

**Charles Isidore Denechaud Papers**

**0.71 linear ft.**

**Special Collections & Archives  
J. Edgar & Louise S. Monroe Library  
Loyola University New Orleans**

**Collection 82**

**Charles Isidore Denechaud Papers**

**Reference Code**

Collection 82

**Name and Location of Repository**

Special Collections and Archives, J. Edgar & Louise S. Monroe Library, Loyola University New Orleans

**Title**

Charles Isidore Denechaud Papers

**Date**

1901-1993, (bulk 1908-1954)

**Extent**

2 boxes, 1 oversize folder, 1 oversized clamshell box, 0.71 linear ft.

**Name of Creator**

Charles Isidore Denechaud and family

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Charles Isidore Denechaud (1879-1956) was a lawyer, notary public, and prominent Catholic lay leader during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 3, 1879, to Edward Francis and Juanita (Del Trigo) Denechaud, Charles Isidore Denechaud was educated at the College of the Immaculate Conception, received a law degree (LL. B.) from Tulane University in 1901, and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree (LL. D.) from Loyola University in 1924.

Mr. Denechaud was admitted to the Louisiana bar in 1901, and became a member of the city, state and national bar associations. Over the course of his career, Mr. Denechaud had affiliations with several law firms including, most notably, the firm of Waguespack, Foster & Denechaud (established in 1908). He served as attorney for the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, National American Bank of New Orleans, Loyola University, WWL Radio and TV, and the New Orleans Chapter of the American Red Cross, among others. Mr. Denechaud taught civil law at Loyola University for several years, and served as a member of the school's lay board of advisers. Mr. Denechaud also served as chairman of the board of advisers for both Hotel Dieu and Xavier University, and as a trustee of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Among his many other notable affiliations, Mr. Denechaud served on the Louisiana State Welfare Board,

the Louisiana State Hospital Board, the board of administrators of Charity Hospital, the executive committee of the International House, the board of commissioners of New Orleans City Park, the board of managers of the Hospital Association of New Orleans, the board of directors of the Standard Fruit and Steamship Company, and as chairman of disaster relief for the New Orleans Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In addition to his legal work and civic contributions, Mr. Denechaud distinguished himself early as a Catholic lay leader: serving the Knights of Columbus in various capacities from 1904 to 1917, as national treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Catholic Men, as president of the Federation of Catholic Societies of Louisiana from 1908 to 1912, as national president of the American Federation of Catholic Societies from 1912 to 1914, as chairman of the executive committee for the Diocesan Seminary Fund in 1919, and as overseas commissioner of the National Catholic War Council of the United States in charge of relief work at its headquarters in Paris from 1918 to 1920. In 1924, Mr. Denechaud was named Knight of St. Gregory and, in 1938, Papal Chamberlain of the Cape and Sword to Pope Pius XI.

Charles Isidore Denechaud was married to Rose M. Stafford (of Almone, Ontario, Canada) on October 30, 1907. Together they had four children—Rosemary, Kathleen, Charles, and Margaret. Mr. Denechaud died on October 21, 1956, and is buried in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans.

### **Scope and Content**

The Charles Isidore Denechaud Papers are primarily comprised of newspaper clippings and correspondence pertaining to Mr. Denechaud's career as a Catholic lay leader, both locally and on a national level. The collection contains material that speaks to Mr. Denechaud's prominent role in the Catholic community—most notably as president of the Federation of Catholic Societies of Louisiana, as national president of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, and as overseas commissioner of the National Catholic War Council of the United States—as well as to his career as an attorney and civic leader in New Orleans. Also included in the collection are photographs covering a range of subjects (both personal and professional); event programs and menus; a small number of manuscripts; published reports and articles; and postcards depicting the overseas social service and relief activities of the National Catholic War Council.

### **System of Arrangement**

When possible, materials have been arranged chronologically within each series. Oversized materials have been housed together in a single folder; the single bound item in the collection has been housed in an oversized clamshell box.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research use.

## **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Physical rights are retained by the J. Edgar and Louis S. Monroe Library, Loyola University New Orleans. Copyright is retained in accordance with U.S. Copyright Laws.

## **Language and Scripts of the Material**

Collection is in the English and French.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processed and described by Erin Albritton. Finding aid updated and made DACS compliant by Kure D. Croker, 2018.

## **Related Archival Materials**

Related materials at other major research institutions include:

Records of the National Catholic War Council, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064 <http://archives.lib.cua.edu/>

## **Series Description**

### **Series I: Newspaper Clippings**

This series contains clippings from 1907 to 1993 on a host of issues including Mr. Denechaud's election and service to leadership positions in various Catholic organizations (*e.g.* the National Council of Catholic Men, the Federation of Catholic Societies of Louisiana, the American Federation of Catholic Societies, and the National Catholic War Council); his work with the American Red Cross in Louisiana, service on local boards, and participation in various educational initiatives; as well as marriage notices and obituaries. These clippings were originally contained in two scrapbooks that, because of poor condition and limited access, were rehoused in folders.

