

JOHN EARLE UHLER PAPERS

Mss. 1902

Inventory

Compiled by
Meghann Wollitz

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

2015

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SUMMARY

Size.	13.4 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana
Inclusive dates.	1921-1960
Bulk dates.	1931-1959
Language.	English, German, Italian
Summary.	Correspondence, manuscripts, teaching material, photographs, newspapers, and other printed items documenting John Earle Uhler's career as a writer, scholar, and English professor at LSU from 1928-1961.
Restrictions on access.	None
Related collections.	None
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. 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.	John Earle Uhler Papers, Mss. 1902, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	79:22-32; OS:U; 99:U

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Earle Uhler was born in Media, Pennsylvania on June 20, 1891, the son of William Jackson Uhler and Ann Elder (Wittig). He attended Johns Hopkins University, receiving a B.A. in English in 1913. Over the next decade, he worked in a variety of jobs and continued his education, receiving a M.A. (1924) and Ph.D. (1926), also from Johns Hopkins. During these years, Uhler was employed as a reporter and copy editor for the *Baltimore Sun*, where he became acquainted with H.L. Mencken. He acted professionally, served as a second lieutenant in the infantry during World War I, and taught English at Johns Hopkins, as well as Western Kentucky Teachers' College.

Uhler joined the faculty at LSU in 1928, serving as the first president of the LSU Faculty Club. Also a charter member of the Renaissance Society of America, his research interests included Shakespeare, 18th century English drama, English Renaissance literature, and linguistics. In 1931, Uhler published *Cane Juice*, a novel depicting southern Louisiana and student life at LSU. A public controversy ensued in which Uhler was accused of slander by Father F. L. Gassler, culminating in his suspension and eventual removal from the faculty by the executive committee of the LSU Board of Supervisors. After a six-month legal battle involving the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Association of University Professors, Uhler was reinstated in April of 1932.

Other published works by Uhler include *English in Business* (1925), *Review of English Grammar* (1926), *Pasquale Amato* (1953), the play *Three Birds and a Blue Bell* (1929), and as many as 100 articles in journals, pamphlets, and brochures. He was also editor of *Best Eighteenth Century Comedies* (1929), and a member of the Modern Language Association of America, the American Association of University Professors, and the Rotary International. Uhler married Corrine McCreary Barr, a Kentucky native, with whom he had two sons, John Earle Uhler, Jr. (Jack) and Edward Barr Uhler (Buzz). He died on November 22, 1962.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers consist of correspondence, literary and academic manuscripts, printed material, teaching materials, and photographs pertaining to John Earle Uhler's life and career as a scholar and English professor. The collection dates from 1921-1960 with the bulk of materials from 1931-1959. Personal correspondence consists of letters and postcards from the Uhlers' friends and family, while professional correspondence contains letters from publishers and editors concerning Uhler's attempts to publish his writing, most notably *Cane Juice*. Writings are made up of literary and academic manuscripts. These are divided by genre and consist of novels, scholarly works, plays, novelettes, book reviews, poems, short stories, biographies, speeches, and essays. Printed material consists of newspaper clippings, newspapers, periodicals, and a wide variety of other items. Teaching materials include Uhler's notes, bibliographies, sample exams, and other items from his courses taught at LSU. Photographs and portraits comprise a small number of personal photographs and pencil drawings of Uhler, as well as photographs used in the preparation of his novel, *Cane Juice*.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1921-1960, undated

Subseries 1. Personal Correspondence, 1931-1958

Subseries 2. Professional Correspondence, 1921-1960, undated

Series II. Writings, 1931-1957, undated

Series III. Printed Material, 1924-1960, undated

Series IV. Teaching Material, 1927-1957, undated

Series V. Photographs and Portraits, 1930-1949, undated

SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1921-1960, undated

Subseries 1. Personal Correspondence, 1931-1958

Personal correspondence is arranged chronologically and consists of letters and postcards written to both John Earle Uhler and his wife, Corrine, by friends, family, and acquaintances. Included are letters sharing general news, holiday greetings, and notes from the Uhlers' two children, Jack and "Buzz," and later, Jack's wife, Nell. There are also sympathy letters written to Corrine following her mother's death in November of 1943, and her subsequent hospitalization. Letters from staff and faculty discuss the Uhler sons' absences and performance while at school. There is also a small amount of personal business correspondence relating to Uhler's hobbies, including stamp and coin collection. Three albums contain postcards sent to Uhler and his family when he was a young adult.

