

**JOHN S. MCILHENNY PAPERS**

Mss. 4962

Inventory

Compiled by  
Nick Skaggs

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

2019  
Revised 2020, 2021

## CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY .....	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE .....	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE .....	4
LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES .....	5
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS .....	6
INDEX TERMS .....	9
CONTAINER LIST .....	10

**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

**Photocopying.** Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. Do not remove items to be photocopied. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained. Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of original held by LSU Libraries), when available.

**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

## SUMMARY

<b>Size</b>	4 linear ft., 1 volume
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Louisiana, Virginia, Argentina, Peru
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1876-1995
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1928-1989
<b>Languages</b>	English, French
<b>Summary</b>	Papers document the personal life, professional and philanthropic endeavors, and educational pursuits of John S. McIlhenny. Materials include correspondence, printed items, photographic items, manuscript volumes, stamp and coin collections, and artwork.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None.
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	May be reproduced.
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	John A. McIlhenny Collection, Mss. 4746 John A. McIlhenny Letter, Mss. 3728
<b>Citation</b>	John S. McIlhenny Papers, Mss. 4962, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	75:, OS:M

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

John S. (Stauffer) McIlhenny, also called Jack and Mac, was the son of John A. (Avery) McIlhenny (1867-1942) and Anita McIlhenny (née Stauffer; 1886-1969). He was born in Washington, D.C. on May 26, 1909. He studied chemical engineering and earned a bachelor's of science in chemistry from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville in 1934. As a philanthropist of academia and scientific research and pursuits, John S. donated to many organizations, including the Louisiana State University (LSU) Foundation, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and the University of Virginia Alumni Association. Additionally, he donated the natural history portion of his uncle, Edward Avery McIlhenny's library to LSU Library and provided funds for expeditions to South America for the LSU Museum of Natural Science. In 1992, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by LSU. He died on April 3, 1997.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Collection consists of papers and materials created, collected, and compiled by John S. McIlhenny throughout his lifetime. Materials document mostly his personal life, professional and philanthropic endeavors, and educational pursuits. Materials include chiefly correspondence and printed items but also some photographic items, manuscript volumes, stamps, coins, and artwork.

Personal papers document John S.'s communications and relationships with friends and family members, the lives of members of the McIlhenny family, John S.'s travels, and his hobbies and interests. Professional and philanthropy papers document his involvement with and financial contributions to various institutions and organizations, many of them academic and/or scientific in nature. Educational papers document John S.'s studies as an undergraduate student of chemistry at the University of Virginia.

**LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES**

**Series I. Personal Papers, 1876-1881, 1901-1902, 1913-1995, undated**

**Subseries 1. Personal Correspondence, Notes, and Family Papers, 1901-1902, 1913-1995, undated**

**Subseries 2. Travel Materials, 1951-1961, undated**

**Subseries 3. Printed Materials, Photographic Materials, Stamp and Coin Collections, and Artwork, 1876-1881, 1928, 1939-1992, undated**

**Series II. Professional, Philanthropy, and Financial Papers, 1933-1995, undated**

**Series III. Educational Papers, 1923-1935, undated**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### Series I. Personal Papers, 1876-1881, 1901-1902, 1913-1995, undated

#### **Subseries 1. Personal Correspondence, Notes, and Family Papers, 1901-1902, 1913-1995, undated**

Subseries contains chiefly John S. McIlhenny's personal correspondence. Most letters are from friends and relatives and discuss general news and family news. Letters of interest include: Walter R. Stauffer, John S.'s grandfather, writes to Walter S. McIlhenny, John S.'s brother, regarding a visit to Charlottesville, Virginia (March 28, 1929). John A. McIlhenny, in Key West (the family farm in Charlottesville, Virginia) at the time, writes to John S. on his birthday (May 26, 1931). Anita S. McIlhenny writes (in French) to John S., mostly regarding family and personal news, while he is in Greenport, Long Island visiting Julia A. Fish (September 15, 17, 20, and 22, 1937). Hattie B. Garrett, in New Iberia, Louisiana, writes to John A. regarding a plan for more African American artisans to work on a construction project for a third set of locks for the Panama Canal (January 7, 1940). A photograph of Paul C. P. McIlhenny harvesting peppers is included with a letter from Paul to John S. (Dec. 15, 1981). Several photographs of John S. are included with a letter from Brena Parsons (September 14, 1992). The photographs show John S. receiving his honorary doctorate at Louisiana State University.

