



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0934

Donald Dwight Davis (1896-1987) Papers  
1912-1997  
12 cubic feet

*Personal and business papers of Davis who was president of WHB radio and KMBC-TV. Also included are some papers of his wife, Harriet Treash Davis (1909-1997).*

### BIOGRAPHY:

Donald Dwight Davis, son of William Oscar and Mary Louise (King) Davis, was born November 29, 1896 in Downs, Kansas. He was the managing editor of the Downs High School Yearbook, and the author of a musical play, "An Account of No Account" which was performed by the senior class of 1914. Davis majored in journalism at the University of Kansas, graduating in 1918. He was the business manager of the 1918 *Jayhawker*, the student annual, and a member of Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Delta.

From 1931 to 1952 Donald Davis was president of the WHB Broadcasting Company in Kansas City. He published *Swing* magazine from 1945 to 1955. Davis was president of KMBC radio and TV from 1952 to 1961, and then served as consultant for Metromedia, Inc. which bought KMBC, from 1962 to 1967.

Davis served on the Mayor's Aviation Board in Kansas City from 1946 to 1952, was a trustee of the Kansas City Conservatory of Music and the Kansas City Philharmonic. He was one of the founders of the American Royal Coronation Ball and the Belles of the American Royal.

In 1967 Davis retired and moved to Tuscon, Arizona. He was part owner of KTAN radio of Catalina Broadcasting during the 1970s. An ardent traveler throughout his life, in 1963-64 Davis traveled around the world as an administrator and lecturer aboard the University of the Seven Seas, a floating university. Later, after retirement, He and his wife Harriet served as volunteers with the International Executive Service Corps, serving in Ecuador, Mexico, Philippines, and Taiwan.

Kansas City Times, Friday January 23, 1987

## PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Heywood and Louise Davis as accession KA0963 on September 8, 1997.

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## PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Donald Dwight Davis (1896-1987) Papers (K0934)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

The collection consists of the personal and professional papers of Donald Dwight Davis. Although there is considerable overlap, the collection has been divided into major categories of Davis' interests and activities. The last box contains the papers of his wife, Harriet, who died in 1997. Also included is a record book kept by Davis of his High School years 1910-1914, and an autobiography entitled "I've Had a Wonderful Time!" 1995 .

## INVENTORY:

**BOX 001**

Diaries, 1912-1913, 1921-1922, 1926-1939, 1954

Diary Book 1, Book 2, Book 3

Gift Bible, 1967-The New English Bible

Downs, KS history, 1979

Daily Aide-The Silent Secretary 1954

**BOX 002**

Journals/scrapbooks in spiral notebooks, 1963-1985

**BOX 003**

University of the Seven Seas, Chapman College, 1960s-1970s

**BOX 004**

Lightning Tree Publishers (“Jena and Jetta”) – correspondence, notes, drafts of  
“Memory Book” 1980

Taiwan – correspondence, advertising, printed material

**BOX 005***Personal/financial materials:*

Belleview House – legal documents, inventory

Limberlost property management, Morris Udall, tenant, ca. 1952, 1976

Insurance, 1970

Ledger – black binder

ID cards, membership cards

Arizona information – maps, printed materials

General correspondence

Birthday cards removed from album, ca. 1981

Greeting cards

Thomas Hart Benton

Clubs/organizations – correspondence, printed material. Includes Fiji fraternity

“One Man’s Fraternity” 1979

The Downtown Club – printed material, 1963

Rosters, yearbooks, membership directories – various organizations

**BOX 006**

WHB radio, KMBC television

1960

The Down Times-1910

The Down Times-1914

Address Book-c.1918-19

1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947

1948, 1949, 1951, 1952,  
The Downs News-1953  
1955, 1957, 1958, 1959  
Poster "Cisco! I go to Mexican Fiesta"

**BOX 007**

1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1974  
1975, 1977, 1979,  
Downs Did It-1879-1979-Centennial Volume  
1983  
Photos, KMBC-TV Network Photos  
Downtown Kansas City MO River Background & Other Photos of Bldg.  
John Anderson-Kansas Football 1954 Photos & Other Football Shots  
Edwin W. Birr-Judge of Jackson County MO  
WHB-15th Year Anniversary Photos & Executives Club  
House of Wax w/Vincent Price Photos  
Downs Picnic-Photos  
31 years with The Story of Pictures  
Blank Letterhead from the desk of Don Davis-President  
Magazines  
*1932-Family*  
*1949-Miss America Pageant*  
*1951-1952-Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet*  
*1952-Blues Stadium-Washington Redskins vs Green Bay Packers*  
*1953-TV People*  
*1954-Circus Magazine & Program*  
*-Souvenir Program-Madame Butterfly*  
*1961-U.S. News & World Report*  
*1968-Television*  
*1982-History of the Schools in Ross Township*

