

Guide to the George Parmly Day Papers

MS 174



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and William E. Brown, Jr.

July 1986

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	6
Collection Contents	7
Series I: LETTERPRESS COPYBOOKS, 1908-1910	7
Series II: CORRESPONDENCE, 1900-1960	8
Series III: ACROTORQUE COMPANY FILES, 1935-1947	14
Series IV: PERSONAL PAPERS, 1894-1956	15
OVERSIZE	16
Selected Search Terms	17

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 174

CREATOR: Day, George Parmly, 1876-1959

TITLE: George Parmly Day papers

DATES: 1894-1960

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 11 linear feet (27 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence and other materials which relate to George Parmly Day's many positions at Yale University. The papers primarily concern Day's fund-raising activities as treasurer of the University and of the Alumni Fund and as secretary of the Class of 1897. To a lesser extent the papers reflect Day's publishing interests as a founder and director of the Yale University Press and contributor to the Yale Alumni Magazine. Included also are papers of the Acrotorque Company, a manufacturer of transmissions in Cleveland, Ohio.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0174>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0174>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of George P. Day and others, ca. 1939-1982.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

George Parmly Day Papers (MS 174). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

George Parmly Day was born in 1876 and received a B.A. from Yale University in 1897. In 1907 Day organized the Yale Publishing Association, which became the Yale University Press in 1908. Day served as its president until 1944. In 1910 Day became treasurer of Yale and served as a successful fundraiser until 1942. He was one of four brothers described in his brother Clarence Day, Jr.'s *Life With Father*. George Parmly Day died in New Haven, Connecticut on October 24, 1959.

Scope and Contents

The George Parmly Day Papers consist of correspondence and other materials which document Day's long association with Yale University: as a member of the class of 1897; class secretary; founder and director of the Yale University Press; and as treasurer of the university and of the Yale Alumni Fund. The papers primarily concern Day's fund-raising activities but, to a lesser extent, reflect Day's publishing interests and his own writing. Also included in the papers are files of the Acrotorque Company, a manufacturer of transmissions in Cleveland, Ohio.

Some of the Day Papers were given to the Yale Library by George Parmly Day between 1939 and 1959. Other papers were gifts from associates or from offices in which Day had served, the most recent being a donation from the Yale Press in 1982. The Day Papers, while not a part of the Yale Archives, are closely related to official Yale business and contain papers kept by Day as treasurer and as president of Yale Press. Similar materials are found in the treasurer's records (YRG-5B), Alumni Fund records (YRG 7-B-2) and Yale University Press records (YRG 34-A). Additional Day papers, including some donated by George Parmly Day, are located in the Clarence Day Papers (MS 1094) and in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The papers are arranged in four series: I. LETTERPRESS COPYBOOKS, 1908-1910; II. CORRESPONDENCE, 1900-1960; III. ACROTORQUE COMPANY FILES, 1935-1947; IV. PERSONAL PAPERS, 1894-1956.

While the papers date from 1894 to 1960 the bulk of the material, which is contained in Series II, dates from 1939 to 1954.

Some of the earliest material is in boxes 1-3. Boxes 1 and 2 in Series I contain letterpress copies of Day's outgoing letters from 1908 to 1910. The incoming letter from 1910 are in box 3. Correspondents include Yale classmates, bankers, investors, and friends. The correspondence is personal and financial and a sizeable portion relates to the Yale University Press. Earlier letterbooks of the same character are found in YRG 34-A.

The remainder of Series II, CORRESPONDENCE, is arranged in sections: *Yale University*, divided further into General and Select, and *General*. These divisions of material represent an arrangement of files as they were received by the library. Items of the same correspondent may appear in all divisions and each division contains correspondence, minutes, reports, speeches, and printed matter, from the same general time period. George Parmly Day's role as a fund-raiser is the primary focus of all the material.

Material filed under *Yale University: General* (Boxes 4-5) represents occasional exchanges with many individuals. Folder 39 includes material on the Connecticut Association of the George Junior Republic, of which Day was president, while folder 35 contains letters of condolence on the death of Day's brother Clarence. Throughout there are letters from former Yale students who are serving or had served in World War I, as well as routine letters from Yale faculty, administration, and donors.

