G. Bromley Oxnam Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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Collection Summary

Title: G. Bromley Oxman Papers Span Dates: 1823-1923 Bulk Dates: (bulk 1912-1960) ID No.: MSS35329 Creator: Oxnam, G. Bromley (Garfield Bromley), 1891-1963 Extent: 16,000 items; 137 containers; 54.8 linear feet Language: Collection material in English Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Abstract: Methodist clergyman and theologian. Diaries, correspondence, writings, printed matter, photographs, and miscellaneous material documenting Oxnam's life and work as a clergyman, stance on church-state issues, and controversies relating to Catholicism, anti-communism, and other issues of faith and politics.

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.

People

Athenagoras I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, 1886-1972--Correspondence. Brown, George Smith--Correspondence. Cavert, Samuel McCrea, 1888-1976--Correspondence. Connelly, Matthew J., 1907-1976--Correspondence. Crane, Henry Hitt, 1890-1977--Correspondence. Dulles, John Foster, 1888-1959--Correspondence. Eddy, Sherwood, 1871-1963--Correspondence. Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence. Fry, Franklin Clark, 1900-1968--Correspondence. Harris, Frederick Brown, 1883-1970--Correspondence. Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence. Jackson, Donald Lester, 1910-1981--Correspondence. Lilienthal, David Eli, 1899-1981--Correspondence. McIntire, Carl, 1906-2002--Correspondence. McIntyre, Marvin Hunter, 1878-1943--Correspondence. Newton, Louie D. (Louie Devotie), 1892-1986--Correspondence. Oxnam, G. Bromley (Garfield Bromley), 1891-1963. Parlin, Charles C. (Charles Coolidge), 1898- --Correspondence. Poling, Daniel A. (Daniel Alfred), 1884-1968--Correspondence. Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence. Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence. Sherrill, Henry Knox, 1890-1980--Correspondence. Stidger, William L. (William Le Roy), 1886- --Correspondence. Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950--Correspondence. Taylor, Myron Charles, 1874-1959--Correspondence. Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence. Velde, Harold Himmel, 1910- -- Correspondence. Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965--Correspondence. Welch, Herbert, 1862-1969--Correspondence.

Organizations

Catholic Church--Foreign relations--United States. Catholic Church--Relations--Protestant churches. Church of All Nations (New York, N.Y.) United States. Congress. House. Committee on Un-American Activities.

Subjects Church and state. Methodist Church--United States. Protestant churches--Relations--Catholic Church.

Places United States--Foreign relations--Catholic Church.

Occupations Clergy. Theologians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist clergyman and theologian, were given to the Library of Congress in 1963-1964 by his wife, Ruth Fisher Oxnam.

Processing History

The Oxnam Papers were processed in 1964. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

A note concerning the acquisition of the Oxnam Papers as well as a description of the material appears in the *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress* (July 1964).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of G. Bromley Oxnam are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, G. Bromley Oxnam Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> 1891, Aug. 14 | <i>Event</i> Born, Sonora, Calif. |
|------------------------------|--|
| C | |
| 1913 | A.B., University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. |
| 1914 | Married Ruth Fisher (died 1975) |
| 1915 | S.T.B., Boston University, Boston, Mass. |

| 1916 | Ordained Methodist minister |
|-----------|---|
| 1916-1917 | Pastor, Poplar Methodist Church, Popular, Calif. |
| 1917-1927 | Founder, pastor, and director, Church of All Nations, Los Angeles, Calif. |
| 1919-1923 | Professor of social ethics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. |
| 1926 | Member, American Delegation to Russia |
| 1927-1928 | Professor of practical theology, School of Theology, Boston University, Boston, Mass. |
| 1928-1932 | Secretary, World Peace Commission of the Methodist-Episcopal Church |
| 1928-1936 | President, DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind. |
| 1936 | Elected bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church |
| 1936-1939 | Bishop, Methodist Church, Omaha Area, Omaha, Neb. |
| 1939-1944 | Bishop, Methodist Church, Boston Area, Boston, Mass. |
| 1939-1944 | Chairman, Division of Educational Institutions, Board of Education of the Methodist Church |
| 1940-1948 | Chairman, Committee on Public Information of the Methodist Church |
| 1940-1956 | Secretary, Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church |
| 1942-1945 | Served on National War Labor Board as a special mediator in labor disputes |
| 1942-1945 | Member, Civilian Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Navy |
| 1944-1946 | President, Federal Council of Churches |
| 1944-1952 | Bishop, Methodist Church, New York City Area, New York, N.Y. |
| 1944-1952 | President, Division of Foreign Missions, Board of Missions of the Methodist Church |
| 1945 | Chairman, Commission to Study Postwar Relief Conditions in Germany |
| 1945 | Official visitor for the Joint Chiefs of Staff to army and navy chaplains, Mediterranean Theater of Operations |
| 1946-1948 | Member, President's Committee on Higher Education |
| 1948-1954 | One of the presidents of the World Council of Churches |
| 1952-1960 | Bishop, Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., Area, Washington, D.C. |

