

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

Manuscript Collection Finding Aids

Manuscripts

5-19-2008

Cobb, Irvin Shrewsbury, 1876-1944 (MSS 18)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Cobb, Irvin Shrewsbury, 1876-1944 (MSS 18)" (2008). *Manuscript Collection Finding Aids*. Paper 461.

https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/461

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Manuscript Collection Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Department of Library Special Collections
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 18 COBB, Irvin Shrewsbury, 1876-1944

½ box. 7 folders. 18 items. 1923-1941. Originals and typescripts.

1940.16.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Irvin Shrewsbury Cobb was born on 23 June 1876 in Paducah, Kentucky, the oldest son of Joshua and Manie (Saunders) Cobb. Irvin attended private and public schools in Paducah until the age of sixteen, when he took a position with the *Paducah Evening News* reporting on local news. In 1896 he became managing editor of the *Evening News*, but one year later left to become a reporter for the *Louisville Evening Post*. While in Louisville he became known as an outstanding trial reporter and covered the case of the accused assassin of Governor William Goebel in 1900. He also enjoyed a reputation as a humorous essayist.

Cobb returned to Paducah in 1901 as the managing editor of the *Democrat*, but left in 1904 to pursue his career in New York City where he worked first for the *Evening Sun* but soon moved to the better known *Evening Herald*. While reporting on many dramatic news events of the day, Cobb began penning serialized fiction for newspapers.

The *Saturday Evening Post* published one of Cobb's stories about his rural Kentucky childhood in 1912. Shortly thereafter he joined the *Post's* staff and wrote numerous stories about life in Paducah, Kentucky. In 1914 Cobb went to Europe to report on World War I for the *Post*. After the war, Cobb enjoyed an enviable reputation as a writer, a speaker on the Chautauqua circuit, a radio personality, and a screenwriter. He wrote a number of best-selling collections of stories, including *Judge Priest* and *Exit Laughing*.

Cobb married Laura Spencer Baker of Savannah, Georgia in 1900, and they had one child, Elizabeth. Cobb died on 10 March 1944 and was interred in Paducah's Oak Grove Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of handwritten manuscripts for five short stories by Irvin S. Cobb. The titles are listed in the accompanying shelf list. The collection also contains correspondence (10 items) between Cobb and WKU's Kentucky Building

director, Mary Leiper Moore. "To Be Taken Before Sailing" was published in *Cosmopolitan* (May 1930): 34-35, 150-152.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Irvin Shewsbury Cobb	1923-1941	18 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Correspondence between Cobb and Mary Leiper Moore	1923-1941	10 items
Folder 3	"Across the Continent with Knife and Fork"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 4	"The Stewed Kidneys of an Angel"	n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	"The Sun Shines Bright"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 6	"To Be Taken Before Sailing"	1930	2 items
Folder 7	"Where Nothing Ever Happened"	n.d.	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS COBB, Irvin Shrewsbury, 1923-1941
18 1876-1944

Correspondence (10 items) between Cobb and WKU Kentucky Building director, Mary Leiper Moore, and handwritten manuscripts for five Cobb short stories.

½ box. 7 folders. 18 items. Originals and typescripts.

1940.16.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

"Across the Continent with Knife and Fork" (Short story)

American fiction

Authors – Kentucky

Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973

Richards, Frances, 1893-1991

Short stories, American

“The Stewed Kidneys of an Angel” (Short story)

“The Sun Shines Bright” (Short story)

“To Be Taken Before Sailing” (Short story)

“Where Nothing Ever Happened” (Short story)

Jeffrey 5/19/2008