

**Record Series 38/1/20****Cunningham, Harrison Edward, Papers, 1891-1963**

12.6 cubic ft.

The University of Illinois owes much of its present viability as an administrative organization to Cunningham (1877-1966) because of his years of continuity and innovation. During the tenure of six University presidents, he devoted thirty-six years of service as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. In 1918 he founded the University Press, which he directed for twenty-nine years. Born and raised in Hoosick Falls, New York and educated at the Wyoming Seminary (1900) and the University of Vermont (B.A., 1904), Cunningham pursued his interest in publishing by working in a print shop and a paper mill and by organizing several newspapers in New York and Pennsylvania. Utilizing this experience, Cunningham became editor of publications for the University of Vermont in 1906, where he also served as assistant registrar. That same year, Cunningham married Ethel Lord (d. 1960), who remained active as an artist throughout her life. In 1910, Cunningham obtained a similar job appointment at the university, assuming his position as secretary of the Board of Trustees in 1914. In this capacity, he signed diplomas and handled all appointment papers for the faculty, clerical staff and civil service personnel. Cunningham undertook the task of arranging and indexing the minutes of Board meetings back to their 1867 beginnings, and was active in the establishment of the University Retirement System (1947).

The Papers reveal that the activities of the University Press reflect Cunningham's scholarly interests, particularly in the classics, and high standards of academic excellence. In addition to materials on the Press and special note are letters from Mrs. Cunningham's sister and brother-in-law, Jessie and Henry Wolcott, who resided in Spain (1919-26), Australia (1930-36) and England (1936-42) in connection with Wolcott's position as a United States consul. The personal, social and travel diaries of the Cunninghams (1900-01, 1927-29, 1932, 1935-60), along with many scrapbooks, original works of art by Mrs. Cunningham and photos, furnish a richly detailed record of their life in Urbana, Illinois and Vermont (summers) and of their travels. Both the mementoes of musical and theatrical events (1912-1953) and the University Men's of the Daughters of the American Revolution - are of special interest. The Papers include business and patent records (1925-35) for the Parr coking process and the Urbana Coke Corporation

Related Sources

Who Was Who, vol. 6: 1974-76 (Chicago, 1976), p. 99.

9-page Finding Aid

18/1/20  
University Press  
Director's Office  
Harrison E. Cunningham Papers, 1891-1963

Box 1:

Correspondence, 1895, 1898, 1900-1936

Hoosick Falls High School Diplomas, 1895, 1898

Wyoming Seminary Diploma, 1900

Catalog, transcripts, programs, annual, diploma, University of Vermont; also letters of recommendation from faculty members, 1900-04

Class notes, 1901-04

University of Vermont alumni and fraternity publications, 1904-13, 1930-33, 1946-51

Letter of recommendation and an application for job as "registrar, recorded, dean or assistant," sent to the Albany Teacher's Agency, 1906

Letters concerning attempts on the part of Cunningham and others to establish Sigma Xi at the University of Vermont, 1907

Reply to letter expressing interest in position as registrar at Ohio University; Cunningham letter to President James concerning position as assistant dean or registrar; President James' offer of position to Cunningham as "clerk" in the office of the Registrar; Cunningham's acceptance; notification from Secretary of the Board of Trustees of appointment as Assistant Registrar; Cunningham to Acting President Lyman of the University of Vermont recommending Ralph A. Steward as president of that institution; letter to Acting President Lyman expressing belief that Dean Eugene Davenport would probably be unwilling to leave the University of Illinois for presidency of University of Vermont, 1910

Answer to Cunningham letter proposing purchase of Sawyer Island lot in South Hero, Vermont; letter to President James containing information for his use as speaker at the inauguration of President Guy Potter Benton, University of Vermont, 1911

Letter from President Benton of Vermont appointing Cunningham as delegate to inauguration of President Fellows of James Milliken University, 1913

Answer to Cunningham's letter to New York University concerning vacancy in office of registrar, 1914

Answer to Cunningham's letter of November 8 concerning university publications and sales, 1916

Letter to University of Illinois Press concerning recent publications, 1917

Letter from President E. J. James expressing opinion that "The University of Illinois Press is destined to be one of the greatest presses in the country..."; correspondence with W. F. M. Goss concerning a position as Secretary to the President of the Railway Car Manufacturers' Association; membership in the University Club of Chicago, 1920

