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## **Edward Hull Crump collection**

**Title:** Edward Hull Crump collection  
**Collection No:** MSS.514  
**Extent:** 0.3 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1929-1971

**Abstract:** The collection comprises correspondence and published materials related to Memphis, Tennessee, political boss Edward Hull Crump (1874-1954).

**Processed by:** Gerald Chaudron, 2016-2017.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** Edward Hull Crump collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** September 2017

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## Biographical information

Edward Hull Crump (1874-1954) was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, and moved to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1893. Crump was mayor of Memphis from 1910 to 1915 and again in 1940, but even out of office effectively ran the city from 1915 until the late 1940s. He also dominated state politics for most of the time from the 1920s to the 1940s. Crump served as a U.S. Congressman for two terms from 1930 and was on the Democratic Party National Committee from 1936 to 1945.

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## Scope and contents

The collection consists of correspondence and published material related to E.H. Crump. Three letters were written by Crump in 1935, 1939 and 1940. The first is an inquiry about a card from Frank D. Dugan and is accompanied by a letter from U.S. Congressman and Memphis mayor Walter Chandler. The second acknowledges the condolences of staff at the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper on the death of his son John (1910-1939) in a plane crash in Mississippi on May 2, 1939 while on a promotional tour for the Cotton Carnival. The plane was owned by the newspaper, and a reporter and the pilot were also killed. The third letter refers to his opposition to Communist Party leader Earl Browder whom he describes as a traitor.

The publications are mostly contemporary by opponents of Crump or articles about him. There is also a file of correspondence from 1955 regarding the proposal by the E. H. Crump Memorial Association, Inc., to erect a statue in Court Square.

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## Related materials

MSS.187. E.H. Crump Buggy and Harness Company records.  
Crump family, M Files, Memphis Room, Memphis Public Library and Information Center.

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## Subject terms

Crump, Edward Hull, 1874-1954.

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## Inventory

Folder

1 Correspondence:

E.H. Crump, Memphis, to Marvin Pope, Washington, D.C., 1935 July 3.  
Inquiry about a card from Frank D. Dugan. This letter referred to in accompanying letter from U.S. Congressman and Memphis mayor Walter Chandler, Memphis, Tenn., to Seale B. Johnson, Jackson, Tenn., 1949 February 7.

E.H. Crump, Memphis, to J.H. Sorrells, Enoch Brown, Jr., Frank Ahlren, Jack, Carley Bob Marks, Sam L. Kahn, Early Maxwell, Robert Talley, Harry Martin, *Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, 1939 May 23.

Acknowledges the condolences of staff at the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper on the death of his son John (1910-1939) in a plane crash in Mississippi on May 2, 1939 while on a promotional tour for the Cotton Carnival.

Clipping: *Commercial Appeal*, 1939 May 3. Report on plane crash.

E.H. Crump, Memphis, Tenn., to Chancellor R.B.C. Howell, Seventh Chancery Division, Nashville, Tenn., 1940 June 13. Refers to his opposition to Communist Party leader Earl Browder whom he describes as a traitor.

2 Publications:

Edward H. Crump Public Enemy No 1, published by Loyal Tennesseans League, Memphis, Tennessee. 1st and 2nd printings.

Crump After McKellar's Job, "Red Snapper" Backbiting Senior Senator Because McKellar Refused to Aid in Move to Impeach Horton Last Spring, reproduced from the *Nashville Tennessean*, 1932 July 7.

Evans, Arthur, Edward Hull Crump: Bosses Come, Bosses Go, But Not Ed Crump, *Chicago Daily Tribune*, 1947 July 13 (reproduction for Memphis Sesquicentennial, 1969).

Sugg, Redding S., Jr., The Crump BroadSides, *New South*, Summer 1971 (copy).

OS Street, James, Mista Crump Keeps Rollin' Along, *Colliers*, 1938 April 9.

The Truth About Edward Hull Crump: Plans His Work and Works His Plan, *The Tattler*, 1929 June 15, pp.12-13. Also editorial, p.5.

3 E. H. Crump Memorial Association:

Correspondence and resolution re: E. H. Crump Memorial Association, Inc, proposal to erect a statue in Court Square, 1955.

4 Christmas card: Bessie Crump to Henry Humphreys of Sohm, Humphreys and Ling, Attorneys, 1954 December. Mrs. Crump notes that it was the last card her husband selected before his death. The pieces of the card were removed from their frame for preservation reasons.

OS Photograph: E.H. Crump at a Blind Bowl game at E.H. Crump Stadium, undated. Crump initiated the Bowl to benefit the blind, both white and black, in Memphis.