**BOX 008**

Christmas cards and mailing lists  
Postcards

Programs and Playbills

Trench and Camp newspapers, published by the Chicago Daily News, edition for Camp Grant, Rockford, IL, November 25 and December 9, 1918

**BOX 009**

International travel – correspondence, clippings, photographs, printed materials, writings by DDD (including 7 Seas and “Travel for Free”). Also includes International Executive Service Corps, 1960s-1970s

Much overlap with Taiwan, Advertising and University of the 7 Seas material in other boxes

**BOX 010**

*Advertising and Broadcasting:*

Tourbooks, 1920s

Early ad campaigns, including The Elms, ca. 1930

Miscellaneous advertising and sales

Public information campaign for KU, 1961

TWA/Ambassador Club

Travelux/Holiday World, 1970s

Correspondence – Oliver Gramling re: Missouri Broadcast History, 1980s

BOTAR, 1970s-1980s

Invitations/responses

Personal photographs and negatives

Miscellaneous clippings

Very miscellaneous materials

**BOX 011**

Scrapbook – Philippines, 1967

Scrapbook – “Highlights in the Life of Don Davis, Presented on his 75th Birthday, November 29, 1971”

*Magazines:*

GQ, October 1963

Vanity Fair, December 1930

Life, November 11, 1926; May 8, 1931; February 1932; September, October, December 1935

Esquire, September 1962

The Fra, April 1911, October 1915  
Flair, July 1950  
Fortune, June 1952  
Mammoth Detective, June 1947  
The Great Society Comic Book  
Kansas City Magazine, December 1973  
Commemorative Today Show book, 1966  
New York, April 22, 1968  
Junior League Magazine, Spring 1971  
The Quill, July 1968, September 1969  
Wine Magazine, November/December 1970  
Why Is a Museum (San Diego), February 1963  
Stephenson's Apple Farm Restaurant menu, undated  
Framed certificate – International Food and Wine Society, 1956

***Records:***

Howard Inches' physical fitness program, including promotional materials – “The Reversal Process”, “Hunger and Hormones” and “Arizona's Royal Road”  
Holiday World of Travel with Dr. John Furbay  
“Ode to a Travel Agent” from British Airways  
Pins  
Coins  
Cloth banner – “WHB-TV Channel 9”

**BOX 012**

*Harriet (Treash) Thomen Davis:*

Diaries, appointment books, 1929, 1980s-1990s  
Travel diaries, ca. 1958 (damaged), 1977  
Address book  
Treash family miscellaneous and photographs  
Greeting cards  
Correspondence (chiefly from Don), 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948-1953, 1991  
Harriet's miscellaneous

- Correspondence between Harriet and Mother, 1926-28
- The Wingfoot Clan (Goodyear publication), Akron, OH, 1946
- The New Art of Going Abroad* by the Cunard Line
- Program "Dinner with Ike" January 27, 1960 (2 copies)**BOX 001x1**
- Folder           Photos and documents: Downs High School
- Folder           Certificate: Man-of the Month
- Scrapbook       WHB publicity book, 1945.
- Scrapbook       WHB (radio and TV) publicity book, 1954.
- Scrapbook       "Around the World in 60 pages !?!?!?!?!? with Don and Harriet Davis", 1968
- Scrapbook       Personal, Don and Harriet Davis", 1947?
- Folder           Loose photos removed from Scrapbook: Personal, Don and Harriet Davis", 1947?
- Folder           Loose items removed from Scrapbook: Personal, Don and Harriet Davis", 1947?
- Scrapbook:      "Footprints of Fellowship" University of Kansas, 1918. Personal items from Davis's KU years.
- Folder           J.C. Nichols Company calendar 1975
- Folder           Photographs: Donald D. Davis, Mrs. Harriet Davis, Governor Jack Williams, Arizona; unidentified men
- Record Book:    "School-Fellow Days", Donald Dwight Davis, Downs Kansas High School class of 1914. 1910-1916. Contains memorabilia, photographs, clippings and hand written remembrances regarding Grammar School, High School, and some University of Kansas.