1963, Mar. 13 Died, White Plains, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Garfield Bromley Oxnam (1891-1963) consist of diaries, correspondence, subject files, writings, addresses, sermons, lectures, notebooks, scrapbooks, daily records, and related material documenting the span of Bishop Oxnam's long career of religious and public service. The material extends from 1823 to 1963, with the bulk of the papers falling within the period 1912-1960. The collection is organized into eight series: <u>Diaries and Journals</u>; <u>General</u> <u>Correspondence</u>; <u>Subject File</u>; <u>Speech</u>, <u>Article and Book File</u>; <u>Addresses</u>, <u>Lectures</u>, <u>and Sermons</u>; <u>Notes</u>, <u>Miscellaneous Papers</u>, <u>Records</u>, <u>and Reports</u>; <u>Miscellany</u>; and <u>Scrapbooks</u>.

The diaries, subject files, and writings constitute the most important parts of the collection. Extensive and voluminous, the <u>diaries</u> are supplemented by correspondence, newspaper clippings, programs, church bulletins, photographs, articles, book reviews, addresses, sermons, lectures, notes, memoranda, reports, and records. Although there are no diaries for 1922, 1924, 1925, 1927, and 1932, entries for these years are contained in miscellaneous volumes at the end of the series. The diary entries for 1961-1963 are sketchy and sparse.

The <u>Subject File</u> series covers Oxnam's role in controversies over diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican, his participation in the issue of church and state and Protestantism as it related to Catholicism, the charges made against him of un-Americanism, his work with the Church of All Nations in Los Angeles, academic career, and other subjects closely related to Oxnam's life.

The <u>Scrapbooks</u> series presents in great detail Oxnam's life as reported by the press. He was involved in public as well as religious affairs, and his activities and views generated considerable publicity, which is reflected in the <u>Scrapbooks</u>.

Prominent or frequent correspondents include Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Athēnagoras I, George Smith Brown, Samuel McCrea Cavert, Matthew J. Connelly, Henry Hitt Crane, John Foster Dulles, Sherwood Eddy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Franklin Clark Fry, Frederick Brown Harris, Cordell Hull, Donald Lester Jackson, David Eli Lilienthal, Marvin Hunter McIntyre, Carl McIntire, Louie D. Newton, Charles C. Parlin, Daniel A. Polling, Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Henry Knox Sherrill, William L. Stidger, Henry L. Stimson, Myron Charles Taylor, Harry S. Truman, Harold Himmel Velde, Henry A. Wallace, and Herbert Welch. There is also considerable correspondence from the general public, most of it in the <u>Subject File</u>.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in eight series:

- Diaries and Journals, 1903-1963
- <u>General Correspondence, 1914-1963</u>
- <u>Subject File, 1912-1962</u>
- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1960
- <u>Addresses, Lectures, and Sermons, 1914-1960</u>
- <u>Notes, Miscellaneous Papers, Records and Reports, 1895-1960</u>
- <u>Miscellany, 1823-1963</u>
- <u>Scrapbooks, 1912-1960</u>

