, undated)
	8	Stefan Schüller (1908,1933)
	9	Reade Sherwood, Mr. Leach's Jewelry Store, Miner Howard Vallas' Grave, Louise Armstrong Vallas (1913, 1930, 1991)
	10	Anthony Vallas, Antonia Schüller Vallas, Horace Vallas, Horace Anthony Vallas (undated)
	11	Stephan Schüller, Mr. and Mrs. Ladislaus Schüller, Esther Hirsch, Mathilde Schüller, Eugen Schüller (undated)
	12	Stefan Schüller (undated)
	13	Fannie Rankin Ritchie, Unidentified Schüller Man (undated)
	14	Rosa Schüller Kirchhof, Unidentified Schüller Woman (undated)
	15	Jozef Szilaverly, Mrs. Ladislaus Schüller, Mathilde Schüller, Franz Schüller (undated)
109:34	4	1 Madelaine Bassetti (undated)
		2 Camille Conway, Edith Ledig (undated)
		3 Olga Czarnowski (undated)
		4 Mrs. A.S. Hinton, Marshall Gerde, Mrs. Hamilton (undated)
		5 Mrs. A.S. Hinton, Thomas Walter, Unidentified (undated)
		6-7 Pembroke Leach (undated)
		8 Kenneth Mayo, Theodora Shuher (undated)
		9-10 Edna Miller (undated)
		11 Mrs. E.N. Miner, Unidentified (undated)
		12 Mary Phillips, Unidentified Woman (undated)
		13 Carrie Roessel, Lulu Roessel, Unidentified (undated)
		14 Mrs. G. Roessel, Mr. Spool (undated)
		15 Rudolf Roessel, Marshall Gerde (undated)
		16 A.G. Sherwood (undated)
		17 Edna Miller and Reade Sherwood (undated)
		18 Reade Sherwood (undated)
		19 Dr. Stern, Unidentified Boy (undated)
		20 Captain Webb, Carrie Roessel (undated)
		21 Mrs. Westerman, Ruth Westerman, Lowell Westerman (undated)
		22-23 Unidentified Woman (undated)
		24 Unidentified People (undated)