

Herbert Welch Papers

1880-1973



DREW

Herbert Welch Papers

1880-1973

3.3 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

Herbert Welch (1862-1969), American Methodist Bishop, was born on November 7, 1862 in New York City to Peter A. and Mary Loveland Welch. He was educated at Wesleyan University, Drew Theological Seminary and Oxford University. Welch received various honorary degrees from eight different American universities. Adelaide Frances McGee became his wife on June 8, 1890, which produced two daughters, Dorothy and Elenor. The New York Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church ordained Welch as a deacon in 1892 and Elder in 1894. After serving several pastorates, he was elected President of Ohio Wesleyan University in 1905. In 1907, he and four other Methodist clergymen created the Methodist Federation for Social Service of which he became the first president. The 1916 General Conference elected Welch to the episcopacy and was assigned to Japan and Korea area until 1928. While serving in Korea, Welch created the Affirmation of Faith, or better known as the Korean Creed, for the Korean Methodist Church when it became autonomous. Later this same creed became one of the four Affirmations of Faiths in the Methodist "Book of Worship." Welch was reassigned to the Pittsburgh episcopal area from 1928 to 1932. After the 1932 General Conference, he was sent back overseas and served as bishop to the Shanghai area from which he retired in 1936. Welch became widely known as a strong proponent of furthering human rights during his tenure in the Far East. The topic of China becoming communist and the solution of how to deal with it was the subject of many of his sermons, lectures and articles. Because of his knowledge and commentary on the Communist takeover, Welch eventually became vice chairman of the Council against Communist aggression. In 1938, the retired Bishop was asked by the Council of Bishops to serve as Episcopal interim of the Boston area until 1940. Soon after that he was recalled again and appointed as Chair of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief (MCOR) from 1940 to 1948. During his time as head of MCOR Welch was responsible for raising and distributing eight million dollars in relief funds. In 1948, Bishop Welch retired for the third and last time. During retirement, lectureships brought him to numerous universities. He was honored by the governments of China, Japan, and Korea for his prior service. Japan's government bestowment on him the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure. Welch was a prolific author writing numerous articles and books. Not all of his ministry was by the book as can be seen when he performed the first ever baptism by phone at the age of 80. Welch lived in New York City until his death on April 4, 1969 at the age of 106. Bishop Welch is known for being the longest serving Methodist Bishop since the church's founding.

Scope Note

This collection includes correspondence to and from Welch and correspondence between others discussing subjects pertaining to Welch. It includes letters from the period of 1890-1970. There are also several undated letters. There are more than 580 letters in this collection. The letters discuss missionary work, episcopal work, general church matters and Bishop Welch's work at



Ohio Wesleyan University. They also contain personal, general and family subjects such as happy birthday letters. There are several letters from notable people including Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. There are letters also between Welch and other notable clergymen in the Methodist church. This collection also includes published materials by Welch. These include articles, pamphlets, booklets, prayers, sermons, extracts from his book and reviews. They are dated 1897-1965. There are also some undated published materials. The subjects of these published materials by Welch include writings on missionary work, commentary on current events, personal memoirs, writings about episcopal work, writings about faith and other religious matters and writings about general church matters. Commentary on current events includes such things as Welch's condemnation of human rights violations in China. Also, in the collection are personal manuscripts written by Welch. These manuscripts are dated 1887- 1966 and there are also several undated manuscripts. The manuscripts include sermons, prayers, personal writings and reflections and speeches. These manuscripts deal with current events, church matters, Welch's work in his various positions and religious subjects. The collection also contains biographical materials. They are dated 1890-1970 and there are several undated materials. These biographical materials include published articles, writings, speeches, radio broadcast scripts and pamphlets pertaining to Welch's work in the church and as president of Ohio Wesleyan University, Welch's personal life and current events relating to Welch and the various places he spent his life. There are also pictures of Welch and honorary degrees, badges and medals given to Welch. Artifacts of note include the badges worn by Welch during the unification ceremonies of the Methodist church in 1939.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

ARTIFACTS.

