Mary Jacques Du Congé was born on July 5, 1908, in New Orleans to Joseph and Venita Molina Jacques. Both her grandfathers had immigrated to Louisiana from Haiti. Her father was a barber who sang bass in the local parish choir, and her mother was a music teacher who made sure each of her children received an education and taught culture. Oscar graduated from Xavier High School (the only black Catholic High School in the United States at the time). He then graduated from Xavier University in 1931 with his bachelor's degree in sociology.

Oscar Norbert Du Congé was born in Pass Christian, Mississippi, on April 19, 1909, to Adolphe Joseph and Daniska St. Aurin Du Congé. However, he spent his childhood years in New Orleans, Louisiana. Both of his grandfathers had immigrated to Louisiana from Haiti. His father was a barber who sang bass in the local parish choir, and his mother was a music teacher who made sure each of her children received an education and taught culture. Oscar graduated from Xavier University (the only black Catholic High School in the United States at the time). He then graduated from Xavier University in 1931 with his bachelor's degree in sociology.

After the war, the Du Congé's spent a brief time in New Orleans. Mary taught elementary school while Oscar got his master's in Social Work via correspondence at the University of Atlanta. His thesis work is included in this collection. Two years after obtaining his Master’s, in 1948, Oscar accepted a position at the Veterans Affairs Hospital (V.A.) in Waco. Mary was able to get a job on base as a secretary and the two lived in Arizona for the duration of the war, except for the short time Oscar was stationed in North Africa.

During the 1950s, Oscar left the V.A. to co-own and operate the Doris Miller Memorial Park Cemetery. Subsequently, Mary became the first African-American secretary at the James Connally Air Force Base. She was involved in organizations including the Joie de Vivre Club, St. John’s Catholic Church, and Caritas (a Catholic Group seeking to alleviate hunger). A large percentage of this collection is composed of documents relating to her community service work.

Oscar eventually left cemetery administration to return to social work. He became the Director of Neighborhood Centers for Economic Opportunities, Advancement Corporation (EOAC). This served as his entrance point into city government. In 1973 Oscar was elected to the City Council, and in 1974 he became the first African-American mayor of Waco. He represented the Liberty Bell Award, which is included in these papers.

Oscar died on July 26, 1978. Mary continued to be active in the community and many documents in this collection were created after Oscar’s death. Mary died on August 31, 1999. The Oscar ”Doc” Norbert and Mary “Kitty” Jacques Du Congé Papers provide a wide-ranging picture into the lives of this important couple. From their religious volunteerism to their public service, Oscar and Mary Du Congé were an important part of making Waco what it is today.

**Related Resources**

Archival Arrangement

The Oscar “Doc” Norbert and Mary “Kitty” Jacques Du Congé Papers were organized by type and by date prior to this finding aid. The papers were divided into two major groups, Oscar “Doc” Norbert Du Congé and Mary “Kitty” Jacques Du Congé. No preliminary inventory was available.

The collection is arranged in ten series: I. Correspondence, II. Diaries, III. Legal Documents, IV. Financial Documents, V. Literary Productions, VI. Books, VII. Scrapbooks, VIII. Photographic Materials, IX. Audio Recordings, and X. Artifacts.

Series 1. Correspondence, 1932-1986, undated

Administrative/Biographical History

Series includes professional and personal letters to and from Oscar “Doc” Norbert and Mary “Kitty” Jacques Du Congé. Much of the correspondence pertains to Oscar Du Congé’s term as mayor and the couple’s religious activities. The series is in good to excellent condition.

Inventory

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<th>Box</th>
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<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
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Religious, 1959-1960
Box 3. Folder 4. Correspondence: Mary "Kitty" Jacques Du Congé: Personal, 1932-1944
Box 3. Folder 9. Correspondence: To Oscar "Doc" Norbert and Mary "Kitty" Jacques Du Congé, 1943-1979, undated
Box 3. Folder 10. Correspondence: General: History of St. John the Baptist Church, 1980, undated
Box 3. Folder 12. Correspondence: Religious Organizations, 1959 October 16-1960 January 4
Box 3. Folder 15. Correspondence: Religious Organizations, 1961 January 11-February 12
Box 3. Folder 16. Correspondence: Religious Organizations, 1961 February 12-August 16
Box 4. Folder 3. Correspondence: Religious Organizations, undated
Box 4. Folder 4. Correspondence: Greeting Cards, 1945-1978
Box 4. Folder 5. Correspondence: Greeting Cards, 1976-1980
Box 4. Folder 6. Correspondence: Greeting Cards, 1981-1985, undated
Box 4. Folder 7. Correspondence: Greeting Cards (1 of 3), undated
Box 4. Folder 8. Correspondence: Greeting Cards (2 of 3), undated
Box 4. Folder 9. Correspondence: Greeting Cards (3 of 3), undated
Box 4. Folder 11. Correspondence: Pledge Cards, 1974-1985
Box 4. Folder 12. Correspondence: Postcards, 1943-1984
Box 4. Folder 13. Correspondence: Postcards, undated
Box 4. Folder 14. Correspondence: General, undated


Administrative/Biographical History
Series includes diaries written by and calendars annotated by Mary "Kitty" Jacques Du Congé. Series is in average to good condition.