Description of Series

| Container | Series |
|------------------|---|
| box 1-32 | Diaries and Journals, 1903-1963 Fifty-nine volumes and several folders of loose pages containing lengthy daily entries, correspondence, printed matter, programs, church bulletins, newspaper clippings, photographs, articles, book reviews, addresses, sermons, lectures, notes, memoranda, reports, and records. Chronologically arranged. |
| box 33-37 | <u>General Correspondence, 1914-1963</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization and chronologically thereunder. |
| box 38-71 | <u>Subject File, 1912-1962</u> Correspondence, journals, reports, records, memoranda, articles, book reviews, addresses, sermons, lectures, notes, printed matter, scrapbooks, programs, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Arranged by subject and by specific topic thereunder. A file of miscellaneous subject file is arranged alphabetically. |
| box 72-83 | Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1960 Drafts, typescripts and printed copies of articles, book reviews, typescripts of books and seminar papers, miscellaneous outlines, and related material. Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX 84-100 | Addresses, Lectures, and Sermons, 1914-1960 Bound and unbound outlines, drafts, typescripts, and printed copies. Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder. |
| box 101-109 | Notes, Miscellaneous Papers, Records and Reports, 1895-1960 Bound and unbound. Grouped by type of material. |
| вох 110-111 | Miscellany, 1823-1963 Early newspapers, biographical material, church statistics, newspaper clippings, printed matter, notes, memoranda, and photographs. Grouped by subject or type of material. |
| вох 112-137 | Scrapbooks, 1912-1960 Mounted memoranda, records, reports, notes, church bulletins, programs, early sermons and lecture outlines, miscellaneous papers, printed matter, and newspaper and magazine clippings. Arranged chronologically. |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| box 1-32 | Diaries and Journals, 1903-1963 Fifty-nine volumes and several folders of loose pages containing lengthy daily entries, correspondence, printed matter, programs, church bulletins, newspaper clippings, photographs, articles, book reviews, addresses, sermons, lectures, notes, memoranda, reports, and records. Chronologically arranged. |
| BOX 1 | 1913-1916 |
| BOX 2 | 1916-1918 |
| BOX 3 | 1918-1921 |
| BOX 4 | 1921-1931 |
| BOX 5 | 1931-1934 |
| BOX 6 | 1934-1937 |
| BOX 7 | 1937-1938 |
| BOX 8 | 1938-1939 |
| BOX 9 | 1939-1940 |
| вох 10 | 1940-1941 |
| BOX 11 | 1942-1943 |
| BOX 12 | 1943-1944 |
| вох 13 | 1945, JanMay |
| BOX 14 | 1945, June-Dec. |
| BOX 15 | 1946 |
| BOX 16 | 1946-1947 |
| BOX 17 | 1947-1948 |
| BOX 18 | 1948-1949 |
| BOX 19 | 1949-1950. |
| BOX 20 | 1951 |
| BOX 21 | 1952 |
| BOX 22 | 1953 |
| BOX 23 | 1953-1954, JanAug. |
| BOX 24 | 1954, Sept1955, Dec. |
| BOX 25 | 1955 |
| BOX 26 | 1956 |
| BOX 27 | 1956-1957 |
| BOX 28 | 1958 |
| BOX 29 | 1959 |
| box 30 | 1960 |
| BOX 31 | Miscellaneous 1903-1960 |

Diaries and Journals, 1903-1963

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| | |
| BOX 32 | 1912-1963 |
| | |
| box 33-37 | General Correspondence, 1914-1963 |
| | Letters sent and received. |
| | Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization and |
| | chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX 33 | Russell Alexander, 1935-1938 |
| | Athēnagoras I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, 1951-1962 |
| | George Smith Brown, 1935-1958 |
| | Budapest Reformed Theological Academy, Budapest, Hungary (Bishop |
| | Bereczky, etc.), 1955 |
| | S. Parkes Cadman, 1927-1928 |
| | Chiang Kai-Shek, 1958 |
| | Eli P. Clark, 1930 |
| | Henry Hitt Crane, 1932-1939 |
| | E. Guy Cutshall, 1932-1939 |
| BOX 34 | Andor dePaal, 1949-1950 |
| | John Foster Dulles, 1941-1959 |
| | Sherwood Eddy, 1918-1959 |
| | Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1945-1960 |
| | Frank C. Evans, 1937-1945 |
| | Geoffrey Fisher, 1955-1958 |
| box 35 | G. Hans Grueninger, 1945-1948 |
| | Hermann Hagedorn, 1946- 1957 |
| | Lord Halifax |
| | William D. Hassett, 1945-1950 |
| | Maurice Hindus, 1931 |
| | Frank E. Hines, 1932-1933 |
| | J. Edgar Hoover, 1938, 1947 |
| | Lynn Harold Hough, 1928 |
| | Cordell Hull, 1934-1944 |
| | Jesse H. Jones, 1943-1944 |
| | James R. Joy, 1938-1948 |
| | Frank Knox, 1943 |
| | Albert C. Knudson, 1926-1927 |
| | Lahey Clinic, 1943-1959 |
| | Adna Wright Leonard, 1919-1934 |
| | David Eli Lilienthall, 1940-1962 |
| | Henry B. Longden, 1935-1944 |
| | Henry Robinson Luce, 1945-1950 |
| | John W. McCormack, 1959 |
| | Robert G. McCutchan, 1936-1958 |
| | William F. McDowell, 1928-1937 |
| | Marvin Hunter McIntyre, 1941-1943 |
| | R. Tait McKenzie, 1935 |
| | Paul V. McNutt, 1941-1943 |

