

WALL (EVANS) PAPERS

Mss. 4411

Inventory

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Cay Petty

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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.	12 linear feet.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana; Mississippi.
Inclusive dates.	1924-1990.
Bulk dates.	1927-1963.
Languages.	English.
Summary.	Literary work by Evans Spencer Wall, Jr., including manuscript drafts of short stories, novels, and essays; typescripts of short stories, novels, synopses, and poetry; and three printed short stories and one novel. Also included are literary and personal correspondence; legal documents; printed items; and financial, business, and employment records documenting Wall's literary career and personal life dating from 1927-1963.
Source.	Purchase; 1991.
Access.	No restrictions.
Related collection.	Mary Berthelot Wall Papers (Mss. 4438).
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Evans Wall Papers, Mss. 4411, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack designations.	Range 91:30-35

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Evans Spencer Wall, Jr. (d. June 10, 1963) was born November 16, 1886, to Mary Pettibone Wall and Evans Spencer Wall, Sr. on Richland Plantation. Richland was a cotton plantation near Woodville, Mississippi. Its main house was built in the late eighteenth century. Evans Wall was born in the house and grew up on the plantation. He lived at Richland with his first wife, Violet Ashley, and their daughter, Betty, until 1930. Evans Wall's first marriage was dissolved. In 1936 or 1937, he married Mary Claire Berthelot, a Louisiana poet, and resided in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Wall had no children by his second wife.

Wall attended Soule Commercial College in New Orleans for two years. He also attended Tulane Law School and Louisiana State University for brief periods of time. Wall held a wide variety of jobs. On information dating from the 1940s, he states that he worked, for example, as a wheat harvester, deck hand on a steamboat, automobile salesman, deputy sheriff, and lecturer on writing fiction. In the 1950s, he worked as an interviewer for survey companies.

Wall was also a writer, whose work is often set in the South. His first novel, *The No-Nation Girl*, published in 1929, was favorably reviewed in a number of magazines and newspapers and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize by the publisher, The Century Co. Other published novels include: *Love Fetish* (1932), *A Time to Sow* (1932), *The Marriage Rite* (1932), *Danger* (1933), *River God* (1934), *Lovers Cry for the Moon* (1935), and *Ask for Therese* (1952). (See Bibliography on page 17 for the names of publishers.) Wall also wrote and published short stories and wrote a limited amount of poetry.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Evans Wall Papers contain correspondence, legal documents, printed items, typescripts, and manuscript drafts documenting Wall's literary career. Included is almost one linear foot of correspondence (1927-1962) from agents, agencies, publishers, and acquaintances sharing literary interests. Literary works by Wall include: three linear feet of manuscript drafts of short stories, novels, and essays; three linear feet of typescripts of short stories, novels, poetry, and synopses of his work; an incomplete set of galleys for *The Marriage Rite*; three printed short stories; and a printed copy of the novel *Ask for Therese* (1952). Financial, business, and employment records (1929-1962) and correspondence (1929-1963) document aspects of Wall's personal life and vocations other than his literary career. Primary personal correspondents include friend, Jane Feldman Johnson, and family members: Wall's father, Evans Spencer Wall, Sr. ("Papa"); daughter, Betty (Bette Mildred) Wall Ward; wife, Mary Claire Berthelot Wall; sisters, Lillian (Lil) Wall, Bettie B. Wall, and Annie Wall Eells ("Sister"); brother, Will (Willie) Wall (no letters are included to or from a second brother, Henry); nephew, Ralph T. Wall; and sister-in-law, Ethel Berthelot Allen.

SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Biographical Materials, [194-]-1990, undated (1 folder)

Includes several versions of Wall's vita, an address book, a hand-written description by Wall, written in the 1940s, of his early years as a writer, and a 1959 letter by Wall roughly outlining his literary publications. Items written by people other than Wall include a brief biographical sketch, drafts of an obituary of Wall, and a genealogical chart of the descendants of John and Sara Lovelace Wall.

