

**MARGIE DE BRETTON COHN AND FAMILY PAPERS**

Mss. 4472

Inventory

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

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	1 linear foot
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Louisiana
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1945-1982, undated
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1945-1968
<b>Languages</b>	English, German
<b>Summary</b>	The Margie de Bretton Cohn family papers are comprised of the translations, writings, correspondence, and miscellaneous files relating to Cohn's writing activities and family matters while living in Baker, La.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	May be reproduced.
<b>Copyright</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	None
<b>Citation</b>	Margie de Bretton Cohn Family Papers, Mss. 4472, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	E:122

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Margie de Bretton Cohn (1928 - November 27, 1986) was the daughter of Exxon accountant Laurens Henry Cohn (d. 1962) and Maggie de Bretton (d. July 4, 1983). The Cohn family lived in Baker, Louisiana. Margie Cohn attended Louisiana State University as an undergraduate (senior year: 1949-1950) and as a graduate student (1950-1951). Cohn later taught Russian at LSU and worked as a freelance writer. She also wrote for Orene Muse, the founder of the Baton Rouge social magazine, *The Register*. Her mother, Maggie, was also a writer. In 1964, the family donated the Laurens Henry Cohn Sr. Memorial Plant Arboretum, located at 12206 Foster Road, to the Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Margie de Bretton Cohn family papers are comprised of translations, writings, correspondence, and miscellaneous files related to the Cohn's writing activities and family matters while living in Baker, La. The translations consist of Margie de Bretton Cohn's unpublished 1968 English translation of an 1828 German text, which includes a description of travelling through the Mississippi River Valley. The writings consist of essays, lyrics, poems, and stories written by Margie's mother, Maggie de Bretton Cohn. The correspondence consists primarily of letters to and from Maggie de Bretton Cohn concerning her fictional short story writing. Also included are letters to Margie de Bretton Cohn from her parents while she attended Louisiana State University. The miscellaneous files consist of clippings, notes, printed items, and photographic prints. The clippings include an article on the family's donation of the Laurens Henry Cohn Sr. Memorial Plant Arboretum to the Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission.

**LIST OF SERIES**

**Series I. Translations, 1968, undated**

**Series II. Prose, 1953, 1962, undated**

**Series III. Collected Works, undated**

**Series IV. Fiction, circa 1947, undated**

**Series V. Correspondence, 1945-1964**

**Series VI. Miscellaneous, 1945-1982, undated**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Series I: Translations, 1968, undated (9 folders)**

Consists of Margie de Bretton Cohn's 1968 English translation of the German text by C. Sidon (née Charles Sealsfield) entitled *Die Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika, nach ihrem politischen, religiösen und gesellschaftlichen Verhältnisse betrachtet mit einer Reise durch den westlichen Theil von Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, das Gebiet Arkansas, Mississippi und Louisiana* (Stuttgart: J.G. Cotta, 1827). Cohn's translated work is titled *The United States of North America: According to its Political, Religious and Social Conditions with a journey through the western part of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, the Arkansas Territory, Mississippi and Louisiana, Volumes I and II*. Included are multiple drafts of Cohn's translation and a photocopy of Sidon's original German text.

Arranged by volume and version.

### **Series II: Prose, 1953, 1962, undated (3 folders)**

Primarily consists of essays written by Maggie de Bretton Cohn. Writings by other family members are included as well. Many essays pertain to religious topics. Most essays are handwritten; some include an accompanying typescript.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

### **Series III: Collected Works, undated (3 folders)**

Consists of three collected works containing poems, lyrics, and essays written by Maggie deBretton Cohn. The titles of the three works are: *A Book of Poems, Lyrics, and Philosophical Studies*; *Poems, Lyrics, and Essays*; and *The Venomous Vats of Proan Cohn*.

Arranged alphabetically.

### **Series IV: Fiction, circa 1947, undated (4 folders)**

Consists of two fictional stories written by Maggie de Bretton Cohn. Included are three drafts of *Destiny* (circa 1947), and one draft of *The Skeleton* (undated).

Arranged alphabetically by title.

