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## DANIEL, A MERCER

MSRC Staff

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A. MERCER DANIEL PAPERS  
Collection 177-1 to 177-7

Prepared by:  
Helen Rutt  
June 1995

### **SCOPE NOTE**

The papers of A. Mercer Daniel (1887-1976), attorney, writer, educator, and librarian, span the period from 1890 to 1971, and measure three linear feet. Daniel's service to the Howard University School of Law lasted for more than thirty-five years. In 1923, Daniel took a part-time position in the law library, which eventually grew into a full-time career. In addition to his own papers, Daniel donated Charles Houston's files, and scrapbooks compiled by former Howard students. Together, these materials chronicle the history of the law school.

Daniel served during a colorful period in the school's history. In 1929 Charles Houston began to change the school from a small evening program into a fully-accredited, day law school. Among the incidents that Houston's files document are disputes with Daniel's predecessor, James Waters Jr., and the effort to win accreditation. The collection also includes Daniel's unpublished history of the School of Law, and law school printed material. Scrapbook #2 provides a rich window of events at Howard University, including the law department, at the turn-of-the-twentieth century.

A. Mercer Daniel donated the collection to MSRC in 1970 and 1973.

Note: The Civil Rights Documentation Project in the Oral History Department contains the transcript of a 1968 interview with Daniel.

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

A. Mercer Daniel

- 1887                    Born in Rochester, NY
- 1906                    Received Commercial Department Certificate from  
Howard University
- 1906-1940              Employed by the U.S. Department of War
- 1909                    Received LL.B. from Howard University School of  
Law
- 1910                    Married Portia Bird; one son, A. Mercer Jr.
- 1914?-1916?          Served as Washington correspondent for the         
McDowell Times
- 1923-1931              Employed as part-time Assistant to the Law  
Librarian, Howard University
- 1931-1940              Served as Acting Law Librarian, Howard  
University
- 1940-1956              Served as Law Librarian, Howard University;  
Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate  
Professor of Law
- 1971 Oct.              Dedication of Howard University's Allen Mercer  
Daniel Law Library
- 1976 Feb. 17          Died in Washington, DC

Sources: A. Mercer Daniel Papers, Moorland-Spingarn Research  
Center. Series A, "Personal Papers"; Series B, "Writings by  
A. Mercer Daniel."

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

- Series A                    Personal Papers
- Box 177-1                    Contains material relating to the  
to 177-2                    dedication of the A. Mercer Daniel Law  
Library, writings about A. Mercer Daniel,  
and records of the Correspondence Club of  
Washington, DC.
- Series B                    Writings by A. Mercer Daniel
- Box 177-2                    Consists of a history of the Howard  
University School of Law, book reviews,  
newspaper columns, and speeches.
- Series C                    Charles Houston's Files
- Box 177-2                    Includes documents that Houston amassed  
to 177-5                    while serving as Vice-Dean of the  
Howard                    University School of Law. Among  
these                    are teaching materials,  
correspondence, and                    papers detailing  
controversies that                    ensued when Houston  
converted the law                    school from an evening  
program to a fully                    accredited day school. This  
series also                    documents Houston's involvement  
with the                    N.A.A.C.P.'s anti-lynching campaigns.
- Series D                    Howard University School of Law  
Publications
- Box 177-5                    Consists of programs, prospectuses, and  
other printed material from the early  
history of the School of Law. See also  
Series F, Scrapbooks, for other Howard  
University printed material.

Series E                    Photographs

Box 177-5                    Most images are of the dedication of the A. Mercer Daniel Law Library. Thurgood Marshall, Scovel Richardson and Spottswood Robinson, are among those pictured. Also includes a photo of the Howard University Class of 1904 at the school's former location in Judiciary Square.

Series F                    Scrapbooks

Box 177-5                    Contains two scrapbooks. Scrapbook #1  
to 177-6                    includes newspaper clippings about the Bethel Literary Society and the Bahai religion. Scrapbook #2 includes Howard University programs, photos, clippings, and tickets. Lewis G. Gregory donated Scrapbook #1. George De Reef donated Scrapbook #2.

Series G                    Restricted

Box 177-7                    Contains materials that are closed to research either because of preservation or confidentiality concerns. Copies of items that are restricted due to physical deterioration are available in other parts of the collection.

