Donald Dwight Davis (1896-1987) Papers
1912-1997
12 cubic feet

Personal and business papers of Davis who was president of WHB radio and KMBC-TV. Also included are some papers of his wife, Harriet Treash Davis (1909-1997).

BIOGRAPHY:

Donald Dwight Davis, son of William Oscar and Mary Louise (King) Davis, was born November 29, 1896 in Downs, Kansas. He was the managing editor of the Downs High School Yearbook, and the author of a musical play, “An Account of No Account” which was performed by the senior class of 1914. Davis majored in journalism at the University of Kansas, graduating in 1918. He was the business manager of the 1918 Jayhawker, the student annual, and a member of Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Delta.

From 1931 to 1952 Donald Davis was president of the WHB Broadcasting Company in Kansas City. He published Swing magazine from 1945 to 1955. Davis was president of KMBC radio and TV from 1952 to 1961, and then served as consultant for Metromedia, Inc. which bought KMBC, from 1962 to 1967.

Davis served on the Mayor’s Aviation Board in Kansas City from 1946 to 1952, was a trustee of the Kansas City Conservatory of Music and the Kansas City Philharmonic. He was one of the founders of the American Royal Coronation Ball and the Belles of the American Royal.

In 1967 Davis retired and moved to Tuscon, Arizona. He was part owner of KTAN radio of Catalina Broadcasting during the 1970s. An ardent traveler throughout his life, in 1963-64 Davis traveled around the world as an administrator and lecturer aboard the University of the Seven Seas, a floating university. Later, after retirement, He and his wife Harriet served as volunteers with the International Executive Service Corps, serving in Ecuador, Mexico, Philippines, and Taiwan.

Kansas City Times, Friday January 23, 1987
PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Heywood and Louise Davis as accession KA0963 on September 8, 1997.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

The collection consists of the personal and professional papers of Donald Dwight Davis. Although there is considerable overlap, the collection has been divided into major categories of Davis’ interests and activities. The last box contains the papers of his wife, Harriet, who died in 1997. Also included is a record book kept by Davis of his High School years 1910-1914, and an autobiography entitled “I’ve Had a Wonderful Time!” 1995.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

Diaries, 1912-1913, 1921-1922, 1926-1939, 1954
Diary Book 1, Book 2, Book 3
Gift Bible, 1967-The New English Bible
Downs, KS history, 1979
Daily Aide-The Silent Secretary 1954
BOX 002
Journals/scrapbooks in spiral notebooks, 1963-1985

BOX 003
University of the Seven Seas, Chapman College, 1960s-1970s

BOX 004
Lightning Tree Publishers (“Jena and Jetta”) – correspondence, notes, drafts of “Memory Book” 1980
Taiwan – correspondence, advertising, printed material

BOX 005

Personal/financial materials:
Belleview House – legal documents, inventory
Limberlost property management, Morris Udall, tenant, ca. 1952, 1976
Insurance, 1970
Ledger – black binder
ID cards, membership cards
Arizona information – maps, printed materials
General correspondence
Birthday cards removed from album, ca. 1981
Greeting cards
Thomas Hart Benton
Clubs/organizations – correspondence, printed material. Includes Fiji fraternity
“One Man’s Fraternity” 1979
The Downtown Club – printed material, 1963
Rosters, yearbooks, membership directories – various organizations

BOX 006
WHB radio, KMBC television
1960
The Down Times-1910
The Down Times-1914
Address Book-c.1918-19
1948, 1949, 1951, 1952,
The Downs News-1953
1955, 1957, 1958, 1959
Poster “Cisco! I go to Mexican Fiesta”