### **Series II: Correspondence**

This series includes personal and professional correspondence, both original letters and telegrams (some of which were contained in the above-mentioned scrapbooks and have been rehoused), as well as photocopies of originals in privately held family archives and the Catholic University's National Catholic War Council Collection. Professional correspondence covers issues including, but not limited to, Mr. Denechaud's application for appointment as a notary public, his election as president of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, and his overseas work in France as commissioner of the National Catholic War Council.

**Series III: Photographs**

This series includes both original photographs and reproductions of images of Mr. Denechaud, his family, professional associates and activities.

**Series IV: Event Programs & Menus**

This series includes a small collection of invitations, notices, programs, and menus from events including commencements, banquets, memorial exercises, and testimonial dinners.

**Series V: Manuscripts**

This series contains a small number of handwritten manuscripts and typescripts including an article written by Mr. Denechaud, examination questions, speeches by and about him, and a set of account records dating from 1901 to 1947.

**Series VI: Publications, Certificates & Reports**

This series includes, among other things, reports from the American Federation of Catholic Societies and the National Catholic War Council, certificates from the Red Cross and Loyola University, as well as published bulletins and newsletters from the National Catholic War Council, Hotel Dieu Sisters' Hospital, and Jesuit High School.

**Series VII: Postcards**

This series includes 32 postcards, the majority of which were published by the National Catholic War Council, depicting images of social service centers and activities in sites throughout France and Belgium.

**Container List****Series I: Newspaper Clippings**

Box 1	Folder 1	1907-1915
	Folder 2	1918-1929
	Folder 3	1931-1993
	Folder 4	Undated
OS Folder 1	Folder 1	1909-1968

**Series II: Correspondence**

Box 1	Folder 5	1901-1912
	Folder 6	1912-1913
	Folder 7	1918-1920
	Folder 8	1930-1977

**Series III: Photographs**

Box 1	Folder 9	Personal [dated & undated]
	Folder 10	Professional [undated]
	Folder 11	Professional, dated 1946-1953
OS Folder 1	Folder 2	Scrapbook pages: "The Staff of Maison Sainte Rose San Quentin (AISNE)"
OS Folder 1	Folder 3	Denechaud Portrait and Board of Commissions of City Park

#### **Series IV: Event Programs & Menus**

Box 1	Folder 12	1901-1953
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#### **Series V: Manuscripts**

Box 2	Folder 1 - Formal Manuscripts and Student Exam	"Books I and II Civil Code, Term: 1914-1915" [student examination, blank, typewritten]; "The Catholic of the South" article [typewritten]; "Tribute to a Gentleman: Charles I. Denechaud" October 14, 1938 [program honoring Denechaud, typewritten version, memograph of original];
	Folder 2 - Manuscripts - Informal Notes and Ledger Pages	Scrap of typed text [undated]; text for speech, December 8, 1921 [handwritten]; pressed flower boutonniere in envelope, October 30, 1932 [souvenir of 25th wedding anniversary]; notes and names of catholic clergy on sea voyage, 1937 [handwritten]; ledger pages, 1901 - 1947 [handwritten]

#### **Series VI: Publications, Certificates & Reports**

Box 2	Folder 3 - Miscellaneous - 1913-1975	<i>Annual Report To the 12th National Convention of the</i>
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		<p><i>American Federation of Catholic Societies</i>, 1913; Passport page with photo [stamped Paris circa 1918]; <i>The Columbian Messenger</i>, December 1918 [clipping of front page with image of Denechaud]; <i>National Catholic War Council: Report of the Committee on Special War Activities</i>, February 1919; <i>National Catholic War Council: Overseas Work of the Committee on Special War Activities</i>, August 30, 1919 [photocopy]; <i>Rebiâtissons: Letter Pastorale</i>, 1920; <i>Notre Dame Seminary Archdiocese of New Orleans Public Inspection</i> report, September 1923; Warrant of Appointment by The Superintendent of the Police Force of the City of New Orleans special officer appointment, June 27th, 1927; New Orleans Chapter American Red Cross, 1936 [signatures of members with positions], Denechaud membership card; 2 cards, printed [indicating Denechaud as the Overseas Commissioner on Special War Activities], 1 card for Joseph Destooper, Leenstraat, Rousselare [Belgium]; <i>Men of the South</i>, September 1947; <i>Esprit de Corps</i>, publication of the Hotel Dieu Sisters' Hospital, September 1948; American Hospital Association 50th</p>
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		Anniversary Convention program, September, 1948; Official certificate issued by Loyola University recognizing the the death of Charles I. Denechaud and the meeting of the Board of Directors, 1957; <i>Jaynotes</i> Vol 3, No. 2, Winter 1974-1975; Charter Member certificate for membership in the Seminary Guild of Saint Anthony [undated]
OS Box 1 [clamshell]		<i>National Catholic War Council Bulletin</i> , by Charles I. Denechaud [bound item]

**Series VII: Postcards**

Box 2	Folder 4	32 postcards
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