



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**DURRETT, FRANCES BOWEN  
PAPERS  
1908-1954**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers center around Frances Durrett (1906-1977), an educator of Nashville, Tennessee, and her research on her thesis, “The New Orleans Double Dealer: 1921-May 1926, A Critical History.” The papers are a gift from Mrs. Albert Bowen of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .5 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Patrons may make single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Frances Bowen Durrett Papers for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists primarily of correspondence and notes concerning Dr. Durrett’s (1906-1977) dissertation research on the New Orleans literary publication, *The Double Dealer*. The publication began in New Orleans in January of 1921. The editors of the magazine were Julius Weiss Friend, Albert Goldstein, and John McClure. It included as its subject matter the issues of the day – political, social, religious, and aesthetic. During its existence, it produced a total of 43 issues grouped in eight volumes. The magazine suspended publication in May of 1926.

Included in the collection are letters from Frances Bowen Durrett to Clement Wood, Francis William Rolt-Wheeler, and Richard Kirk, all dating 1908; six composite notebooks of notes and research on her dissertation, “The New Orleans Double Dealer: 1921-May 1926, A Critical History;” and the dissertation itself.

Subjects discussed in the correspondence include the role of the “little” magazines in American literature, information concerning the quality of *The Double Dealer*, and reasons for the demise of the “little” magazine movement after World War II.

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers provide valuable primary information on an important literary movement of the 1920s.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Frances Bowen Durrett

- 1906 May 15 – Born in Soochow, China, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Bowen, medical missionaries
- 1926 Received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1926-1956 Taught in the Metropolitan Public Schools, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1954 Completed her dissertation, “The New Orleans Double Dealer”
- 1956 Received a PhD from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1957-1971 Taught at Aquinas Junior College and the University of Tennessee, Nashville
- 1977 April 17 – Died at her home in Nashville, Tennessee

Source: The Nashville *Tennessean*, April 18, 1977

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. Correspondence, 1908
2. Dissertation – “The New Orleans Double Dealer: 1921-May 1926, A Critical History” by Frances Jean Bowen, 1954
3. Research and notes, undated
4. Research and notes, undated
5. Research and notes, undated