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Index Terms

Summary

Size: approx. 32 linear feet

Geographic

Locations: Jamaica; Haiti; France; Detroit, Mich.; Chicago, Ill.; New Orleans, La.

Inclusive dates: 1835-1977

Bulk dates: 1858-1938
Summary: Correspondence, publications, séance registers, translations of séance registers, photographs, travel brochures, maps, journal notes and notebooks, taped interview, volume on genealogy, and miscellany of the family of René Grandjean (1889- ). A native of France, Grandjean resided in New Orleans from 1911 until his death. An important aspect of Grandjean's life lay in his preserving and translating the records of a group of Creole of color spiritualists.

Related

Collections: René Grandjean Collection, Addendum 1 (Mss 99)

Source: Gift, 1976

Access: No restrictions

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Citation: René Grandjean Collection, Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans

Biographical/Historical Note

René Grandjean was born April 21, 1889, in Vouziers, Ardennes, France. He left France ca. 1909, and after briefly stopping in Cuba, moved to Haiti where he lived for two years. In 1911 he came to the United States settling in New Orleans in August of that year. Because of his French and Haitian background, he became acquainted with members of the Creole of color community, prominent among whom was Rodolphe L. Desdunes, author of Nos hommes et notre histoire. Through Desdunes, Grandjean met the Dubuclet family, descendants of Reconstruction state treasurer Antoine Dubuclet.

Grandjean and Assitha Dubuclet married on October 29, 1913. Because Louisiana law forbade interracial marriages, they were wed in St. Andrew, Jamaica.

An important aspect of Grandjean's life lay in his preserving and translating the records of a group of Creole of color spiritualists. Mainly in French, these records, which are a major part of the collection, detail séances by listing mediums and messages, messages which members believed were from spirits. The "messages" were from such diverse figures as Voltaire, Vincent de Paul, and Abraham Lincoln, as well as from deceased members of the spiritualist group.
Series, Subseries, and Descriptions

Series I. Clippings, 1913-1932

Clippings from newspapers and magazines, some pasted in scrapbook.

Series II. Correspondence, 1882-1933

Includes correspondence from Rodolphe L. Desdunes.

Series III. Essays, 1910-1912


Series IV. Genealogical Materials, ca. 1926 (1 item)

Manuscript volume entitled "Livre d'Or." Includes information on Dubuclet, Grandjean, Juge, Caillet, Gauthier, Campanel, and Castagnola families.

Series V. Miscellany, 1897 (1920-1933) 1954

Includes performing arts posters and programs; advertisements and other printed ephemera; passenger list of the S.S. Cartago, September 17, 1913; postcards; and draft of the will of Francis Dubuclet, 1916.

Series VI. Notes, 1913-1932

Includes 11 notebooks, chiefly in two groups; those in one group include reading notes, a few letters, aphorisms; those in the other group include observations, notes on tailoring, electricity, household, spiritualism. Also, notebooks from
electronics courses and Grandjean's history notes compiled for Desdunes, ca. 1925.

Series VII. Photographs

Subseries 1: Family photographs

Subseries 2: Reprints of some photographs in Subseries VII.1, with negatives

Subseries 3: Various photographs of persons and places, including Milneburg and Mardi Gras

Series VIII. Publications, 1835-1938

Subseries 1: Books

Subseries 2: Periodicals

Series IX. Spiritualism records, 1857-1927

Subseries 1: Séance registers

Subseries 2: Translations
Series X.  Taped interview, 1977 (2 items)

Interview with René Grandjean by Clive Hardy, Joseph Logsdon, and Ken Cocke.

Series XI.  Travel, ca. 1928-1930

Subseries 1: Brochures and maps

Subseries 2: Journals

Subseries 3: Maps

Subseries 4: Miscellany

Subseries 5: Railroad timetables and maps

Container List

Series I.  Clippings, 1913-1932

Clippings from newspapers and magazines.  (See also 85-32, 85-67)
85-102  [n.d.]; 1913, August 13, 1913 - December 28, 1919

85-103  1920; January 1920 - June 26, 1927

85-104  June 28, 1927 - March 25, 1929

85-105  March 27, 1929 - February 28, 1930

85-106  March 16, 1930 - December 3, 1932

85-74   Scrapbook. Contains clippings. (See also 85-67, 85-32)

[n.d.], 1913, April 20, 1913 - February 6, 1916. (Pasted on account book April 18, 1865 - January 2, 1882.)

