

# GOSNELL, CULLEN BRYANT.

## Cullen Bryant Gosnell papers, 1919-1964

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-6887  
rose.library@emory.edu

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### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Gosnell, Cullen Bryant.  
**Title:** Cullen Bryant Gosnell papers, 1919-1964  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 425  
**Extent:** 4.25 linear feet (9 boxes), 1 oversized papers box (OP), and 7 oversized bound volumes (OBV)  
**Abstract:** Papers of political scientist and educator Cullen Bryant Gosnell including correspondence, literary manuscripts, memoranda, pamphlets and other material relative to Gosnell's professional career.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### Administrative Information

#### Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

#### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### Source

Gift, 1963.

#### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Cullen Bryant Gosnell papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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### Collection Description

#### Biographical Note

Cullen Bryant Gosnell (December 14, 1893 - August 16, 1963), professor of Political Science at Emory, founder and director of Emory's Institute of Citizenship, and an active proponent of governmental reform in Georgia, was born in Spartanburg, S.C, the son of Jesse Holland

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Gosnell, a farmer, and his wife Corrie (Setzler) Gosnell. Cullen received the A.B. degree from Wofford College (1916), the A.M. from Vanderbilt University (1920), and the Ph.D. from Princeton (1928). During the summer of 1939 he studied at the Academy of International Law at The Hague. His scholastic career was interrupted by a tour of duty in the U. S. Navy, 1918-19, and he was discharged from the U. S. Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant (junior grade) in 1921. Prior to his enlistment in the Navy he had taught in high schools in South Carolina and Florida. Later he taught a year each at Wake Forest College, at Bessie Tift College, and at Furman University, and in 1927 he came to Emory as assistant professor of history and government. He was appointed professor in 1934. While at Furman he had organized the Institute of Politics, and during his first year at Emory he established the Southeastern Citizenship Conference, later called the Institute of Citizenship. This Institute Gosnell directed until his retirement in 1962. It brought laymen from all over the Southeast together with prominent scholars, government officials and newspapermen to discuss public problems, and it engaged in some extension work. Ever active in political reform Gosnell is most noted for his fight against the county unit system and in this cause he and Mrs. R. L. Turman of Atlanta filed an unsuccessful suit in the U. S. courts in 1946. Gosnell was one of the founders of the Southern Political Science Association and served as its president in 1933. In 1944 he was a vice president of the American Political Science Association. He was a member of the Georgia Academy of Social Sciences (pres. 1938-41), Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the Inquiry Club of Atlanta. He wrote *Government and Politics of Georgia* (New York: Nelson, 1936), numerous articles, was co-author of six other books: *The Constitutions of the Americas* with R. H. Fitzgibbon and others (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948); *Democracy in America* with W. M. Muthard and S.M. Hastings (New York: Nelson, 1940); *Fundamentals of American National Government* with L. W. Lancaster and R. S. - Rankin (New York McGraw-Hill, 1955); *The Government and Administration of Georgia* with C. D. Anderson (New York: Crowell, 1956); *Readings in American Government* with W. B. Stubbs (New York: Scribner, 1948); and *State and Local Government* with L. M. Holland (New York: Prentice-Hall, 1951). Gosnell was a Methodist and a Democrat. His leisure hours he spent gardening, hunting, and working on his farm near Hogansville, Georgia On August 28, 1929, he married Louisa Allen, daughter of William Henry White of Columbus, Georgia and donor of these papers. The couple had no children.

**Biographical Source:** *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, IV, 649-650; *Who's Who in America*, XXVII (1952-1953), 944; *Who's Who in America*, XXXII 1962-1963), 1186; *American Men of Science*, 9th ed, 111, 753; and Marjorie Duncan, "Retirement of a Reformer," *The Emory Alumnus*, XXXVIII (July 1962), 16-18, 48-49.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Cullen B. Gosness from 1919-1964. It includes correspondence, literary manuscripts, memoranda, pamphlets and other material relative to the professional career of Cullen B. Gosnell. There are approximately 1580 letters, notes, telegrams and interoffice memoranda of which the largest part falls into the period 1949-1963. Much of the material relates to the Institute of Citizenship -- plans, speakers, participants, funding. There is considerable correspondence relative to the publication of his books, particularly *Fundamentals of American National Government*, to his Wofford College associations, and to the establishment of the Gosnell Book Fund in the Emory University Library. Notable among the correspondents

is Herman Talmadge whose record as Governor and Senator Gosnell frequently praised and criticized. Other correspondents include World Court Justice Antonio Sanchez de Bustamente, Dr. Eugene P. Pendergrass of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Robert S. Rankin of Duke University, Senator Richard B. Russell, and Herbert Waentig of McGraw-Hill Book Co.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into four series: (1) General correspondence, (2) Literary materials, (3) Special files and misc. materials, and (4) Scrapbooks and oversized papers.

