Inventory of the Peter J. Shields Collection

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Creator: Shields, Peter J., 1862-1962
Title: Peter J. Shields Collection,
Date: 1896-1968.
Extent: 4.2 linear feet
Abstract: The Peter J. Shields Collection contains both personal papers and materials related to the creation of the University of California, Davis campus. The collection materials date from 1896 to 1968. Peter J. Shields presided as a Superior Court Judge in Sacramento County from 1900 to 1949. In 1905, Shields wrote the legislation that led to the establishment of the University Farm. He maintained his association with the campus until his death in 1962.
Physical location: Researchers should contact Special Collections to request collections, as many are stored off site.
Repository: University of California, Davis. General Library. Department of Special Collections.
100 North West Quad
Davis, California 95616-5292
Collection number: D-169
Language of Material: Collection materials in English
Biography
Peter J. Shields was born on April 4, 1862 in Hangtown Crossing, a small farming town near Sacramento, California. At the age of fourteen, Shields attended the Christian Brothers College in Sacramento and at seventeen he began to study law in Amos P. Catlin's law office. After being admitted to the Bar in Los Angeles in 1884, Shields established a small law office in Sacramento. At age twenty-three, he quit his law practice to travel. After ten years, he returned to Sacramento and started working as a library assistant at the California State Library. Later Shields was promoted to become one of the Trustees of the State Library. From 1896 to 1898, he worked for the Secretary of the California Code Commission and as a secretary in Governor Budd's office. In 1899, Shields was the secretary of the State Agricultural Society. Shields and Hiram Johnson shared an informal law partnership circa 1900. In 1900, Shields was elected as Judge of the Superior Court of Sacramento. He married Carolee Wilsey on August 1, 1901. Shields sought the office of U.S. District Judge, in 1913, but did not get chosen for the office. Shields retired in 1949.
Shields was one of the founding fathers of the University Farm (now the University of California, Davis campus). As the secretary of the State Agricultural Society, he realized the need for an agricultural college. He helped to write the State legislation bill for the creation of the university campus in 1901 and 1903; after many revisions were added to the bill, it finally passed in 1905. He continued to share in the responsibilities of the university by keeping in contact with the the presidents of the university and participating in events related to the university until his death. Shields interests in politics and agriculture continued throughout his life. His award-winning Jersey cattle were his pride and joy. He often came to the Davis campus to visit the Jersey cattle until the campus decided to make reductions in the cattle program. Shields also actively participated in community organizations and events. His memberships included the X Club, whose members met in each other's houses and presented papers on a variety of topics. He often referred to the X Club as the "Ex Club" in his papers. Shields died on September 28, 1962.
Sources consulted:
Calendar of Shields' correspondence, control file, Peter J. Shields Collection, D-169, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis.
Shields, Peter J. Birth of an Institution: the Agricultural College at Davis. [Sacramento, CA: 1954].
Storer, Tracy Irwin, Tracy I. Storer and E. Louis Proebsting: Reminiscences of the Ex [i.e. X] Club.[University of California, Davis: Library, 1973].
Scope and Content of Collection
between Hiram Johnson and Shields consists of both personal and work related letters, written prior to or after Johnson was governor of California. Shields' speeches and papers relate to agriculture, education, Democratic Party ideals, and to his personal experience and optimistic philosophy of life.

A small amount of correspondence relates to the cases that Shields managed as Superior Court Judge in Sacramento County. The certificates of election show the many times that Shields was elected to the position of Superior Court Judge in Sacramento County. Shields' wedding coat has been extracted from the collection and placed in the Design Collection at the Department of Environmental Design, University of California, Davis.

Researchers may view a detailed calendar of Shields' correspondence in the Special Collections reading room.

Related Collections
Other materials related to the Peter J. Shields Collection may be found in the following collections at Special Collections:
AR-095: Davis Campus History Collection
D-022: Pierce Family Papers
D-170: W. Turrentine Jackson Papers
MC-187: Alyce Williams Jewett Collection

Other materials relating to the Peter J. Shields Collection may also be found in the Eleanor McClatchy Collection at the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center in Sacramento, California.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Shields, Peter J., 1862-1962--Archives.
University of California (1868-1952). College of Agriculture--History.
University of California, Davis--History.
X Club (Sacramento, Calif.).
Agriculture--California.
California--Politics and government.
Judges--California.
Yolo County (Calif.)--History.

Access
Collection is open for research under regular Reading Room rules and copyright restrictions.