General Correspondence, 1914-1963

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| | |
| | Felix M. McWhirter, 1928-1936 |
| BOX 36 | Daniel L. Marsh, 1935-1951 |
| | John Masefield, 1937, undated |
| | John R. Mott |
| | Louie D. Newton, 1946-1953 |
| | William H. Cardinal O'Connell, 1943-1944 |
| | Norman Vincent Peale, 1954-1956 |
| | Kathryn Peck, 1938-1941 |
| | Frances Perkins, 1941-1944 |
| | Milo Perkins, 1943 |
| | Daniel A. Poling, 1938-1960 |
| | John D. Rockefeller, Jr., 1945-1950 |
| | Rockefeller Brothers Fund, 1952 |
| | Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt, 1941-1950 |
| | Margaret Sanger, 1950 |
| | Sasamori, 1937-1947 |
| | Walter John Sherman, 1939-1942 |
| | Francis Cardinal Spellman, 1946-1947 |
| | John R. Steelman, 1943, 1951 |
| | William L. Stidger, 1939-1949 |
| | Henry L. Stimson, 1943-1945 |
| | William E. Sweet, 1939-1941 |
| | Texas (Southwest Texas Conference), 1953 |
| | Myron C. Taylor, 1945-1950 |
| | Harry S. Truman, 1945-1951 |
| BOX 37 | Henry A. Wallace, 1943-1946 |
| DOX OF | Henry F. Ward, 1828-1929 |
| | Earl Warren, 1954-1955 |
| | Herbert Welch, 1953-1961 |
| | Princess Wilhelmina, 1954, 1957 |
| | Charles E. Wilson, 1955 |
| | |
| | Miscellaneous, A-Z, 1914-1963 |
| | Unknown, 1929, 1963 |
| вох 38-71 | Subject File, 1912-1962 |
| | Correspondence, journals, reports, records, memoranda, articles, book reviews, addresses, sermons, lectures, notes, printed matter, scrapbooks, |
| | programs, newspaper clippings, and photographs. |
| | Arranged by subject and by specific topic thereunder. A file of miscellaneous |
| | subject file is arranged alphabetically. |
| BOX 38 | Un-American Activities and Related Material <i>Correspondents include</i> Clyde Royle, Herbert Proymall, Derothes Cable Cary, Kit Clardy, Jaroma Davis |
| | Boyle, Herbert Brownell, Dorothea Cable Cary, Kit Clardy, Jerome Davis, Charles Wesley Flint, Donald Lester Jackson, Verne P. Kaub, Corliss |
| | Lamont, Kenneth Leslie, Harvey M. Matusow, J. Howard McGrath, Carl |
| | McIntire, Louis B. Nichols, Charles C. Parlin, Alan Reitman, Robert Gilman |
| | Smith, Dirk J. Struik, Harold Himmel Velde, and John S. Wood |
| | House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAAC) |