85-75   Loose clippings from scrapbook

[n.d.], August 20, 1911 - October 2, 1921

**Series II. Correspondence, 1882-1933**

85-78   [n.d.], August 20, 1882 - December 10, 1922
Interfiled in the above is correspondence from Rodolphe L. Desdunes for the following dates:

[n.d.]
February 3, 1919
August 20, 1920
August 23, 1920
July 20, 1921
August 12, 1921
August 22, 1921
November 3, 1921
November 26, 1921
January 12, 1924
March 5, 1924
March 6, 1924
June 12, 1925 (from Mathilde Desdunes.)

Letter books. (Also includes miscellany of notes.)

85-82 August 10, 1921

85-83 [n.d.], July 31, 1920 - August 14, 1921. Includes Desdunes' correspondence of [n.d.], July 31, August 8, 1920; July 17, 30, August 12, 14, 1921

85-84 November 15, 1929 - July 21, 1930

Series III. Essays, 1910-1912

85-88 Essays, probably by Grandjean. Topics are Cayes-Jacmel; Carnival de la Nouvelle Orleans; Triscornia (Cuba); La Louisiane et l'Economie des Etats-Unis

[n.d.], various dates 1910-1912

Series IV. Genealogical Materials

85-76 Genealogical Materials
Manuscript volume entitled "Livre d'Or," ca. 1926. Includes information on Dubuclet, Grandjean, Juge, Caillet, Gauthier, Campanel, and Castagnola families

Series V. Miscellany


85-116  Certificate of voter registration. René Grandjean. October 6, 1928

85-117  Deposition redisposition of Grandjean family money

          June 4, 1926.

85-96  Musical and theater

          Posters.

          [n.d.]

85-97  Programs and announcements.

          [n.d.], 1900 - December 18, 1929
85-98 Oddments. Includes advertisements, financial ephemera publications
    July 1, 1897 (July 1920 - 1933) 1954

85-118 Passenger list. S.S. Cartago.
    September 17, 1913. List includes member of Dubuclet family and Grandjean family

85-120 Postcards. [n.d.]
    With messages

85-121 Without messages

85-122 Return address labels. [n.d.]

85-123 Schedule of services. First Church of Divine Fellowship Spiritualist, 823 Spain Street, New Orleans. [n.d.]

85-124 Will (draft). Francis Dubuclet. April 1916

**Series VI. Notes**

See also notes on translations (85-32, 85-64, 85-67, 85-73)
Notebooks. 11 vols.

The following include reading notes, a few letters, aphorisms

85-89 Articles, Divers. [n.d.], August 31, 1917 - June 15, 1919


The following include observations, notes on tailoring, electricity, household, spiritualism

85-132 [n.d.]

85-134 ca. 1913 - 1922. (Includes list of addresses.)

85-85 March 1, [1923] - April 15, [1924], October 1, 1927 - October 7, 1927

85-136 1924-1926

85-135 ca. 1926

85-133 December 4, 1928 - March 8, 1929
85-86 March 9, 1929 - August 16, 1929

85-87 The following includes aphorisms

Pensees et Reflexions
[n.d.]
Notes.

Various topics including recipes, travel, spiritualism, Valmouir

85-91 ca. 1917 - 1927

85-92 ca. 1924 - 1929

Notes and notebooks for electricity courses

85-94 [n.d.], November 5, 1928 - April 19, 1929

85-95 April 25, 1929 - November 28, 1932

85-93 Notes de M. Desdunes. Grandjean's history notes compiled for Desdunes. ca. 1925
Series VII. Photographs

