Preliminary Guide to the Jay Monaghan Collection

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Preliminary Guide to the Jay Monaghan Collection, ca. 1840s-1980

Collection number: Wyles Mss 20

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Date Completed:
09 July 2003
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Jay Monaghan Collection,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1840s-1980
Date (bulk): (bulk 1930s-1970s)
Collection Number: Wyles Mss 20
Creator: Monaghan, Jay, 1891-
Extent: 24.5 linear feet (47 document boxes, 4 records containers, and 5 oversize boxes.)
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010
Physical Location: Del Sur (Boxes 1-51) and Del Sur Oversize (Boxes 52-56)
Language: English.
Access Restrictions
None.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Jay Monaghan Collection. Wyles Mss 20. Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Acquisition Information

Biography
The following biographical sketch was derived from: Donald C. Davidson, "James Jay Monaghan IV, 1891-1980; Mildred Eversole Monaghan, 1902-1980" in Soundings: Collections of the University Library (UCSB), v.12, no. 8, 1981; Irving Dilliard "Historian in Cowboy Boots: Jay Monaghan, 1893 (sic)-1980," in Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, v.74, no.4,
James Jay Monaghan IV was born on March 19, 1891 in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He was known throughout his life as Jay Monaghan, the name under which he published his many works on western United States history, Abraham Lincoln and related subjects on which he was a recognized authority. Jay Monaghan's parents, James and Anna (Jackson) Monaghan were Quakers and they sent their son to the Friends Central School in Philadelphia for his early education. His pre-college education also included a period of schooling at Vevey, Switzerland. He entered Swarthmore College in 1909 where he obtained a B.A. in 1913. An M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania followed in 1918.

At the same time that Monaghan was pursuing his education, he was also actively engaged in a life of adventure centered in the American west that he would later chronicle. During his summer breaks in 1908 and 1909, he traveled across the country, spending some of his time working on cattle roundups in Wyoming. The spring of 1911 found Monaghan involved in the Madero revolution in Mexico where he participated in an uprising against Porfirio Diaz, which led to his own arrest. Following his release, he helped drive an army mule team to New Mexico and took part in a bear hunt in Sonora before returning to Swarthmore for his junior year. Monaghan later described these adventures in his Schoolboy, Cowboy, Mexican Spy (1977), his only autobiographical work. During 1914-1915, he taught school on the Uintah Indian Reservation in Utah.

After completing his graduate studies in 1918, Monaghan served during World War I as an instructor in aerial photography. Subsequently, he returned to the West and was owner and operator of sheep and cattle ranches in Utah and Wyoming for the next two decades. He also explored early trapper forts, made investigations into local historical sites and interviewed Indians for the Colorado Historical Society. The latter assignment was his first official foray into the world of historical scholarship. Undertaken in 1935, these interviews were a pioneering effort in what today is known as oral history.

Monaghan spent a brief period as a professional researcher in Kansas and Nebraska and worked as a supervisor of a 1930s WPA writers' project that analyzed and indexed Illinois newspapers. This was the beginning of his career in historical record keeping. There followed a number of appointments to the Illinois State Historical Library. Monaghan served there first as research editor (1939-1945), and later as State Historian to the Library (1946-1951). While holding the post of State Historian, he also served as Secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society and editor of its journal.

During this time, Monaghan undertook a number of writing and research projects. His definitive two-volume Lincoln Bibliography appeared in 1943 and in 1945 he published his first book in his own right, Diplomat in Carpet Slippers, a popular yet scholarly study of how Lincoln handled foreign affairs. It was one of the dozen books that he authored over the next thirty-five years along with numerous articles, essays and reviews, most emphasizing historical research on the Civil War and the American West.

After a brief period spent abroad, Monaghan and his wife Mildred (Eversole), whom he had met at the Illinois State Historical Library, relocated to California where he had accepted an appointment as Fellow at the Huntington Library in San Marino. In 1953, they moved to Santa Barbara where Monaghan had been invited to serve as consultant to the Wyles Collection of Lincolniana at the Library of the University of California at Santa Barbara. His knowledge aided greatly in the development of the Wyles Collection and the helped enhance its reputation as a prominent collection on Lincoln, the Civil War, and westward expansion.

While located in Santa Barbara, Monaghan traveled to the Caribbean and South America under the auspices of the State Department to give lectures on Lincoln. Earlier he had been invited by the government of Liberia to perform the same task as part of that nation's observance of Lincoln Day. Monaghan, under a Fulbright Fellowship, spent the year 1954-1955 at the University of Sidney in Australia where he served as a lecturer on the American West while also researching Australia's connection to the search for gold in California. He later published The Gold Rush: Californians and Down Under, 1849-1854 (1966), based in part on this research.

Monaghan retained an active part in his role as Consultant to the Wyles Collection throughout the remainder of his life. He died in Santa Barbara, California on October 11, 1980. His wife, Mildred, died less than two weeks later.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection contains appointment books, biographical, personal and family files, correspondence, research files, scrapbooks, speeches and lectures, writings (including ms drafts), photographs and illustrations of Jay Monaghan, a Lincoln, Civil War, and western history scholar. Monaghan also played a major role in developing the William Wyles Collection at the UCSB Libraries.

Related Materials
Title: Monaghan [Jay] Oral History,
Date: ca. 1975
Identifier/Call Number: OH 10
3 cassettes (interviews by Gibbs M. Smith, UCSB Library Oral History Program); 1 cassette: Jay Monaghan, "A Freight Wagon Trip with Specimen Jones in the Year 1908;" 1 cassette: Jay Monaghan; Friends Open House, Sept. 14, 1975.