MINISTRY.

Correspondence

LETTERS TO WELCH.

LETTERS FROM WELCH.

LETTERS ABOUT WELCH.

Writings

PRAYERS.

SERMONS.

SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES.

REFLECTIONS AND OTHER ESSAYS.

Published Materials

CLIPPINGS.

MANUSCRIPTS AND OTHER MATERIALS.

Related Materials

Bishop John McKendree Springer Collection

Records of the United Methodist Church. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Administrative Files Series of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church

Records of the Mission Education and Cultivation Program Department of the General Board of Global Ministries

Administrative files of United Methodist Communications



Papers of Marion Conrow

Mission Biographical Reference Files

Joseph Crane Hartzell Papers

Harold Paul Sloan Papers

Access Restrictions

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.

Restrictions on Use

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

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Herbert Welch Papers, 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

Additonal Creators - Personal

Chiang, May-ling Soong, 1897-2003

Additional Creators - Corporate

Genre

Articles
Correspondence
Degrees, academic
Manuscripts
Medals
Obituaries
Pamphlets
Photographs
Prayers
Reminiscences
Sermons

Functions

Subject Topics

Bishops
Grace (Theology)
Methodism
Methodist Church-Government
Methodist Church-Missions
Methodist universities and colleges



Missions-China
Missions-Japan
Missions-Korea
Sermons
Worship

Subject - Personal Names

Wesley, John

Subject Geographic

China
Japan
Korea
United States

Subject Topics

Bishops
Grace (Theology)
Methodism
Methodist Church-Government
Methodist Church-Missions
Methodist universities and colleges
Missions-China
Missions-Japan
Missions-Korea
Sermons
Worship

Subject - Personal Names

Functions

Functions

Subject - Corporate Names

Subject - Corporate Names

Methodist Church (U.S.)
Methodist Episcopal Church

Container List

Biographical

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-4:1	Biographical Material	1890-1915
2127-7-4:2	Biographical Material	1916-1928
2127-7-4:3	Biographical Material	1929-1940
2127-7-4:4	Biographical Material	1941-1955
2127-7-4:5	Biographical Material	1956-1961
2127-7-4:6	Biographical Material	1962
2127-7-4:8	Biographical Material	1965-1970
2127-7-4:9	Biographical Material	Undated
2127-7-4:10	Drew University	1937-1969
2127-7-4:7	Biographical Material	1963-1964
2127-7-4:11	Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn	1880-1895
2127-7-4:12	Ohio Wesleyan University	1905-1964
2127-7-4:13	Wesleyan University	1898-1971
2127-7-4:14	Photographs	1905-1966

Artifacts

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2128-7-1:1	Wood Case made from John Wesley's Pulpit	1882
2128-7-1:3	Children's Medal Celebrating American Methodism	1886
2128-7-1:2	First Centenary Coins - Two items	1884
2128-7-1:4	Delegate Badge from First General Conference of Korean Methodist Church	1930
2128-7-1:5	First Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Badges (2)	1940
2128-7-1:6	Third Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Badge	1948
2128-7-1:7	Fifth Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Badge	1956
2128-7-1:8	Sixth Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Badges(2)	1960
2128-7-1:9	Bicentennial of American Methodism Medallion	1966
2127-7-4:19	Drew University Honorary Degree	1966
2127-7-4:20	Photographs From Drew University Centennial Convocation	1966
2127-7-4:18	Papers From Photograph Book given by Drew University	1966

