Louise Ward Watkins Papers

Finding aid prepared by Virginia Rust in 1975.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Louise Ward Watkins Papers  
**Dates:** 1871-1974  
**Collection Call Number:** mssWatkins papers  
**Creator:** Watkins, Louise Ward, 1890-1974  
**Extent:** 22 boxes, 38 volumes, 10 oversize folders, and 1 album  
**Repository:** The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department  
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**Abstract:** The collection consists of papers, diaries, and photographs related to the life and interests of California women's rights activist Louise Ward Watkins (1890-1974) and her family. Subject matter in the collection includes California politics; Japan and Japanese-American relations; her father, engineer George Clinton Ward (1863-1933); and the Watkins family.  

**Language of Material:** The records are in English.  

**Access**  
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.  

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**Preferred Citation**  

**Provenance**  
Gift of John F. Watkins, February 4, 1975  
A small group of letters purchased from Dawson's Book Shop in April 1953, was added to the collection (see Correspondence series, Box 12, Folder 4).  
- George Clinton Ward Papers (Call number: mssWard papers)  

**Biographical Note**  
Louise Whipple Ward Watkins (1890-1974), a leader in women's rights, California politics, and Los Angeles organizations, came to California from New York with her family when she was fifteen years old. Louise studied dramatics in New York and law at the University of Southern California, and in 1915 she married Edward Francis Watkins. Louise Watkins was active in the cause of woman suffrage, women's clubs, the Japan American Society, and Republican politics. She served on several state commissions, founded the Southern California Republican Women (1935), and ran for the United States Senate in 1938.  

**Scope and Content**  
The collection consists of letters, manuscripts (including 23 diaries, 1915-74), documents, 17 scrapbooks, and photographs related to the life and interests of Louise Ward Watkins. Subject matter in the collection includes California politics; Japan and her continuing interest in Japanese-American relations; her father, engineer George Clinton Ward (1863-1933); and the Watkins family. There is also an unpublished autobiography of Louise Ward Watkins and ten pieces in the collection related to Los Angeles Times columnist and politician John Steven McGroarty (1862-1944).  

**Arrangement**  
The collection is arranged in the following series:  
1. Diaries  
2. Correspondence  
3. Manuscripts, addresses, broadcasts, poetry, etc.  
4. Photographs  
5. Mementos and scrapbooks
6. Oversize materials

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Personal Names
Watkins, Louise Ward, 1890-1974

Corporate Names
Japan American Society
Southern California Republican Women

Subjects
McGroarty, John Steven, 1862-1944
Ward, George Clinton
Women civic leaders--California, Southern--Archives
Women--Political activity—California—History--Sources
Women political activists--California, Southern--Archives
Women—Suffrage--California
Women's rights--United States
California--Politics and government--1850-1950
Japan--Foreign relations--United States
United States--Foreign relations--Japan

Genre
Diaries--California
Family papers--California
Letters (correspondence)
Scrapbooks--California

Diaries. 1915-1974
Physical Description: 23 volumes
The dates on the covers of the diaries do not always accurately reflect the contents.

Volume 1     Diary. 1915
Volume 2     Diary. 1916
Volume 3     Diary. 1917
Volume 4     Diary. 1918
Volume 5     Diary. 1919
Volume 6     Diary. 1920
Volume 7     Diary. 1921
Volume 8     Diary. 1922
Volume 9     Diary. 1923
Volume 10    Diary. 1924
Volume 11    Diary. 1931-1936
Volume 12    Diary. 1936-1941
Volume 13    Diary. 1941-1946
Volume 14    Diary. 1946-1948
Volume 15    Diary. 1949
Volume 16    Diary. 1957
Volume 17    Diary. 1960
Volume 18    Diary. 1968
Volume 19    Diary. 1970
Volume 20    Diary. 1971
Volume 21    Diary. 1972
Volume 22    Diary. 1973
Volume 23