Inventory
Box 5. Folder 1. Diaries: Liturgical Desk Calendar, 1961
Box 5. Folder 3. Diaries: Calendar, 1981
Box 5. Folder 4. Diaries: Calendar, 1986

Series 3. Legal Documents. 1908-1987, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
Series includes legal documents pertaining to the personal and professional lives of Oscar "Doc" Norbert and Mary "Kitty" Jacques Du Congé. Also included are legal documents regarding the Waco City Council. The series is in good to excellent condition.

Inventory
Box 5. Folder 5. Legal Documents: Oscar "Doc" Norbert Du Congé: Diploma, 1949
Box 5. Folder 7. Legal Documents: Mary "Kitty" Jacques Du Congé, 1908-1978, undated
Box 5. Folder 10. Legal Documents: City Council, 1959-1976 March 29
Box 5. Folder 11. Legal Documents: City Council, 1976 March 29-April 19


Administrative/Biographical History
Series includes financial documents pertaining to the personal finances of the Du Congé family. The majority of the series is comprised of bank statements. Series is in good to excellent condition.
## Series 5. Literary Productions. 1909-1986, undated

### Administrative/Biographical History
This series is the largest of the Du Congé papers and includes a variety of literary productions. Included are documents from Oscar Du Congé’s schooling, his terms on the Waco City Council, Mary Du Congé’s religious volunteer work and various news clippings. The series is in average to excellent condition.

### Inventory

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</table>

**Administrative/Biographical History**
Series includes two books and one journal. Items from this series have been separated from the collection. See separation sheets for more information. Series is in good to excellent condition.

**Inventory**

**Series 7. Scrapbooks, 1958-1980**

**Administrative/Biographical History**
Series includes materials from six scrapbooks. The topics of the scrapbooks include Mary "Kitty" Jacques Du Congé’s professional work, religious volunteerism, and Oscar "Doc" Norbert Du Congé’s Mayoral appointment. One scrapbook chronicles the planning and results of a performance by pianist Henrietta Miller Yancey, organized by Mary Du Congé. This series includes two maps of Israel, including the rare "Pilgrim’s Map of the Holy Land", 1978. The series is in average to excellent condition.

**Inventory**
Box 15. Folder 7. Scrapbooks: Guests: Page 36-41 (2 of 3), 1976 June 29
Box 15. Folder 8. Scrapbooks: Guests: Book (3 of 3), 1976 June 28
Box 16. Folder 1. Scrapbooks: Mayor: Pages 1-6 (1 of 7), 1974
Box 16. Folder 2. Scrapbooks: Mayor: Pages 6-8 (2 of 7), 1974
Box 16. Folder 7. Scrapbooks: Mayor: Pages 41-43 (7 of 7), 1974
Box 26 OVZ. Folder 2. Scrapbooks: Israel Touring Map: Page 16, 1961

Media
Photographic print; Portrait photograph

Administrative/Biographical History
This series contains a wide range of photographic materials, including childhood photos, professional photos, and family photos of the Du Congé family. Particularly of note is a photo of President Jimmy Carter and Pope John Paul II, found in Box 18, Folder 11. This series also includes one oversized portrait and two oversized city council photos. Series is in poor to excellent condition.

Inventory
Box 18. Folder 4. Photographic Materials: Photographs, 1913-1930
Box 18. Folder 5. Photographic Materials: Photographs, 1940-1949
Box 20. Folder 1. Photographic Materials: Photographs (1 of 4), 1980
Box 20. Folder 5. Photographic Materials: Photographs (1 of 8), 1981
Box 20. Folder 7. Photographic Materials: Photographs (3 of 8), 1981
Box 22. Folder 1. Photographic Materials: Photographs (10 of 10), 1982
Box 22. Folder 5. Photographic Materials: Photographs (3 of 3), 1984
Box 23. Folder 1. Photographic Materials: Photographs: Circa 1930, undated
Box 23. Folder 2. Photographic Materials: Photographs: Circa 1940, undated
Box 23. Folder 3. Photographic Materials: Photographs: Circa 1950 (1 of 2), undated
Series 9. Audio Recordings, undated

Media
- Cassette tape

Administrative/Biographical History
- Series includes an audio cassette recording of Oscar "Doc" Norbert Du Congé's burial service. Series is in good condition.

Inventory
- Box 25. Folder 1. Audio Recordings: Cassette Tape: Burial Mass, undated

Series 10. Artifacts, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
- Series includes artifacts pertaining to the life and career of Oscar "Doc" Norbert Du Congé. Series is in good to excellent condition.

Inventory
- Box 25. Folder 2. Artifacts: Knights of Columbus Sash, undated
- Box 25. Folder 3. Artifacts: VFW Hat, undated
- Box 26 OZV. Folder 1. Artifacts: Freedom Bell Plaque, undated
- Box 27 OZV. Folder 1. Artifacts: EOAC Plaque, 05/13/1974
- Box 27 OZV. Folder 2. Artifacts: Social Work Plaque
- Box 27 OZV. Folder 3. Artifacts: Head Start Plaque, 05/00/1974
- Box 27 OZV. Folder 4. Artifacts: Republic of Texas Souvenir Plaque, undated