

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

GRUBER, WILLIAM R.: Papers, 1929, 1940, 1954

The papers of General William R. Gruber were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in June of 1980 by General Gruber's widow, Helen D. Gruber. On June 30, 1980, she signed an instrument of gift for these papers.

Linear feet shelf space occupied: -1  
Approximate number of pages: 120  
Approximate number of items: 21

Literary property rights in the unpublished writings of William R. Gruber are reserved to the people of the United States.

By agreement with the donor the following classes of documents will be withheld from research:

- (a) Papers and other historical materials that are specifically authorized under criteria established by statute or Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such statute or Executive Order.
- (b) Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of William R. Gruber consist of a travel diary and photographs generated during three distinct time periods: July-September 1929; May 1940; and November 1954, with one additional undated item from sometime during the Eisenhower administration. The manuscript portion of the material consists of one bound diary with handwritten entries dating from July 19 through August 13, 1929, by William R. Gruber; entries dating from August 28 through September 5, 1929, recorded by Dwight D. Eisenhower; and entries dated September 6 through September 13, 1929, written retrospectively by Gruber in May of 1940. The main subject of the diary is the European trip taken by Gruber and his wife Helen in 1929. The first section details the Gruber's visit to the British Isles. From there they went to Paris where they were joined by Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower on a 17-day, 1800 mile motor trip through Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and France.

The diary contains information on expenses, accommodations, and distances traveled, as well as impressions of places visited and experiences encountered. The portion written by Eisenhower is particularly detailed and vivid. They left Paris on August 28, 1929, and drove to Brussels, Belgium. Their route then took them to Bonn, Germany, south along the Rhine River to Coblenz, Heidelberg and through the Black Forest. They then went to Switzerland, spending seven days and visiting Zurich, Lucerne, Interlaken, Montreux, and Geneva, and surviving a harrowing crossing of the Furka Pass high in the Alps. At that point Gruber took over the writing of the diary. [He made notes from which he completed the diary in 1940. From Switzerland the travelers went to Besancon, then to Romagne in France. While the ladies stayed there to visit with a mutual friend, Gruber and Eisenhower toured the World War I battlefields in the area. Eisenhower was an expert guide having just completed work on a guidebook for the Battle Monuments Commission. The Grubers and Eisenhowers returned to Paris on September 13.

Twenty photographs are also included in this accession. Sixteen are pictures taken on the 1929 trip and include both people and scenery. Two additional photographs were taken at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii in 1940 when the Eisenhowers were en route from the Philippines. One of the Hawaii pictures shows Mrs. Eisenhower with leis about her neck. The other shows Dwight Eisenhower, son John, and General C.D. Herron. The two other photographs are individual official portraits of President Eisenhower and Mamie Eisenhower taken during the White House years. Mrs. Eisenhower's photograph is accompanied by a letter from her secretary, dated November 25, 1954. The exact date of the President's photo is unknown. Both pictures are autographed to the Grubers. The photographs have been transferred to the Library's Audiovisual Section, but electrostatic copies were placed with the electrostatic copies of the diary which are available for research. The original diary has been placed in the vault for preservation purposes.

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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|---|--|
| 1 | Travel Diary--July 19 thru July 30, 1929                                   |
|   | Travel Diary--July 31 thru Aug. 13, 1929                                   |
|   | Travel Diary--Aug. 28 thru Sept. 5, 1929 [Written by Dwight D. Eisenhower] |
|   | Travel Diary--Sept. 6 thru Sept. 13, 1929, and miscellaneous materials     |
|   | Photographs--1929, 1949, 1954  |

\*All materials in this box are electrostatic copies. Originals have been removed for the sake of preservation.

END OF CONTAINER LIST