Diary. 1974

Correspondence. 1871-1917

Physical Description: 12 boxes

Box 1

Family correspondence. 1871-1910

Box 2

Family correspondence. 1911-1930

Box 3

Family correspondence. 1931-1935

Box 4

Family correspondence. 1936-1938

Box 5

Family correspondence. 1939-1942

Box 6

Family correspondence. 1943-1945

Box 7

Family correspondence. 1946-1949

Box 8

Family correspondence. 1950-1952

Box 9

Family correspondence. 1953-1957

Box 10

Family correspondence. 1958-1963

Box 11

Family correspondence. 1964-1970

Box 12

Family correspondence and other correspondence. 1971

This box contains family correspondence for 1971, as well as other correspondence (Folder 4). The other correspondence consists of a small group of letters purchased from Dawson’s Book Shop in April 1953, has been added to the Louise Ward Watkins Papers. They contain the following letters to Louise Ward Watkins:

- Ballin, Hugo (1932, July 14)
- Blanding, Don [c. 1933?]
- Bond, Carrie Jacobs (1933) 2 letters
- Buff, Conrad and Mary (1932, July 20)
- Carr, Harry (1931-1935) 3 letters
- Durant, William James (1933, February 7)
- Forester, Arnold (1932, Oct. 26)
- Foley, James William ([c. 1933] Apr. 12)
- Gann, Dolly Curtis (1931, Nov. 23)
- Hyland, Adela Rogers [c. 1933]
- Johnson, Frank Tenney (1933, Nov. 5)
- Matthison, Edith Wynne (1931, Nov. 5)
- McGroarty, John Steven (1933-1939) 10 letters with 11 replies from Louise Ward Watkins
- Nagel, Conrad (1932, Aug. 4)
- McIntosh, Burr William (1938) 3 letters
- MacLean, R.D. (1939, Aug. 8)
- Norris, Kathleen (1938, June 28)
- Stevens, Etheman [c. 1933]
- Warde, Frederick (1929-1933) 5 letters
- Yaw, Ellen Beach (1932) 2 letters with 1 reply letter from Louise Ward Watkins

Manuscripts, addresses, broadcasts, poetry, etc.

Physical Description: 5 boxes

Box 13

Autobiography: Biographical information

Box 14

Manuscripts of articles, broadcasts, and speeches

Filed alphabetically by title: A-H

Box 15

Manuscripts of articles, broadcasts, and speeches

Filed alphabetically by title: I-Z
Box 16

Manuscripts of articles, broadcasts, and speeches
Includes: Address at banquet in honor of Los Angeles Mayor Frank L. Shaw, 1933. Addresses (others that were not contained in her alphabetical file). Broadcasts (1938) campaign. Broadcasts (except 1938 campaign) filed in chronological order. Compositions (school, 1904-1910?) Music (accompanied by readings) Poems by Louise Ward Watkins. Published works by Louise Ward Watkins. Notes for speeches, etc.

Box 17

Miscellaneous

Photographs

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Box 18

Photographs
Folder 1
Barnes, Katherine (Watkins). (14 items)
Folder 2
James, Rose Mary (Watkins) Cox. (1 item)
Folder 3
McCann, Charlotte Elizabeth. (3 items)
Folder 4
Ward, George Clinton. (20 items)
Folder 5
Ward, George Clinton and Katherine Louise (Schweinsburg). (6 items)
Folder 6
Watkins, Edward Francis and Louise Ward and their children. (118 items) 1920-1950?
Folder 7
Watkins, Edward Francis and P.C.E.A. Convention Group. (2 items)
Folder 8
Watkins, Edward Lancaster and his friends. (28 items + album cover) Approximately 1875
Folder 9
Watkins, George Clinton. (8 items) 1939-1970?
Folder 10
Watkins, James David. (21 items) 1930-1970?
Folder 11
Watkins, John Francis, 1930-1970? (3 items) 1930-1970?