Much of the material filed under *Yale University: Select* (Boxes 6-13) concerns Yale funds and fund-raising. There are several folders concerning class gifts, memorials, and special campaigns filed under "Alumni Fund: General," as well as under names of fund officials such as: Edwin Blair, Edward J. Dimock, and William Ross Proctor, chairmen of the fund; and Curtis P. Fields, executive secretary. Papers containing discussions of donations and management of specific gifts are included in files for: Starling Childs, concerning the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research; Theron Rockwell Field, Class of 1889 S Memorial Fund; Rebekah Kohut; Charles McC. Reeve; and the Lewis Baker Warren Foundation. Correspondence in the Arthur Bell, Thacher M. Brown, Class of '97, and Nathan Smyth files relates to fund raising from Day's Yale class of 1897 as well as class dinners, reunions, and support for classmates or their families. Folders 158-164 concern similar efforts by Day in behalf of the St. Paul's School Alumni Fund. Files for the Eno Foundation for Highway Traffic Regulation, which was affiliated with Yale and of which Day was treasurer contain by-laws, financial statements, and correspondence with Charles Tilden, Yale professor of engineering mechanics. More general discussions of Yale finance are contained in correspondence with Charles Seymour, Lawrence Tighe, and Wiggin and Dana. At the end of the section are folders relating to Yale Alumni Publications, Inc. including minutes of meetings, financial statements, and correspondence with Yale Press editor Francis W. Bronson.

The *General* files are similar in subject matter to the *Yale University* files, but contain papers after Day's various retirements in the early 1940s. The files contain a mixture of the occasional exchanges with individuals, which are filed in the alphabet files, and selected individual or topical files. There are many personal exchanges with Charles U. Clark, and folder 211 contains letter from Day's brother Julian describing life in war-torn Britain. The Friends of Music at Yale file contains minutes for this organization filed by Day as its treasurer; the New York Herald Tribune file concerns the publication of Day's "Ode to Miss Perkins"; and the Alumni Magazine files. (folders 297-298) incorporate Day's drafts for class notes. A series of strongly worded exchanges between Day and Charles Parsons is included in folder 260; more cordial exchanges with classmate Chauncey Goodrich concern Yale and fellow classmates. The file for Howell Wright exemplifies Day's concern and interests in the collections of the Yale Library.

Series III is composed of records of the Acrotorque Company of Cleveland, Ohio. How Day came into possession of these records is unclear. The records consist of reports, printed brochures, design specifications and studies, performance tests and data, photographs, and schematic drawings for the company's products, mainly hydraulic transmissions. Many of the reports are labelled as being the property of company vice president Elias Orshansky, Jr., a non-graduate of the Yale class of 1933.

Series IV includes a small quantity of Day's more personal papers. Folders 390-391 contain two volumes of Day's poetry: *A Nonsense Book by & for* and *Rhymes of the Times*. The series also includes photographs and a scrapbook begun by Day while he was a Yale undergraduate. The scrapbook is composed of Day's student essays, songs, and published writings, correspondence, clippings, and memorabilia such as invitations, menus, and programs for Yale events such as plays, class dinners, and fraternity meetings.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. Letterpress Copybooks, 1908-1910. II. Correspondence, 1900-1960. III. Acrotorque Company Files, 1935-1947. IV. Personal Files, 1894-1956.

Collection Contents

Series I: LETTERPRESS COPYBOOKS, 1908-1910

.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

This series is arranged in chronological order.

b. 1, f. 1-3	1908 May-1910 April	1908 May-1910 April
b. 2, f. 4-21	1910 May-August	1910 May- August

Series II: CORRESPONDENCE, 1900-1960*6.75 linear feet (18 boxes)*

This series is arranged in three sections: General, 1910; Yale University; and General.

