

FINDING AID FOR THE CHARLES MONROE DICKINSON PAPERS

Binghamton University, State University of New York

July 8, 1990

Contact Information

University Libraries Special Collections

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title

THE CHARLES MONROE DICKINSON PAPERS

ID

Extent

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: - 20 Approximate number of items: 2, 000

Repository

Binghamton University, State University of New York University Libraries, Special Collections
Binghamton, NY 13902-6012

Abstract

The Charles M. Dickinson Family Papers consist primarily of material relating to his private life and incidentally to his career. Almost all of the materials are personal rather than professional in nature, and date mostly during the first quarter of the twentieth century. There are also some copies and some hand-written poems that Mr. Dickinson wrote. Also included are some newspaper clippings that refer to both Mr. Dickinson and his second wife, Alice. There are numerous photographs of the Dickinson family taken in Broome County, New York, and in Europe. The collection is concerned primarily with Charles M. Dickinson and his second wife, Alice Bond Minard, and, after his death, her subsequent career as a community leader and parliamentarian. There is some material on her marriage to Louis Balog in 1938. There is considerable documentation of the legal and financial affairs of the family from about 1910 to the early 1930's. Unfortunately, all of the material does not lend itself to a purely structural organization, mainly because the number of people involved over the period of time, and the complexity of their many-sided relationships. Scholars should keep in mind that the collection reflects mostly the personal side of the Dickinson Family. Papers concerning Charles M. Dickinson's political career as Consul-General to Turkey and as diplomatic agent to Bulgaria are in the Library of Congress. The collection was donated to the University by the Balog family, and processed in 1980.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK Libraries Special Collections

Biographical Note

Born: Near Lowville, Lewis County, New York, on November 15, 1842.

Died: Binghamton, New York, on July 3, 1924.

Charles M. Dickinson, author, journalist, diplomat, was the son of Richard and Bessie (Rea) Dickinson. He is descended from a distinguished family prominent in the early colonial history of America. Dickinson was educated at the Fairfield and Lowville Academies, and, immediately after leaving school, accepted a teaching position in Haverstraw-on-the-Hudson, which he held until 1864. In that year he went to Binghamton, New York, to study law with the Honorable Daniel S. Dickinson. Dickinson married Bessie Virginia Hotchkiss, the only daughter of Giles M. Hotchkiss, an attorney in Binghamton. They later had two sons, Charles H. and Giles H., and one daughter (adopted) Mary A. Mason, a writer. Mr. Dickinson practiced law in Binghamton and New York City until 1878, when he became manager and editor of the Binghamton "Republic". The newspaper was highly successful, and, in 1880, he became its sole proprietor. Throughout this period, Mr. Dickinson became increasingly interested in the writing of poetry, and, in 1889, his book of poems, "The Children and Other Verses", was published. The title poem was one which he had written at the age of nineteen while teaching in a little county school at Haverstraw. It became famous, finding its way into many school texts of the period.

His newspaper career led to his interest in politics, and, in 1897 he was appointed the U.S. Consul-General to Turkey and, in 1901, diplomatic agent to Bulgaria. In this latter capacity, he contended successfully with the serious disturbance which arose when an American missionary, Miss Ellen M. Stone, was kidnapped by brigands and subsequently ransomed. In 1906, Mr. Dickinson was made a member of the board to draft regulations for the American Consular Service, being appointed American Consul-General at Large in that same year. On July 31, 1907, after the death of Mrs. Dickinson in Egypt, he resigned his diplomatic post, thus closing this distinguished part of his life. On February 2, 1910, he married Alice Bond Minard, daughter of Elias G. and Mary Adriance Minard, from Poughkeepsie, New York. After Charles' death in 1924, Alice remained a prominent citizen of Binghamton, served as President of the Federation of Women's Clubs of New York in the 1920's, and was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the National Republican Women's club. She was active locally in adult education as a teacher of parliamentary procedure until the 1960's. On October 28, 1938. she married Louis Balog.