Acquisition Information
Gift of Thomas J. MacBride, Alyce Williams Jewett, and Margaret M. Deterding. On October 13, 1971, Thomas J. MacBride, executor of the Judge Shields' estate, donated the bulk of the materials in the collection. Additional materials were added to the collection through the donation of Margaret M. Deterding in August 1991, and Alyce Williams Jewett in September 1992.

Processing Information
Payne Vang, Special Collections intern, processed the collection and created its final finding aid, under the direction of the University Archivist, John Skarstad, and manuscript curator, Melissa Tyler. Vang and Tyler encoded the finding aid.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Peter J. Shields Collection, D-169, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis.

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Box: 1:1
Series 1. "An Act Providing for the Purchase of a University Farm" 1905-1935,
Physical Description: 1 folder
Scope and Content Note
Contains the original draft of the bill for purchasing land for the University Farm, drawn up by Peter J. Shields, in 1905, and Shields' letter to Dr. Howard.
Series 2. Correspondence 1900-1962,

Physical Description: 53 folders, 1 volume

Scope and Content Note
Arranged in three subseries: General Correspondence, Recommendations for Judge Shields, and Letter-press Book.

Subseries 2.1. General Correspondence 1900-1962,

Physical Description: 42 folders

Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Contains both Shields' outgoing and incoming letters.

Box: 1:2  A-AQ 1913-1958
Box: 1:3  AR-AZ 1932-1946
Box: 1:4  B-BS 1910-1947
Box: 1:5  BR-BZ 1913-1962
Box: 1:6  C-CK 1912-1962
Box: 1:7  CL-CZ 1913-1962
Box: 1:8  D-DZ 1916-1948
Box: 1:9  E-EZ 1917-1946
Box: 1:10  F-FZ 1908-1957
Box: 1:11  Farley, James 1932-1935
Box: 1:12  G-GZ 1913-1951
Box: 1:13  Gannon, Chester 1917-1949
Box: 1:14  Garland, Hamlin undated
Box: 1:15  Griffin, Fred 1958
Box: 1:16  H-HZ 1908-1962
Box: 1:17  Horsford, Hester E. 1912-1914
Box: 1:18  I-IZ 1917-1919
Box: 1:19  J-JZ 1913-1962
Box: 1:20  Johnson, Hiram W. 1900-1934
Box: 1:21  K-KZ 1913-1962
Box: 1:22  L-LZ 1913-1952
Box: 1:23  M-MI 1911-1961
Box: 1:24  MJ-MZ 1917-1963
Box: 1:25  N-NZ 1917-1946
Box: 1:26  Neyland, John F. 1950-1952
Box: 1:27  O-OZ 1917-1945
Box: 1:28  P-PZ 1913-1949
Box: 1:29  Q-QZ 1928-1945
Box: 1:30  R-RZ 1900-1951
Box: 1:31  Roosevelt, Franklin D. 1935
Box: 1:32  S-SO 1909-1962
Box: 1:33  SP-SZ 1920-1949
Box: 1:34  Sproul, Gordon G. 1930-1961
Box: 1:35  Stevenson, Adlai 1953
Box: 1:36  T-TZ 1919-1947
Box: 1:37  V-VZ 1919-1937
Box: 1:38  W-WZ 1902-1962
Box: 1:39  Wallace, Henry A. 1928-1953
Box: 1:40  Warren, Earl 1944-1962
Box: 1:41  Wheeler, Benjamin Ide 1917
Box: 1:42  Y-Z 1917-1940
Box: 1:43  Unidentified Correspondents 1917-1948

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Subseries 2.2. **Recommendations for Judge Shields 1913,**

- **Physical Description:** 11 folders
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Arranged alphabetically by author. Contains letters written in 1913 recommending Judge Shields to U.S. President Woodrow Wilson for the office of U.S. District Judge. Also includes a bound volume of duplicates of the letters.

| Box: 1:44 | Bound volume, "Recommendations of Peter J. Shields" 1913 |
| Box: 1:45 | A-C 1913 |
| Box: 1:46 | D-F 1913 |
| Box: 1:47 | G-I 1913 |
| Box: 1:48 | J-K 1913 |
| Box: 1:49 | L-N 1913 |
| Box: 1:50 | O-P 1913 |
| Box: 1:51 | Q-S 1913 |
| Box: 1:52 | T-W 1913 |
| Box: 1:53 | X-Z 1913 |
| Box: 1:54 | Unidentified Author undated |

Folio Box: 3:1

Subseries 2.3. **Letter-press Book June 1899-July 1900,**

- **Physical Description:** 1 volume
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Letter-press book contains copies of letters on various topics, written by Shields.