## CONTAINER LIST

Box Folder

	<u>A Personal Papers</u>		
	177-1	1	Poem by William and Mrs. wedding
S. Braithwaite for Mr. A. Mercer Daniel on their anniversary 1942			

Dedication of the A. Mercer Daniel Law  
Library at Howard University 1971

2	Invitation, program
3	RSVP list
4	Seating
5	Hostesses
6	Guest book
7	Correspondence A-B
8	Correspondence C-D
9	Correspondence F-H
10	Correspondence I-K
11	Correspondence L
12	Correspondence M
13	Correspondence Marshall, Thurgood
14	Correspondence O-Q
15	Correspondence R-W
16	Correspondence first names only
17	Correspondence illegible
18	Speech by A. Mercer Daniel
19	Writings about the dedication

20	General correspondence A-E
21	General correspondence G-W
22	Other correspondents Cook, George Wm. 1915-1918

23	Printed invitations
24	Writings about A. Mercer Daniel
25	Writings about A. Mercer Daniel - <u>Bulletin of Yale University:</u>

Reports of the Dean and

Librarian. . . 1940-1941

26	Writings about A. Mercer Daniel - newspaper clippings 1915-1976
27	Programs on which A. Mercer Daniel's name appears 1909, 1932, 1946
28	Programs on which A. Mercer Daniel's

name appears 1954-1955

Box	Folder	
177-2	1	Programs on which A. Mercer Daniel's name appears 1956-1976
	2	Souvenir program from reception for Dantes Bellegarde 12 Nov. 1933 [autographed]
	3	Tickets to Howard University events
		<u>Correspondence Club of Washington, DC</u>
	4	Programs, statement of principles
	5	Correspondence 1916-1927
	6	Financial papers
	7	Membership and guest lists 1920-1924
	8	Minutes Dec. 1919 - Dec. 1920
	9	Minutes Jan. - Dec. 1921
	10	Minutes Jan. - Nov. 1922
	11	Minutes Dec. 1922 - May 1925
	12	General Alumni Association of Howard University 1921-1922
	13	National Emancipation Commemorative Society 1912
	14	Niagara Movement - Address to the Country, clipping 1905-1906
		<u>B Writings by A. Mercer Daniel</u>
	15	Notes
	16	Address delivered at the banquet for the ushers of Andrew Rankin Chapel 20 May 1962
	17	"The Administration of the New Jersey Employer's Liability Act" [drafts]
	18	"Adventures in Friendship" 2 May 1965
	19	"Civilization in Georgia" 6 Aug. 1915
	20	"A Constitution for the People"
	21	"A Few Quotes from John Brown" 16 Oct. 1966
	22	"The Financial Condition of the Negro" 29 May 1906
	23	"Germans Protest" 8 Oct. 1915
		<u>History: School of Law: Howard University 1970</u>
	24	Foreword, Chapters 1-2



25 Chapters 3-4  
26 Chapters 5-6

Box Folder

History: School of Law: Howard  
University 1970

177-2 27 Chapters 7-8  
28 Chapter 9, Appendix  
29 "I Am Courtesy" 28 April 1968  
30 re: lynching of Leo Frank  
31 "John Brown" 18 Dec. 1964  
32 "The Law Library of Howard University,  
1867-1956." In Law Library Journal  
51(Aug. 1958): 202-215.  
33 Letter to the Editor of The World 2 Jan.  
1923  
34 "The N.A.A.C.P. Declares War on  
Lynching."  
35 "Old Howard 100 Years and Beyond."  
23 April 1967  
36 "Our Heritage." 25 April 1963  
37 Report of Anti-Lynching meeting  
38 "Sec. Cook and the Commercial College. A  
Tribute to Sec. Geo. Wm. Cook of  
Howard University."  
39 "Students to Match My Mountains."  
24 April 1966  
40 "The Thirteenth Amendment. Constitution  
of the U.S."  
41 Newspaper clippings from the McDowell  
Times 1915-1916  
  
Book Reviews  
42 Review of A. Lincoln, Prairie Lawyer, by  
John J. Duff 1960  
43 Review of Lawyer Opportunities for  
Careers in the Legal Profession, by  
Talbot Smith 1961  
44 Review of The Surveyor, by Truman Nelson  
1960  
45 Review of Thunder at Harper's Ferry, by  
Allan Keller  
46 Review of The White Band, by Carter  
Brooke Jones 1959