Subseries 2. Professional Correspondence, 1921-1960, undated

Professional correspondence is arranged chronologically and consists primarily of letters from publishers discussing work submitted by Uhler. There are also letters written to and from Uhler in 1946, while he was doing research and preparing to write a biography of the opera singer Pasquale Amato. Some of these correspondents include singers Frieda Hempel and Geraldine Ferrar, as well as Bruno Zirato and Giles Borbridge. There are also several copies and transcriptions of letters written by Amato himself in Italian.

Correspondence from 1931 and 1932 focuses on the publication of *Cane Juice*, and the events that followed. Letters follow the progression of Uhler's attempts to publish the novel. His official contract with The Century Company, from May 21, 1931, is attached to one letter. Beginning in October of 1931, the correspondence reflects Uhler's dismissal from LSU, including telegrams from the ACLU regarding legal representation, and letters of support from various people. During the six month period where Uhler was without a job, there are also letters written to English departments at other universities seeking open positions. After his reinstatement, most correspondence is from publishers regarding other pieces submitted for publication, as well as a small number of LSU English department communications.

Series II. Writings, 1931-1957, undated

This series contains drafts, revisions, and notes from various literary and academic works written by John Earle Uhler. Included are novels, scholarly works, plays, book reviews, novelettes, poems, short stories, biographies, speeches, and essays. The writings are organized either alphabetically or chronologically within each genre.

Novels are arranged alphabetically and include four drafts of *Cane Juice*, published in 1931. The other drafts are typed and handwritten manuscripts of unpublished novels including *White Nile*, originally titled *Unto the Bow* (nine drafts), and *The Governor's Woman* (two drafts). Notes and manuscript fragments exist for all three works. *White Nile* and *The Governor's Woman* are undated. **Scholarly works** are arranged by title and chronologically. They include drafts and notes for both *A History of English Literature* (undated) and *A Review of English Grammar* (1935). Many of the manuscripts are drafts of essays or other pieces that Uhler wrote on Thomas Morley and his music, some of which were published in LSU Humanities collections. The Morley works are arranged chronologically.

There are a small number of manuscripts from each of the following categories: **Book reviews** consist of *The Dickens Digest*, *The Goebbels Diaries* (1942-1943), *John Pendleton Kennedy* (1931), and *The Memoirs of Cordell Hull* (1948); **noveauettes** include *Concerto in D Minor* (1953), *Lucky Penny*, and three drafts each of *I Will Win Her Fair* and *Foul to Fair*; **plays** consist of *The Devil's Den*, *Double Exposure*, *A Pair of Professions*, and *Three Strangers*, all undated, as well as a fragment of *Three Birds and a Bluebell* (1929). There are also a small number of **poems** and **short stories**, including *Character Sketches*, *Detective Monahan-Retired* (1943), *The Gate is Open*, *Greater Love Hath No Man*, *Lazarus with Two Others*, *Like Vines*, and *Pattern in Black and White*. Four **speeches** on Shakespeare and world political events are *America Expresses Herself to Communism* (1947), *Barley Break* (1955), *Sam Mims* (1947), and a speech given at the *Shakespeare Society of New Orleans*. There are also a number of **essays** on similar topics related to the geopolitical world in the mid-20th century, as well as Uhler's response to the accusations made by Father Gassler regarding *Cane Juice*. Short **biographies** include two drafts of *Amato*, as well as fragments and research notes for the same piece, *Roark Bradford*, *General John Burgoyne*, *Thomas Morley*, and *John van Druten*.

