

Archives and Special Collections
Dickinson College
Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Swift, Charles Lowe (1878-1956)** **MC 2018.06**

Material: Correspondence (1908-1947)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box, 1 Photograph Folder)

Donation: Gift of Katherine Swift, 1958

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Charles Lowe Swift was born in New Bedford, PA in 1878. He was the son of Arthur Deane and Jennie Lowe Swift. He entered Dickinson in 1900 with the class of 1904 and later joined the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He left college after three years to work at the old Baltimore *Herald* as a reporter, and while there he met and became friends with H. L. Mencken. He left the *Herald* after a time and began working for the *New York Tribune*. Swift left the newspaper field to teach at Conway Hall, Dickinson's preparatory school, in 1906. He then relocated to the Hill School in Pottstown, PA in 1913 and became head of the English Department there. In 1935, Swift returned to Carlisle and joined the Dickinson College faculty in the English Department. He retired in 1947 due to ill health and died in 1956.

Charles Lowe Swift married Edith Prince (daughter of Morris W. Prince, faculty member at Dickinson) in 1906, and the couple had two children: Katherine Swift and Arthur D. Swift.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Charles Lowe Swift collection was donated in 1958 by his daughter, Katherine Swift. The collection is divided into three series: Correspondence, Images, and Photographs. The Correspondence series dates from 1908 to 1947 and includes letters from H. L. Mencken, the noted writer, and John Charles Thomas, a student at Conway Hall from 1907 to 1909 who went on to become a noted opera singer and concert baritone. The letters from Mencken address journalist activities and the letters from both Mencken and Thomas both discuss visiting Swift in Carlisle. (An article about the Mencken letters along with transcripts of all of them appeared in *Dickinson Magazine* in Nov. 1979, reprinting an article by former library staff member Bruce Morton that had appeared in *Manuscripts*, the journal of the Manuscript Society, in summer 1979.) The Images series contains an engraving plate of Charles Lowe Swift as well as an

engraving from that plate. The Photograph series, designated PC 2018.06 and housed separately, consists of a studio portrait of John Charles Thomas inscribed to Katherine Swift.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 – MC 2018.06

CORRESPONDENCE

Mencken, Henry Louis

- Folder 01) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Mar. 11, [1908]
- Folder 02) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Apr. 25, 1908
- Folder 03) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Jan. 29, 1909
- Folder 04) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Feb. 6, 1909
- Folder 05) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Feb. 7, 1911
- Folder 06) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Feb. 15, 1911
- Folder 07) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Sep. 4, 1911
- Folder 08) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Feb. 10, 1912
- Folder 09) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Dec. 30, 1913
- Folder 10) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Jan. 4, 1914
- Folder 11) Letter to Charles L. Swift – May 27, 1914
- Folder 12) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Mar. 30, 1923

Thomas, John Charles

- Folder 13) Telegram to Charles L. Swift – Dec. 5, 1935
- Folder 14) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Oct. 31, 1938
- Folder 15) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Oct. 25, 1939
- Folder 16) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Jan. 26, 1944
- Folder 17) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Apr. 24, 1944
- Folder 18) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Nov. 5, 1945
- Folder 19) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Nov. 5, 1946
- Folder 20) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Jan. 24, 1947
- Folder 21) Letter to Charles L. Swift – Feb. 5, 1947

IMAGES

Swift, Charles Lowe

- Folder 22) Engraved portrait of Swift – c1940
- Folder 23) Metal engraving plate of portrait of Swift – c1940

PHOTOGRAPHS – PC 2018.06

Swift, Katherine

- Folder 01) John Charles Thomas (Maurice Seymour, photographer) – c1940

This collection register was prepared by Isabella Silvis, July 2018.