	<u>General</u>	1910
b. 3, f. 22-29	A-Z	1910
	<u>Yale University</u>	
	General	1911-1939
b. 4, f. 30	A	1919-1939
b. 4, f. 31	Alexander, Ralph	1930-1934
b. 4, f. 32	B	1910-1939
b. 4, f. 33-34	C	1913-1939
b. 4, f. 35	D	1919-1940
b. 4, f. 36	Day, William E. family	1911-1940
b. 4, f. 37	E-F	1911-1940
b. 4, f. 38	G	1934-1939
b. 4, f. 39	George Junior Republic Association	1912-1915
b. 4, f. 40-42	H	1937-1942
b. 4, f. 43	J	1918-1939
b. 4, f. 44	K	1926-1939
b. 5, f. 45	L	1900-1939
b. 5, f. 46	M	1917-1939
b. 5, f. 47	N-R See also: box 11, folder 149	1918-1939
b. 5, f. 48-49	S	1918-1940
b. 5, f. 50	T	1918-1940
b. 5, f. 51	U-V See also: box 12, folder 174	1918-1944
	<u>Select</u>	
	Alumni Fund	
b. 6, f. 52-56	General	1939-1943
b. 6, f. 57-65	Classes	1928-1940

Yale University > Select > Alumni Fund (continued)

b. 7, f. 66-72	Classes	1940-1944
b. 7, f. 73	Faculty	1936
b. 7, f. 74	In memoriam gifts	1939-1943
b. 7, f. 75-78	Special letters	1939-1940
b. 7, f. 79-81	Bell, Arthur	1937-1944
b. 8, f. 82-83	Blair, Edwin	1941-1944
b. 8, f. 84-89	Brown, Thatcher	1931-1945, undated
b. 8, f. 90	Bunker, George Haring Memorial Fund	1934-1945, undated
b. 8, f. 91	Callender, Walter R. (Mrs.)	1936-1939, undated
b. 8, f. 92-94	Carey, Booth	1938-1942
b. 8, f. 95-99	Childs, Starling W.	1936-1944
b. 9, f. 100-107	Class of '97	1936-1945, undated
b. 9, f. 108	Commons, W. W.	1930-1931, undated
b. 9, f. 109	Cot, Pierre	1939-1941
b. 9, f. 110-111	Crosby, Raymond M.	1941-1942
b. 9, f. 112-113	DeVane, William C.	1942-1944
b. 9, f. 114-115	Dimock, Edward J.	1936-1940
b. 9, f. 116	Drama, Department of	1943
b. 10, f. 117-126	Eno Foundation	1920-1943, undated
b. 10, f. 127-128	Field, Theron Rockwell Class of 1889 Memorial Fund	1943-1945, undated
b. 10, f. 129-131	Fields, Curtis P.	1939-1944, n.d
b. 10, f. 132	Flynn appointment	1943
b. 10, f. 133	Gilmore, Robert C.	1932-1942
b. 10, f. 134	Goodrich, Chauncey W. See also: box 16, folders 229-230	1938-1939
b. 10, f. 134	Gould, Lyttleton P. See also: box 16, folder 231	1938-1939

Yale University > Select (continued)

b. 10, f. 135-136	Hewlett, Horace W.	1939-1941
b. 11, f. 137-142	Hunt, Chester J.	1939-1945, undated
b. 11, f. 143	International relations	1942
b. 11, f. 144-146	Kohut, Rebekah	1938-1945
b. 11, f. 147	McCance, Chester	1936
b. 11, f. 148	Nyman, R. Carter	1939-1943
b. 11, f. 149	O	1928-1943
b. 11, f. 150	Phelps, William Lyon Memorial	1943
b. 11, f. 151	Phillips, Marion L.	1940-1945
b. 11, f. 152-155	Reeve, Charles McC. See also: box 18, folder 271	1940-1945
b. 11, f. 156-157	Proctor, William Ross	1940-1943
b. 12, f. 158-164	St. Paul's School Alumni Fund	1941-1943, undated
b. 12, f. 165-166	Seymour, Charles	1937-1945, undated
b. 12, f. 167	Smyth, Nathan A.	1943-1945
b. 12, f. 168-170	Tighe, Laurence	1939-1945
b. 12, f. 171-173	Vermont	1943-1945
b. 12, f. 174	W	1938-1945
b. 12, f. 175	Wallingford House	1932
b. 12, f. 176	Washington and Lee University	1936
b. 12, f. 177	Warren, Lewis Baker Memorial Foundation	1936-1941, undated
b. 12, f. 178	Weed, Eben	1937
b. 12, f. 179	Wiggin and Dana	1939
b. 13, f. 180	Wiggin and Dana	1941-1944
b. 13, f. 181	Wolf's Head property	1937
b. 13, f. 182	Wright, James	1940-1943
b. 13, f. 183	Yale Alumni Magazine	1940-1945
b. 13, f. 184	Yale Daily News	1941-1943