Series III. Printed Material, 1924-1960, undated

This series contains numerous types of printed material. The first section is organized alphabetically by topic, and consists of a variety of programs, handbooks, reports, placards, and scrapbook pages. Newspaper clippings, from both local and national papers, pertain mostly to the publication of *Cane Juice* and the events that followed. Newspapers include the *Advocate* and *New Orleans State Times*, with articles discussing the *Cane Juice* controversy in 1931-1932; several issues of *The American Progress*, *The Baton Rouge Journal*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Morgan City Review* from 1924-1954; several issues of the *New Orleans Item*, *The Advocate*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, from 1939-1945, and the *Baltimore Sun*, November 11, 1918. There is also a damaged section from the *Times-Picayune*, October 4, 1942, which is noted as having been burned in a plane during an air raid by the Japanese in World War II. The last two sections of the series contain published material written by Uhler, organized by the title of the journal or periodical where it appeared. There are also published works written by other authors which were used by Uhler in his research. These are organized alphabetically by last name.

Series IV. Teaching Material, 1927-1957, undated

Teaching material includes notes, readings, sample exams, and other items from several of John Earle Uhler's classes at LSU. Courses include English 119, 219, and 263, all covering Shakespeare; English 221 and 268, Restoration Drama; English 222, 18th Century Drama; English 295, seminar; and 131, History of English Drama.

Series VI. Photographs and Portraits, 1930-1949, undated

Photographs consist of a small number of images of the LSU campus and plantation houses that were marked for use in the preparation of *Cane Juice*. There are also several photographs of opera singers, including Frances Greer, and Elda Vettori, who signed hers. There are a few other unidentified images, including one of a boat. In addition, there are four pencil drawings of John Earle Uhler, by unidentified artists.

INDEX TERMS

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

Amato, Pasquale.	I, II, III
Baton Rouge (La.)--History--20th century.	
Censorship—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.	I, II
College teachers—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.	
English literature—History and criticism.	
English literature—Study and teaching.	
European literature—Renaissance, 1450-1600—History and criticism.	
Johns Hopkins University.	III
Literature, modern—20th century.	
Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.). Department of English—Faculty.	
Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.). School of Music.	III
Novelists, American—Louisiana.	
Opera—Production and direction—United States.	I, III
Politics and literature—Louisiana.	I, II, III
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616—Study and teaching—Louisiana.	
Uhler, John Earle, 1891-1962.	
World politics—20th century.	II, III
World War, 1939-1945—Press coverage—United States.	II, III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
				Series I. Correspondence, 1921-1960, undated
	79:22	1	1-6	Subseries 1. Personal Correspondence, 1931-1958
	79:28	14	v. 1-3	Postcard albums
	79:22	1	7-48	Subseries 2. Professional Correspondence, 1921-1960, undated
				Series II. Writings, 1931-1957, undated
	79:23	2	1	<i>Cane Juice</i> – Draft 1 – 1931
			2-5	<i>Cane Juice</i> – Draft 2 – 1931
			6-10	<i>Cane Juice</i> – Draft 3 – 1931
			11-15	<i>Cane Juice</i> – Draft 4 – 1931
			16-18	<i>Cane Juice</i> – Draft 5 - 1931
			19	<i>Cane Juice</i> – Outline and Notes
			20-21	<i>The Governor's Woman</i> – Typed Draft 1 -undated
			22-23	<i>The Governor's Woman</i> – Typed Draft 2 – undated
			24-25	<i>The Governor's Woman</i> – Handwritten Draft – undated
			26	<i>The Governor's Woman</i> – Notes
			27	<i>As Unto the Bow</i> - undated
	79:24	3	1-2	<i>As Unto the Bow</i> - undated
			3-7	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 1
			8-12	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 2
			13-16	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 3
	79:25	4	1-4	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 3
			5-7	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 4
			8-12	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 5
			13-21	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 6
	79:26	5	1-2	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 6
			3	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 7
			4	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 8
			5	<i>White Nile</i> – Draft 9
			6-7	<i>White Nile</i> - Fragments
			8-10	<i>White Nile</i> - Notes
			11	<i>A History of English Literature</i> – Draft 1
			12	<i>A History of English Literature</i> – Draft 2
			13	<i>A History of English Literature</i> – Notes
			14-21	<i>A Review of English Grammar</i> – Draft 1 - 1935
			22-25	<i>A Review of English Grammar</i> – Draft 2 – 1935
	79:26	5	26	<i>A Review of English Grammar</i> – Fragments - 1935
			27	<i>A Review of English Grammar</i> – Notes - 1935
			28-29	<i>Thomas Morley and the Madrigal</i> – Notes, 1950-1954
	79:27	6	1-3	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Two Voices</i> , Proofs, 1954
	OS:U	-	2	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Two voices</i> , Gallery Proofs, 1954