Ministry

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-4:15	China	1935-1958
2127-7-4:16	Japan	1921-1938
2127-7-4:17	Korea	1916-1964
2127-7-5:1	Methodist Committee For Overseas Relief	1941-1955
2127-7-5:2	Methodist Episcopal Church, Commission on Interdenominational Relations	1928-1935
2127-7-5:3	Methodist Federation For Social Action	1950
2127-7-5:4	Methodism In Asia	1922-1932
2127-7-5:5	Pastorates: Bedford Station, New York	1890
2127-7-5:6	Pastorates: Chester Hill Church, Mt. Vernon, New York	1953
2127-7-5:7	Pastorates: St. Luke's Church, New York City, New York	1892-1896
2127-7-5:8	Pastorates: Summerfield Church, Brooklyn, New York	1893-1898

Correspondence Letters to Welch

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-6:1	Correspondence	1891-1904
2127-7-6:2	Correspondence	1910-1915



Herbert Welch Papers

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-6:3	Correspondence	1916-1928
2127-7-6:4	Correspondence	1929-1932
2127-7-6:5	Correspondence	1933-1937
2127-7-6:6	Correspondence	1938-1945
2127-7-6:7	Correspondence	1946-1950
2127-7-6:8	Correspondence	1951-1953
2127-7-6:9	Correspondence	1954-1955
2127-7-6:10	Correspondence	1956-1958
2127-7-6:12	Correspondence	1961-1962
2127-7-6:11	Correspondence	1959-1960
2127-7-6:13	Correspondence	1963-1964
2127-7-6:14	Correspondence	1965
2127-7-6:15	Correspondence	1966
2127-7-6:16	Correspondence	1967
2127-7-6:17	Correspondence	1968-1969
2127-7-6:18	Correspondence	Undated

Letters from Welch

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-6:19	Correspondence	1890-1901
2127-7-6:20	Correspondence	1910-1915
2127-7-6:21	Correspondence	1916-1923
2127-7-6:23	Correspondence	1929-1934
2127-7-6:24	Correspondence	1935-1938
2127-7-6:25	Correspondence	1942-1945
2127-7-6:26	Correspondence	1947-1955
2127-7-6:27	Correspondence	1956-1960
2127-7-6:28	Correspondence	1961-1969
2127-7-6:22	Correspondence	1924-1927

Letters About Welch

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-6:29	Correspondence	1950-1973

Writings Prayers

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-5:9	Prayers	1958-1961

Sermons

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-5:10	Sermons	1958-1965
2127-7-5:11	Sermons	1911-1952
2127-7-5:12	Sermons	1903-1910

Speeches and Addresses

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-5:13	Speeches and Addresses	1949-1966
2127-7-5:14	Speeches and Addresses	1909-1947



Reflections and Other Essays

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-5:15	Reflections and Other Essays	1940-1957
2127-7-5:16	Reflections and Other Essays	1921-1937
2127-7-5:17	Reflections and Other Essays	1962

*Published Materials
Clippings*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-7:1	Clippings	1897-1905
2127-7-7:2	Clippings	1906-1916
2127-7-7:3	Clippings	1917-1924
2127-7-7:4	Clippings	1925-1929
2127-7-7:5	Clippings	1930-1932
2127-7-7:6	Clippings	1933-1939
2127-7-7:7	Clippings	1940-1945
2127-7-7:8	Clippings	1946-1950
2127-7-7:9	Clippings	1951-1955
2127-7-7:10	Clippings	1956-1959
2127-7-7:11	Clippings	1960-1962
2127-7-7:12	Clippings	1963-1965
2127-7-7:13	Clippings	1940

Manuscripts and Other Materials

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2127-7-7:14	Prayers	Undated
2127-7-7:15	A	1957-1962
2127-7-7:16	B	Undated
2127-7-7:17	C	1897-1963
2127-7-7:18	E	1961
2127-7-7:19	F	1926-1932
2127-7-7:20	G	1965
2127-7-7:21	H	1946-1959
2127-7-7:22	M	1900-1963
2127-7-7:23	O	1930-1955
2127-7-7:24	P	1956
2127-7-7:25	R	1924
2127-7-7:26	S	1908-1958
2127-7-7:27	T	1942
2127-7-7:28	W	1942-1959