Subseries VII.1: Family photographs

For additional identification, see envelopes containing photographs

85-125 Includes photographs 1-7

85-126 Includes photographs 8-18

85-127 Includes photographs 19-27

85-128 Includes photographs 28-37

85-129 Includes photographs 38-48

85-130 Includes photographs 49-59

85-131 Includes photographs 60-75

Key for locating photographs in Subseries VII.1 by individual

Brown, Stella. 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 49, 60
Coralie. 3
Darensbourg, Euginie. 51, 63
Decuir, Louise. 7, 15
Decuir, Mrs. 7, 15, 23
Decuir, Raoul. 68
Decuir, Rita. 1, 2, 7, 10, 15, 18, 19, 36, 37
Decuir, Sidney. 1, 2
Desdunes, Inez. 40, 52
DeWendt, Bertha
DeWendt, Elody
DeWendt, Mr.
DeWendt, Yvonne
Dubuclet, Lucia Chessé. 9, 39, 55, 61, 64, 65, 69, 70, 73
Dubuclet, P. P. [?] 75
Dubuclet, Pierre. 14, 20, 71
Dubuclet, Sidney. 67
Dubuclet, Véturia. 2, 8, 9, 16, 17, 34, 64
Frère, Juinita. 5
Gardner, William Lawrence. 57
Grandjean, Assitha. 2, 6, 9, 12, 39, 50, 58, 64
Grandjean, René. 11, 12, 13, 32, 50, 54, 58, 59, 62
Hacaut, Hector. 53, 56, 66
Hacaut, Mrs. Hector. 53, 56, 66
Juge, Allié.  6, 28, 29, 72
Juge, Leah.  6, 28, 38, 72
Juge, Lola.  6, 38
Juge, Lucia.  2, 10
Juge, Warren.  6, 35, 38
Macaluso [sp?], Lucia.  31
Moore, Una.  51
Rodriguez.  12, 33, 47, 48
Viesey, Mrs. Bertha
Unidentified.  22, 24, 31, 32, 41-46, 72

**Subseries VII.2:** Reprints of some photographs in Subseries VII.1, with negatives

85-137 For additional information, see envelopes containing photographs

Key for locating photographs in Series 2 by individual

Brown, Stella.  9, 11, 14, 15
Coralie.  7
Daresbourg, Euginie.  23, 32, 33, 34
Decuir, Louise.  24
Decuir, Mrs.  24
Decuir, Raoul.  5
Moore, Una.  33, 34
Rodriguez.  27, 28, 29
Viesey, Mrs. Bertha
Unidentified.  21, 35

**Subseries VII.3**: Various photographs of persons and places, including Milneburg and Mardi Gras

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85-138</td>
<td>Various photographs including Allié and Clair Juge, Milneburg, Carnival Day, Janet Papillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-139</td>
<td>Photograph of unidentified man.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series VIII. Publications, 1835-1938**

See also Subseries XI.4, Miscellany, for additional publications.

**Subseries VIII.1**: Books, 1835-1938

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Ballou, Maturin M. *Due South; or, Cuba Past and Present.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1885.

Ballou, Maturin M. *Due West; or, Round the World in Ten Months.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1895.


Excerpted from *The Handbook of Jamaica, 1920.*


Excerpted from *The Handbook of Jamaica for 1915*.


Reprinted from *The Handbook of Jamaica for 1895*.


Reprinted from *The Handbook of Jamaica for 1914*.


Reprinted with some slight additions from *The Handbook of Jamaica for 1909*.


Reprinted from *The Handbook of Jamaica for 1911*.


*Sfood and Health*. [Lynn, MA: Lydia Pinkham Medicine Co., ca. early 1900s]


Fresenborg, Bernard. *Thirty Years in Hell; or, From Darkness to Light*. [S.l.: s.n., 19--]


Harris, Arthur M. *Pirate Tales from the Law.* Boston: Little, Brown, 1923.


Heindel, Max, Mrs. *Table of Houses. No. 2.* Oceanside, CA: Rosicrucian Fellowship, 1919.


85-17


85-18


*Classified List of Books (Other Than Those Dealing with the West Indies and West Africa), Added to the Library of the Institute of Jamaica, in 1895-1909*. Kingston: Institute of Jamaica, 1909.


*Second Supplement to the Library Catalogue: Being a List of Books (Other Than Those in the West Indian Reference Library) Added to the Library in the Years 1915 to 1919*. Kingston: Institute of Jamaica, 1919.


*Les filles de Monte-Cristo*. [S.l.: s.n., n.d.] (Lacks pp. 1-10)


Reprint from the *General Electric Review* (January 1930).

*L'observateur Louisianais* 6.11 (November 6, 1897).


Morales, José. *The Rise and Fall of the Ku Klux Klan; or, White Supremacy: In Four Acts.* New Orleans: Southwestern Literary Society, 1923. 2 copies.

Morris, D. *Native and Other Fibre Plants.* Kingston: Mortimer C. DeSouza, 1884.


Neish, James. *On a New Beverage Substance, the Kola Nut, a Product of Jamaica*. Kingston: DeCordova & Co., 7881 [i.e., 1887].


Reprinted from the *Handbook of Jamaica for 1913*.

National Board of Fire Underwriters. *1928 National Electrical Code: Regulations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for Electric Wiring and Apparatus, as Recommended by the National Fire Protection Association*. [S.l.: The Board], 1928.


Olcott, Henry S. *People from the Other World*. Hartford, CT: American Publishing Company, 1875.