Bruce Weirick thinks of going to Indiana University; Ernest L. Bogart concerning Persian monetary reform (May 10), 1923

Bruce Weirick concerning affairs in Champaign, 1924

Harold Hillebrand, 1927

Pelham H. Box describing political situation in England and United States, 1928

President H. W. Chase to Roger Adams thanking him and members of faculty for telegram; Pelham H. Box - political situation in England (March 15); Adeline C. S. - description of Philippines (Manila, November 22), 1930

Installation of President Chase (May 1); President Kinley to Cunningham concerning error in letter on leave of absence (August 1); W. A. Noyes asking that Registrar be sent to Mr. C. S. Garland, Worcester, England (August 7); letters concerning the Cunningham's recovery from auto accident from Maude Archdeacon, H. J. Barton, H. W. Chase, A. J. Janata, W. A. Oldfather, E. E. Barrett (September) and personalities describing campus scenes in Illinois; insurance claims for auto accident, 1931

Insurance claims; University Club of Chicago, 1932

Henry Wolcott - life in Adelaide, Australia (April 18); Will C. Barnes - Carlos Montezuma (April 30); Marvin T. Herrick - job officer (June 7, 14), 1934

Governor Henry Horner - receipt of Draper biography, January 21, 1935

A. C. Willard Testimonial Dinner, January 25, 1936

Box 2:

Correspondence, 1937-1962; Press Material, 1917-1950

Henry Wolcott concerning Cunningham's trip to Great Britain in summer 1937 (April 27); Sir Arthur Newsholme asks that Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott visit him (May 8); Henry Wolcott concerning trip to Great Britain (May 20); President A. C. Willard concerning Cunningham's position and salary (November 30); passport, coronation program, travel material and ship menus from trip to England, 1937

H. E. Cunningham and neighbors concerning opposition to proposed improvements of California Avenue (resurfacing and recurbing), 1938

H. Wolcott of situation in Great Britain in early war years, November 15, 1939

Mrs. Cora Master on the changing economic condition of North Hoosick, New York (July 10); Henry Wolcott describing life in wartime Plymouth and description of early German bombing raids (July 12), 1940

H. Wolcott describing raids on Plymouth by German aircraft - 262 to date - and rationing (January 18); Wolcott - American consulate at Plymouth destroyed (April 3); Willard - personal retirement benefits (April 11); memorandum on Governor Henry Horner and the University of Illinois, 1941

Wartime conditions in Plymouth, England; Russian war relief in Champaign-Urbana; book publication (December 14), 1942

Rationing; W. A. Oldfather's classical studies volume, 1942-43

W. A. Oldfather; Revilo P. Oliver, 1943)

W. A. Oldfather's St. Jerome's Lives of the Hermit Saints, 1941-43

Ben E. Perry on the Oldfather volume contributions (March 23); W. A. Oldfather's publications; E. Bernbaum's Phi Beta Kappa address on University administration (April 24); Chester R. Davis - service of Trustees Secretary (February 15); the New Deal (March 5), 1944

Edwin P. Bergan (?); T. W. Baldwin, 1947  
 Phi Beta Kappa and civil rights (April 23); Business Office testimonial to H. E. Cunningham (May 22); Chester R. Davis - defeat in Trustee election (November 8), 1948  
 Civil rights (January 26); retirement as Trustee's Secretary (February 16); Roger Adams (March 20); Joseph R. Fulkerson (June 29); Louis N. Ridenour (July 5); R. D. Carmichael (October 23), 1950  
 Vermont bequest - classics fellowship, May 20, 1954  
 Retirement benefits legislation; Robert Sink - memoir concerning Trustees, presidential tenure and E. J. James (July 7), 1956  
 Sympathy letters on wife's death, March 1960  
 Press Correspondence, 1920, 1935, 1937, 1939-47  
 Including EncJ. James - Press Building (1920); visit to eastern university presses (1940); R. B. Downs' comments on Press, August 6, 1946  
 Press - Published Books, Book Formats, Reviews, 1917-50  
 Publications and Costs, 1917, 1934, 1942-53  
 History, Building, Policies, Editorial Work, 1941-44  
 "The Elements of Printing" MSS by H. E. Cunningham, 1922-23  
 Manuscripts including Chapter 15 of Carl Stephens' University History (1945), 4 Poems (ca. 1934), G. Hauptmann and Phi Beta Kappa Talk  
 Studies in Greek, Xanthus - Aesop, MSS, 1935, 1951-52