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| | |
| | 1946-1955 |
| | Kit Clardy File |
| | Donald Lester Jackson File |
| | Harold Himmel Velde File |
| | Correspondence with HUAAC Members |
| | Margaret Forsyth and Dorothy McConnell File |
| | Carl Harvey Jackins File |
| | Donald G. Lothrop File |
| | Exhibits |
| | Editorials and Resolutions |
| box 39 | Editorials |
| | Final Exhibit |
| | General File |
| | Newspaper Clippings |
| | Jackson Debate, American Forum of the Air |
| | Oxnam Exhibits |
| | National Council of Churches' response to Rep. Jackson's attacks |
| | Post-Hearing (July 21, 1953) Opinion of HUAAC Committeemen |
| | Harold Himmel Velde Press Release |
| | Proposals for reform of HUAAC |
| | Publications of HUAAC |
| вох 40 | Releases regarding Oxnam |
| | Scholarly or Legal Studies |
| | Public Correspondence |
| BOX 41 | Public Correspondence |
| | Miscellaneous Evidence |
| | Miscellany |
| BOX 42 | Hearing, July 21, 1953 |
| | Correspondence |
| | Statement to HUAAC |
| | Documentation for Statement |
| | Material |
| | Printed Transcript of Hearing |
| BOX 43 | Mimeographed Transcript of Hearing |
| | Printed Matter |
| | Newspapers |
| | Index to Newspaper Headlines |
| | Miscellany |
| | Radio Reports |
| BOX 44 | Scrapbook of newspaper clippings |
| BOX 45 | Personalities, 1944-1958 |
| | Louis Budenz |
| | Edgar C. Bundy |
| | D. B. Cooper |
| | John T. Flynn |
| | Stephen H. Fritchman |

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| | Deleh W. Castar |
| | Ralph W. Gwinn Philip S. Harper |
| | Philip S. Harper Mrs. Douglas Horton |
| | Mrs. Douglas Horton |
| | E. Stanley Jones Verne P. Kaub |
| | Owen Lattimore |
| | Kenneth Leslie |
| | Fulton J. Lewis, Jr. |
| | Carl McIntire |
| | |
| BOX 46 | Joe McCarthy J. B. Matthews |
| BUX 40 | Louis B. Nichols |
| | Charles C. Parlin |
| | Daniel A. Poling |
| | Herbert A. Philbrick |
| | |
| | Bishop Bernard J. Shell Robert Gilman Smith |
| вох 47 | |
| BUX 47 | Funds, Organizations, Publications, 1934-1959 |
| | Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals American Civil Liberties Union |
| | |
| | American Committee for Spanish Freedom |
| | American Committee for Yugoslav Relief |
| | American Council of Christian Churches |
| DOX 40 | American Council of Christian Laymen (Verne P. Kaub) |
| BOX 48 | American Mercury The American Nationalist |
| | <i>The American Nationalist</i> American Round Table on India |
| | |
| | American-Russian Institute |
| | American-Soviet Friendship; National Council and Massachusetts Council |
| | Christian Beacon |
| | Civil Rights Congress |
| | Classmate |
| | Committee for Constitutional Government (Edward A. Rumely, et al.) |
| | Constitutional Protective League |
| | Council of Bishops on Methodist Federation for Social Action |
| | Council of Bishops regarding Committee on Un-American Activities |
| | Fellowships for Reconciliation |
| | Free Chinese Literature Campaign |
| | Friends of the Spanish Republic |
| | Fund for the Republic |
| | Hoosier Legionnaire |
| | Iron Curtain Refugee Campaign |
| | The Knoxville Journal |
| box 49 | Methodist Federation for Social Action |
| | Methodist Information |

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| | |
| | Militant Truth |
| | Nashville Banner |
| | National Committee for Strengthening Congress |
| | National Council of Churches |
| | National Laymen's Council |
| | The Protestant |
| | Sons of the American Revolution |
| | Soviet Russia Today |
| | United Neighborhood Houses |
| | Washington Post |
| | World Council of Churches |
| вох 50 | Un-American Activities and Related Material |
| | Articles and Books, 1927-1955 |
| | Oxnam's books |
| | Behind Soviet Power by Jerome Davis |
| вох 51 | "Methodism's Pink Fringe" by Stanley High |
| | (1 folder) |
| BOX 52 | (1 folder) |
| | "The Problem of the Ex-Communist" by Sidney Hook |
| | The Road Ahead by John T. Flynn |
| | "To Make Our System Secure" by Vannevar Bush |
| | "Communism and the Protestant Clergy" by J. B. Matthews, Reinhold |
| | Niebuhr and Oxnam |
| вох 53 | Miscellaneous Files and Subjects, 1926-1960 |
| | American Broadcasting Co. (Paul Harvey) |
| | Attacks on Education |
| | Attacks on Federal and National Council of Churches |
| | Willis Ballinger (Station WPIK) |
| | Boston University; Boston, Mass., President Case, Professor Halpern, |
| | and Whittaker Chambers |
| | Herbert Brownell and J. Edgar Hoover |
| | <i>Bureau County Republican</i> (M. E. Take) |
| | Case for Freedom |
| | Case Studies in Personnel Security |
| | Christian Church and Communism |
| | Communism |
| BOX 54 | Department of Justice |
| | Communists as Witnesses |
| | Southern Conference Educational Fund |
| | Fellowship of Reconciliation |
| | General Miscellany |
| box 55 | Investigating Committees |
| | Philharmonic Auditorium, Los Angeles, Calif., Incident |
| | "Protestantism Answers Hate" |
| | "Radical Charges" |
| | "The Red Network" |
| | Radio and Television |