Subseries also includes family papers and materials related to other members of the McIlhenny family. Materials of interest include a genealogy volume, written by Anne Spotswood Dandridge and copied for Betty Taylor Stauffer (copied 1901-1902), that documents the Taylor family line of President Zachary Taylor; a book box, made from *Grammaire Geographique*, with photographic items and newspaper clippings stored inside (1951, undated); and a bound and typewritten report, most likely belonging to John A. McIlhenny, regarding the Division of Dead Letters of the Post Office Department (July 16, 1913). Additionally, there are materials pertaining to the estate of Anita S. McIlhenny, including a copy of her will (August 8, 1868) and a memorial resolution from the Joanna Waddill Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (postmarked April 17, 1969).

#### **Subseries 2. Travel Materials, 1951-1961, undated**

Subseries contains materials related to John S. McIlhenny's travels and trip planning. Materials include correspondence, notes, printed items, financial items, photographic postcards, and other souvenirs. Materials are arranged by geographic location and then material type. Major trips documented include a safari in the Belgian Congo and visits to countries in South America, including Peru and Argentina. Materials of interest include a letter from Ch. Pollet of Semliki Safaris discussing John S.'s Belgian Congo safari itinerary (January 2, 1959); letters (in French) from Anita S. McIlhenny, mainly discussing family and personal news, to John S. while he was in Peru (October 1 and 13; September 24, 1956) and Argentina (January 5 and 7, 1961); and fishing tackles from New Zealand (circa 1951).

**Subseries 3. Printed Materials, Photographic Materials, Stamp and Coin Collections, and Artwork, 1876-1881, 1928, 1939-1992, undated**

Subseries contains chiefly printed materials collected and compiled by John S. McIlhenny. These printed materials reflect John S.'s hobbies and interests, especially rare books, history, science, and coins. Many of the printed items are booksellers' catalogs. There are also assorted printed items that do not fall into any of the aforementioned topical areas (regular and oversize). Additionally, there are a variety of newspaper clippings collected by John S., which mostly document local news in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and scientific discoveries (regular and oversize).

Photographic materials include chiefly prints that were not enclosed with any letters or were not affiliated with any other materials in the collection. Items of interest include a copy print of Anita S. McIlhenny as a young child with her sisters (undated); a photograph of Walter S. McIlhenny posing with a rifle (undated); and a portrait shot of John S., taken by Fonville Winans (oversize, 1987). Additionally, there is a photograph album that documents archaeologist Robert W. Neuman's trips to Xinjiang Province, China and Mongolia (1988-1992). Many photographs in the album are of archaeological sites. There is another photograph album from a friend (Katy) documenting an elephant watching trip in the Amboseli of Kenya (circa 1985-1986).

Subseries also includes stamps and coins, mostly of birds, that John S. collected from The Franklin Mint (Treasures of the Mayas), The International Council for Bird Preservation (Bird Coins of the World and Birds of the World Stamp Collections), and World Wildlife Fund International (Animals of the World Stamp Collection). Additionally, there are two paintings. One painting, by H. Jon Janosik, is a watercolor of a common tern (*Sterna hirundo*). It was painted at Isle Grand Terre, Louisiana (oversize, 1970). The other work, by K. Rutledge, is an acrylic painting of a blue crab (oversize, undated).

**Series II. Professional, Philanthropy, and Financial Papers, 1933-1995, undated**

Series contains materials, mainly correspondence and printed items, which reflect and document chiefly John S. McIlhenny's professional and philanthropic activities and endeavors. Materials are arranged by organization or entity. Of interest are materials related to Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, which document John S.'s involvement in the Petite Anse Project (Avery Island, Louisiana); materials related to Louisiana State University (LSU) Library, which document John S.'s philanthropic involvement regarding the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection and communications with library director George J. Guidry, Jr.; and materials related to the LSU Museum of Natural Science, which document a Peruvian expedition organized by Dr. John P. O'Neil with John S.'s monetary assistance. Other items of interest include: a qualification record from E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc. with a photographic print of John S. attached to the verso (May 26, 1935); an Esso and Standard Oil Company training certificate awarded to John S. for completing a course in electronics (December 12, 1944); an honorary doctorate awarded to John S. by LSU (August 6, 1992); a McIlhenny Company printed program that includes commemorative wildlife conservation stamps (June 12, 1971); a McIlhenny Company poster regarding seafood inspection marks, created in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Commerce (oversize, undated); and a report

and photographic prints documenting Dr. M. A. Poirrier's experiments with blue crabs at the Department of Biological Sciences, University of New Orleans (circa 1982).