Box 3:

Trustees Material, 1914, 1917, 1931-32, 1934, 1937-51  
 Correspondence, 1914, 1917, 1931, 1934, 1937-50  
 Including, Location of Trustees Meetings, 1911-32, March 26, 1942; Veterans Service Director Controversy, December 19, 1945; Park Livingston - Airport, January 19, 1846; Dwight Green - appreciation, December 14, 1949; Adlai Stevenson - Invitation to Board, March 3, 1949; Political Meetings in University Buildings, April 28, 1950  
 University Statutes, 1882-1958  
 Functions of the Board and its Officers, 1943-48  
 Lists of Officers and Members of the Board, 1867-1953  
 Trustee Phone Numbers and Addresses, 1945-50  
 Degrees Conferred, 1878-1932  
 Committee on Selection of President, 1944-45  
 Chester R. Davis, Frank Jensen, Karl Meyer, and other Board Members, Alumni and Educational Administrators' letters, notes and statements concerning the position and the qualifications and ability of George Stoddard, David Henry, James Morrill and others  
 78 Biographical Sketches of Candidates for Presidency, 1944-45  
 Reports and Agenda, 1942-51  
 Draft copies of Board Minutes, 1912-22

Box 4:

Draft Copies of Board Minutes, 1923-50

Original minutes of hearing of Dean Thomas E. Benner before the Board of Trustees (July 25-26, 1945) including original motion on Board's action in H. E. Cunningham's handwriting

Financial Matter, 1907-16, 1919-63

Attempts to Increase Retirement Benefits for Emeriti, 1948-58

Correspondence with Lloyd Morey, A. J. Janata, E. S. Gibala, administrators in institutions of higher education, AAUP committee on Emeriti, politicians and faculty. H. E. Cunningham was Secretary of the Retirement System; Board of Trustees.

Income Tax, 1939, 1945, 1959

Investments, 1929, 1932

Deeds, Debts and HOLC, 1921-23, 1934-47

Real Estate Taxes, 1921-63

Personal Property Taxes, 1955-63

Benevolence, 1958-62

Wills, 1955-60

Bills, 191-27, 1934-36, 1945-60

Medical Bills, 1931, 1951-58, 1962

Cancelled Checks, 1907-16

Insurance, 1925-29, 1946-61

Mother's Estate, 1937-43, 1945

University Club Stock, 1908

Box 6:

Diaries, 1900-01, 1932, 1935-60

January 1 - December 31, 1900 (Ethel Lord)

January 1 - December 31, 1901 (Ethel Lord)

April 2 - May 13, 1932 (Weather, visitors, travel, household activities, health, flowers, household accounts, dinner, automobile)