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| | |
| | Santa Monica Attacks |
| | Security Procedures |
| BOX 56 | Harvey M. Matusow File, 1945-1955 |
| | Printed Matter, 1922-1957 |
| box 57 | Church of All Nations, 1912-1940 |
| | Miscellaneous Notes, 1917-1927 |
| | Miscellaneous Papers and Records, 1917-1927 |
| BOX 58 | Records, 1910-1922 |
| | Miscellaneous Papers and Records, 1917-1928 |
| box 59 | Boy's Work, 1929-1940 |
| | Miscellany and Printed Matter, 1919-1939 |
| | Photographs, 1917-1927 |
| | Miscellaneous Papers and Records, 1917-1927 |
| BOX 60 | Letter of Commendation, 1926-1934 |
| | Worker's College, 1922 |
| | City Paris, France, 1924 |
| | Building Plans, undated |
| | Financial Records, 1912-1924 |
| | Parish Records, 1919-1921 |
| BOX 61 | Diplomatic Relations with the Vatican, 1939-1954 Correspondents include |
| | Eugene Carson Blake, Samuel McCrea Cavert, Matthew J. Connelly, |
| | Franklin Clark Fry, Frederick Brown Harris, B. R. Lacy, Jr., Henry F. |
| | Schuk, Henry Knox Sherrill, Roy H. Short, and Myron C. Taylor |
| | Roman Catholic-Protestant Relations |
| | Mark Clark Appointment |
| | Correspondence from Ministers |
| | General Correspondence |
| BOX 62 | (1 folder) (1 folder) |
| DOA 02 | Myron C. Taylor and World Council of Churches |
| | Myron C. Taylor |
| | National Council of Churches; Coordinating Committee; United States |
| | Diplomatic Relations with Vatican |
| | Correspondence with President Harry S. Truman |
| | Federal Council of Churches (opinions of diplomatic relations) |
| | (1 folder) |
| BOX 63 | (1 folder) |
| | Press Releases |
| | General |
| BOX 64 | Catholicism and Protestantism, 1939-1952 |
| BOX 65 | Miscellaneous Subjects, 1913-1962 |
| | Addresses, DePauw Alumni Club, by W. P. Evans, 1931 |
| | Better America Federation, 1922-1931 |
| | Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Mass. |
| | Personal Record, 1913-1915 |
| | Class Rolls, 1927-1928 |
| | General, 1938-1939 |