85-25


85-25


Richmond, Cora L. V. *Abraham Lincoln to Woodrow Wilson and His Cabinet.* [Chicago?: s.n.], 1913.


Reprinted from the *Handbook of Jamaica for 1910*.


*The Story of Motion Pictures and the Fox Theatres Corporation*. New York: Fox Theatres Corporation, [1929]


*Un cas d'arbitrage (France & Haïti)*. Paris: Librairie Générale de droit & de jurisprudence, 1906.

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Vila, Vargas. *Ante los Bárbaros (los Estados Unidos y la guerra)*. Segunda edición, corregida y aumentada. Barcelona: José Anglada, 1918.


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**Subseries VIII.2: Periodicals, September 18, 1920 - January 28, 1933**

85-99  
*Asia*. August 1931

*Barron’s*. August 12, 1929 - February 3, 1930

*Big Trees*. June 1, 1929; July 1, 1929

*The Christian Spiritualist*. January 4, 1928 - February 1, 1928

*Courrier des Etats Unis*. October 29, 1921

*The Daily Cleaner*. August 23, 1921

*The Glasco Statesman*. November 1925

*L’Abeille de la Nouvelle-Orléans*. February 2, 1922

*La Petite Illustration*. January 10, 1925 - July 4, 1931

85-100  
*Literary Digest*. September 18, 1920 - February 11, 1928

*The Llano Colonist*. September 14, 1929

*The Mentor*. May 1926

*Mineral Age*. December 1929

*Moose Guardian*. September 1929
<table>
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<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>The New Republic.</em> October 5, 1932</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>The Occult Digest.</em> October 1928</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Progressive Thinker.</em> June 18, 1927 – January 28, 1933</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Rays from the Rose Cross.</em> June 1929</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Television.</em> April 1929</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Weekly Register – Call.</em> (Central City, Colorado). November 23, 1928</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Series IX. Spiritualism records**

**Subseries IX.1: Séance registers**

Séance registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85-30</td>
<td></td>
<td>58-63. June 19, 1858 - January 26, 1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-31</td>
<td></td>
<td>65-70. July 5, 1865 - July 6, 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-32</td>
<td></td>
<td>[70]-[73]. March 18, 1870 - August 7, 1873; September 3, 1874; April 1, 1890; August 30, 1906; October 29, 1906; November 11, 1906. Also includes translations of séances September 1857 (February 18, 1869 - March 5, 1873) November 11, 1906; reading notes and extractions 1880 (January 17, 1914 - May 8, 1915) May 8, 1915); and clippings June 10, 1916 - September 1916. Translations, notes, clippings were compiled by Grandjean, ca. 1916. (See also 85-102 - 85-106, 85-74, 85-75, 85-67 for clippings; 85-65 - 85-73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

85-33  71-1. May 25, 1871 - July 3, 1871

85-34  71-2. July 4, 1871 - December 11, 1871

85-35  71-3. December 10, 1871 - December 29, 1871


85-37  October 11, 1872 - November 29, 1875

85-38  72-1. December 29, 1871 - February 12, 1872


85-40  72-3. March 26, 1872 - May 6, 1872

85-41  72-4. May 6, 1872 - May 30, 1872

85-42  72-5. May 31, 1872 - June 23, 1872

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<th>Date Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85-44</td>
<td>72-8. August 7, 1872 - September 2, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-45</td>
<td>72-9. September 5, 1872 - October 14, 1872</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-46</td>
<td>72-10. October 17, 1872 - November 5, 1872</td>
</tr>
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<td>85-47</td>
<td>72-11. November 6, 1872 - December 5, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-48</td>
<td>72-12. December 6, 1872 - December 26, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-49</td>
<td>73-2. January 21, 1873 - February 9, 1873</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-50</td>
<td>73-3. February 10, 1873 - March 13, 1873</td>
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<td>85-51</td>
<td>73-4. March 15, 1873 - September 7, 1873</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-52</td>
<td>73-6. October 17, 1873 - December 18, 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-53</td>
<td>74-1. December 20, 1873 - March 16, 1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-54</td>
<td>74-2. March 17, 1874 - April 18, 1874</td>
</tr>
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</table>
85-55  74-3.  April 19, 1874 - June 6, 1874