September 3, 1935 - August 12, 1936

September 8, 1936 - August 3, 1937

September 5, 1937 - August 10, 1938

September 10, 1938 - August 11, 1939

September 4, 1939 - August 5, 1940

September 12, 1940 - August 8, 1941

October 17, 1941 - August 13, 1942

September 1, 1942 - November 9, 1943

November 9, 1943 - August 8, 1944; September 11, 1944 - October 20, 1944

September 20, 1944 - October 26, 1945

September 30, 1945 - August 7, 1946; September 10-28, 1944

September 15, 1945 - October 14, 1947  
 October 5, 1947 - October 1, 1948  
 October 1, 1948 - October 9, 1949  
 September 6, 1949 - July 20, 1949  
 October 1, 1950 - October 1, 1951  
 October 1, 1951 - July 14, 1952; October 12-16, 1952  
 October 2, 1952 - July 28, 1953  
 September 21, 1953 - June 1, 1954; September 14-21, 1954  
 September 18, 1954 - September 21, 1955  
 September 22, 1955 - July 8, 1956; September 27, 1956 - January 1, 1957  
 January 1, 1957 - March 21, 1960  
 April 1, 1960 - May 4, 1962  
 Vacation Diaries, 1921-22, 1924-25, 1927, 1929-42, 1944-54, 1956-61  
 August 18, 1907 - August 9, 1929 (Vermont, "The Log of Our Island")  
 August 14, 1921 - September 8, 1922 (with W. A. and C. H. Oldfather and P. L. Windsor  
 to Algoma and Anjugomi, Ontario; receipts)  
 August 7 - September 8, 1924 (with E. L. Cunningham to Algoma)  
 August 12 - September 13, 1925 (with E. L. Cunningham to Algoma)  
 August 20 - September 22, 1927 (Colorado)  
 August 7 - September 9, 1930 (Vermont - weather, mileage, fishing, automobile expenses)  
 August 4 - October 1, 1931 (Vermont)  
 August 2 - September 10, 1932 (Vermont)  
 July 27 - September 11, 1933 (Vermont)  
 August 29 - October 1, 1934 (Vermont)  
 August 6 - September 12, 1935 (Vermont)  
 August 8 - September 21, 1936 (Vermont)  
 July 15 - September 10, 1937 (Great Britain)  
 August 3 - September 13, 1938 (Vermont)  
 August 5 - September 18, 1939 (Vermont - photos of cottage)  
 August 6 - September 15, 1940 (Vermont)  
 August 12 - September 22, 1941 (Vermont)  
 August 10 - September 16, 1942 (Vermont)  
 August 7 - September 15, 1944; September 5 - October 11, 1945 (Vermont)  
 August 4 - September 14, 1946; August 10 - September 15, 1947 (Vermont)  
 July 26 - September 16, 1948; August 4 - September 12, 1949 (Vermont)  
 July 20 - October 1, 1950; October 29 - November 10, 1950; June 28 - September 17, 1951  
 (Vermont)  
 July 14 - October 12, 1952; July 7 - September 24, 1953 (Vermont)  
 June 1 - September 18, 1954; July 8 - September 27, 1956 (Vermont)  
 July 28 - September 18, 1957; July 18 - September 20, 1958; August 2 - September 20,  
 1959; July 10 - September 25, 1960  
 June 25 - September 18, 1961

Box 8:

Vacation, 1938-45; Social, 1912-60; and Genealogical, 1905-98, 1944, 1950, 1953-58  
 Summer Cottage, South Hero, Vermont (plans and bills), 1938-45  
 Fred H. Turner, Christmas Card Prints (Illinois Historical Scenes), 1946-50  
 Address Books, ca. 1937-58  
 Christmas Cards, Birth Announcements and Sympathy Acknowledgments  
 Christmas Card Lists  
 Bridge Scores, 1930-42  
 University Club, 1957-60  
 Plays and Recitals, including List of Plays and Recitals Attended, 1912-59  
 Social Record (showing date, occasion, guests, decorations and food - with comments), 1927-29, 1933-54  
 Greek Club (membership, meeting dates), 1934-41  
 Marriage and Birth Certificates, 1906  
 Genealogical Correspondence, 1876, 1905-97, 1944, 1950, 1953-54  
 Genealogy - Lord, Beebe  
 Daughters of the American Revolution, 1954-58  
 Patriotic Societies, 1906-08

Box 9:

Ethel Lord Cunningham Correspondence, 1891-92, 1894, 1901, 1903-07, 1909-25  
 Personal Account Books, 1872-73  
 Autograph Albums and Programs, 1891-92  
 Copybook, 1894  
 Burlington, Vermont High School Annual, 1901  
 Correspondence with H. E. Cunningham, 1901  
 Correspondence with H. E. Cunningham, 1903-06  
     Social affairs, friends, vacations, newspaper work and University of Vermont  
     Inauguration of President Benton at University of Vermont (1911)  
     H. E. C. entertainment and examinations of students in Chicago (September 23, 1914)  
     Frequent notes from H. E. C. on trustees meetings in Chicago  
     Many letters from Mrs. Jessie Lord Wolcott, consular service and life in Torreon, Mexico (1918-19), Bilbao, Spain (1919-26), Caracas, Venezuela (1926-30), Adelaide, Australia (1930-36), London (1936-38) and Plymouth, England (1938-42) and Nassau, Bahamas (1942-44).  
     Her correspondence is largely with H. E. C., family and friends concerning social affairs, travel, university life, her visit to Spain (1922); correspondents include Kendrick C. Babcock (1920), Bruce Weirick (1923), Stella Bogart (January 21, 1923), Marcial Del Busto (Bilbao).

