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DANIEL, A MERCER

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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 The collection also includes Daniel's unpublished history of the School of Law, and law school printed material.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.


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
1976 Feb. 17 Died in Washington, DC

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series A  Personal Papers
Box 177-1 to 177-2
Contains material relating to the 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 to 177-5
Includes documents that Houston amassed 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 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 to 177-6

Contains two scrapbooks. Scrapbook #1 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

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177-1  1  Poem by William S. Braithwaite for Mr. and Mrs. A. Mercer Daniel on their wedding 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 - Bulletin of Yale University: 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

Correspondence Club of Washington, DC

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

B Writings by A. Mercer Daniel

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

History: School of Law: Howard University 1970

24 Foreword, Chapters 1-2
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
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
re: Page Jupiter case 1933-1934
Industrial Commission on Negro Affairs

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| 4 | Mack, Julian |
| 5 | T-Z, first names |
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**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 | 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

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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