

Guide to the Otis Harrison Fisk Papers

MS 964



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 964

CREATOR: Fisk, Otis Harrison, 1870-

TITLE: Otis Harrison Fisk papers

DATES: 1893-1944

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Chiefly typescripts of both the English and German versions of Otis H. Fisk's (1870-1944) book on the government and legal system of the United States, published in German as *Kunde über Amerika* (1944). Also in the papers are notes on the constitutions of the states of New York and Oklahoma and various diplomas and certificates.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0964>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0964>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Otis H. Fisk, 1954.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Otis Harrison Fisk Papers (MS 964). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Otis Harrison Fisk was born in Covington, Kentucky, on March 5, 1870. His father was Charles Henry Fisk, LL.D. (B.A. Miami Univ. 1863, M.A. 1868; LL.B. Cincinnati Law School 1864), a lawyer in Lexington and Covington, Ky.; son of Lieut. John Flavel Fisk and Elizabeth Sarah (Johnson) Fisk of Covington. His mother was Margaret Anne (Emmal) Fisk; daughter of William B. and Catherine (Miller) Emmal of Lexington. Yale relatives include a cousin, John F. Fisk, 3d, '13 S.

He prepared at private schools and Mt. Auburn Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio. Oration appointment Junior and Senior years; member Yale Union and Beta Theta Pi. He was educated at Yale University, where he received the degree of B.A. in 1892. For the following four years, he studied at the universities of Leipzig, Berlin, and Heidelberg, the latter of which awarded him a Ph.D. in 1895 and a J.D. in 1896. He continued his education at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where he received an LL.B. in 1899. That same year, he was admitted to the Ohio bar and began practicing law, which he would continue to do until his retirement in 1929. Between 1914 and 1929, he was also a lecturer in medical jurisprudence at the University of Cincinnati. He was an assistant professor of civil law Harvard University 1929-30; lecturer on wills and probate practice Xavier University, Cincinnati, 1929-30; attended Y.M.C.A. Training School, Blue Ridge, N.C.; educational and building secretary Camp Sheridan 1918-19; trustee Miami University.

He was the author of numerous books on law: *Stimmrecht und Einzelstaat in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika* (1895, 1896), *The Constitution of the German Empire* (1916), *Presumption in the Law* (1921), *Fundamentals of the Law of Proof in Judicial Proceedings* (1928), and *Kunde über America* (1944); translated into German *The Facts about the Candidate* by Byron Andrews (1904) and from German *Institutes of Roman Law of Civil Procedure* by Leopold Wenger (1940).

He was a member of Cincinnati Bar Association and Masonic order and vestryman, treasurer, and Sunday-school superintendent Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal), Cincinnati, and vestryman St. Andrew's Church, Framingham.

He was married to Helen Whitelaw Pogue on June 5, 1901 and to Mabel Anna Hebb on February 9, 1929. With his first wife, Fisk had four daughters. Otis Fisk died of a cerebral hemorrhage on January 10, 1944, in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

The Otis Harrison Fisk Papers are made up primarily of the typescript draft with manuscript addenda and corrigenda of Fisk's *Information about America* and of the German version, *Kunde über America*, published in 1944. The book describes the structure and organization of the government and legal system of the United States. Accompanying the manuscripts are notes on the United States Constitution and copies

of the constitutions of the states of New York and Oklahoma. The remainder of Fisk's papers consist of diplomas and certificates from the universities he studied at in Germany and the University of Cincinnati, and his certificate of admission to the Ohio bar.

Collection Contents

Information about America

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 - 4 | Typescript | [pre-1944] |
| b. 1, f. 5 - 13 | Appendix I | [pre-1944] |
| b. 2, f. 14 | Appendix II | [pre-1944] |
| b. 2, f. 15 | Footnotes | [pre-1944] |

Kunde über Amerika

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------|
| b. 2, f. 16 - 23 | Typescript | [pre-1944] |
| b. 2, f. 24 - 25 | Appendices I-IV | [pre-1944] |
| b. 2, f. 26 | Constitution of the United States: references | undated |
| b. 2, f. 27 | <i>Constitution of the State of New York</i> English | 1939 |
| b. 2, f. 27 | <i>Constitution of the State of Oklahoma</i> English | undated |

Certificates and diplomas

| | | |
|------|---|------------|
| b. 3 | University of Leipzig: certificates | 1893, 1896 |
| b. 3 | University of Berlin: certificate | 1894 |
| b. 3 | University of Heidelberg: certificates, Ph.D. diploma, J.D. diploma | 1895, 1896 |
| b. 3 | University of Cincinnati: LL.B. diploma | 1899 |
| b. 3 | State of Ohio, Supreme Court: admission to the Ohio bar | 1899 |

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

Law
Lawyers

Geographic Names

Europe
Germany
United States -- Politics and government

Occupations

Authors

Names

Fisk, Otis Harrison, 1870-