**Title:** McGuire[Harry] Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** SBHC Mss 54

Papers and printed materials of an editor, publisher, writer who spent his later years in Santa Barbara. Monaghan was executor of his estate and brought the materials to UCSB.

**Title:** Storke [Charles A.] Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** SBHC Mss 40

Research files and drafts of a biography of Storke's life, based on his autobiographical *After the Bugle*, with introduction and editorial work by Monaghan.

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**Series 1. Appointment Books**

- **Box 1** 1952-1963
- **Box 2** 1964-1974
- **Box 3** 1975-1979

**Series 2. Bio/Personal/Family**

- **Box 3 - 5** Includes early family correspondence, prints and negatives, awards and recognitions, bibliographies, clippings, early papers and reports

**Series 3. Correspondence**

- **Box 6** 1930s-1950s
- **Box 7** 1960s
- **Box 8** 1970s - 1980s, n.d.
- **Box 9** Alphabetical Files
  - Bobbs-Merrill
  - Civil War Centennial Commission
  - Fulbright
  - Little, Brown
  - State Department

**Series 4. Diaries**

- **Box 10** Diaries (apparently JM's), ca. 1909, 1920s

**Series 5. History Teaching**

- **Box 10** History Teaching (UCSB H181), 1960s

**Series 6. Illinois State Historical Society**

- **Box 11** Correspondence, minutes of meetings, constitution, memos, clippings, ca. 1941-1950

**Series 7. Research Files**

- **Box 12 - 15** General
  - Abstract: [arranged alphabetically by subject - includes enquiries and responses, notes, copies of documents, articles, etc.]

- **Box 12** Alaska
- **Box 12** Arms and Ammunition
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 12</th>
<th>Barrel</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abstract: [apparently mostly early articles by JM]</td>
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<td>Box 12</td>
<td>Benton</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Black Hawk</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Buffalo and Elk</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Cartoon History</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Custer, Libbie</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Dictator in Peru</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Expansion of Europe</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Lincoln-Douglas Debates</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>San Jose Convention</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Sandburg, Carl</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Scott, Dred</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Spiritualism</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Spiritualism and the Civil War</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Steel Traps</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Thesis (JM's PhD)</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Tousel Head Lincoln</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Traveller</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Turdhin, John B.</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Vivid Expressions</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Western Course</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Wild West</td>
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<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Wilde, Oscar</td>
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<td>Box 16-23</td>
<td>Archivo General de Indias (Seville), Contaduria 851</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abstract: [photostats from microfilm and transcripts of documents, 1590-1603, including segments with titles such as Cuentas de Protectores de Yndios, Cuentas de los Proveedores generales y Pagadores, and Cuaderno de diferentes papeles]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 24</td>
<td>Department of Interior, Office of Indian Affairs (photocopies of records)</td>
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<td>Box 25</td>
<td>Taylor, Bayard, and Darlington family</td>
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<td>Series 8. Scrapbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 26</td>
<td>Mainly picture postcards of Europe, ca. early 1900s</td>
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<td>Series 9. Speeches and Lectures</td>
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<td>Box 27</td>
<td>Speeches and Lectures (including trips for U.S. State Department)</td>
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<td>Series 10. Writings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 28-43</td>
<td>Monographs</td>
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<td>Box 28-29</td>
<td>Australians and the Gold Rush: California and Down Under, 1849-1854 (University of California Press, 1966)</td>
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<td>Box 30-31</td>
<td>Book of the American West (Julian Messner, Inc., 1963)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 32</td>
<td>Chile, Peru, and the California Gold Rush of 1849</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 33-35</td>
<td>Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865 (Little, Brown, 1955)</td>
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<td>Box 36-37</td>
<td>Custer: Life of Gen. George A. Custer (Little, Brown, 1959)</td>
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<td>Box 38</td>
<td>Diplomat in Carpet Slippers: Abraham Lincoln Deals with Foreign Affairs (Bobbs-Merrill, 1945)</td>
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<td>Box 38</td>
<td>Great Rascal: The Life and Adventures of Ned Buntline (Little, Brown, 1951)</td>
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<td>Box 38</td>
<td>Last of the Bad Men: The Legend of Tom Horn (Bobbs-Merrill, 1947)</td>
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Box 39  *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939* (Illinois State Historical Society Library, 1943-1945)
Box 40  *Overland Trail* (Bobbs-Merrill, 1947)
Box 40  *The Man Who Elected Lincoln* (Bobbs-Merrill, 1956)
Box 41 - 42  *Schoolboy, Cowboy, Mexican Spy* (University of California Press, 1977)
Box 43  *Swamp Fox of the Confederacy: The Life and Military Services of M. Jeff Thompson* (Confederate Pub. Co., 1956)
Box 43  *This Is Illinois: A Pictorial History* (University of Chicago Press, 1949)
Box 44 - 45  Articles
Box 44  Ms drafts (mainly typescripts)
Box 45  Print copies

Series 11. Photographs and Illustrations

Box 46 - 48  Photographs and Illustrations (mainly for publications; includes some original prints)

Series 12. Slides and Film

Box 49  Slides and Film (includes 35mm b/w negative strips and microfilm)

Series 13. Artifacts

Box 50  Two pieces of unidentified fabric

Series 14. Miscellany

Box 51  Unidentified items

Series 15. Oversize

Box 52  Photographs and Illustrations (mainly for publications)

Box 53 - 56  Scrapbooks

Box 53  Articles

Box 54 - 55  News clippings

Box 56  Reviews