Yale University > Select (continued)

b. 13, f. 185	Yale Law School Association	1934
b. 13, f. 186	Yale Review	1936
b. 13, f. 187-188	Yale Publishing Association, Inc.	1907-1909
b. 13, f. 189	Yale University Library	1934-1945
b. 13, f. 190	Yale University Press	1938-1945
<u>General</u>		
b. 14, f. 191-192	A	1936-1958
b. 14, f. 193	Allen, Phillip R.	1940-1942
b. 14, f. 194	Arkell, Bartlett	1940-1943
b. 14, f. 195-197	B	1939-1958
b. 14, f. 198	Benjamin, Judah P. Memorial	undated
b. 14, f. 199	Bennet, Wendell C. Memorial	1954
b. 14, f. 200	Bequest forms and pledges	undated
b. 14, f. 201	Brown, Gordon Prize	1914-1947
b. 14, f. 202-206	C	1939-1958
b. 14, f. 207	Clark, Charles U.	1941-1959
b. 15, f. 208	Connfelt, Oscar G.	1940-1944
b. 15, f. 209	Crosby, John	1940-1944
b. 15, f. 210-211	D	1939-1959
b. 15, f. 212	Dana, Arnold G.	1941-1945
b. 15, f. 213	Dana, Richard H.	1939-1940
b. 15, f. 214	Durant, Henry	1936-1944
b. 15, f. 215	Duryee, Samuel S.	1946-1948
b. 15, f. 216-217	E	1940-1954
b. 15, f. 218-220	F	1940-1958
b. 15, f. 221	Farnam, Thomas W.	1940-1943
b. 15, f. 222	Farwell, John V.	1940-1943
b. 15, f. 223	Freshman inquiries	1948-1957
b. 16, f. 224	Friends of Music at Yale	1953-1958
b. 16, f. 225-228	G	1936-1958

General (continued)

b. 16, f. 229-230	Goodrich, Chauncey W. See also: box 10, folder 134	1940-1956
b. 16, f. 231	Gould, Lyttleton P. See also: box 10, folder 134	1940-1943
b. 16, f. 232	Griswold, President A. Whitney	1950-1957
b. 16, f. 233-236	H	1940-1958
b. 16, f. 237	Honorary degrees	1940-1950
b. 16, f. 238	Howland, Frances L.	1940-1944
b. 16, f. 239-240	I	1940-1947
b. 16, f. 241-242	J	1940-1955
b. 16, f. 243-244	K	1939-1954
b. 17, f. 245-247	L	1937-1960
b. 17, f. 248	Luce, Henry R.	1939-1943
b. 17, f. 249-253	M	1940-1958
b. 17, f. 254	McKinistry, Helen	1940
b. 17, f. 255	Murphy, Fred T.	1940-1943
b. 17, f. 256-258	N-O	1936-1959
b. 17, f. 259	New York Herald Tribune	1941
b. 17, f. 260-261	P	1937-1958
b. 18, f. 262	P-Q	1939-1944
b. 18, f. 263-264	Pierson College	1946-1955
b. 18, f. 265-269	R	1939-1955
b. 18, f. 270	Redlands, University of	[ca. 1948]
b. 18, f. 271	Reeve, Charles McC. See also: box 11, folder 152-155	1940-1947
b. 18, f. 272	Ripley, Alfred L.	1938-1943
b. 18, f. 273-275	S	1928-1959
b. 18, f. 276	Shaw, Ralph M.	1941-1945
b. 18, f. 277	Spiegel, Hart Hunter	1946
b. 19, f. 278-280	T	1939-1955
b. 19, f. 281	Tamblyn and Brown	1947-1951