Scope and Content Note

The Charles M. Dickinson Family Papers cover the years 1830-1964, with emphasis on the first quarter of the 20th century. The major portion of the collection is the correspondence of Mr. Dickinson and his second wife, Alice Bond Minard Dickinson, but also includes poems, other correspondence, financial records, pictures and photographs, and miscellaneous papers.

The poetry of Charles M. Dickinson nearly parallels his law and newspaper careers, which covered a period from 1860 continuing up until about 1900. Many references are made in Charles M.'s correspondence to "The Children", his most famous poem.

Mr. Dickinson's diplomatic career is covered more completely by the collection in the Library of Congress, but his 1922 letters to Henry Morgenthau, Oscar S. Heizer, Wilbur Carr, and Douglas Robinson offer further insights to the abduction - ransoming incident involving Miss Ellen M. Stone, in 1901.

The general correspondence makes up most of the important part of the collection, beginning soon after Mr. Dickinson's diplomatic career ends. There is a wide range of political letters from 1912 to 1914. It is also during this period that Mr. Dickinson exchanged frequent letters with John L. Stoddard, famous author and traveler. These letters may be important indicators of the turmoil in Europe just before World War I. The correspondence between Hugh and Mary Poynter and Dickinson (addressed to him as, "Dearest Good Man"), from 1917-1922 gives insights to British and American opinion during and after World War I.

The incident concerning Daniel Stevens Dickinson (1800-1866) who was a New York State delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1852 is explained in detail in Charles Monroe Dickinson's letters to Ray Franklin Nichols on September 7 and November 6, 1922. They offer substantiation to the theory that by refusing to allow his name to be placed in nomination for the presidency by the Virginia and North Carolina delegations, Daniel S. Dickinson in effect denied his own chances and threw the convention to Franklin Pierce who was later elected president. This incident is referred to in other 1922 correspondence.

The material continues after the death of Mr. Dickinson in 1924, in the form of the correspondence of his second wife and her subsequent career as a prominent community and state club leader. This series continues, from 1938-1943, under the name of Mrs. Louis Balog. Still another group of papers covers the financial affairs of several members of the family.

Lastly, there is a wide assortment of general miscellaneous papers, including genealogical records, newspaper clippings, photographs and negatives (many unidentified), club notes and minutes, and assorted notebooks.

Access: Unrestricted

Description of Series

<u>Container</u>	<u>Title</u>		
1	Poetry, Charles M. Dickinson, 1860-1900. Mostly loose papers, printed or hand-written, and notebooks containing poems by Dickinson and others.		
2	Charles M. Dickinson, General Correspondence. Incoming,		

	1901, 1908-1923.		
		Special Interest:	
			18/31 December 1901 Agreement with Brigands.
			December 5, 1912 Rudyard Kipling
			February 25, 1912 Rudyard Kipling
			April 24-Dec. 23, 1912 Theodore Roosevelt
			July 14, 1914 Joyce Kilmer
3	Charles M. Dickinson, General Correspondenc e. Outgoing, 1910-1923.		
		Special Interest Noted:	
			Various dates, 1912 Theodore Roosevelt
			1912-1914 John Stoddard
			Sept. 7, Nov. 6, 1922 Ray Franklin Nichols
4	Correspondenc e of Hugh and Mary Poynter to Mr. Dickinson. Letters Incoming and Letters Outgoing, 1917-1921.		
5-8	Correspondenc e Mrs. Charles		

	M. Dickinson (Alice Bond Minard, later Mrs. Louis Balog) Letters Incoming, 1902-1964. Letters Outgoing, 1909-1938.		
9-10	Dickinson Family and Minard Family Financial Papers, 1905-1935.		
		1905-1933 Elias and MaryAdriance Minard	
		1909-1935 Charles and Alice Dickinson	
11	Miscellaneous Dickinson Family papers. Many undated. Subsequently, Bessie Virginia Dickinson, Charles M. Dickinson, Alice B. Minard Dickinson (later, also Mrs. Louis Balog).		