Series 3. **Papers and Speeches 1902-1906,**

- **Physical Description:** 124 folders
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Arranged in two subseries: Shields' Works and Others' Works.

Subseries 3.1. **Shields' Works 1902-1962,**

- **Physical Description:** 113 folders
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Arranged chronologically. At the end of the chronological listing, undated materials are arranged alphabetically by subject/event. Includes both published and unpublished articles, speeches, papers, and notes, written by Shields.

| Box: 1:55 | Judge Shield's Address, "High School Graduates Launch on Sea of Life" June 1902 |
| Box: 1:56 | "Education and Agricultural Advancement" 1904 |
| Box: 1:57 | Clunie Theatre, "[Sacramento] Chamber of Commerce Meeting" October 1908 |
| Box: 1:58 | Davis, "Dedication of Auditorium" March 1915 |
| Box: 1:59 | Dedication of Hilgard Hall, "Solid Foundations" October 13, 1917 |
| Box: 1:60 | "Grocers" January 23, 1918 |
| Box: 1:61 | Senate Chamber, "Introducing Jane Addams" March 1918 |
| Box: 1:62 | Native Sons Hall, "3rd Anniversary Italy Enters War" May 5, 1918 |
| Box: 1:63 | "Cal. Cattle Mens Assn." April 8, 1919 |
| Box: 1:64 | "Dixon Speech" May 3, 1919 |
| Box: 1:65 | "Chamber of Commerce Lunch" October 10, 1920 |
| Box: 1:66 | Rotary Club, "Thrift" January 15, 1920 |
| Box: 1:67 | "President Wilson, Moral Hero of World War...." March 1921 |
| Box: 1:68 | "Woodrow Wilson in 'Union'" March 4, 1921 |
| Box: 1:69 | "Fair Oaks Farm Bureau Picnic" May 14, 1921 |
| Box: 1:70 | "Notes on Berkeley speech, Golden Bear" December 11, 1921 |
| Box: 2:1 | "Answer to D. Brooks Hogan in Jersey Bulletin" July 29, 1922 |
| Box: 2:2 | X Club, "Agriculture: Its Future in America" April 1, 1924 |
"Baby Show Rules" May 4, 1924
"Article for Western Livestock Journal" October 1924
"Baby Show" June 21, 1925
"Rivers and Harbor Committee, Rough Notes" October 3, 1925
[Reprint of 1925 Year Book], "A Glimpse of the Farm's Creation" 1925
X Club, "A Defense of Optimism" About March 1926
"Alturians" April 1927
Senator Hall, "Seedsmen" May 24, 1927
[Dante Club] 1927
"A Judicial Election Experience" 1927
X Club, "Education: Practical vs. Classical" February 1928
Rio Linda, "Methodist Church" April 1, 1928
Lion's Club, "The Tahoe Road" April 12, 1928
"Speech to Soroptomist Club" January 1929, February 1929
Rotary Club, "Honorary Members" November 7, 1929
Critic Club, "Defense of Popular Heroes" [1929]
"Life Worth While" April 1, 1930
Elks Flag Day" June 14, 1930
Hotel Senator, "University Women" January 17, 1931
Woodman's Circle, "Fraternal Orders" April 30, 1932
Jersey Bulletin, "Reply to E.M. Sherman" October 1932
Critic Club, [Politics] November 1932
"Parish House, Dean Bartlam" November 1932
"First Draft [of Communist Oath at UC Berkeley]" [1932]
[Notes about a Baby Girl] [1932]
Yuba City High, "Commencement Address" June 2, 1933
"New Year's Speech to Soroptomists" 1933
X Club, "Crime in the United States" 1933
Pratt Dinner, "R. R. Men" Summer 1933
"Robert Callahan Memorial" May 6, 1934
"Remarks, re Dr. S.E. Simmons" December 1934
Critic Club, "The Day's Work" 1935
"Hecke College Degree, Written of Davis Enterprise" March 25, 1936
"V.S. McClatchy Banquet" 1936
X Club, "Men I Have Known" February 1936
"Breeding Ideals and the Western Livestock Journal" November 18, 1936
"Reminiscences: Past vs. Present" January 18, 1938
"Robert Devlin Mem. Exercise" May 2, 1938
"$30 per Week" September 14, 1938
"Remarks: Mrs. McClatchy's Funeral" September 26, 1939
"McGeorge College Graduates" 1940
Del Paso Country Club, "Bar Assn Dinner" Fall 1940
X Club Paper, "The Courts" December 2, 1941
[Bear Flag Accepting and Address at Presentation] 1942
X Club, "Important Results of Small Things" 1943
"Philosophies" [1943]
X Club, [Post War Ruminations] November 1945
"Judge Lemmon's Qualifications" February 1947
"20-30 Club Notes" April 27, 1947
"Trifles that Changed Careers" 1947
[History of U.S. Presidents] [circa 1952?]
"Notes at 91st Birthday" [1953]
[Old Age Reminiscence] [circa 1953]
[Politics: Harry Truman and Communism] [1954]
"Judge Shields, at 92, Takes a Look into the Future...." 1954
[Manuscript Draft for The Birth of an Institution: The Agricultural College at Davis] [1954]
X-Club meeting at Shield's House, [Spiritual Needs of Country] March 31, 1955
**Series 3. Papers and Speeches 1902-1906,**
**Subseries 3.1. Shields' Works 1902-1962,**