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| | |
| | Christian Church and the Responsible Society, 1944-1955 |
| | Charges, Colonel LeRoy Smith and related papers, 1923-1931 |
| BOX 66 | Church Union, 1920-1955 |
| | Churches and Air Manual Issue, 1960 |
| | Committee for Preservation of Methodism, 1952-1953 |
| | Democracy and Totalitarianism, 1936-1941 |
| | John Foster Dulles, 1946-1948 |
| BOX 67 | Sherwood Eddy, 1931-1942 |
| | Fascism, 1924-1941 |
| | Ghandi, Mahatma, 1923-1948 |
| | Garrett Labor Thesis, 1928, 1958-1960 |
| | Grace Church of Wilmington, Delaware, 1952-1953 |
| | Inter-Church World Movement of North America, 1920 |
| | Jurisdictional System, 1957 |
| | Kemal Ataturk, 1922-1938 |
| | Kresge Foundation, 1958-1959 |
| | Labor, Arbitration Decisions, 1941-1942 |
| BOX 68 | League for Organization of Progress, 1931 |
| | David Eli Lilienthal, 1938-1949 |
| | Edwin Markham, 1924, 1932 |
| | Methodist Commission on Camp Activities, 1955-1946 |
| | Methodist Conferences |
| | Programs, 1948-1960 |
| | Baltimore-Washington Conference, 1953-1954 |
| BOX 69 | Peninsula Conference, 1956-1958 |
| | General Conference, 1923 |
| | General Conference, 1936 |
| | Methodist Federation for Social Action, 1942-1956 |
| | Benito Mussolini, 1913, 1928, 1936 |
| BOX 70 | National Council of Christians and Jews, 1944-1951 |
| | United Auto Workers; Public Review Board, 1957-1962 |
| | World Council of Churches, 1948-1955 |
| | (1 folder) |
| BOX 71 | (1 folder) |
| BOX 72-83 | Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1960 |
| BOATE OU | Drafts, typescripts and printed copies of articles, book reviews, typescripts |
| | of books and seminar papers, miscellaneous outlines, and related |
| | material. |
| | Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder. |
| вох 72 | Article File, 1918-1960 |
| DUATE | Bound |
| | The Modern Samaritan of the Church of All Nations, 1922-1923 |
| | In Days to Come, 1922-1923 |
| | Miscellaneous Articles |
| вох 73 | Articles and Book Reviews |
| | |

| Container | Contents |
|---------------|--|
| | |
| | 1929-1941 |
| box 74 | 1941-1947 |
| вох 75 | 1943-1954 |
| вох 76 | 1946-1960 |
| | Today and Tomorrow in the Omaha Area, 1936-1937 |
| | Facing Facts, 1935-1937 |
| box 77 | Unbound |
| | 1918-1943 |
| BOX 78 | 1944-1948 |
| вох 79 | 1949-1951 |
| BOX 80 | 1952-1958 |
| | Undated |
| BOX 81 | Book File, 1927-1958 |
| | The Church and Contemporary Change, 1950 |
| | On This Rock, 1951 |
| | The Christian's Vocation, 1943 |
| | Preaching in a Revolutionary Age, 1944 |
| | Labor and Tomorrow's World, 1945 |
| BOX 82 | Behold Thy Mother, 1944 |
| | Facing the Future Un-Afraid, circa 1944 |
| | Ethical Ideals of Jesus, 1941 |
| | By This Sign Conquer, 1942 |
| | Russian Impressions, 1927 |
| | Youth and New America, 1928 |
| | Personalities in Social Reform, 1950 |
| | Atlantic Monthly Press Chapter on Church Union, 1949-1950 |
| | Christian Church and the State, undated |
| | Catholicism, undated |
| BOX 83 | Miscellany, 1913-1955 |
| | "The Franciscans in California" (Seminar Paper), 1915 |
| | Miscellaneous Outlines, 1913-1921 |
| | Press Release, 1955 |
| | Conversation with Henry Hitt Crane, 1955 |
| | "Is Peace a Realizable Ideal", undated |
| BOX 84-100 | Addresses, Lectures, and Sermons, 1914-1960 |
| | Bound and unbound outlines, drafts, typescripts, and printed copies. |
| | Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX 84 | Bound |
| | Summaries of Addresses |
| | 1930-1936 |
| BOX 85 | 1919-1942 |
| BOX 86 | 1942-1947 |
| BOX 87 | 1947-1952 |
| BOX 88 | 1948-1955 |
| box 89 | 1953-1960 |