Series also includes assorted items stored by material type. Of interest are John S.'s membership cards for the National Rifle Association of American and the American Chemical Society (stored in assorted organizations, foundations, and societies materials; 1949).

**Series III. Educational Papers, 1923-1935, undated**

Series contains chiefly materials that reflect and document John S. McIlhenny's chemical engineering studies as an undergraduate student at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Materials consist chiefly of coursework, mainly assignments and experiment documentation, in chemistry and metallurgy. While most coursework is John S.'s, some coursework is Walter S. McIlhenny's. There are also notecards used for chemistry and notebooks used for chemistry, qualitative and quantitative analysis, and French.

In addition to the aforementioned materials, there are also some printed items which John S. collected during his studies. Items of interest include a University of Virginia graduating exercises program that lists John S. as a graduate (1934); a reprinted article titled "Viscosity and Density of Pure Alkaline Solutions and Their Mixtures" by Lauren B. Hitchcock and J. S. McIlhenny (1935); a blueprint scale model of the U.S.S. Constitution from *Popular Science Monthly* (oversize, January 1927-1930); and a blueprint data graph titled "Vapor Pressure of Normal Paraffin Hydrocarbons," which was published in Edwin R. Cox's article "Pressure-Temperature Chart for Hydrocarbon Vapors" in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, Vol. 15, No. 6. (oversize, 1923-1925).



**INDEX TERMS**

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

<b>Avery Island (La.)</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Booksellers' catalogs.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Chemistry--Study and teaching (Higher)--Virginia--Charlottesville.</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>Letters (correspondence)</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.). Library.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.). Museum of Natural Science.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>LSU Foundation.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>McIlhenny Co.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>McIlhenny family.</b>	<b>I-III</b>
<b>McIlhenny, Anita Stauffer, 1886-1969.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>McIlhenny, John Avery, 1867-1942.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>McIlhenny, John S. (John Stauffer), 1909-1997.</b>	<b>I-III</b>
<b>McIlhenny, Walter, 1910-1985.</b>	<b>I, III</b>
<b>Paintings (visual works)</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Photograph albums.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Photographic prints.</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Taylor family.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>University of Virginia--Students.</b>	<b>II-III</b>

CONTAINER LIST

Stack

Location   Box   Folder   Contents (with dates)

**Series I. Personal Papers, 1876-1881, 1901-1902, 1913-1995, undated**

**Subseries 1. Personal Correspondence, Notes, and Family Papers, 1901-1902, 1913-1995, undated**

<b>75:</b>	1	1-26	Personal correspondence, 1916, 1929-1995, undated
<b>OS:M</b>	7	1	Personal correspondence, 1978
<b>75:</b>	1	27	Notes, circa 1940-1968, undated
			<b>Family Papers</b>
		28	Anita Stauffer McIlhenny estate materials, 1968-1970
		29-31	Assorted papers and printed items, 1901, 1939, 1966-1989, undated
	6	--	Book box, 1951, undated
	1	32	Book box (materials removed from item), 1951, undated
<b>OS:M</b>	7	5	Certificate of religious blessing (for John S. McIlhenny), November 21, 1991
<b>75:</b>	1	33	Daybooks (of John S. McIlhenny), 1966-1967, 1985
		34	Report: Division of Dead Letters, 1913
		35	Volume: "Our dogs" kennel record and account book (of Walter S. McIlhenny), 1926-1940
	--	--	Volume 1: Taylor family genealogy (by Anne Spotswood Dandridge), 1901-1902
	1	36	Volume: Taylor family genealogy (materials removed from volume), 1939, undated
		37	Writing: <i>Tubby - His Story</i> (by E. A. McIlhenny), 1933