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
	79:27	6	4	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Two Voices</i> – Draft 1, 1954
			5	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Two Voices</i> – Draft 2, 1954
			6	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Two Voices</i> – Draft 3, 1954
			7	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Four Voices</i> – Draft 1, 1955
			8	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Four Voices</i> – Draft 2, 1955
			9	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Four Voices</i> – Draft 3, 1955
			10	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Five and Six Voices</i> , 1955
			11	<i>Thomas Morley as Editor of the "Triumphs of Oriana"</i> – Draft 1, 1955
			12	<i>Thomas Morley as Editor of the "Triumphs of Oriana"</i> – Draft 2, 1955
			13	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Three Voices</i> – Draft 1, 1957
			14	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Three Voices</i> – Draft 2, 1957
			15	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Three Voices</i> – Draft 3, 1957
			16	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Three Voices</i> – Handwritten Draft 1, 1957
			17	<i>Morley's Canzonets for Three Voices</i> – Handwritten Draft 2, 1957
			18-39	Thomas Morley works – General
79:28	7		1-6	Thomas Morley works - General
			7-10	Book Reviews, 1931-1948
			11-27	Novelettes, 1953, undated
			28-32	Plays, 1929, undated
			33-34	Poems, undated
			35-42	Short Stories, 1943, undated
			43-46	Speeches, 1947-1955
			47-62	Essays, 1930-1953
79:29	8		1-33	Essays, 1930-1953
			34-49	Biographies, undated
			50	Unidentified manuscript fragments
			51	Manuscript notes – Actors, undated
			52	Manuscript notes – Delphians, undated
			53	Manuscript notes – Dictions – French aphorisms, 1946
			54	Manuscript notes – French Songs, Negro Songs, undated
			55	Manuscript notes – Johns Hopkins Class Notes, 1920
			56	Manuscript notes – Jonal Crew, undated
			57	Manuscript notes – List of Magazines, undated
			58	Manuscript notes – Literary Material, undated
			59	Manuscript notes – 1953-1954
			60	Manuscript notes – 1963
			61	Manuscript notes – Projects, The Fourth and the Greatest, undated
			62	Manuscript notes – Projects, 1928, 1930