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1960

Addresses, Lectures, and Sermons, 1914-1960

| Container | Contents |
|-------------|---|
| BOX 90 | Methodist Radio Hour, 1938-1939 |
| BOX 91 | Radio Meditations, 1953 |
| 201101 | Radio Addresses, 1934-1953 |
| | National Vespers, 1946-1948 |
| BOX 92 | Unbound |
| | 1922-1944 |
| вох 93 | 1945-1947 |
| BOX 94 | 1947-1950 |
| BOX 95 | 1951-1955 |
| BOX 96 | 1956-1960 |
| BOX 97 | Undated |
| BOX 98-99 | Outlines and Material, 1914-1958 |
| вох 100 | Lecture Records, 1923-1960 |
| вох 101-109 | Notes, Miscellaneous Papers, Records and Reports, 1895-1960 |
| | Bound and unbound. |
| | Grouped by type of material. |
| вох 101 | Notes and Papers, 1895-1958 |
| | Philosophy, 1914 |
| | Miscellaneous Book Notes and Papers, 1914-1915 |
| | Municipal Administration, 1915-1916 |
| BOX 102 | Papers on the Literature of Social Protest, 1921 |
| | Inter-Church Survey, 1912-1922 |
| box 103 | Boston University, Boston, Mass., Miscellaneous Notes, 1927-1928 |
| BOX 104 | Life and Teaching of Jesus, circa 1915 |
| | American Seminar Notes, Europe and Washington, 1934-1941 |
| | University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., Notes, 1919-1921 |
| | Book Notes, 1895-1943 |
| box 105 | The Syrian Christian, 1919 |
| | Sun Yat-sen, undated |
| | Thomas Masaryk, undated |
| | Lenin, Vladimir Illich, undated |
| | Confucius, undated |
| | Miscellaneous, 1902-1958 |
| BOX 106 | Records and Reports, 1895-1960 |
| | Miscellaneous Personal Record, 1895-1923 |
| box 107 | Memorandum of Prosecutions under California Criminal Syndicalist Law, 1919-1924 |
| | Minutes of Area Meetings, District Superintendents, Omaha, Nebr., Area, 1936-1939 |
| | Library Accession Records |
| BOX 108 | Library Accession Records |
| BOX 109 | Library Accession Records |
| | Report to Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Committee on Episcopacy, 1940 |
| | Avery Reports, Survey of Board of Education of Los Angeles, Calif., 1922 |

| Container | Contents |
|-------------|---|
| | |
| | Miscellaneous, 1925-1960 |
| вох 110-111 | Miscellany, 1823-1963 |
| | Early newspapers, biographical material, church statistics, newspaper clippings, printed matter, notes, memoranda, and photographs. Grouped by subject or type of material. |
| | Grouped by subject of type of material. |
| вох 110 | Biographical, 1891-1963 |
| | Church Statistics, 1949-1960 |
| | Ralph W. Hufferd Case, 1934-1939 |
| | Protestantism Today, 1949 |
| | Open Road, 1949 |
| | Norman Thomas, 1931 |
| | John Wesley, 1931 |
| | New England Methodism, 1923-1890 |
| | DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., 1928-1936 |
| | General |
| | Photographs |
| | 1872-1958 |
| вох 111 | 1872-1958 |
| | Newspaper Clippings, 1944-1946 |
| | Printed Matter, 1923-1960 |
| вох 112-137 | Scrapbooks, 1912-1960 |
| | Mounted memoranda, records, reports, notes, church bulletins, programs, early sermons and lecture outlines, miscellaneous papers, printed matter, and newspaper and magazine clippings. |
| | Arranged chronologically. |
| вох 112 | Barca Class, Los Angeles, Calif., 1912-1913 |
| | Miscellaneous California Clippings, 1913-1927 |
| | Bulletin City Parish, 1924-1927 |
| BOX 113 | Miscellaneous Clippings |
| | 1929 |
| BOX 114 | 1930-1932 |
| BOX 115 | 1930 |
| BOX 116 | 1931 |
| BOX 117 | 1932-1933 |
| BOX 118 | 1933-1935 |
| box 119 | 1935-1936 |
| BOX 120 | 1936-1937 |
| вох 121 | Programs, 1936-1937 |
| | Miscellaneous Clippings, May 1936 |
| BOX 122 | Miscellaneous Clippings and Programs |
| | 1937-1938 |
| box 123 | 1939-1940 |
| BOX 124 | 1941-1942 |
| вох 125 | 1943-1944 |

Scrapbooks, 1912-1960

| Container | Contents | |
|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| | | |
| вох 126 | 1945 | |
| BOX 127 | 1946 | |
| BOX 128 | 1947-1948 | |
| BOX 129 | 1949 | |
| вох 130 | 1950-1951 | |
| вох 131 | 1952 | |
| BOX 132 | 1953 | |
| box 133 | Hearing clippings, 1953 | |
| вох 134 | Miscellaneous clippings | |
| | 1954 | |
| вох 135 | 1954 | |
| вох 136 | 1955-1957 | |
| вох 137 | 1958-1960 | |