Marion Eleanor Cross Collection  
M/A 1994.13.01  
Finding aid prepared by Christopher G. Welter

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August 01, 2015  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

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<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator - Correspondent</strong></td>
<td>Blegen, Theodore Christian, 1891-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator - Writer of accompanying material</strong></td>
<td>Cross, Marion E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Marion Eleanor Cross Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>1936-1937</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>1.0 boxes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
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Biographical Note

Marion Eleanor Cross was born on September 17, 1903, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She received a bachelor's degree in history and English from Smith College (Northampton, Mass.) and master's degrees in French and Italian from the University of Minnesota.

Cross began her writing career by translating Father Louis Hennepin's "Description of Louisiana Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France by Order of His Majesty" (1680) from the original French. She was encouraged in this endeavor by the Minnesota Historical Society's Theodore Blegen and Grace Lee Nute, making hers the first such translation done in the twentieth century.

She subsequently wrote several histories of prominent Minneapolis businesses, including the Farmers and Mechanics Building, the Archer Daniels Midland Company, and the M.F. Patterson Dental Supply Company.

Cross, ninety-four years old, died on November 29, 1997, from heart failure.

Collection Description

The collection contains correspondence, notes, manuscripts, and typescripts pertinent to Marion Cross's translation of Father Louis Hennepin's "Description of Louisiana Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France by Order of His Majesty." Cross, who held a master's degree in French, undertook the translation in early 1936.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Louisiana -- Description and travel.
- Mississippi River -- Discovery and exploration.
- Mississippi River Valley -- History -- To 1803.
- New France -- Discovery and exploration.

Personal Name(s)

- Hennepin, Louis, 17th cent. -- History

Subject(s)

- Indians of North America -- Mississippi River Valley.
- Translations (documents).
Collection Inventory

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Correspondence May 1936-March 1937

Scope and Contents

Includes notebooks and letters discussing the merit of Cross's initial attempt to translate Father Louis Hennepin's "Description of Louisiana." Correspondents include Minnesota Historical Society superintendent Theodore Blegen.

Manuscript notes Undated

Manuscript: "To the King" Undated 149 pages.

Manuscript Undated


Typescript: "Description of Louisiana Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France by Order of His Majesty" Undated

Scope and Contents

Includes occasional annotations.

Annotated typescript Undated
**Scope and Contents**

Several pages with annotations of "Description of Louisiana ...."

Manuscript: "Description of Louisiana Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France by Order of His Majesty" Undated  444 pages.

Manuscript: "Manners and Customs of the Indians" Undated