Guide to the Gordon and Anna Watkins papers

Processed by Melissa Huntington, 2010.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Gordon and Anna Watkins papers

Date (inclusive): 1903-1971, undated

Date (bulk): 1956-1968

Collection Number: UA 081

Creator: Watkins, Anna, 1884-1970

Creator: Watkins, Gordon S, b. 1889

Extent: 5.75 linear feet (5 document boxes, 2 flat storage boxes, 1 map case folder)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.
Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: This collection is comprised of manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, documents, certificates, and other material regarding Gordon and Anna Watkins from 1903-1971. Includes both personal and university related items. Material reflecting the Watkins' interest in the field of economics and his tenure as UCR's first Provost is evidenced through the various publications and press clippings present in the collection. Memorandums, correspondence, and sound recordings documenting the Watkins' accomplishments and time at UCR are also included such as items regarding the establishment and construction of UCR as well as Watkins House.

Languages: The collection is in English.

Access

This collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[identification of item]. Gordon and Anna Watkins papers, UA 081. University of California, Riverside Libraries, Special Collections & Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information

Information unavailable.

Processing History


Biography

Gordon Samuel Watkins was born on March 9, 1889 in Brynmawr, Wales. Watkins worked with his father in the coal mines from a young age and began saving his money to better his situation. In 1906, at the age of seventeen, he paid thirty-five dollars for a steam ship ticket to the United States. Once in the States, he worked at numerous places including a railroad machine shop which enabled him to pay his way through preparatory school at Fargo College Academy in Fargo, North Dakota and Wheaton College Academy in Wheaton, Illinois. Watkins later moved to and worked as a lumberjack in Montana which helped pay his way through the University of Montana where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree and met Anna Davis. Anna was born on December 22, 1884 in Mount Etna, Iowa and like her husband she completed her undergraduate work at the University of Montana earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. The couple was married in 1917 after Gordon received his Masters of Arts degree from the University of Illinois. Gordon later went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Gordon Watkins began his career as an educator when his alma mater, the University of Illinois, hired him as an economics professor. In 1925, he joined the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) staff as a Professor of Economics, a position he held from 1925-1949. Gordon authored and co-authored over a dozen books on labor economics and became a leading figure in the field. Anna, who also had a background in economics, assisted on many of Gordon's books, articles, and speeches. Watkins academic and literary contributions on labor economics led both Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman to summon his assistance with fact finding and labor arbitration during the disputes both men faced with the railroads.
In 1949, Gordon was named the first provost of the University of California, Riverside (UCR) and was instrumental in establishing the College of Letters and Sciences. He spent months traversing the country to locate the best building plans, curriculum, and faculty for the campus which opened its doors on February 15, 1954. Gordon retired in 1956 after seven years of involvement with the campus. Anna was also deeply involved with the formation of UCR as she worked alongside her husband, assisting him with campus planning activities and events. She was an active member of the Citizen’s University Committee, Campus Club, and the interdenominational religious center that Gordon helped establish. A devout Congregationalist, Gordon reached out to the academic, religious, and local communities to support his vision of a religious center at UCR. In 1966 his vision was finally realized with the opening of Watkins House on campus.

Gordon Watkins died on May 5, 1970 in Santa Barbara, California and was survived by his wife Anna, until her death later that year in August.

1884: Anna Davis was born in Mount Etna, Iowa on December 22nd.
1889: Gordon S. Watkins was born in Brynmawr, Wales on March 9th.
1906: Gordon Watkins came to the United States.
1914: Gordon Watkins earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Montana.
1915: Gordon Watkins earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Illinois.
1917: Gordon Watkins married Anna Davis.
1918: Gordon Watkins earned a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.
1925-1949: Gordon Watkins was a Professor of Economics at UCLA.
1949: Gordon Watkins was named the first provost at UCR.
1970: Anna Watkins died in Santa Barbara, California on August 7th.

Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection is comprised of manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, documents, certificates, and other material regarding Gordon and Anna Watkins from 1903-1971. Includes both personal and university related items. Material reflecting the Watkins’ interest in the field of economics is evidenced through the various publications and press clippings present in the collection. Memorandums, correspondence, and sound recordings documenting the Watkins’ accomplishments and time at UCR are also included such as items regarding the establishment and construction of UCR as well as Watkins House.

Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged into two series. The series arrangement is as follows:


Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Subjects
College buildings.
University of California, Riverside.
Watkins, Anna, 1884-1970
Watkins, Gordon S, b. 1889

Genres and Forms of Materials
Clippings (information artifacts).
Correspondence.
Manuscripts.
Photographs.
Series 1 Personal papers. 1903-1970, undated.

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series is comprised of correspondence, photographs, press clippings, and other material related to Gordon and Anna Watkins. Included in this series are press clippings regarding Anna Watkins, photographs ranging from graduation portraits of Gordon Watkins to photographs of both Gordon and Anna Watkins at social and university related functions, diplomas and certificates received by both Gordon and Anna Watkins, and quilts made for the couple by members of the UCR community.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by format type.

Box 4
Banner with an embroidered “Welcome” (pink and gold). undated.

Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence and other material regarding Gordon and Anna Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin T. Coman, Helen Freeland, and Lallie Brownell. 1956-1968.

Box 5

Map-Case A5, Folder 4
Diplomas and certificates received by Gordon and Anna Watkins. 1903-1960.

Box 1, Folder 2
Newspaper clippings, photographs and other material regarding Anna Watkins. 1956-1970.