General (continued)

b. 19, f. 282	Thomas, Diana	1940-1941
b. 19, f. 283	Tomlinson, Carl P.	1944
b. 19, f. 284	Treasurer's office	1909, 1941-1950
b. 19, f. 285-287	U-V	1940-1958
b. 19, f. 288-291	W	1940-1958
b. 19, f. 292	Wright, Howell	1940-1943
b. 19, f. 293	X-Z	1945-1956
Yale University		
Alumni Fund Association		
b. 19, f. 294	General	1921, 1948-1950
b. 19, f. 295	Bequest Committee	1958-1959
b. 19, f. 296	Resolution: GPD	1951
b. 19, f. 297-298	Alumni Magazine	1942-1959
b. 20, f. 299	Alumni University Fund	1940-1945
b. 20, f. 300	Medical unit	1942
b. 20, f. 301	University matters	1911-1959
b. 20, f. 302	Miscellany	1914-1945

Series III: ACROTORQUE COMPANY FILES, 1935-1947*2.25 linear feet (5 boxes)*

This series is arranged by record type or topic.

b. 21, f. 303-321	Reports	1935-1947
b. 22, f. 322-337	Reports	1935-1947
b. 23, f. 338-353	Reports	1935-1947
b. 24, f. 354-369	Reports	1935-1947
b. 25, f. 370-374	Reports	1935-1947
b. 25, f. 375-381	Army specifications	1939-1942
b. 25, f. 382-387	Curtis Wright Corporation	1945, undated

Series IV: PERSONAL PAPERS, 1894-1956*1.25 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series is arranged by record type or topic.

b. 26, f. 388	New Haven Committee of the British War Relief Society, Inc.	1940-1941
b. 26, f. 389	Photographs See also: Oversize	
b. 26, f. 390-391	Poetry	1922, 1956
b. 26, f. 392	Miscellanea	1940, 1956, undated
	Certificates and presentations See also: Oversize	
b. 26, f. 392	Miscellanea	undated
b. 27, f. 393	Scrapbook	1894-1907

OVERSIZE

b. 28	"George Parmly Day at 75" English	[1951]
b. 28	Certificates and presentations	1927-1951
b. 28	Photographs of B. H. Day	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Preferred Titles

Yale Alumni Magazine

Yale College (1887-). Class of 1897
Yale University -- Finance
Yale University -- Funds and scholarships
Yale University -- Officials and employees
Yale University Press

Subjects

Engineering
Fund raising
Hydraulic torque converters
Publishers and publishing

Genres / Formats

Mechanical drawings
Photoprints
Poems

Names

Bell, Arthur T.
Blair, Edwin Foster, 1901-
Bronson, F. W. (Francis Woolsey), 1901-1966
Brown, Thatcher
Childs, Starling Winston, 1870-1946
Clark, Charles Upson, 1875-1960
Dana, Arnold Guyot, 1862-1947
Day, Clarence, 1874-1935
Day, George Parmly, 1876-1959
Day, Julian
Dimock, Edward J.
Fields, Curtis P.
Goodrich, Chauncey William, 1864-1956
Griswold, Alfred Whitney, 1906-1963
Kohut, Rebekah Bettelheim, 1864-1951
Orshansky, Eli
Parsons, Charles, 1889-
Proctor, William Ross
Reeve, Charles McCormick, 1847-1947
Seymour, Charles, 1885-1963
Tighe, Laurence G., 1894-1954
Wright, Howell, 1882-1954

Corporate Bodies

Acrotorque Company
Eno Foundation for Highway Traffic Control
Yale Alumni Fund Association