Guide to the Russell Tracy Crawford papers MS.265

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2016
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URL: http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/specoll
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz
Title: Russell Tracy Crawford papers
creator: Crawford, R. T. (Russell Tracy), 1876-
Identifier/Call Number: MS.265
Physical Description: 2.45 Linear Feet3 boxes, 1 oversize box
Date (inclusive): 1897-1960
Access
Collection is open for research.
Arrangement
This collection is organized into five series:
1. Biographical
2. Correspondence
3. Notes and notebooks
4. Observations and charts
5. Writings
Materials within each series are arranged in chronological order.
Biographical / Historical
Russell Tracy Crawford was an astronomer and professor who was associated with the University of California for over 50 years. Earning his degrees in astronomy in 1897 and 1901, he then worked as a professor and astronomer for the university in various capacities until his retirement in 1946. Crawford earned one of the first fellowships granted by the Lick Observatory in 1897, and finished his doctoral work there using the meridian circle with astronomer R.H. Tucker. Crawford is well known for his work in theoretical astronomy, and his observations and computations of comet orbits. He published over a hundred articles and a book entitled The Determination of Orbits of Comets and Asteroids.

Crawford was born on March 26, 1876, in Davis, California. In 1893 he enrolled at the University of California in Berkeley and began his career in astronomy, graduating in 1897 and earning a fellowship at the Lick Observatory. There he studied for four years under Lick astronomer Dr. R.H. Tucker, writing his dissertation entitled “Determination of the Constant of Refraction from Observations with the Repsold Meridian Circle.” In 1901, Crawford was one of the first two students to earn a Ph.D. degree in astronomy from the University of California, along with Frank E. Ross. After working with the U.S. Civil Service in Washington, D.C., in 1903 he returned to the University of California for a position as instructor of astronomy. In 1911, Crawford took a two-year sabbatical to pursue advanced studies at the University of Berlin, and during World War I he worked in Nebraska as the head of the Balloon School of Air Service Military Aeronautics. He married Helen Alice Young in 1913. Continuing his service to the University of California after the war, Crawford became a full professor of astronomy in 1919, the chair of the department in 1936, and began directing the university’s Students’ Observatory (now the Leuschner Observatory) in 1939. Dr. Crawford passed away in 1958 in Berkeley, California.

Preferred Citation
Russell Tracy Crawford papers. MS 265. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Scope and Contents
This collection contains the papers of Russell Tracy Crawford, an astronomer and professor at the University of California for several decades in the 20th century. Materials include personal and professional correspondence, research notes and charts related to his extensive work on comet orbits, travel diaries and photographs, and published writings. Also included are some collected clippings pertaining to Crawford’s early academic career at the University of California, and biographical information written after his death in 1958.

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Astronomy
Crawford, R. T. (Russell Tracy), 1876-
Lick Observatory
Crawford, R. T. (Russell Tracy), 1876-

Biographical 1900-1960
Scope and Contents
This series contains clippings and commencement materials from Crawford's early academic career, as well as an obituary written by Maud W. Makemson and a University of California In Memoriam article by C.D. Shane, S. Einarsson, and H.M. Jeffers.

box 1, folder 1
Clippings 1900-1904
Obituaries, In Memoriam 1958-1960

Correspondence 1898-1956
Scope and Contents
This series contains letters written by and to Crawford, including correspondence with directors of the Lick Observatory. Telegrams and observation notes and reports are also included.

box 1, folder 3
1898-1904
box 1, folder 4
1905-1910
box 1, folder 5
1911-1925
box 1, folder 6
1926-1956

Notes and notebooks 1897-1931
Scope and Contents
This series contains bound notebooks and loose notes written by Crawford pertaining to his research, both as a student at the University of California and later as an astronomer. Also included are diaries, notes, and photographs from Crawford's trip to Europe in 1911 and 1912, as well as some collected documents and notes that were annotated by Crawford.