Series II. Literary Activities, 1927-1962, undated (1 linear foot)

Contains legal documents, correspondence, and reviews relating to Wall's literary activities. No literary works are included. (For works, see series VI, VIII, and IX.) The series is divided into five subseries: Contracts and Agreements, Agents and Agencies, Publishers, General Correspondence, and Excerpts from Reviews.

Subseries 1. Contracts and Agreements, 1929-1962, undated (1 folder)

Arranged chronologically. Includes book contracts for the publication of *The No-Nation Girl*, *Prisons of Flesh* (probably published as *Love Fetish*), *A Time to Sow, Danger, River God* "and two other books" (the titles of which are not specified), *Lovers Cry for the Moon*, and *Therese LeDuc* (published as *Ask for Therese*). Reprint agreements and an agreement for publication of an article are also included.

Subseries 2. Agents and Agencies, 1927-1962 (9 folders)

Arranged alphabetically by agent or agency and then chronologically. Includes correspondence to and from Wall and the following agents and agencies: Author and Journalist, Jim Haynes, Alex Jackson, Polly Kitchen, Georgia C. Nicholas, Evelyn Singer, Carlson Wade, and Jack Woodford.

Subseries 3. Publishers, 1927-1961 (7 folders)

Arranged alphabetically by publisher and then chronologically. Includes correspondence to and from Wall and the following publishing companies: Almat Publishing Corporation, The Century Co., Fawcett Publications, and Macaulay Company. Other publishing companies to and from which there is limited correspondence are grouped together and arranged chronologically.

Subseries 4. General Correspondence, 1927-1961 (6 folders)

Includes correspondence with friends and acquaintances that focuses on literary topics. Letters from Fan Nichols, a writer, and Frank Powell are arranged separately and then

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chronologically. Remaining correspondents, from whom there are fewer letters per correspondent, are combined together and arranged chronologically. These correspondents include, for example, clipping agencies, potential reviewers, and acquaintances offering professional advice.

Subseries 5. Excerpts from Reviews, undated (1 folder)

Includes excerpts from reviews of Wall's work compiled by Wall.

Series III. Personal Correspondence, 1929-1963, undated (13 folders)

Contains correspondence from family members, friends, and acquaintances divided into four subseries: Family, Jane Feldman Johnson, Word and Phrase Interests, and Other Correspondents.

Subseries 1. Family, 1929-1963, undated (8 folders)

Arranged chronologically. Includes correspondence from family members: Wall's father, Evans Spencer Wall, Sr. (Papa); wife, Mary Claire Berthelot Wall; daughter, Betty (Bette Mildred) Wall Ward; sisters, Lillian (Lil) Wall, Bettie B. Wall, and Annie Wall Eells (Sister); brother, Will (Willie) Wall; nephew, Ralph T. Wall; a cousin identified only as Frank; and sister-in-law, Ethel Berthelot Allen. A few letters from Evans to family members are also included.

Subseries 2. Jane Feldman Johnson, 1958-1961, undated (2 folders)

Arranged chronologically. Includes correspondence from friend, Jane Feldman Johnson, most of which concerns Johnson's troubled relationship with her husband.

Subseries 3. Word and Phrase Interests, 1957-1959 (1 folder)

Arranged chronologically. Includes copies of correspondence from Wall to *The Last Word*, a CBS television show about language.

Subseries 4. Other Correspondents, 1928-1962, undated (2 folders)

Arranged chronologically. Includes correspondence of a personal nature to and from individuals for whom there are very few letters.

Series IV. Financial and Business Records, 1929-1962, undated (2 folders)

Arranged chronologically. Contains financial and business records not related to Wall's literary or other vocational activities. Includes business correspondence, household receipts, welfare records, insurance records, and homestead exemptions. Many items are in Wall's wife's name, Mary Wall.

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Series V. Employment Records, 1942-1962 (3 folders)

Arranged chronologically. Includes records pertaining to Wall's nonliterary vocations of fingerprint classifier (1942), special deputy sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish (1958), and interviewer for survey companies (1956-1962).