Box 10:

Ethel Lord Cunningham Correspondence, 1926-59

Including Valentine Jobst, 1928; Harold Hillebrand, 1928; Marcial Del Busto - fall of Bilbao, July 11, 1937

Box 11:

Scrapbook, 1904-57

Marriage reports, obituaries (Kinley, Oldfather, Ward), trustees meetings, dramatic productions, retirement, Benner hearing, trustees

Scrapbook, 1913-60

Social affairs, obituaries, university faculty and administrators

Family Photograph Album, ca. 1870

Photos, 1898-1905

Family, friends, vacation

Blue Photographic Prints, ca 1900-10

Vermont, vacations, friends, picnics, outings, family

Photos, 1900-18

Burlington, Family, University of Vermont, University of Illinois

Photos, 1921-50

1111 California Street, interiors, H. E. Cunningham and E. L. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wolcott at consular posts. 1919-21

Photos, 1922-27

Sand Lake, Michipicoten, Colorado, camping trips

Photos, 1911-51

Vermont Island, fishing, house

Box 12:

Newspaper clippings, 1904-62. Photographs, 1900-60, Travel Literature

1904-10, Malone (N.Y.) Evening Telegraph, first issue, December 9, 1905; The Valley Record (Sayre, Pa.), October 21, 1905), description of Lord-Cunningham wedding, 1906; Burlington (Vermont) Free Press, July 7, 1904

1910-19, Reviews of University of Illinois Press publication: Bertha Colaim Chille, Life of Columcille in the Irish Free Press September 28, 1918 and the Irish Independent Dublin, January 2, 1918; copy of the Daily Illini, November 17, 1914.

1920-29, Articles on election of David Kinley, President of University of Illinois; some drama reviews from Illinois newspapers.

1930-39, Copy of The Harpoon (Nantucket Island, Massachusetts) June 1936; Article on President Harry W. Chase succeeding David Kinley as President of University of Illinois; articles on England, Ireland and Spain collected prior to trip to England in 1937; several copies of The Ocean Press, printed aboard the S. S. Washington during



the cunningham's return voyage from England (1937); description of various university social events.

1940-49, Biographical sketch of H. E. Cunningham printed in The Nightmare (shop newspaper for employees of George Banta Publishing Co.), November-December, 1947, upon Cunningham's retirement as director of the University Press; articles on George D. Stoddard's selection as President of the University of Illinois; obituary of Professor William A. Oldfather (1945); clippings on the removal of Homer P. Rainey, President of the University of Texas; article in The Nightmare (January 1940) on the growth and development of the University of Illinois Press.

1950-59, Extension number of clippings about the resignation of President George D. Stoddard (1953); press coverage of attempts to raise retirement benefits for University of Illinois staff members; copy of first known map of Chicago printed in the Chicago Tribune, March 2, 1955; additional clippings on social and educational life at the University.

Photographs (Archives Standard Classification)

Administrative-Faculty

Military-Visitors

Photographs (30+) of H. E. Cunningham

Photographs of Ethel L. Cunningham

Photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Wolcott

Photographs of Vermont friends and unidentified

Photographs of Vermont, Sawyer's Island, South Hero

Photograph of Cunningham home, 1111 W. California, Urbana

Photographic Negatives

Travel Literature

Spain, France and Europe

England

Washington, D.C. and South

Midwest and West

New York and East

Vermont and Lake Champlain

Box 13:

Art Works by Ethel Lord Cunningham

Floor plans of 1111 W. California

An assortment of seals, stamps, forms and memorabilia has been filed in the Archives memorabilia drawer

Parchment testimonial books from the Board of Trustees, June 22, 1950 (received from Library, February 8, 1967)

Box 14:

Correspondence, 1932, 1934, 1944-45

    Regarding the Urbana Coke Corporation, Professor Samuel W. Parr's coking process patents, and the corporation's transfer to the University Foundation in 1945 with a report "Carbonization of Coal by the Parr Process," by David R. Mitchell (1932)

Letters Patent, Canada, 1927, 1930

    Great Britain, 1925, 1926

    France, 1926, 1927, 1928

Urbana Coke Corporation Ledger

    Journal Entries, 1925-35

    Cash Disbursements, 1926-29

    General Ledger, 1925-30

Memorandum of Agreement Between Board of Trustees, University of Illinois, and Urbana Coke Corporation, 1925

U.S. patents Granted 1930-33

Assignment of Patent Applications, U.S., 1922-25

    1926-29, 1931

    Canadian, 1926-28

    French, 1924

Miscellaneous Documents, 1925, 1943

    Articles of incorporation and Amendments, 1925

    General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, and Amendments, 1943

    Transcript of Minutes of Board of Trustees, University of Illinois, meeting of December 8, 1925

Stock Certificate Book Containing Issued and Unissued Shares of Common and Preferred Stock, Urbana Coke Corporation