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President's House guest books5849274

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Office of the President
Title:	President's House guest books
ID:	5849274
ID:	UA#0091
Date [inclusive]:	1912-1947
Physical Description:	0.42 linear feet 1 document box
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); President's House guest books; volume and page number; University Archives, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Historical Note

The President's House stands on the northeast corner of Morningside Drive and 116th Street, facing Morningside Park. It was first occupied by President Nicholas Murray Butler after it was constructed in 1912. This official residence on University property was intended to keep the President in close touch with campus life. The four-story, 21-room house was designed by McKim, Mead and White, the same firm that designed the original buildings on campus. The house was modelled on embassies and designed to host events with large numbers of guests. As constructed, the first floor contains a library, a dining room and a coat room. The second floor has a drawing room, a music room and a large central hall, which forms one large reception room. The third floor contains the family rooms and the fourth floor is for guests and servants. The kitchen was originally located in the basement.

The first event hosted at the House was a Trustees' dinner held in October 1912. President Butler, the first inhabitant, was allowed to remain in the house after his official retirement in

October 1945. When he died in December 1947, his body rested in state in the gallery on the first floor. After an extensive renovation, the Eisenhowers moved in in May 1948. Presidents Grayson Kirk, William McGill and George Rupp also lived at 60 Morningside Drive. The house is currently occupied by Lee C. Bollinger, the nineteenth President of Columbia University.

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Summary

This collection consists of 6 guest books kept at the President's House, 60 Morningside Drive. The guest books include the signatures of numerous guests attending a wide range of events held at the House during President Nicholas Murray Butler's tenure. Events include dinners with dignitaries, dinners in honor of convocation honorees, commencement dinners, etc.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series: Series I: Guest books, 1912-1947.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located onsite.

Accrual

No additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

2002.054. According to an index card in volume 4, the guest books were received at Columbiana on December 23, 1947.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios in March 2021.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional information about the construction of the President's House can be found in [Central Files \(UA#0001\)](#). Correspondence, newspaper clippings and articles can be found in the [Buildings and grounds collection \(UA#0125\)](#). See also "[House on the Hill](#)" by Richmond B. Williams, Columbia College Today, Fall 1970, 36-39.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Visitors' books
- Columbia University -- Administration
- Columbia University -- Buildings
- Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947

Collection Inventory

Series I: Guest books, 1912-1947

Scope and Contents

The guest books are organized chronologically. The name and date of each event held at President's House are written vertically close to the spine of the book; pencil-drawn, horizontal lines are available for guests to sign in.

Title/Description	Instances	
1912 October 7-1919 June 3	box 1	folder 1
1919 October 7-1926 October 26	box 1	folder 2
1927 April 20-1932 May 31	box 1	folder 3
1932 October 18-1937 May 31	box 1	folder 4
1937 October 14-1941 November 12	box 1	folder 5
1942 January 11-1947 September 23	box 1	folder 6

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