

# Guide to the Reverdy Cassius Ransom Papers 1886-1949



# DREW



## Reverdy Cassius Ransom Papers

1886-1949

0.45 cubic feet

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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

Reverdy Cassius Ransom (1861-1959), African Methodist Episcopal Bishop, was born in Flushing, Ohio, on January 4, 1861. He was educated at Wilberforce University, where he graduated in theology in 1886, and at Oberlin College. He was converted in 1881, licensed to preach in 1883, ordained deacon in 1886 and elder in 1888. He held pastorates in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York. He was elected to the episcopacy from the editorship of the Church Review in 1924. Bishop Ransom was an outstanding exponent of the Social Gospel. He delivered the invocation at the Democratic National Convention in 1940 and was a founder of the famous Niagra Movement, the forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

### Scope Note

Ransom's papers reflect four different topics: African-American church history with an emphasis on the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its social beliefs, the role of the clergy, racism and travels. There is a history of the church in the Manuscripts folder along with a number of other works covering a plethora of topics related to Ransom's ministry and viewpoints. A separate manuscript folder talks about his vision for the role of clergy in the ministry during the 1930's. Two documents on the AME Social Creed reflect part of Ransom's influence in this area on the denomination. Part of the correspondence revolves around his work in the church as editor and pastor but the main body centers on a 1906 race incident Ransom experienced on a Pullman car in Tennessee. Though the letters do not reveal the specific incident, they do document the outrage it produced amongst friends and the legal community. Correspondence to Emma, his wife, is a travel log of his 1901 trip to Europe where he traveled with other AME leaders on a lecture tour.

### Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Material is arranged by record type.

### Related Materials

Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom collection, Payne Theological Seminary

Reverdy C. Ransom collection, Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University

### Access Restrictions



There are no restrictions regarding this collection. Copyright still owned by Drew. Permissions to publish must be directed to Drew.

## **Restrictions on Use**

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

## **Preferred Citation**

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Reverdy Cassius Ransom Papers, Methodist Collection - Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## **Index Terms**

### ***Subject Topics***

Church and social problems  
Ministry  
Racism  
Travel

### ***Subject Geographic***

Europe  
United States

### ***Genre***

Correspondence  
Manuscripts

## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2132-3-5:1	General Correspondence	1886-1918
2132-3-5:2	Letters To Wife From Europe	1901
2132-3-5:3	Ephemera	1920
2132-3-5:4	Social Creed of the African Methodist Church	Undated
2132-3-5:5	Social Role of The Negro Minister, The	1932
2132-3-5:6	Manuscripts	1898-1949