**Series V: Correspondence, 1945-1964 (6 folders)**

Consists primarily of letters to and from Maggie de Bretton Cohn concerning her fictional short story writing. Letters contain criticism and comments by fellow writers. Also included are letters to Margie de Bretton Cohn from her parents while she attended Louisiana State University. These letters primarily concern family matters.

Arranged chronologically.

**Series VI: Miscellaneous, 1945-1982, undated (5 folders)**

Consists of clippings, notes, printed items, and photographic prints. Clippings include an article on the Laurens Henry Cohn Sr. Memorial Plant Arboretum (April 15, 1977). Notes include information on religion, family matters, and quotes by Maggie de Bretton Cohn. Printed items consist of the periodicals *The Truth Seeker* (1945-46) and *The Defender* (1951-1952), which explore agnosticism and religious thought, respectively. Also included is *No Greater Foundation* (1960), a pamphlet on the history of Plains Presbyterian Church in Plains, Louisiana.

Arranged chronologically.

## INDEX TERMS

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

Cohn family.	II, III, V, VI
Cohn, Laurens Henry, d. 1962.	V, VI
Cohn, Maggie de Bretton, d. 1983.	II, III, IV, V, VI
Cohn, Margie de Bretton, 1928-1986.	I, V
Laurens Henry Cohn Sr. Memorial Plant Arboretum (Baton Rouge, La.)	VI
Letters (correspondence)	V
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College--Students.	V
Mississippi River Valley--Description and travel.	I
Photographic prints.	VI
Plains Presbyterian Church (Plains, La.)	VI
Sealsfield, Charles, 1793-1864. <i>Die Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika, nach ihrem politischen, religiösen und gesellschaftlichen Verhältnisse betrachtet mit einer Reise durch den westlichen Theil von Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, das Gebiet Arkansas, Mississippi und Louisiana</i>	I
Religious literature--Authorship.	II, III
Translations.	I
United States--Social life and customs--1783-1865.	I
United States--Politics and government--1825-1829.	I
Women authors, American--Louisiana.	II, III, IV, V
Writings.	II, III, IV



CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
			<b>Series I. Translations</b>
E:122	1	1	Sidon's text, Vol. I (undated)
		2	Sidon's text, Vol. II (undated)
		3	Cohn's translation of Sidon's text, Vol. I, Preface, draft 1 of 2 (1968)
		4	Cohn's translation of Sidon's text, Vol. I, Chapters 1-8, Footnotes, draft 1 of 2 (1968)
		5	Cohn's translation of Sidon's text, Vol. II, Chapters 12-20, Footnotes, draft 1 of 2 (1968)
		6	Cohn's translation of Sidon's text, Vol. I, Preface, draft 2 of 2 (1968)
		7	Cohn's translation of Sidon's text, Vol. I, Chapters 1-9, Footnotes, draft 2 of 2 (1968)
		8	Cohn's translation of Sidon's text, Vol. II, Chapters 1-13, draft 2 of 2 (1968)
		9	Cohn's translation of Sidon's text, Vol. II, Chapters 14-20, Footnotes, draft 2 of 2 (1968)
			<b>Series II. Prose</b>
		10	Essays (1953, 1962)
		11-12	Essays (undated)
			<b>Series III. Collected Works</b>
		13	<i>A Book of Poems, Lyrics, and Philosophical Studies</i> (undated)
		14	<i>Poems, Lyrics, and Essays</i> (undated)
		15	<i>The Venomous Vats of Proan Cohn</i> (undated)
			<b>Series IV. Fiction</b>
		16	<i>Destiny</i> , draft 1 of 3 (circa 1947)
		17	<i>Destiny</i> , draft 2 of 3 (circa 1947)
		18	<i>Destiny</i> , draft 3 of 3 (circa 1947)
		19	<i>The Skeleton</i> (undated)
			<b>Series V. Correspondence</b>
		20-25	Correspondence (July 1945-1964)
			<b>Series VI. Miscellaneous</b>
		26	Clippings (1977-1979, undated)
		27-28	Notes (1947-1982, undated)
		29	Printed Items (1945-1960)
		30	Photographic Prints (undated)