Box 1, Folder 6
Photographs of Gordon Watkins. undated.

Box 4

Box 3, Folder 4
Press clippings from various German newspapers. 1923-1936.

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 4

Box 5
Quilt made for Anna Watkins by the UCR Affiliates featuring her initials. circa 1955-1959.

Box 5

Box 4


Series Scope and Content Summary
This series is comprised of manuscripts, press clippings, correspondence, and other material related to the professional career of Gordon Watkins as well as the Watkins' time at UCR. Includes material regarding plans for the establishment and construction of UCR, the development of Watkins House, and the creation of the Watkins Award. Additionally, this series contains ephemera related to and recognizing the many contributions of Gordon and Anna Watkins to the UCR community.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by format type.

Box 1, Folder 3
Articles and academic addresses written by Gordon Watkins. 1920-1954.

Box 1, Folder 4
Articles by and about Gordon Watkins regarding UCR including his appointment as provost, the selection of his cabinet staff, and his retirement announcement. 1953-1961.

Box 3, Folder 3
Brochures and other material regarding the opening of Watkins House. undated.

Box 3, Folder 1
Brochures regarding furniture upholstery and construction materials for Watkins House. undated.

Box 4
Certificate honoring Gordon and Anna Watkins from the UCLA Founders Club. undated.

Box 4
Coin presented to Gordon Watkins as a delegate to the 400th Anniversary Celebration of the Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico (housed in velvet box). 1951.

Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence and memorandums by and about Gordon Watkins regarding the Watkins Award and UCR. 1949-1966.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 15</td>
<td>Correspondence and memorandums regarding major and minor capital improvements. 1951.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence and minutes regarding the Library building. 1950-1951.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 11</td>
<td>Correspondence and minutes regarding the Physical Sciences building. 1950-1951.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 14</td>
<td>Correspondence and minutes regarding the Plant and Biological Science building. 1950-1951.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 13</td>
<td>Correspondence and minutes regarding the Social Science and Humanities building. 1950-1951.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence and other material regarding Charter Day 1950 circa 1949-1950.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 11</td>
<td>Correspondence and other material regarding Charter Day 1951. circa 1950-1951.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 13</td>
<td>Correspondence and other material regarding housing and water needs at UCR. circa 1950.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 12</td>
<td>Correspondence and other material regarding publicity for UCR. circa 1950-1951.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 15</td>
<td>Correspondence and other material regarding the Western College Association, University Extension, Robert G. Sproul. circa 1950-1951.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 18</td>
<td>Correspondence and reports regarding the UCR campus Master Plan. 1948-1949.</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence, brochures, and other material regarding Watkins House. undated.</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence, press clippings, and other material regarding the annexation of the area that contains UCR into Riverside, California. circa 1954-1961.</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding campus environs and subdivisions. 1950-1951.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding obtaining building materials for Life Sciences, Physical Education and Library buildings. 1951-1952.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding obtaining building materials for Physical Science and Social Science &amp; Humanities buildings. 1951-1952.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 16</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding Program Committees for campus buildings. 1950.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 17</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding the Campus Plan. 1950-1951.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 12</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding the Committee on Buildings and Campus Development. 1951.</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding Watkins House. 1954-1956.</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, reports, and other material regarding Gordon Watkins’ sabbatical leave. 1949-1950.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence with Charles B. O’Neill. 1950-1966.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence with Charles B. O’Neill. 1967-1970.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence with Citrus Experiment Station Director Leon Batchelor. 1949-1951.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 1</td>
<td>Correspondence with University of California Vice President C.B. Hutchison regarding UCR building plans. 1951.</td>
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<td>Correspondence with University of California Vice President James Corley. 1950-1951.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence with various people including Nobel Prize winner Ralph Bunche and Dr. Remsen Bird, declining to be considered for the chancellorship at UCLA. 1950-1951.</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 7</td>
<td>Lease and correspondence between the Beaumont Irrigation District and the Regents of the University of California regarding land. circa 1939-1941</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 8</td>
<td>Lease and correspondence regarding the UCR “Big C” property on Box Springs Mountain. circa 1962-1963.</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 6</td>
<td>Lease between The Berylwood Investment Company and the Regents of the University of California regarding the “T.R. Bard Tract.” circa 1938.</td>
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<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Mailing tube from UC Berkeley to Provost Gordon Watkins, UCR. July 1956.</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td>Manuscript and correspondence regarding Justice as a Dynamic Ideal by Gordon Watkins (manuscript chapters 1-6/typed). undated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Manuscript of Justice as a Dynamic Ideal by Gordon Watkins (manuscript chapters 10-14/typed). undated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Manuscript outline by Gordon Watkins titled The Quest for the Good Society (typed/hand annotated). undated.</td>
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<td>Box, Folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>6, Folder 9</td>
<td>Minutes of meetings held on the Physical Education Building. 1950-1951.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, Folder 9</td>
<td>Minutes of the Provost's Advisory Administrative Council. 1951.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Photobook documenting Gordon Watkins' tenure at UCR. undated.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Plate honoring Gordon Watkins presented by Pacific Telephone commemorating the first long distance phone call from Riverside, California to the White House June 19, 1954.</td>
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<td>2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Press clippings and publications regarding labor economics. 1918-1922.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Press clippings, correspondence, and other material regarding UCR. 1954-1970.</td>
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