

Marion Eleanor Cross Collection

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Finding aid prepared by Christopher G. Welter

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator - Correspondent	Blegen, Theodore Christian, 1891-1969
Creator - Writer of accompanying material	Cross, Marion E.
Title	Marion Eleanor Cross Collection
Date	1936-1937
Extent	1.0 boxes
Language	English

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

	Box	Folder
Correspondence May 1936-March 1937	1	1
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	1	2
Manuscript: "To the King" Undated 149 pages.	1	3
Manuscript Undated	1	4
Manuscript: "Les Moeurs des Sauvages" [The Manners of the Indians] Undated 312 pages.	1	5
Typescript: "Description of Louisiana Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France by Order of His Majesty" Undated	1	6
Scope and Contents		
Includes occasional annotations.		
Annotated typescript Undated	1	7

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.	1	8
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Manuscript: "Manners and Customs of the Indians" Undated	1	9
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