box 1, folder 7
"Examples in differential equations" circa 1897
box 1, folder 8
"Differential & integral calculus" 1897
box 1, folder 9
"Mechanical quadratures" circa 1897
box 1, folder 10
"Notes on mechanics" 1897
box 2, folder 1
"Theoretical astronomy" 1897
box 2, folder 2
Untitled holograph notebook 1897
box 2, folder 3
Untitled holograph notes circa 1897-1900
box 2, folder 4
"Queer answers found in examination papers" circa 1903
box 2, folder 5
Outline of Lectures in General Science 1 1910
Scope and Contents
Annotated copy of University of California Syllabus Series pamphlet.

box 2, folder 6
Notes, lectures, quotes & articles to ponder circa 1910-1928
box 2, folder 7
"Notes from my trip abroad" 1911-1912
"Continuation of my trip abroad" 1911-1912
Scope and Contents
Includes some loose photographs and letters.

box 4
"My trip abroad" photo album 1911-1912
Scope and Contents
Includes photographs of Crawford's trip abroad to Europe which correspond to the preceding notebooks.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, folder 8</td>
<td>&quot;Notes on observatories visited during my sabbatical leave&quot; 1911-1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, folder 9</td>
<td>Struve, Otto - &quot;Einleitung in die Theorie der Satelliten&quot; 1911-1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, folder 10</td>
<td>Astronomy 1 teaching notes, UCLA summer session 1929</td>
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<td>3, folder 1</td>
<td>Portratgallerie der Astronomischen Gesellschaft 1931</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 2</td>
<td>&quot;Notes on observations and solar coordinates&quot; undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 3</td>
<td>Observations and charts 1898-1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 4</td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 5</td>
<td>This series contains reductions, computations, notes, and charts from Crawford's observations of comets and satellites throughout his career. Some related correspondence is also included.</td>
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<td>3, folder 6</td>
<td>Orbit of X Draconis 1898-1928</td>
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<td>3, folder 7</td>
<td>Orbit of Comet a 1909 (Daniel) by Merton's Method 1909</td>
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<td>3, folder 8</td>
<td>Comet a 1915 (Mellish) 1915</td>
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<td>3, folder 9</td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
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<td>Computed with Miss Jessica M. Young, second orbit computed with Miss Young, third orbit computed alone</td>
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<td>3, folder 11</td>
<td>Comet b 1922 (Skjellerup), v.3 1922</td>
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<td>3, folder 12</td>
<td>Satellite of Neptune observation charts (&quot;Astronomical papers...v.9 pt.3&quot; - &quot;The orbit of Neptune's satellite and the pole of Neptune's equator&quot;) 1926</td>
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<td>Comet j 1927 (Schwassman-Wachmann) 1927</td>
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<td>3, folder 14</td>
<td>Comet d 1927 (Streams) - Observations [Lick] 1927</td>
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<td>3, folder 15</td>
<td>Comet a 1928 (Reinmuth) - Reductions of Plate Measurements 1928</td>
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<td>3, folder 16</td>
<td>Writings 1901-1926</td>
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<td>3, folder 17</td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 18</td>
<td>This series contains typescripts and reprints of Crawford's published writings, including journal articles and his doctoral dissertation from the University of California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, folder 19</td>
<td>&quot;Determination of the Constant of Refraction from Observations made with the Repsold Meridian Circle of the Lick Observatory&quot;, dissertation 1901</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 20</td>
<td>&quot;On Computing&quot; 1907</td>
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<td>3, folder 21</td>
<td>&quot;Astronomy of the Pacific Coast&quot; 1915</td>
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<td>3, folder 22</td>
<td>&quot;Note on Merton's Method for the Determination of Orbits&quot; 1926</td>
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<td>3, folder 23</td>
<td>&quot;A Convenient Method for Computing, from Elements, the Daily Motion in Geocentric Right Ascension and Declination&quot; undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, folder 24</td>
<td>&quot;History of Astronomy&quot; - typescript extracted from William's &quot;History of Sciences&quot; undated</td>
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