Series VI. Printed Items, 1924-1963, undated (10 folders)

Includes the following printed items by Wall: an incomplete set of galleys for *The Marriage Rite* (published in 1932); short stories, "The Miracle" (1949), "Land of Desire" (1927), and "Lake of Sang Pour Sang" (1961); and the novel *Ask for Therese* (1952). Also included are a collection of erotica resources (1956-1958, undated); *The Baton Rouge UFO Bulletin* (1957-1958); and miscellaneous items (1924-1963, undated), including poetry, clippings, ephemera, and catalogs.

Series VII. Photographs and Negatives, 1960 (1 folder)

Includes unidentified photographs and negatives.

Series VIII. Typescripts, undated (3 linear feet)

Includes typescripts of short stories, novels, poetry, and synopses by Wall. Within the categories of short stories and novels, works are arranged alphabetically. Limited amounts of poetry and synopses of Wall's works follow the novels. After the synopses, there is one linear foot of unidentified typescript pages, many of which have continuous pagination.

Series IX. Manuscript Drafts: Originals and Photocopies, undated (6 linear feet)

Includes handwritten drafts of short stories, novels, essays, and unidentified material (such as partial drafts and literary notes) as well as photocopies of each item. The original manuscript drafts comprise three linear feet with the copies comprising an additional three feet for the total of six linear feet. Both the originals and photocopies are arranged alphabetically within each literary category. The copies are in separate boxes from the originals and should be used whenever possible rather than the originals due to the deteriorated condition of the latter. Also, a few drafts of letters by Wall are included in some notebooks. Photocopies of these letters are included not only in this series but also in the series to which each letter relates.

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INDEX TERMS

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Allen, Ethel Berthelot	III. 1
Almat Publishing Corporation	II. 3
Author and Journalist	II. 2
<i>The Baton Rouge UFO Bulletin</i>	VI
The Century Co.	II. 3
Eells, Annie Wall	III. 1
Fawcett Publications	II. 3
Haynes, Jim	II. 2
Jackinson, Alex	II. 2
Johnson, Jane Feldman	III. 2
Kitchen, Polly	II. 2
<i>The Last Word</i>	III. 3
Macaulay Company	II. 3
Nicholas, Georgia C.	II. 2
Nichols, Fan	II. 4
Powell, Frank	II. 4
Singer, Evelyn	II. 2
Wade, Carlson	II. 2
Wall, Bettie	III. 1
Wall, Evans Spencer, Sr.	III. 1
Wall, Lillian	III. 1
Wall, Mary Claire Berthelot	III. 1
Wall, Ralph T.	III. 1
Wall, Will	III. 1
Ward, Betty (Bette Mildred) Wall	III. 1
Woodford, Jack	II. 2

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Series I. Biographical Materials			
91:30	1	1	Biographical materials, [194-]-1990, undated
Series II. Literary Activities			
		2	Contracts and agreements, 1929-1961
		3	Agents and agencies, Author and Journalist, 1927-1932; 1960, undated
		4	Agents and agencies, Jim Haynes, 1957-1959, undated
		5	Agents and agencies, Alex Jackson, 1955, undated
		6	Agents and agencies, Polly Kitchen, 1961-1962
		7	Agents and agencies, Georgia C. Nicholas, 1960-1961, undated
		8	Agents and agencies, Evelyn Singer, 1954-1961
		9-10	Agents and agencies, Carlson Wade, 1951-1960, undated
		11	Agents and agencies, Jack Woodford, 1951-1958, undated
		12	Publishers, Almat Publishing Corporation, 1951-1960
		13	Publishers, The Century Co., 1929-1931, undated
		14	Publishers, Fawcett Publications, 1928-1932; 1959-1960
		15	Publishers, Macaulay Company, 1930-1951
		16-18	Publishers, other correspondents, 1927-1961, undated
		19	General correspondence, Fan Nichols, 1952-1955
		20	General correspondence, Frank Powell, 1927-1929
		21-24	General correspondence, other correspondents, 1929-1961, undated
		25	Excerpts from reviews, undated
Series III. Personal Correspondence			
91:30	2	1-7	Family, 1929-1963, undated
		8	Family, greeting cards, 1955-1960, undated
		9-10	Jane Feldman Johnson, 1958-1961, undated
		11	Word and phrase interests, 1957-1959, undated
		12-13	Other correspondents, 1928-1962, undated
Series IV. Financial and Business Records			
		14	1929-1955
		15	1956-1959

