



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chalmers S. Murray papers, 1905-1970 **SCHS# 1178.00**

Creator: Murray, Chalmers S.

Description: 3 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Edisto Island, S.C. author, journalist, and attorney.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of writings, correspondence, and other items.

Manuscripts of non-fiction writings include a manuscript of an unpublished history of South Carolina sea island cotton entitled "Black Seed from Bahama" (1951), with related correspondence and research and bibliographic notes; articles (ca. 1950-1970) on Edisto Island (S.C.), cassina (a beverage), Guatemalan Indians, plantation boats, and other subjects including "Beating the Depression on Edisto" (1932-1933).

Manuscripts of fiction writings include the manuscript (322 p.) of a novel about African-Americans (Gullahs) on the South Carolina Sea Islands entitled "Here Come Joe Mungin," with related correspondence, photographs of the paperback version's cover, reviews, and other material; additional novels (1944-1965) about sea island life, the Gullah people, and other subjects, including "Give My Love to Cora Caroline" (1964), a romance set in Charleston (S.C.), and "The Other Country"; short stories (1940-1970) including "God Use Both Hand," "Under the Graveyard Oak," and other stories including Edisto Island (S.C.) Gullah folklore recorded for a W.P.A. project; and poetry.

Also included are drafts (ca. 1950-1967) of "Memories of an Island" about the history and culture of Edisto Island, with Murray's personal recollections of life there.

Personal and professional correspondence (1905-1970, bulk 1940-1970) with family members, friends, literary agents, readers, publishers, political figures, and others concerns personal and family matters, Murray's writings and their publication, national and local politics, the environment, Scientology, and other matters. Other items include clippings of articles by Murray concerning Edisto Island, Georgetown (S.C.); clippings of articles (mostly photocopies) on Edisto Island folklore, Gullahs, agriculture, and other topics; a typescript (1955) entitled "Survey of Possible Mineral Deposits in Marsh Lands," with related correspondence; biographical

material on Murray; genealogical notes on early Carolina settler John Frampton (b. ca. 1689) and his family; biographical information on Rev. A.E. Cornish, George R.F. Cornish, and William M. Murray; a list of names and dates on tombstones in the Jenkins Burial Ground, Cedar Hall Plantation, Edisto Island; property records pertaining to lands on James Island (S.C.) owned by the Frampton and McLeod families, with plat (1954).

Preferred Citation: Murray, Chalmers S. (Chalmers Swinton). Chalmers S. Murray papers, 1905-1970. (1178.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Cornish, Andrew Ernest, 1861-1921.
Cornish, George Rainsford Fairbanks, b. 1890.
Murray, Chalmers S. (Chalmers Swinton)
Murray, William Meggett, 1806-1866.
Frampton family.
McLeod family.
African Americans -- South Carolina -- Edisto Island -- Folklore.
Gullahs -- South Carolina.
Cassina.
Mineral lands -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Real property -- South Carolina -- James Island.
Sea Island cotton -- South Carolina.
Charleston (S.C.)
Edisto Island (S.C.) -- History.
Edisto Island (S.C.) -- Social life and customs.
Sea Islands.
South Carolina -- History.
Clippings.
Letters (correspondence)
Manuscripts.
Photographs.
Writings.
Authors.

21/222/1-14 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Novel ms, 1942. 1 ms, 100 items

Edisto island writer. Ms (322 pgs) of CSM's published novel Here Come Joe Mungin, Putnam, 1942; Bontam paperback, 1954. Also includes correspondence regarding publishing and attempts to make a film based on the book. Also includes musical scenario, royalty statements, publisher's catalogue, photographs of the paperback cover, clippings, reviews, and a typescript of the will of Joseph Middleton, whom the character Joe Mungin was apparently based. Story regarding black man on SC Sea Island told with Gullah dialogue.

21/222-225 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Novel mss, 1944-1965. 7 novel mss.