**BOX 007**

1975, 1977, 1979,
Downs Did It-1879-1979-Centennial Volume
1983
Photos, KMBC-TV Network Photos
Downtown Kansas City MO River Background & Other Photos of Bldg.
John Anderson-Kansas Football 1954 Photos & Other Football Shots
Edwin W. Birr-Judge of Jackson County MO
WHB-15th Year Anniversary Photos & Executives Club
House of Wax w/Vincent Price Photos
Downs Picnic-Photos
31 years with The Story of Pictures
Blank Letterhead from the desk of Don Davis-President
Magazines
1932-Family
1949-Miss America Pageant
1951-1952-Sadler’s Wells Theatre Ballet
1952-Blues Stadium-Washington Redskins vs Green Bay Packers
1953-TV People
1954-Circus Magazine & Program
   -Souvenir Program-Madame Butterfly
1961-U.S. News & World Report
1968-Television
1982-History of the Schools in Ross Township

**BOX 008**

Christmas cards and mailing lists
Postcards
Programs and Playbills
Trench and Camp newspapers, published by the Chicago Daily News, edition for Camp Grant, Rockford, IL, November 25 and December 9, 1918

BOX 009
International travel – correspondence, clippings, photographs, printed materials, writings by DDD (including 7 Seas and “Travel for Free”). Also includes International Executive Service Corps, 1960s-1970s
Much overlap with Taiwan, Advertising and University of the 7 Seas material in other boxes

BOX 010
Advertising and Broadcasting:
Tourbooks, 1920s
Early ad campaigns, including The Elms, ca. 1930
Miscellaneous advertising and sales
Public information campaign for KU, 1961
TWA/Ambassador Club
Travelux/Holiday World, 1970s
Correspondence – Oliver Gramling re: Missouri Broadcast History, 1980s
BOTAR, 1970s-1980s
Invitations/responses
Personal photographs and negatives
Miscellaneous clippings
Very miscellaneous materials

BOX 011
Scrapbook – Philippines, 1967
Scrapbook – “Highlights in the Life of Don Davis, Presented on his 75th Birthday, November 29, 1971”

Magazines:
GQ, October 1963
Vanity Fair, December 1930
Life, November 11, 1926; May 8, 1931; February 1932; September, October, December 1935
Esquire, September 1962
The Fra, April 1911, October 1915
Flair, July 1950
Fortune, June 1952
Mammoth Detective, June 1947
The Great Society Comic Book
Kansas City Magazine, December 1973
Commemorative Today Show book, 1966
New York, April 22, 1968
Junior League Magazine, Spring 1971
The Quill, July 1968, September 1969
Wine Magazine, November/December 1970
Why Is a Museum (San Diego), February 1963
Stephenson’s Apple Farm Restaurant menu, undated
Framed certificate – International Food and Wine Society, 1956

Records:
Howard Inches’ physical fitness program, including promotional materials – “The Reversal Process”, “Hunger and Hormones” and “Arizona’s Royal Road”
Holiday World of Travel with Dr. John Furbay
“Ode to a Travel Agent” from British Airways
Pins
Coins
Cloth banner – “WHB-TV Channel 9”

BOX 012

Harriet (Treash) Thomen Davis:
Diaries, appointment books, 1929, 1980s-1990s
Travel diaries, ca. 1958 (damaged), 1977
Address book
Treash family miscellaneous and photographs
Greeting cards
Correspondence (chiefly from Don), 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948-1953, 1991
Harriet’s miscellaneous
Correspondence between Harriet and Mother, 1926-28
The Wingfoot Clan (Goodyear publication), Akron, OH, 1946
*The New Art of Going Abroad* by the Cunard Line
Program “Dinner with Ike” January 27, 1960 (2 copies) **BOX 001x1**
Folder Photos and documents: Downs High School
Folder Certificate: Man-of-the Month
Scrapbook “Around the World in 60 pages !?!?!?!” with Don and Harriet Davis”, 1968
Scrapbook Personal, Don and Harriet Davis”, 1947?
Folder Loose photos removed from Scrapbook: Personal, Don and Harriet Davis”, 1947?
Folder Loose items removed from Scrapbook: Personal, Don and Harriet Davis”, 1947?
Scrapbook: “Footprints of Fellowship” University of Kansas, 1918. Personal items from Davis’s KU years.
Folder J.C. Nichols Company calendar 1975
Folder Photographs: Donald D. Davis, Mrs. Harriet Davis, Governor Jack Williams, Arizona; unidentified men