**Subseries 2. Travel Materials, 1951-1961, undated**

		38-43	Belgium and Belgian Congo, 1958-1959, undated
		44	Canada, 1954-1961, undated
		45	France (Paris), undated
		46-48	New Zealand, 1951-1956, undated
		49-54	South America, 1956-1960, undated
	2	1	United States (Hawaii), 1960, undated
		2	United States (Louisiana), undated
		3-4	United States (Assorted), 1952-1958, undated

**Subseries 3. Printed Materials, Photographic Materials, Stamp and Coin Collections, and Artwork, 1876-1881, 1928, 1939-1992, undated**  
**Printed Materials**

		5	Coins, 1953-1976, undated
		6-10	History and science, 1939, 1954-1971, undated

**Stack**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
75:	2	11	<i>Make Your Own Working Paper Clock</i> (by James Smith Rudolph), 1983
		12-20	Rare books and documents catalogs, 1957-1961, 1978-1982, undated
		21	<i>Réalités</i> (No. 200), September 1962
		22	Stamps, art, and other collectibles, circa 1981-1987, undated
		23-26	Assorted items, 1957-1959, 1976-1989, undated
OS:M	--	2	Assorted items, 1928, 1940
	7	1	Assorted items, 1976, 1989
75:	2	27-31	Newspaper clippings files, 1876-1881, 1940-1985, undated
OS:M	7	1	Newspaper clippings files, 1977-1982
<b>Photographic Materials</b>			
75:	2	32-33	Photographic prints and items, undated
OS:M	7	4	Photographic prints, 1987, undated
75:	5	1-5	Photograph album (Amboseli, Kenya), circa 1985-1986
		6-9	Photograph album (from Robert W. Neuman), 1988-1992
	8	--	Stamp and coin collections, circa 1960-1980
<b>Artwork</b>			
OS:M	7	2	Watercolor painting (by H. Jon Janosik), 1970
		3	Acrylic painting (by K. Rutledge), undated

**Series II. Professional, Philanthropy, and Financial Papers, 1933-1995, undated**

75:	2	34	Cornell University, Laboratory of Ornithology (Ithaca, New York), 1989
		35	E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc. (Wilmington, Delaware), 1935, undated
		36	Esso and Standard Oil Company (Baton Rouge, Louisiana and New Jersey), 1944-1957
		37	Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), 1989-1990
	3	1	Harvard University, Botanical Museum (Cambridge, Massachusetts), 1984
		2	Harvard University, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (Cambridge, Massachusetts), 1977-1982
		3	Louisiana Ornithological Society, 1960-1981, undated
		4-6	Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge), 1962-1981, 1992, undated
		7-10	Louisiana State University Foundation, 1973-1982, undated
		11-14	Louisiana State University Library and Friends of the LSU Library, 1961-1982, undated
		15-17	Louisiana State University, Museum of Natural Science, 1964-1982, undated
		18	McIlhenny Company (Avery Island, Louisiana), 1960-1978, undated

**Stack**

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents (with dates)</u></b>
<b>OS:M</b>	--	2	McIlhenny Company (Avery Island, Louisiana), undated
<b>75:</b>	3	19	Manresa House and Men of Manresa, 1975-1981, undated
		20	National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc., 1956-1976
		21-23	New York Zoological Society, 1959-1982, undated
		24-25	University of New Orleans, Department of Biological Sciences, 1982
		26-27	University of Virginia (Charlottesville), 1957-1964, 1976-1979, 1995, undated
		28-30	Zoological Society of San Diego, 1975-1983, undated
<b>OS:M</b>	--	2	Zoological Society of San Diego, circa August 1981
<b>75:</b>	3	31-33	Assorted contribution materials, 1955-1989
		34-36	Assorted financial materials, 1942, 1953-1981, undated
		37-40	Assorted organizations, foundations, and societies materials, 1933-1935, 1949-1993, undated

**Series III. Educational Papers, 1923-1935, undated**

		41-47	Coursework, 1931-1935
	4	1	Binder (unbound): Untitled, 1932-1933
		2-9	Notebooks, circa 1928-1935, undated
		10	Notecards, circa 1928-1935
		11-13	Printed items, circa 1929-1935, undated
<b>OS:M</b>	--	1	Printed items, 1923-1930