85-56  [74-4].  June 6, 1874 - June 20, 1874

June 21, 1874 - July 11, 1874

July 12, 1874 - August 10, 1874

August 10, 1874 - August 31, 1874

85-57  74-5.  September 1, 1874 - October 22, 1874

85-58  74-6.  October 22, 1874 - December 31, 1874

85-59  January 1, 1875 - January 11, 1875

January 11, 1875 - February 7, 1875

February 7, 1875 - March 6, 1874

March 7, 1875 - March 20, 1875

85-60  March 20, 1875 - April 6, 1875
April 7, 1875 - April 27, 1875

April 28, 1875 - May 7, 1875

May 8, 1875 - May 31, 1875

June 1, 1875 - June 30, 1875

July 1, 1875 - July 31, 1875

August 1, 1875 - September 1, 1875

September 2, 1875 - September 29, 1875

September 30, 1875 - October 31, 1875

November 1, 1875 - November 18, 1875

85-61 75-76. November 18, 1875 - February 8, 1876

85-62 February 9, 1876 - February 25, 1876
85-63  77. May 11, 1877 - November 2, 1877


**Subseries IX.2: Translations**

Translations of séances done by Grandjean, ca. 1920-1927. The content of many notebooks is in random, rather than chronological, order. (See also 85-32.)

85-65  Communications Diverses. Cahier No. 2. September 1857 (December 14, 1868 - March 5, 1873) March 5, 1873

85-66  Communications Politiques. Cahier No. 3. February 13, 1869 - January 25, 1873


85-68  Cahier No. 1. Communications sur la Conduite des Cercles. October 26, 1871 - February 10, 1876
85-69  Cahier No. 1.  Communications sur la Conduite des Cercles.  October 30, 1871 - March 8, 1874

85-70  Divers No. 2.  November 24, 1871 - December 7, 1873

85-71  Divers No. 2.  September 5, 1872 - December 9, 1873

85-72  Cercles No. 1.  March 15, 1873 - September 26, 1874


**Series X. Taped Interview, 1977**


**Series XI. Travel, ca. 1928-1930**

**Subseries XI.1: Brochures and maps**

85-107  Alabama

    Birmingham
Mobile
Muscle Shoals District

Arizona
Grand Canyon

Arkansas
Hot Springs
White River country

California
Catalina Island
Eureka
Imperial County
Mt. Love
Norco
San Francisco
San Joaquin Valley
San Lorenzo Valley
Sequoia National Park
Shasta
Tulare County
Yosemite
85-108  Canada
         Banff National Park
         Bowen Island
         British Columbia
         Glacier National Park
         Minaki
         Ontario
         Quebec
         Rocky Mountains
         Saanich Peninsula
         Vancouver
         Victoria
         Winnipeg

85-109  Colorado
         Cave of the Winds
         Cheyenne Mountain
         Cliff Dwellings
         Corley Mountain
         Cripple Creek
         Florissant
         Manitou Springs
Mt. Manitou
New Petrified Forest
Pike's Peak
Rocky Mountains
Royal Gorge
San Isabel National Forest
Seven Falls

Florida
Kissimee
Lake Jovita
Lake Wales
Palm Harbor
Sarasota County

France

Hawaii

Illinois
Chicago

Jamaica
Kentucky

Crystal Cave
Great Onyx Cave
Hidden River Cave
Louisville
Mammoth Cave

85-110 Louisiana

Minnesota

85-110 Mississippi

Gulf Coast

Missouri

Kansas City
St. Louis

New York

Lake Champlain and Lake George
Niagara Falls
North Carolina
  Asheville

Ohio
  Cleveland

Oregon
  Columbia River Highway
  Oregon Caves
  Portland

Panama Canal

South Dakota
  Black Hills

South Sea Islands
  Cook
  Fiji
  Samoa
  Society Islands

Texas
Subseries XI.2: Journals

Journals (13 items). Detailing Grandjean's travels in Chicago, California, and other areas. September 6, 1928 - October 31, 1930
Subseries XI.3: Maps


No. 6. Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia

No. 7. Florida

No. 8. Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas, Louisiana

No. 9. Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia

No. 11. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois

No. 12. Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas

No. 13. Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana


No. 15. California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado

No. 16. Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Canada

Subseries XI.4: Miscellany

85-114    Miscellany re travel. Includes brochures and publications

[n.d.], 1928, 1930
Subseries XI.5: Railroad time tables and maps

85-111 Railroad time tables and maps. [n.d.]

Erie
Illinois Central
International Railroads of Central America
Louisville and Nashville
Missouri Pacific
Northern Pacific
Santa Fe
Southern Pacific
Texas and Pacific
Union Pacific

Index Terms

Creoles—Louisiana—New Orleans
Dubuclet family
Grandjean, René
Spiritualism—Louisiana—New Orleans