Box 19

Photographs
Folder 1
Early photographs of family and home. (21 items) 1890-1915?
Folder 1a
Early photographs of family and home. (42 items) 1890-1915?
Folder 2
Louise Ward Watkins. (19 items) 1890-1960?
Folder 3
Miscellaneous photographs, including printed picture of Alvah Dunning, 8th lake Camp, Fulton Chain, N.Y., approximately 1890. (19 items)
Folder 4
Louise Ward Watkins receiving Medal of Order of the Precious Crown of Japan. (3 items) 1970 November 17
Folder 5
Grandchildren, etc. (20 items)
Folder 6
Travel snapshots of historical spots. (73 items)
Folder 6a
Travel snapshots of historical spots including Appomattox and Lynchburg, South Carolina, Unidentified, and Saratoga, New York (50 items) 1937 and undated
Folder 7
Women's Suffrage March [in New York?] 1 item 1912?

Box 20

Photograph albums
Folder 1
Album of studio card portraits. 1880s-1890s
Includes members of the Schweinsberg, Watkins, and Ward family. Photography studios chiefly located in Utica and Boonville, New York.

Folder 2
Album of photographs of family and a house, presumably in California. 1910s-1920s?
Note
Similar to album in Box 21, Folder 4.

Box 21

Photograph albums
See also oversize folders of photographs and albums at the end of the collection

Folder 1
Album of studio portraits of unidentified family and friends. 1910s?
Photographs

Folder 2
Album of snapshots of family, friends, and international travel. Undated

Folder 3
Album of cyanotypes chiefly of the town of Booneville, New York. 1909-1910

Folder 4
Album of photographs of family and a house, presumably in California. 1910s-1920s?

Note
Similar to album in Box 20, Folder 2.

Mementos and scrapbooks

Physical Description: 1 box and 15 loose volumes
The scrapbooks chiefly contain newspaper clippings from the 1930s.

Box 22
Mementos and small scrapbooks

Includes: Gavel from the Friday Morning Club, medal for the Third Class of the Order of the Precious Crown of Japan [MISSING], medals from various organizations [MISSING], scrapbooks of clippings (2 small volumes, 1886-1917), volume: Hill, K. Ethel “Turn of the Road” in appreciation to Louise Ward Watkins, 1935.

Scrapbook 1
Scrapbook: Miscellaneous 1918-1925
Includes some World War I pieces of ephemera

Scrapbook 2
Scrapbook: Politics 1936

Scrapbook 3
Scrapbook: Anti-administration #1

Scrapbook 4
Scrapbook: Anti-administration #2

Scrapbook 5
Scrapbook: Personal November 1930-June 1933

Scrapbook 6
Scrapbook: Personal June 1933-May 1934

Scrapbook 7
Scrapbook: Personal May 1934-November 1934

Scrapbook 8
Scrapbook: Parole #1

Scrapbook 9
Scrapbook: Parole #2 November 1934-October 1935

Scrapbook 10
Scrapbook: Personal October 1935-June 1936

Scrapbook 11
Scrapbook: Personal June 1936-September 1937

Scrapbook 12
Scrapbook: Personal and parole September 1937-June 1938

Scrapbook 13
Scrapbook: Personal and campaign June 1938-March 1939

Scrapbook 14
Scrapbook: Personal March 1939

Scrapbook 15
Scrapbook: Communism 1936

Oversize materials

Physical Description: 8 folders and 2 volumes

Folder OV 1
Awards and honors

Physical Description: 1 folder
Folder contains

Oversize photograph albums

Physical Description: 2 volumes

Volume OV 1
Family album of snapshots 1900s-1910s?

Volume OV 2
Family album of snapshot 1900s-1910s?
**Oversize photographs**

Physical Description: 7 folders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loose Folder 1</th>
<th>Home of Dr. Samuel Johnson, London (1 item)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loose Folder 2</td>
<td>Ward, George Clinton (6 items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Folder 3</td>
<td>Watkins, Edward Francis (2 items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Folder 4</td>
<td>Watkins, Edward Francis and Louise (Ward) and their children (5 items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Folder 5</td>
<td>Watkins, George Clinton (5 items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Folder 6</td>
<td>Watkins, Louis Ward (and group in which she appears) (10 items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Folder 7</td>
<td>Unidentified (3 items)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>