Edisto Island writer. Mss of final drafts, copies and early versions of CSM's unpublished novels with some correspondence. Mss. included are "Insect Song" (1944) regarding young man's adventures on a SC Sea Island amongst the blacks and whites; "All Dese Duh My Fadder Chillen" (ca. 1949) regarding folktales of Edisto Island Gullah people; "The Sea at Bohicket" (ca. 1954) regarding Sea Island life; "The Other Country" (ca. 1961) regarding young man's pursuit of riches, art, and music on sea islands; "Give my love to Cora Caroline" (1964) regarding romance set n Charleston area; "Death at the Sacred Pool" (1965) apparently allegorical parody of John Birch Society or other extremist groups; and "But They Loved Each Other" (n.d.) regarding life in Lowcountry.

21/226/1-15 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Short fiction, 1940-1970. Approx 50 items

Edisto Island writer: final and early mss and correspondence regarding CSM's short fiction. Works included are "God Use both Hand", New Writing in SC 1970, and "Under the Graveyard Oak," Georgia Review, 1958. Many other unpublished stories including Edisto Island Gullah, folklore recorded by CSM for the WPA folklore project, extracted chapters of various unpublished novels, and other stories regarding life on fictional Sea Islands and the interaction of blacks, whites, social position, folklore and the environment. Also poetry mss. and some fragments of fiction.

21/226-227/1-2 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Nonfiction ms., 1951-1957. 1 mss. 60 items

Edisto Island writer. Ms (279 pgs) of unpublished history; "Black Seed from Bahama" (1951) with correspondence regarding attempts to publish ms. and condensed ms. published in SC Garden Bulletin (1951). Also many bibliographic and research notes. Ms. regarding history of sea island cotton in SC.

21/227/3-8 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Memoir, ca. 1950, 1967. 2 mss.

Edisto Island writer. Final draft and early versions of "Memories of an Island" by CSM regarding memories and history of blacks, whites, folklore, Gullah, cotton plantations, the Civil War, reconstruction, race relations, and other material regarding Edisto Island.

21/227/9-16 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Non-fiction writings, ca. 1950-1970. Approx 50 items

Edisto Island writer. Mss of CSM for short journalism or historical writings. Articles include "Plantation Boats and the Men Who Built Them;" "The Evil Spell" (1968) regarding civil strife; ms. regarding manufacture of Cassina bush beverage; "Beating the Depression on Edisto" (1932-1933); "History of Edisto;" "Side Tour of Edisto;" "Intercoastal Waterway, Charleston-Georgetown;" "Rambling Thoughts of an Oyster Eater;" ms and correspondence regarding Guatemala (1964); Survey of possible mineral deposits in SC marshlands (1955?) with incidental references to the 1886 earthquake in Charleston.

21/228/1-12 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Misc. 1929-1960s. ¼ ft.

Edisto Island writer. News clippings, biographical, genealogical and other material of CSM. News articles written for the Charleston News & Courier, 1930's regarding news, folklore, blacks, whites and happenings on Edisto Island; news features (1955-1957) on Edisto Island folklore, settlements and life. News clippings regarding Georgetown area (1929). Biographical material on CSM, John Frampton, William Meggett, Murray and George R.F. Cornish. Other material includes tombstone list of Jenkins Burial Ground, Cedar Hall Plantation, Edisto Island; notes on the Swinton Family, land papers regarding Frampton land on James Island, a calendar (1963) with appointments and a tax record book.

21/229/1-20 Murray, Chalmers S., 1894-1975

Correspondence, 1905-1970. ½ ft.

Edisto Island writer. Correspondence of CSM (mostly 1940-1970) from literary agents, readers, publishers, politicians, personal acquaintances, and family correspondence regarding publication of writings, personal matters, political matters (national and on Edisto Island) environment and Scientology. Correspondents include agent, Marion Saunders, Katherine Drayton, Mayrant Simons, Herbert R. Sass, Frank Durham, Dorothy Heyward, L. Mendell Rivers, Ernest Hollings,

Phil Clark, Lovelle Clark, and Paul Metcalf. Also letters (1955, 1967) regarding CSM's allegations of plagiarism and manufactured folklore in *Tales of Edisto* by Nell S. Graydon.