C Charles Houston

47 Notes from Sherman L. Whipple Lecture

1920  
 48 re: Page Jupiter case 1933-1934  
 49 Industrial Commission on Negro Affairs

Box Folder

Correspondence

177-3 1 A-C  
 2 D-L  
 3 M-S  
 4 Mack, Julian  
 5 T-Z, first names  
 6 White, Walter

Anti-Lynching Campaign 1934

7 Office files  
 8 Notes on Dyer Bill  
 9 Notes on Costigan-Wagner Bill  
 10 Statements made at hearing for Costigan-  
 Wagner Bill  
 11 Transcripts of Costigan-Wagner Bill  
 hearings  
 12 Judiciary Committee reports  
 13 Copies of bills  
 14 N.A.A.C.P. press releases  
 15 Printed material  
 16 Newspaper clippings  
 17 Newspaper clippings

Howard University School of Law

18 Administrative Law - notes  
 19 Administrative Law - exams  
 20 Agency - notes/lectures  
 21 Agency - notes/lectures  
 22 Agency - exams, assignments, grades  
 23 History of Law - notes  
 24 History of Law - exams  
 25 Jurisprudence - notes

177-4 1 Jurisprudence - notes, exams, outline  
 2 Legal Bibliography - course material  
 3 Legal Bibliography - assignments  
 4 Legal Bibliography - exams  
 5 Suretyship - final exam  
 6 Semester grades 1925  
 7 Student lists 1928  
 8 Class Record Book 1929-1930  
 9 Class Record Book 1930-1931  
 10 Class Record Book 1932-1933

11 Exams of Profs. Alexander, Booth,  
Richards, Wilson 1923-1930

Box Folder

Library Campaign/ Julius Rosenwald  
Donation

177-4	12	Receipt books 1926
	13	Nov. 1925 - Jan. 1926
	14	Feb. - March 1926
	15	April 1926
	16	May 1926 - Feb. 1927
	17	re: James Waters Jr. - charges and response 1931
	18	re: James Waters Jr. 1928, 1931
	19	re: James Waters Jr. 1932-1934
	20	U.S. Dept. of Interior survey 1928
	21	H.U. Law School Association Committee
177-5	1	H.U. Law School Association Committee - "Inquiry into the Policies and Conduct of the Howard University School Of Law" 9 May 1931
	2	H.U. Law School Association Committee - "Inquiry into the Policies and Conduct of the Howard University School Of Law" 16 May 1931
	3	H.U. Law School Association Committee - "Inquiry into the Policies and Conduct of the Howard University School Of Law" 20 May 1931
	4	Appointments, recommendations of the H.U. Council 1932-1933
	5	Recommendations from the Dean and faculty 1930-1931
	6	Petition in support of H.U. law school, signed by 11 faculty members 22 April 1931
	7	Minutes of meetings 1925, 1933-1934
	8	Newspaper clippings 1930-1932
	9	Newspaper clippings re: exclusion of blacks from House of Representatives cafeteria and H.U. student protests 1934

D Howard University School of Law  
Publications

- 10 The Barrister 1957  
 11 Press release re: law school graduates  
 23 Aug. 1933

Box	Folder	
177-5	12	Program - second anniversary 1 July 1870
	13	Program - commencement 3 Feb. 1871
	14	Program - commencement 29 May 1893
	15	Programs 1954-1958
	16	Programs 1959-1968
	17	Prospectus 1898-1899
	18	Prospectus 1899-1900

#### E Photographs

- 19 Portrait of A. Mercer Daniel (copy of painting)  
 20 Dedication of A. Mercer Daniel Law Library 16 Oct. 1971  
 21 H.U. Law Class of 1904 in downtown law library  
 22 Interior of downtown law library  
 23 Fisk students at anti-lynching demonstration 1933  
 24 Unidentified man

#### F Scrapbooks

- 25 Scrapbook #1 - newspaper clippings about Bethel Literary Society, Negro issues, legal trials, Bahai religion ca. 1903-1915 [photocopy; original is fragile and therefore, restricted.]
- 177-6 Scrapbook #2 - Howard University programs, photos, clippings, tickets ca. 1888-1903

- 177-7 G Restricted