



Guide to the Walter Ireland Dawkins Diaries, 1902-1932

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Summary

Collection Title:

Walter Ireland Dawkins Diaries, 1902-1932

Creator:

Dawkins, Walter Ireland

Abstract:

Attorney and judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore, 1911-1934. Collection includes 10 manuscript diaries, with handwritten entries as well as inserted clippings and ephemeral items, dating from the years 1902, 1903, 1905, 1920-1922, 1926, 1929, 1930, and 1932.

Extent:

2 Linear Feet
50 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00293

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/dawkinswalter/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Walter Ireland Dawkins Diaries, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection consists of ten manuscript diaries, octavo, comprising 3467 pages of entries, plus ephemeral items and over 80 newspaper clippings. Clippings have been removed when found to separate folders for preservation of the journals. The diaries are dated 1902, 1903, 1905, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1926, 1929, 1930, and 1932. All are bound in their original cloth, of various colors. Four volumes have limp boards with normal wear to bindings. The entries are written in a neat hand, but one which requires some familiarity to read with ease.

In his diaries, Dawkins typically recorded weather observations, followed by descriptions of his activities and his cases as an attorney (1903-1905) and on the bench (1920-1922, 1926, 1929-1930, and 1932). He also records the deaths of his colleagues, friends, and noted individuals of the day. After his quotidian entries denoting the weather and workaday activities, Dawkins makes note of his leisure pursuits, or comments on local and national political events. He mentions his attendance at events, both social and cultural. In his early diaries, he shows a penchant for taking Turkish baths on Saturday afternoons, followed by oysters and a night at the opera. The diaries document at least two trips abroad to Europe in 1905 and 1922, each trip lasting several months. There are also several domestic trips: one to Mackinaw Island, Michigan, in 1921, and to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone in 1926. Shorter vacations are also mentioned. The death of Dawkins' brother James is recounted on June 29, 1920. (James Dawkins was a former police magistrate and a member of the state legislature for Maryland.) The diary for 1929 also recounts the Stock Market Crash of that year.

Biographical/Historical

Walter Ireland Dawkins was a judge on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore from 1911 to 1934. He was born in Leonardtown, Maryland, on October 21, 1858, the son of Young Paran Dawkins, a St. Mary's County farmer, merchant, judge of the Orphans Court, and member of the Board of County Commissions. Walter Dawkins received a B.S. in 1880 and M.A. in 1883 from St. John's College and practiced law briefly in St. Mary's County. He then moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and returned to Baltimore City in 1887. In Baltimore he built up a solid law practice and was on several occasions considered as a potential mayoral candidate. He was defeated in the Democratic primary in 1906 for a berth on the supreme bench, but was appointed to the bench in 1911 to fill a vacant term. Later that year he was elected to a fifteen year term and re-elected in 1926. In 1928, the state extended his term six years past the normal retirement age of seventy. He retired in 1934 and died two years later. Dawkins

was active in numerous local organizations and served one term as President of the Maryland State Bar Association.

He was a "confirmed bachelor," rarely recording interactions with women of any kind. The diary for 1920 shows that Dawkins had a live-in servant, "Ding", who, according to the U.S. Census for 1920, was a 32-year-old Japanese immigrant, formally named Dengi Hanno.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition Information

The Walter Ireland Dawkins Diaries were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2011.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, May 2011

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, May 2011

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 2011-0066

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

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Names and Subjects

- Judges -- Manners and customs -- Baltimore (Md.)
- Diaries
- Judges -- Maryland
- Weather -- Observations
- Maryland -- Politics and government -- 20th century
- Maryland -- History -- 20th century
- Supreme Bench of Baltimore
- Dawkins, Walter Ireland
- Dawkins, Walter Ireland, 1858-1936

Collection Inventory

Walter Dawkins Diaries, 1902-1932

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Clippings have been removed to their own folders, arranged within the corresponding box by year.

Diary, 1902

Box 1

Guide to the Walter Ireland Dawkins Diaries, 1902-1932

Diary, 1903	Box 1
Diary, 1905	Box 1
Diary, 1920	Box 2
Diary, 1921	Box 2
Diary, 1922	Box 2
Diary, 1926	Box 2
Diary, 1929	Box 2
Diary, 1930	Box 2
Diary, 1932	Box 2

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