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

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

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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***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Irvin Shewsbury Cobb</b>	<b>1923-1941</b>	<b>18 items</b>
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.

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### ***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