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		16	1960-1962, undated
			Series V. Employment Records
		17	Special deputy and civilian guard, 1942-1958
		18	Interviewing services, 1956-1962
			Series VI. Printed Items
91:31	3	1	Galleys for <i>The Marriage Rite</i> , undated
		2	Copies of galleys for <i>The Marriage Rite</i>
		3-4	Short stories, 1949-1961
		5	<i>Ask for Therese</i> , 1952
		6	Copy of <i>Ask for Therese</i>
		7-8	Erotica resources, 1956-1958, undated
		9	<i>Baton Rouge UFO Bulletin</i> , 1957-1958
		10	Poetry, clippings, ephemera, pamphlets, 1924-1963, undated
			Series VII. Photographs and negatives
		11	Unidentified photographs and negatives, 1960, undated
			Series VIII. Typescripts
			<u>Short Stories:</u>
91:31	4	1-11	The Deep South or This is the Deep South [proposed collection, including: The Yellow Cat, Drouth, Weeds, By Magic Numbers, Sadie Bulldozer, Liza Jane and the Little Red Wagon/His Little Red Wagon, The Road to Tomorrow, This is Mardi Gras/The Mardi Gras Mood, Dusk on Blockhouse Hill, Horses Don't Tell, My Buddy's Wife, Kathy's Cancers, A Town There Was, Blond Blond Who's Got the Blond/Who's Got the Blond, Under the Jujube Tree]
		12	Afraid of Love Armed and Dangerous The Artistic Conscience
		13	The Beautiful Brute The Bluff Bobby-Sox Outlaws

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<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		14	The Boy I Could Have Helped By Magic Numbers A Cheater Always Pays
		15	The Class Barrier Condoned Doing the Right Thing
		16	The Door that Couldn't Open 'Doubting Thomas' Dumb as They Come
		17	Earlier Marriages Eric Garner's Other Self For Love of Me
		18	The Greater Love Her Dangerous Heritage His Little Red Wagon
		19	His Swamp Country Life Horse Traders Are Born The House Where Nobody Stopped
		20	I Broke the Chain I Was a Child-Bride I Was So Lonely I Was a White Slave
		21	Incognita Jealousy Kar-La-Toro's Invention The Lake of Sang Pour Sang
		22	Logs The Long Road
		23	Love Is Blind Love Is Where You Find It
		24	The Man Who Talked Too Much Mary Had a Little Cow Marguerite de Roberval My Blind Date

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<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		25	My Double Life My Secret Fear My Sister's First Beau A Night in the Swamp
		26	No-Man's Island Nothing Too Good Nurse in Training
		27	One Wild Oat Other People's Affairs A Perfect Servant The Piper's Fee
		28	Playing with Passions The Price of Discontent
		29	Pride Goeth Before a Fall Quits She'd Be a Perfect Servant
		30	The Strangest Battle Ever Fought Sue Warren's Parallax Swamp Girl A Swamp Girl's Price
		31	Tante Adele's Allergy This World We Made Through the Depths of Despair
		32	To Hold a Man The Trap
91:32	5	1	Two of a Kind The Unethical Weapon The Wages of Jealousy
		2	Water Hyacinths What It Means to a Girl Who Was She? Yes Sir! She's My Baby
		3	Unidentified portions of short stories
			<u>Novels:</u>
		4-5	The Bloody Avenger
		6-7	D'Artaguette

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<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		8-9	Girl Wrestler
		10-11	A Girl Wrestler's Love-Life
		12-18	Princess of the Everglades
		19-22	That Dah-Dah Feeling
		23-24	Therese LeDuc
			<u>Poetry, Essays, and Synopses:</u>
		25	Poetry and essays
		26	Synopses
			<u>Unidentified Pages:</u>
91:32	6	1-19	Unidentified pages of typescripts

Series IX. Manuscript Drafts: Originals and Photocopies

Boxes 7, 8, and 9 contain the photocopies of the original manuscript drafts. Boxes 10, 11, and 12 contain the original manuscripts. The organization of the originals and the photocopies is exactly the same. Whenever possible the copies should be used rather than the originals due to the deteriorated condition of the originals.

