

**OLIVIER (ANDRÉ A.) PAPERS**

Mss. 3156

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

2021

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	1 linear ft.
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Saint Martin Parish, Louisiana; Saint Martinville, Louisiana
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1843-1977
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1924-1977
<b>Languages</b>	English, French
<b>Summary</b>	Papers are comprised of correspondence, writings, a writ of seizure and sale, printed materials, visitors' books from Olivier's museum, postcards, photographic prints, illustrations, a sketch, a scrapbook, and artifacts.
<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>	St. Martinville Photographs, Mss. 3699.
<b>Citation</b>	André A. Olivier Papers, Mss. 3156, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	52.; OS:O

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

André A. (Antoine) Olivier was born on September 23, 1889. He was the son of Pierre D. Olivier (born January 1841) and Corinne (sometimes spelled Corine; née Bossier) Olivier (1842-1934). André was a native and lifelong resident of St. Martinville, Louisiana. He was known as the local historian, guide, and ambassador of Evangeline and Teche country. He traced his ancestry to French nobility and the Acadians of Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia. Olivier opened the New Army Store, a general store, and the Evangeline Museum, which held Acadian and Cajun artifacts, objects, and relics, in the early 1920s in St. Martinville. He held several official titles, including secretary of the St. Martinville Chamber of Commerce and secretary of the Longfellow-Evangeline Memorial Park Commission. Throughout his life, he was involved in historical preservation projects and projects to erect monuments and statues in St. Martinville. He died on January 2, 1980.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Papers are comprised of correspondence, writings, a writ of seizure and sale, printed materials, visitors' books from Olivier's museum, postcards, photographic prints, illustrations, a sketch, a scrapbook, and artifacts.

Writings include rough and final drafts of informational pieces that Olivier wrote on St. Martinville, Bayou Teche, Catahoula Lake, the story of Evangeline, and other local history topics. Also included are handwritten and typed copies of poems, historical articles, and obituaries by other authors. The writ of sale and seizure describes a property seizure conducted by St. Martin Parish sheriff Zephirin Broussard of a lot of ground originally owned by Augustin A. Verret. Ownership was transferred to Joseph Eyssalenne. The writ is written in English and French (June 3, 1843). Printed materials consist of newspaper clippings, invitation cards, reception programs, and broadsides from Olivier's store and museum.

Postcards consist mostly of photographic postcards of various structures, locations, and scenes in St. Martinville, including Olivier's store, Catahoula Lake, St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, and the St. Martin Parish courthouse. Photographic prints consist of scenes from the set of the film "Evangeline" (1929), including a print signed by actor Dolores Del Rio (oversize, circa 1929). Other prints show women dressed as Evangeline; various buildings, structures, statues, and oak trees, mostly in and around St. Martinville but also New Iberia, Breaux Bridge, Crowley, Washington, and Lafayette; and Olivier's store during a flood (most likely the Mississippi River Flood of 1927). One illustration is titled "Durano Wedding" and contains stereotypical caricatures and depictions of African Americans (circa 1940). A sketch (oversize, 1931) depicts the proposed entrance to the Evangeline Longfellow Memorial Park.

Scrapbook contains newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographic prints. Scrapbook materials of particular interest include a photograph of Olivier's mother (page 8, undated); a lyric sheet of "Lovely Louisiana," signed by Louisiana poet laureate Emma Wilson Emery (page 8, undated); an obituary for Olivier's sister, Louise Marie Olivier (page 12, June 12, 1960); and photographs of Olivier himself (page 29, undated; page 37, September 1, 1937). Artifacts consist of buttons depicting the Evangeline statue in St. Martinville and the character of Evangeline.

**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.**

**Broadsides (notices)**

**Buttons (information artifacts)**

**Cajuns.**

**Catahoula Lake (La.)**

**Del Rio, Dolores, 1905-1983.**

**Olivier, André Antione, 1889-1980.**

**Photographic postcards.**

**Photographic prints.**

**St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church (Saint Martinville, La.)**

**Saint Martin Parish (La.)--History.**

**Saint Martinville (La.)--Description and travel.**

**Saint Martinville (La.)--History.**

**Scrapbooks.**

**Teche, Bayou (La.)**

**Visitors' books.**

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
<b>52:</b>	1	1	Correspondence, 1925-1928, 1962, 1977, undated
		2	Writings: Drafts, poems, informational pieces, and historical articles, 1925-1927, undated
<b>OS:O</b>	--	1	Writings (oversize), undated
<b>52:</b>	1	3	Writ of seizure and sale, June 3, 1843
		4-5	Printed materials, 1924-1970, undated
<b>OS:O</b>	--	1	Printed materials (oversize), 1931, 1947-1953, 1967
<b>52:</b>	1	6-10	Visitors' books, 1927-1936, 1955-1964
	2	1-2	Postcards, circa 1927, 1977, undated
		3	Photographic prints: Set of Evangeline, circa 1929
		4	Photographic prints: Women dressed as Evangeline, circa 1925, undated
		5	Photographic prints: Scenes around St. Martinville; Olivier's store, 1927-1932, undated
		6	Photographic prints: Portraits, undated
<b>OS:O</b>	--	2	Photographic prints (oversize), circa 1929, undated
	--	3	Sketch: Entrance to Evangeline Longfellow Memorial Park (oversize), 1931
<b>52:</b>	2	7	Illustration: "Durano Wedding," circa 1940
<b>OS:O</b>	--	4	Illustration: Evangeline, undated
<b>52:</b>	3	--	Scrapbook, 1925-1969, undated
	4	--	Artifacts (buttons), undated