

---

## Guide to the Russell Tracy Crawford papers MS.265

Maureen Carey and Alix Norton

University of California, Santa Cruz

2016

1156 High Street

Santa Cruz 95064

speccoll@library.ucsc.edu

URL: <http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/speccoll>

---

**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.

**Publication Rights**

Property rights for this collection reside with the University of California. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. The publication or use of any work protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use for research or educational purposes requires written permission from the copyright owner. Responsibility for obtaining permissions, and for any use rests exclusively with the user. For more information on copyright or to order a reproduction, please visit [guides.library.ucsc.edu/speccoll/reproduction-publication](http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/speccoll/reproduction-publication) .

**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  
box 1, folder 2

**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  
box 1, folder 4  
box 1, folder 5  
box 1, folder 6

**1898-1904**

**1905-1910**

**1911-1925**

**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  
box 1, folder 8  
box 1, folder 9  
box 1, folder 10  
box 2, folder 1  
box 2, folder 2  
box 2, folder 3  
box 2, folder 4  
box 2, folder 5

**"Examples in differential equations" circa 1897**

**"Differential & integral calculus" 1897**

**"Mechanical quadratures" circa 1897**

**"Notes on mechanics" 1897**

**"Theoretical astronomy" 1897**

**Untitled holograph notebook 1897**

**Untitled holograph notes circa 1897-1900**

**"Queer answers found in examination papers" circa 1903**

**Outline of Lectures in General Science 1 1910**

**Scope and Contents**

Annotated copy of University of California Syllabus Series pamphlet.

box 2, folder 6  
box 4  
box 2, folder 7

**Notes, lectures, quotes & articles to ponder circa 1910-1928**

**"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.

---

---

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| box 2, folder 8  | <b>"Notes on observatories visited during my sabbatical leave" 1911-1912</b>   |
| box 2, folder 9  | <b>Struve, Otto - "Einleitung in die Theorie der Satelliten" 1911-1912</b>   |
| box 2, folder 10 | <b>Astronomy 1 teaching notes, UCLA summer session 1929</b>  |
| box 3, folder 1  | <b>Portratgalerie der Astronomischen Gesellschaft 1931</b><br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>Annotated copy of astronomers' portrait pamphlet.   |
| box 3, folder 2  | <b>"Notes on observations and solar coordinates" undated</b><br><b>Observations and charts 1898-1928</b><br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>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. |
| box 3, folder 3  | <b>Orbit of X Draconis 1898-1928</b>   |
| box 3, folder 4  | <b>Orbit of Comet a 1909 (Daniel) by Merton's Method 1909</b>  |
| box 3, folder 5  | <b>Comet a 1915 (Mellish) 1915</b><br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>Computed with Miss Jessica M. Young, second orbit computed with Miss Young, third orbit computed alone  |
| box 3, folder 6  | <b>Comet b 1922 (Skjellerup), v.3 1922</b>   |
| box 3, folder 7  | <b>Satellite of Neptune observation charts ("Astronomical papers...v.9 pt.3" - "The orbit of Neptune's satellite and the pole of Neptune's equator") 1926</b>  |
| box 3, folder 8  | <b>Comet j 1927 (Schwassman-Wachmann) 1927</b>   |
| box 3, folder 9  | <b>Comet d 1927 (Streams) - Observations [Lick] 1927</b>   |
| box 3, folder 10 | <b>Comet a 1928 (Reinmuth) - Reductions of Plate Measurements 1928</b><br><b>Writings 1901-1926</b><br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>This series contains typescripts and reprints of Crawford's published writings, including journal articles and his doctoral dissertation from the University of California.                      |
| box 3, folder 11 | <b>"Determination of the Constant of Refraction from Observations made with the Repsold Meridian Circle of the Lick Observatory", dissertation 1901</b>  |
| box 3, folder 12 | <b>"On Computing" 1907</b>   |
| box 3, folder 12 | <b>"Astronomy of the Pacific Coast" 1915</b>   |
| box 3, folder 12 | <b>"Note on Merton's Method for the Determination of Orbits" 1926</b>  |
| box 3, folder 12 | <b>"A Convenient Method for Computing, from Elements, the Daily Motion in Geocentric Right Ascension and Declination" undated</b>  |
| box 3, folder 13 | <b>"History of Astronomy" - typescript extracted from William's "History of Sciences" undated</b>  |

---