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**Box: 2:60**

"Judge Shields, 93, Finds Age Bring's a Richness..." April 4, 1955

**Box: 2:61**


**Box: 2:62**

[Meaning and Obligation of Life] [1958]

**Box: 2:63**

[96th Birthday] [1958]

**Box: 2:64**

[Abraham Lincoln’s 150th Anniversary] February 1959

**Box: 2:65**

"Judge Shields, 97, Looks at the Future" April 4, 1959

**Box: 2:66**

"Judge Shields at 98 Says California was Eden in His Youth" April 4, 1960

**Box: 2:67**

[99th Birthday Notes] [April 4, 1961]

**Box: 2:68**

"Judge Shields, 99, Cites Extermination Threat in War" April 4, 1961

**Box: 2:69**

"Judge Shields Looks at Life -- and is Confident" April 4, 1962

**Box: 2:70**

"Comments on Flag Decision-Not Published" undated

**Box: 2:71**

"Comments on Hilgard Hall Speech" undated

**Box: 2:72**

"Community Chest Announcement to Rotary Club" undated

**Box: 2:73**

Corvallis College, Oregon, "Fifty Anniversary" undated

**Box: 2:74**

[Education] undated

**Box: 2:75**

[Eulogy to J.A.M.] undated

**Box: 2:76**

"Folsom Reception and Banquet to Soldiers" undated

**Box: 2:77**

[Foreign Policy] undated

**Box: 2:78**

["Great Fortunes of a Country Present the Greatest Danger"] undated

**Box: 2:79**

"John Floyd Newton, Speech at Memorial Exercises" undated

**Box: 2:80**

"Judge Hughes, Remarks at Memorial Exercise" undated

**Box: 2:81**

"Kuhn Banquet" undated

**Box: 2:82**

"Last of the Great Scouts" undated

**Box: 2:83**

"Mem. Holman's Farewell Dinner" undated

**Box: 2:84**

[Modern Men vs. Ancestors] undated

**Box: 2:85**

[Moral and Intellectual Development in Society] undated

**Box: 2:86**

[Notes and Quotes on Various Subjects] undated

**Box: 2:87**

Oroville, "Mem. of Speech at Banquet of Chamber of Commerce" undated

**Box: 2:88**

"Phelan Banquet" undated

**Box: 2:89**

[Philosophy of life] undated

**Box: 2:90**

"President Roosevelt Endorses Davis' Industrial School Bill" undated

**Box: 2:91**

[Soldiers Going off to War Speech] undated

**Box: 2:92**

[Speech on Agriculture] undated

**Box: 2:93**

[Speech on Schools in Folsom] undated

**Box: 2:94**

[Speech to Veterans] undated

**Box: 2:95**

"Third Term' Answer" undated

**Box: 2:96**

"The Value of Games - Sports" undated

**Box: 2:97**

"Union Elected Pres. Wilson" undated

**Box: 2:98**

[Unidentified Speeches and Notes] undated

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**Series 3.2. Others' Work 1924-1962,**

Physical Description: 10 folders

Scope and Content Note

Arranged chronologically by date. Includes works written by authors other than Peter J. Shields.