**Finding Aid Note**

A detailed correspondence index is also available in repository.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: General correspondence](#)

[Series 2: Literary materials](#)

[Series 3: Special files and miscellaneous material](#)

[Series 4: Scrapbooks and oversized papers](#)

**Series 1**  
**General correspondence**  
**Boxes 1 - 2**

**Scope and Content Note**

These 1267 items include incoming correspondence as well as carbon copies of many letters written by Gosnell. Subjects covered include the Institute of Citizenship, political opinions and criticisms, Gosnell's books, and occasional mention of the county unit system, students, prospective faculty, activities of the Inquiry Club and of the various professional organizations of which Gosnell was a member. There are letters of congratulations upon his retirement and of condolence upon his death. The letters are arranged chronologically. A name index is available.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in chronological order.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1		1929 - 1954
2		1955 - 1964

**Series 2**  
**Literary materials**  
**Boxes 3 - 6**

**Scope and Content Note**

A miscellany of notes, drafts, memoranda and publications.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
3	1	Reprints of Gosnell's published articles
3	2-8	"Compulsory Arbitration of International Differences." Various drafts and partial drafts of Ph.D thesis submitted to Faculty of Politics, Princeton University and extensively revised sometime later
3	9	"The World Courts," Typescript (carbon) of an article written about 1924, (32 p.)
4	1-11	"The New South: A Hopeful View." Includes one complete typescript with extensive holograph corrections and various drafts of the different chapters
5	1-7	"The New South: A Hopeful View." Includes one complete typescript with extensive holograph corrections and various drafts of the different chapters
5	8	"American Democracy in Crisis." Typescript (carbon) with many pages missing. A slightly variant draft of p. 122 is filed with that page
5	9	"Future Political Party Line-Ups in the U. S.," Typescript, with slight holograph changes, of a paper (5 P.) written about 1935
5	10	"Fundamentals of American National Government." Includes notes, memoranda, lists of illustrations and of adoptions (Thermax copies not counted.)
5	11	"State and Local Government," Miscellaneous papers including "Suggested Revisions and Corrections," and lists of adoptions Corrected galley proof (214 sheets) is filed in this box
5	12-13	Unidentified manuscripts. Pages 89-112 of typescript with no manuscript alterations. Includes all or part of chapters on "A Government Personnel Bent Upon Exploitation," "Low Income," "A Wasted People," and "Thirty Pieces of Silver," all relative to Southern problems. There are also notes and fragments
5	14-15	Galley proof, "State and Local Government"
6	1-4	"Democracy in the New South," Portions of three drafts differing substantially in organization and content and a group of miscellaneous notes and clippings found in folder labeled "Democracy in the New South"
6	5-20	[Book of readings] A collection of 13" x 10" envelopes, each labeled as with a chapter heading, and containing reprints, clippings, pamphlets and other material. The words had been counted in each selection and total attached to outside of envelope. A list of the contents of each chapter has been filed in Folder 5.

**Series 3**  
**Special files and miscellaneous material**  
**Boxes 7 - 9**

**Scope and Content Note**

These folders include correspondence, notes, pamphlets, clippings, speeches and other material relative to the various activities in which Gosnell was involved.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
7	1	Personal documents, 1919-1964
7	2	Newspapers clippings
7	3	Furman Institute of Politics, 1924
7	4-15	Institute of Citizenship papers [includes programs and promotional material, reports, minutes, funding proposals, lists of delegates, accounts, and speeches by H.C. Nixon, George Fort Milton (Folder 4), and J. G. Poe.]
7	16	Covington-Oxford World Affairs Institute, 1957
7	17	Southern Political Science Association
7	18	Georgia Academy of the Social Sciences
7	19	Miscellaneous organizations
7	20	Political Science Department
7	21-23	Public Affairs Scholarship programs
8	1	County unit system
8	2	Democratic Primary
8	3	Model State Constitution
8	4	Preliminary Report of the Governor's Commission on Economy and Reorganization, June 26, 1959
8	5-13	Wofford College [includes correspondence and miscellaneous material relative to class reunions, fund raising, news o classmates and efforts to endow a chair in history to honor David D. Wallace]
8	14-22	Gosnell Book Fund
9		Photographs of Gosnell (3) and a pyrographic sketch of Franklin D. Roosevelt, an annotated and much worn copy of Cash's <i>Mind of the South</i> (New York: Knopf, 1946) and 12 miscellaneous pamphlets. A list of the pamphlets and of the contents of a small box of memorabilia is available in the Collections Folder.

**Series 4**  
**Scrapbooks and oversized papers**  
**OBV1-OBV7, OP1**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
OBV1		Institute of Citizenship, newspaper clippings, 1931-1935 [indexed by newspaper]
OBV2		Institute of Citizenship, newspaper clippings, 1931-1935 [indexed by newspaper]
OBV3		Institute of Citizenship, newspaper clippings, 1931-1935
OBV4		Institute of Citizenship, newspaper clippings, 1931-1935
OBV5		Institute of Citizenship, newspaper clippings, 1931-1935 [Two folders of loose clippings, found in the scrapbooks, are laid in OBV5]
OBV6		Miscellaneous clippings, ca. 1938-1939, primarily concerned with Southern political and economic events and issues, speeches, and Dr. Gosnell. [One folder of loose clippings is laid in]
OBV7		Miscellaneous clippings, ca. 1943-1949, containing clippings on various political and social problems. [Four folders of loose clippings are laid in.]
OP1	1	Appointment as an Ensign, U. S. Navy, Nov. 12, 1920; his doctoral diploma from Princeton; and a certificate from Academie de droit internationale de La Haye, 1939. Here also is a photograph of the "Luncheon in honor of Trygve Lie," New York, Nov. 24, 1959, with Gosnell in attendance.

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