

# Guide to the Herbert Cookman Withey Papers 1891-1939





## Herbert Cookman Withey Collection

1891-1939

1.64 cubic feet

gcah.ms.2327

The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

### Biographical Note

Herbert Cookman Withey (1873-1937) was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, on June 8, 1873. At twelve, he went with his parents, Amos E. and Irene Withey, to the interior of Angola, with the original Bishop William Taylor party in 1885. From his early youth he, like his parents, was devoted to mission work. Withey combined evangelistic, educational, and industrial service in his Christian ministry to the Angolans. He learned the local languages and translated Pilgrims Progress, the catechism, the Discipline, the Psalms, and the New Testament into those languages. At the time of his death on February 9, 1937, he was working on a translation of the New Testament.

### Scope Note

The Herbert Cookman Withey papers comprise a series of diaries and journals, correspondence, photographs and assorted magazines containing articles authored by Withey and others which afford an intimate view of the Angolan work. They represent a rich resource for studying the cultural, historic, economic and religious climates on the mission field. Place names that are mentioned include Kalundo, Sengue, Nhangue, Kamongua, Dondo, and Pampas. There is a useful description of his work on Quionga station and the resurgence of Roman Catholicism in the area. There is information about a missionary's program while on furlough, notes on Withey's work in the continuing translation of the Scriptures into the Kimbundu language, the effect of his ministry upon an African village and the effect of the Great Depression upon the mission work.

Withey provides much useful information concerning the Angolan mission and related topics. This is documented in a large collection of photos depicting mission facilities and missionaries. Withey's materials also include articles, clippings and photos. They greatly enhance the resources for learning of the Angola mission personal matters and finance while revealing the hardships and sacrifices made by missionaries and their families.

### Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The Herbert C. Withey collection is arranged in four categories. The first section contains his Diaries and Journals. In the second section is the correspondence which includes a variety of letters, some from him as well as letters from others to him. The third section contains publications from magazines which were either written by Withey or written about him. The

final section holds an array of photographs which are divided into two parts. The first is a collection of family photos, and the second is a major assortment of images and photo scrapbooks depicting mission facilities and many of the missionaries who worked at these sites.

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Herbert Cookman Withey Collection, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the items' call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## Subject Terms

### *Aditonal Creators - Personal*

Withey, Amos E..

### *Subject Names - Personal*

Taylor, Williiam

Withey, Irene.

### *Subject Topics*

Biblical scholars

Missionaries

Missionaries' wives

Political, Practical.

Publishers

### *Subject Geographic*

Angola.

### *Genre*

Articles.

Correspondence

Diaries

Photograph albums

Photographs

### *Occupations*

Missionary

Teacher.

## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1553-2-1:1	Correspondence	1933
1553-2-1:2	Correspondence	1934-1939
1553-2-1:3	Magazines and Articles	1886-1938
1553-2-1:4	Magazines, Articles, and Clippings	1891-1938
1553-2-1:5	Journal	1891-1893
1553-2-1:6	Journal	1894-1897
1553-2-1:7	Journal	1899
1553-2-1:8	Journal	1900
1553-2-1:9	Journal	1906-1908
1553-2-1:10	Journal	1908-1912
1553-2-1:11	Log Book	1921
1553-2-1:12	Diary	1927
1553-2-1:13	Diary Notes	1929
1553-2-1:14	Diary	1930-1931
1553-2-1:15	Diary	1932
1553-2-1:16	Diary Notes	1933
1553-2-1:17	Diary Notes	1934
1553-2-1:18	Diary Notes	1935
1553-2-1:19	Film Negatives	1922-1931
1553-2-1:20	Withey Family Photos	Undated
1553-2-1:21	Angola Mission and Missionary Photos	Undated
1553-2-2:1	Angola Mission Photo Album	1885-1908
1553-2-3:1	Angola Mission Photo Album	Undated
1553-2-4:1	Angola Mission Photo	Undated