

University of Chicago Library Special Collections Research Center

Guide to the George Ellery Hale Papers c.1889-1950



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Descriptive Summary

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Identifier | ICU.SPCL.HALE |
| Title | Hale, George Ellery. Papers |
| Date | c.1889-1950(inclusive) |
| Size | .5 linear ft. (1 box) |
| Repository | 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 |

Abstract George Ellery Hale, astronomer, astrophysicist. The George Ellery Hale Papers consist of typescript copies of correspondence (1892-1935) and also includes "A Biography of George Ellery Hale: An Outline of Work in Progress" by Helen Wright (1950). The correspondence includes such people as William Rainey Harper, H.M. Goodwin, Charles L. Hutchinson, Rudyard Kipling and Woodrow Wilson.

Information on Use

Access

No restrictions.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection the preferred citation is:

George Ellery Hale. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

George Ellery Hale was born on June 29, 1868 on 263 North La Salle Street in Chicago to William E. and Mary Hale. In 1870 Hale and his family moved to a house at 3989 Drexel Boulevard in Kenwood. He attended school there at Oakland Public School and the Allen Academy. At 14, Hale began attending the Chicago Manual Training School, where he learned some of the skills that enabled him to build "laboratories" at his home, including the construction of a 4" Clark refractor on the roof of his family's home.

In the fall of 1886 Hale entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he majored in physics. In 1889, he invented the spectroheliograph, which made it possible to photograph the Sun's prominences in full daylight. Hale graduated in 1890 and married Eveline Conklin two days later. The couple moved back to Chicago, where Hale's father built him an observatory attached to their house, known as the Kenwood Physical Observatory. That same year Hale received his first appointment at Beloit College.

Hale was hired by the University of Chicago on July 26, 1892, as an Associate Professor of Astrophysics, the first astronomer in the world to hold such a title, and Director of the Observatory by the Trustees of the University of Chicago on condition that the university build a large observatory for him. Chicago businessman Charles Tyson Yerkes funded this endeavor, and the Yerkes Observatory was completed in 1897. In 1895 Hale founded the Astrophysical Journal. Hale left Chicago in 1904 to work at building the Mount Wilson Observatory in Pasadena, California. On January 7, 1905, Hale tendered his resignation as Director of the Yerkes Observatory to President Harper.

Hale had a role in creating a third observatory after Yerkes and Mt. Wilson. In 1920 he brought the California Institute of Technology into existence and Palomar Observatory was built for it.

Besides technical monographs, Hale wrote popular books, including *Depths of the Universe* (1924), *Beyond the Milky Way* (1926), and *Signals from the Stars* (1931).

George Ellery Hale died on February 21, 1938 in Pasadena, California.

Scope Note

The George Ellery Hale Papers consist of typescript copies of correspondence (1892-1935) and also includes "A Biography of George Ellery Hale: An Outline of Work in Progress" by Helen Wright (1950). The correspondence includes such people as William Rainey Harper, H.M. Goodwin, Charles L. Hutchinson, Rudyard Kipling and Woodrow Wilson. The correspondence is arranged by the following topics: Yerkes Observatory, Astro-Physical Journal, Mount Wilson Observatory, California Institute of Technology, National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, International Organization, The Sun, Mount Wilson, Work in the Hale Solar Laboratory, The Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Science and the Humanities (History and Method), and the Two Hundred Inch Telescope.

Related Resources

The following resources are located in the Special Collections Research Center:

Chandrasekhar, S Papers

Harper, William Rainey. Papers

Hutchinson, Charles L., Papers

See also <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/phyast.html>

Subject Headings

- Goodwin, H. M. (Harry Manley), 1870-
- Hale, George Ellery, 1868-1938
- Harper, William Rainey
- Huntington, H.H.

- Hutchinson, Charles L.
- Kipling, Rudyard
- Wilson, Woodrow

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Correspondence-Yerkes Observatory, 1892-1905

Box 1

Folder 2

Correspondence-Astro-Physical Journal (1894), Mount Wilson Observatory (1902-1926), California Institute of Technology (1907-1930)

Box 1

Folder 3

Correspondence-National Academy of Sciences (1908-1919), National Research Council (1915-1933), National Research Fund (1925-1929), International Organization (1918-1932)

Box 1

Folder 4

Correspondence-The Sun (1889-1903), The Sun and Mount Wilson (1905-1906), Work in the Hale Solar Laboratory (1925-1935)

Box 1

Folder 5

Correspondence-The Huntington Library and Art Gallery (1914-1927), Science and the Humanities (History and Method) (1906-1934)

Box 1

Folder 6

Correspondence-The Two Hundred Inch Telescope (1928-1935)

Box 1

Folder 7

"A Biography of George Ellery Hale; An Outline of Work Progress, " 1950, Helen Wright. Part 1

Box 1

Folder 8

"A Biography of George Ellery Hale; An Outline of Work Progress, " 1950, Helen Wright. Part 2

Box 1

Folder 9

"A Biography of George Ellery Hale; An Outline of Work in Progress, " 1950, Helen Wright. Part 3