			<u>Short Stories:</u>
91:33, 34	7, 10	1	Abe Chin
		1-3	Always There
		4	Armed and Dangerous (includes drafts of letters by Wall to Harry L. McKenzie, 1950; and to Shirly Bronigg, 1956)
		5	The Boy I Could Have Helped
		6	The Corpse Candle
		7	Dusk on Blockhouse Hill
		8	Incognita
		9	Jealousy and Ethics
		10	June Night
		11	Lake of Sang Pour Sang
		12	Liza Jane and the Little Red Wagon
		13	Logs
		14-15	Love in a Mask
		16	Love Is Where You Find It
		17	Marguerite de Roberval

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<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		18	My Secret Fear
		19	Night Parking
		20-21	Nothing Too Good [Nurse in Training is in the first notebook of the Novel, Trailing Clouds of Glory, see below]
		22	One Wild Oat
		23	Quits, and an unidentified story
		24	Sadie Bulldozer
		25	The Strangest Battle Ever Fought
		26	Tante Adele's Allergy
		27	A Teacher Learns a Lesson
		28	That Gillispie Girl
		29	Two That Were Lost
		30	Under the Jujubee Tree
		31	The Yellow Cat [The remaining volumes contain more than one short story or successive versions of a short story, where one version is in a volume with more than one story]
		32	Everything Isn't Everything War Episode for <u>Once an Artist</u> Horses Don't Tell His Little Red Wagon
		33	The Long Road Love Is Where You Find It
		34	No Man's Island Mardi Gras Mood (first)
		35	No Man's Island (final copy)
		36	Mardi Gras Mood (second-final) Weeds (second-final)
		37	Mardi Gras Mood (final copy)
		38	Sue Warren's Parallax, Horses Don't Tell (includes drafts of letters by Wall to Director, Coffee Contest, undated; August Dietz, Dietz Press, Inc., 1949; and Edward P. Dameron, Director, Department of Public Welfare, [1954])
		39-40	Temptation Doing the Right Thing

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<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		41	Unidentified material Bobby-Sox Outlaws The Greater Love
91:33, 35	8, 11		<u>Novels:</u>
		1-9	Eleven in the Night
		10-15	Handsome Bastard
		16-17	Hasty Marriage
		18	Heroes and Lovers
		19-20	Marriage Deferred
		21	The Mills of the Gods
		22-28	Princess of the Everglades
		29-32	Purchaser Beware
		33-38	Trailing Clouds of Glory (the first volume includes the short story, Nurse in Training)
91:34, 35	9, 12	1-9	Trailing Clouds of Glory
		10-15	Le Vengeur Sanquinaire
			<u>Essays:</u>
		16	Do You Approve the Death Penalty?
		17	Unidentified material
			This World We Made (includes a draft of a letter by Wall to Rupert Hughes, Literary Advisor, 1952)
		18-38	Unidentified manuscript material

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following list, arranged chronologically, includes only published novels by Evans Wall. Reprints of novels, other published works, such as short stories and poetry, and unpublished works are not included. Most but not all of the works listed are available as cataloged copies at LLMVC. Please consult Lola. *Ask for Therese* is part of the Papers (series VI).

The No-Nation Girl. New York, London: The Century Co., 1929.

Love Fetish. New York: The Macaulay Company, 1932.

The Marriage Rite. New York: A. H. King, Inc., 1932.

A Time to Sow. New York: The Macaulay Company, 1932.

Danger. New York: The Macaulay Company, 1933.

River God. New York: The Macaulay Company, 1934.

Lovers Cry for the Moon. New York: The Macaulay Company, 1935.

Ask for Therese. New York: Rio Publishing Corporation, 1952.