**Box: 2:99**

"The Most Beautiful Will Ever Written" November 15, 1924

**Box/Folder: 2:100**

"Hoover's Speech re: Abusing Hitler et als" 1940

**Box: 2:101**

Sacramento Rotary Club Meeting, "Tribute to Memory of Judge Peter J. Shields" October 11, 1962

**Box: 2:102**

[History of Legal Profession in California] undated

**Box: 2:103**

"Lester Hinsdale (?) re His Father" undated

**Box: 2:104**

"Memorial to Judge Plummer" undated

**Box: 2:105**

"Oliver Wendell Homes," by Walter Lippman undated

**Box: 2:106**

"Particularly Appropriate in the Bull Issue," by Wallace MacMonnies undated

**Box: 2:107**

"Shields Reaches for the Sublime but Finishes in the Ridiculous" undated

**Box: 2:108**

[Soroptist Club] undated
Series 4. Peter J. Shields' Will December 4, 1950,

Physical Description: 1 folder
Scope and Content Note
Contains Peter J. Shields' handwritten will.

Box: 2:110 Series 5. Boye Scholarship Trust 1917-1959,

Physical Description: 1 folder
Scope and Content Note
Contains documents relating to the Boye Scholarship Trust.

Series 6. Ephemera 1876-1968,

Physical Description: 13 folders
Scope and Content Note
Includes an autograph album, awards and certificates, clippings, pamphlets, pedigrees, a program, and a report.

Box: 2:111 Autograph album 1876-1880
Box: 2:112 Dairy Shrine Club plaque honoring Judge Shields October 11, 1967
Box: 2:113 "Copy of Plaque Presented to Judge Shields" April 26, 1946
Box: 2:114 Resolutions to the Sacramento Bar Association 1896-1926
Folio Box: 3:2 Certificate of Election to the Office of Judge of the Superior Court in and for the County of Sacramento 1900-1944
Folio Box: 3:2 A tribute in recognition of Peter J. Shields October 23, 1939
Folio Box: 3:2 "The University of California to Peter J. Shields," certificate March 26, 1946
Folio Box: 3:2 Native Sons of the Golden West birthday resolution March 21, 1962
Folio Box: 3:2 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Sacramento congratulating Judge Shields on his 100th birthday April 4, 1962
Folio Box: 3:2 "Citation to the Honorable Judge Peter J. Shields" from the California Jersey Cattle Club and All-Jersey Milk Producers of California Inc. [1962]
Box: 2:115 Clippings about Judge Shields (photocopies) 1913-1968
Box: 2:116 Clippings about Judge Shields (originals) 1913-1968
Box: 2:117 Clippings on other subjects (photocopies) 1913-1943, undated
Box: 2:118 Clippings on other subjects (originals) 1913-1943, undated
Box: 2:119 UC Davis pamphlets: "Shields Grove" and "A Guide to the Davis Campus" undated
Box: 2:120 Pedigrees for Jersey bulls 1931-1934
Box: 2:121 Program: 94th Charter Day Anniversary Ceremony at UC Davis April 5, 1962
Box: 2:122 Report of the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of California July 1, 1917-June 30, 1918

Series 7. Photographs 1879-1962,

Physical Description: 14 folders
Scope and Content Note
Arranged chronologically. Included are both original and copy photographs of Peter J. Shields and others.

Box: 4:1 Shields, Peter J. and two unidentified women circa 1879,

Physical Description: 1 print, 1 negative

Box: 4:2 Shields, Peter J. with his portrait and unidentified men [1949]
Box: 4:3 Shields, Peter J., portrait circa 1949
Box: 4:4 Shields, Peter J. and Carolee Shields with Jersey cattle? circa 1950
Box: 4:5 Shields, Peter J. 1956
Box: 4:6-7 Shields, Peter J. circa 1957
Box: 4:8 Shields, Peter J. and [Harry Wellman on Charter Day] [April 5, 1962]
Box: 4:9 Curtis, N. Greene undated
Box: 4:10 [Jersey] cow undated

| Box: 4:11 | Copy photograph of Abraham Lincoln undated |
| Box: 4:12 | Unidentified man undated |
| Box: 4:13 | Unidentified man at desk undated |
| Folio Box: 3:3 | Copy photograph of James Cabbroth undated |
| Folio Box: 3:3 | Copy photograph of A.P. (Amos P.) Catlin undated |
| Folio Box: 3:3 | Copy photograph of Henry Edgerton undated |
| Folio Box: 3:3 | Copy photograph of Robert Robinson undated |
| Folio Box: 3:3 | Copy photograph of T.B. McFarland undated |
| Folio Box: 3:3 | Five unidentified copy photographs: Four unidentified portraits of men and one landscape undated |

Series 8. Realia undated,

- Physical Description: 3 items
- Scope and Content Note
  - Unarranged

| Box: 4:14 | Shields' pince-nez (glasses) undated |
| Box: 5 | Cut-glass dish (wedding present) undated |
| Row: 45a | Thermos-style pitcher (used by Shields in the courtroom) undated |

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