CONTAINER LIST

Charles M. Dickinson - Poetry (circa, 1860-1900

Box # 1

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Poetry - mostly undated
Folder #2	
Folder #3	
Folder #4	
Folder #5	
Folder #6	

Charles M. Dickinson - General Correspondence, 1901, 1908-1923

Box # 2

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Incoming Correspondence - 1901, 1908-1912
Folder #2	1913-1914
Folder #3	1916-1919
Folder #4	1920-1921
Folder #5	1922-1923
Folder #6	undated

Charles M. Dickinson - General Correspondence, 1910-1923

Box # 3

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Outgoing Correspondence - 1910-1912
Folder #2	1913-1915
Folder #3	1917-1919
Folder #4	1920-1921
Folder #5	1922-1923
Folder #6	undated

Charles M. Dickinson/Hugh and Mary Poynter -General Correspondence, 1917-1921

Box # 4

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Incoming Correspondence - 1917-1921
Folder #2	Outgoing Correspondence - 1917-1921

Mrs. Charles M. Dickinson (Alice Bond Minard, later Mrs. Louis Balong) - Personal Correspondence, 1902-1914

Box # 5

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Incoming Correspondence - 1902-1912
Folder #2	June-July 1909
Folder #3	Aug.-Sept. 1909
Folder #4	Oct.-Nov. 1909
Folder #5	Dec. 1909
Folder #6	Jan. 1909
Folder #7	1910-1914

Mrs. Charles M. Dickinson (Alice Bond Minard, later Mrs. Louis Balog) - Personal Correspondence 1916-1938

Box # 6

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Incoming Correspondence - (Enclosures) 1909-1923
Folder #2	Incoming Correspondence - 1916-1923
Folder #3	1924
Folder #4	1925
Folder #5	1926

Folder #6	1927-1937
Folder #7	1938
Folder #8	Incoming Correspondence - (Enclosures) undated

Mrs. Louis Balog - Personal Correspondence, 1938-1964

Box # 7

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Incoming Correspondence - 1938
Folder #2	1939-1943
Folder #3	1939-1964
Folder #4	undated

Mrs. Charles M. Dickinson (Alice Bond Minard, later Mrs. Louis Balog) Personal Correspondence, 1909-1938

Box # 8

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Outgoing Correspondence - June-Sept. 1909
Folder #2	Oct.-Nov. 1909
Folder #3	Dec. 1909
Folder #4	Jan. 1910
Folder #5	1915-1923
Folder #6	1927-1934
Folder #7	1938

Minard Financial Papers, 1905-1933

Box # 9

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Elias and Mary Minard - 1905-1930

Folder #2	1920-1933
Folder #3	1925-1933
Folder #4	1927-1929
Folder #5	undated or misc.
Folder #6	undated or misc.

Charles and Alice Dickinson Financial Papers, 1909-1935

Box # 10

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Charles and Alice Dickinson - 1909-1910, 1914, 1931-1932 (?)
Folder #2	1923-1935
Folder #3	1924-1927
Folder #4	1924-1933
Folder #5	undated or misc.
Folder #6	undated or misc.

Miscellaneous Dickinson Family Papers, 1907-1957

Box # 11

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Folder #1	Mary E. Adriance Minard - 1907-1941
Folder #2	undated
Folder #3	undated
Folder #4	undated
Folder #5	Charles M. Dickinson (Bessie Virginia Hotchkiss) undated
Folder #6	Charles M. Dickinson - 1910
Folder #7	Library of Congress Corres. - 1933-1957
Folder #8	Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings

Folder #9	Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings
Folder #10	Alice B. Minard Dickinson - 1926
Folder #11	undated
Folder #12	undated

General Miscellaneous, Rough-sorted, mostly undated

Box # 12-15

Folder	Contents	
	Special Interest:	
Folder 5		Extract from letter by Mrs. Charles M. Dickenson Undated, Constantinople
Folder #12-15		General Miscellaneous. Photographs, pictures, certificates, clippings, etc.