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
				Series III. Printed Material, 1924-1960, undated
	79:30	9	1	Baltimore
			2	Baton Rouge – Rotary Club,
			3-4	Book Lists and Catalogs
			5	<i>Cane Juice</i> advertisements
			6-7	<i>Cane Juice</i> commentary on dismissal
	OS:U	-	1	<i>Cane Juice</i> “Benton Ferry Bridge dance and brawl” placards
	79:30	9	8	Coin Collection
			9	College English Association
			10	Dryden Press Book Lists
			11	English Academic Exams
			12	French’s Standard Drama
			13	Great Britain – Tourism
			14	Great Britain – Publications
			15	Great Britain – Plays
			16	John Hopkins Commencement Program, 1924
			17	Johns Hopkins – Administrative
			18	John Hopkins – Alumni Magazine and Reports
			19	John Hopkins Magazine, 1950
			20	Louisiana Political Advertisements, c. 1930
			21	LSU Administrative, Faculty Information
			22	LSU Handbooks, 1930, 1948, 1957
			23	LSU Programs
	79:30	9	24-28	LSU School of Music Scrapbook, 1937-1938
			29-30	LSU School of Music Scrapbook, Apr 7, 1939-May 14, 1940
			31	Modern Language Association
			32	Morley – ‘Religious Paraphrases of Canzonets to 3,’ enlargement prints
			33	Music Programs and Catalogs
	79:31	10	1	New Orleans - Arnaud’s and Antoine menus
	OS:U	-	1	New Orleans - signed Arnaud’s menu
	79:31	10	2	Renaissance Society of America
			3	Script – College Coach, 1933
			4	Script – Footlight Parade, 1933
			5	Script – Millions in the Air, 1935
			6	Simplified Spelling
			7	Shakespeare – Argosy Bookstores
			8	Shakespeare – Folger Library Prints
			9-10	Shakespeare – Postcards
			11	Shakespeare – Programs
			12	Shakespeare – Stratford-upon-Avon
			13	Shakespeare Society of New Orleans

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
			14	South-Central Modern Language Association
			15	Speech and Writing Pamphlets
			16	Termite Control
			17	Text of King Lear – Madeleine Doran
			18	Theater Programs and Reviews
			19	Theater owner/actor portraits
			20	Travel Brochure, Germany
			21	United States Naval Academy
			22	“The University Prints”
			23	Western Kentucky State College – Magazine
			24	Writing and Editing
			25	Newspaper Clippings. <i>Cane Juice</i> , Jul-Sep 1931
			26	Newspaper Clippings. <i>Cane Juice</i> , Oct 1-13, 1931
			27	Newspaper Clippings. <i>Cane Juice</i> , Oct 14-31, 1931
			28	Newspaper Clippings. <i>Cane Juice</i> , Nov-Dec 1931
			29	Newspaper Clippings. <i>Cane Juice</i> , 1932-1934
			30-34	Newspaper Clippings. <i>Cane Juice</i> , undated
			35-47	Newspaper Clippings, 1925-1960, undated
			48	<i>Times-Picayune</i> , October 4, 1942, damaged in air raid
99:U	-		1	Newspapers, <i>Advocate</i> , <i>New Orleans State Times</i> , <i>Cane Juice</i> newspapers and clippings, 1931-1932
			2	Newspapers, <i>The American Progress</i> , <i>The Baton Rouge Journal</i> , <i>Baltimore Sun</i> , <i>Morgan City Review</i> , 1924-1954
			3	Newspapers, <i>New Orleans Item</i> , <i>The Advocate</i> , <i>New Orleans Times-Picayune</i> , 1939-1945
			4	Newspapers, <i>Baltimore Sun</i> (Morning and Evening edition), November 11, 1918
				Published Writing by Uhler
79:32	11		1	General Writings
			2	Pasquale Amato
			3	Programs – Uhler
			4	Shakespeare
			5	C - periodical title
			6	E-F - by periodical title
			7	L-P - by periodical title
			8	R - by periodical title
			9	S - by periodical title
			10	Published material - by Philip and Claude Uhler
			11-17	Published material by other authors (signed) – alphabetical by name
			18-23	Published material by other authors – alphabetical by name

Stack

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
79:26	12	1-12	Printed manuscripts by other authors – alphabetical by name
		13-37	Series IV. Teaching Material, 1927-1957, undated
79:27	13	1-32	Series V. Photographs and Portraits, 1930-1949, undated
79:28	14	1	Pencil drawings of Uhler
OS:U	-	1	Pencil drawing of Uhler
79:28	14	2-7	Photographs