

# **Guide to the George Ritch White Diaries**

**WA MSS S-2605**



by Jennifer Meehan

2008

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2605

**CREATOR:** White, George Ritch, 1883-1957

**TITLE:** George Ritch White Diaries

**DATES:** 1896-1954

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.6 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The diaries of George Ritch White, which span from 1896 to 1954 (the diary for 1937 is absent), provide an extensive record of one man's life, work, interests, observations, and travels. Diary entries document in detail White's family life, friendships, and hobbies as a boy; his studies as a young man at Tufts University and Yale University; his work as a statistician for the New York, New Haven, & Hartford Railroad; his daily observations, social and housekeeping activities, and income and expense accounts; and, most notably, his extensive travels across the United States and Canada by train.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.whitegr>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.whitegr>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Carmen Valentino on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2008.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The George Ritch White Diaries is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

George Ritch White Diaries. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and organization, in 2008. Descriptive information presented in this finding aid is drawn in large part from the dealer list which accompanied the collection. This information has not been verified and is supplied here in order to provide provisional access to the collection and its contents.

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## George Ritch White (1883-1957)

George Ritch White graduated from Yale in 1906 and worked as a statistician for the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad for 41 years. He kept a diary from the age of 13 to the age of 72, in which he documented his daily life and work, as well as his local, transcontinental, and foreign travels.

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## Scope and Contents

The diaries of George Ritch White, which span from 1896 to 1954 (the diary for 1937 is absent), provide an extensive record of one man's life, work, interests, observations, and travels. Diary entries document in detail White's family life, friendships, and hobbies as a boy; his studies as a young man at Tufts University and Yale University; his work as a statistician for the New York, New Haven, & Hartford Railroad; his daily observations, social and housekeeping activities, and income and expense accounts; and, most notably, his extensive travels across the United States and Canada by train.

Beginning in 1912, the diaries record White's annual vacations, usually traveling by train to various locales across the United States and Canada. Entries often contain minute detail about train travel, including information about train lines, stops, arrival and departure times, quality of service, and condition of the roadbeds. Entries also contain lengthy descriptions of his travel in particular regions, such as the deserts and mountains of the West, the Pacific Coast, and the Southwest. Some of the western locations visited by White during his travels include: Albuquerque, NM; Billings, MT; Calgary, AB; Denver, CO; Glacier Park, MT; Grand Canyon, AZ; Lake Louise, AB; Livingston, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Medicine Hat, AB; Merced, CA; Missoula, MT; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; Salt Lake City, UT; San Diego, CA; San Francisco, CA; Sante Fe, NM; Seattle, WA; Spokane, WA; Vancouver, BC; Whitefish, MT; Winnipeg, MB; and Yosemite, CA.

The diaries also record White's trips to other countries, which he took at various times from the late-1920s to the mid-1950s.

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## Arrangement

Diaries are arranged chronologically.

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**Collection Contents**  
**Diaries, 1896-1954**  
(5 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1-14	1896-1909	1896-1909
b. 2, f. 15-26	1910-1921	1910-1921
b. 3, f. 27-38	1922-1933	1922-1933
b. 4, f. 39-48	1934-1944	1934-1944
b. 5, f. 49-58	1945-1954	1945-1954

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Railroad travel -- United States  
Railroad travel -- West (U.S.)  
Tourism -- United States  
Tourism -- West (U.S.)

### Geographic Names

Canada -- Description and travel  
Northwestern States -- Description and travel  
Pacific States -- Description and travel  
Southwestern States -- Description and travel  
United States -- Description and travel  
West (U.S.) -- Description and travel

### Genres / Formats

Diaries

### Names

White, George Ritch, 1883-1957

### Corporate Body

New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad  
Company