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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.AMESES

Title Ames, Edward Scribner. Papers

Date 1893-1958

Size 6.5 linear ft. (12 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.


Information on Use

Access No restrictions.

Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Ames, Edward Scribner. Papers and Addenda, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

Edward Scribner Ames was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on April 21, 1870. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and then attended Yale University Divinity School. He received the Yale B.D. in 1892 and continued to study philosophy there for two more years. Transferring to the University of Chicago for a fellowship during 1894-1895, he earned a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1895, awarded by professors John Dewey and James Tufts. Ames first taught at Butler College, Indianapolis, for three years but soon returned to accept a philosophy position at Chicago in 1900, which he held until his retirement in 1936.

Ames’s focus was in psychology and sociology of religion. His father had been a Disciples of Christ minister in a series of Midwestern towns. Ames went on to publish several influential studies of religious experience and values, along with doctrinal studies relating to the Disciples of Christ. Influenced by his colleagues, he joined their Chicago School of Pragmatism and
advanced a pragmatic understanding of God and doctrine, similar in many respects to Dewey’s religious humanism.

Ames was active in the life of Chicago; he joined the City Club and served on reform committees. Ames maintained his devotion to the Disciples of Christ and was in close association with other leading figures of the movement. He was one of the founding members, with other graduates of Yale and Chicago, of the Campbell Institute in Chicago in 1896. Ames edited The Scroll, the quarterly journal of the Campbell Institute, from 1925 to 1951. He was the minister of the Hyde Park Christian Church (renamed the University Church of Disciples of Christ) in Chicago from 1900 to 1940. He also served as the Dean of the Disciples Divinity House in Chicago from 1927 to 1945. Ames’s distinctively liberal and humanistic approach to both theology and ministerial leadership brought him into repeated conflicts with more conservative elements of the denomination. Among the specific doctrinal questions for which Ames is remembered is the humanity of Jesus, the denial of an afterlife, the diminished role of baptism, and open membership.

Ames died in Chicago on 29 June 1958 and his ashes were spread behind the family cottage on Lake Michigan in Pentwater, Michigan.

**Scope Note**
The collection contains family and professional correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings. Includes correspondence with Vachel Lindsay (1904-1927).

**Related Resources**
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

**Subject Headings**
- Ames, Edward Scribner, 1870-1958
- Lindsay, Vachel, 1879-1931
- Disciples of Christ
- University of Chicago. Disciples Divinity House
- University of Chicago. Department of Philosophy

**INVENTORY**

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Correspondence, 1950’s
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Correspondence, Edward S. Ames and Mabel Van Meter Ames, with their children Adelaide, Polly, Van Meter and Damaris

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Folder 16
Correspondence, brother Charles Ames

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Folder 17
Family correspondence

Box 5
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Family correspondence

Box 5
Folder 2
Family correspondence

Box 5
Folder 3
Family correspondence

Box 5
Folder 4
Guest Book

Box 5
Folder 5
Memorial Service for Edward Scribner Ames, program and guest list, July 3, 1958

Box 5
Folder 6
Mrs. Ames' Autograph Book, Mrs. Ames'

Box 6
Folder 1
"Our Wedding Anniversary," guest book, fiftieth wedding anniversary, July 6, 1943

Box 6
Folder 2
Scrapbook of handwritten letters from the women of the University Church of the Disciples of Christ, celebrating the birthday of Mrs. Edward S. Ames, April 20, 1940

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Will and testament

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"One Day in Athens," manuscript of travel memoir by Edward Scribner Ames Services and Christmas Programs
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• Anniversary Dinner, 3 Oct 1947
• Service for Mr. Nolan
• Christmas Program for Women’s Club
• Other Christmas Programs
• Calendars 1934-1937

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Scrapbook of letters celebrating Ames’s thirtieth anniversary as pastor of University Church

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Memorials

Box 10
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Newsletters

Box 10
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Portrait cards

Box 10
Folder 5
Edward Scribner Ames, memorial service bulletins

Box 10
Folder 6
Mabel Van Meter Ames, memorial materials

Box 10
Folder 7
1958 "The Scroll: In Memorandum of Edward Scribner Ames"

Box 10
Folder 8
Ames notes for sermons
• Manuscript notebook for funeral services
• Manuscript notebook for dedication of infants

Box 11
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Obituaries

Box 11
Folder 2
Miscellaneous service bulletins and publications

Box 11
Folder 3
Pamphlets

Box 11
Folder 4
Pamphlets
• The Disciples of Christ, pamphlet by E. S. Ames
• The Disciples of Christ: Their Growth, Their Heritage. Their Timeliness, 1943, pamphlet by E. S. Ames
• Liberalism in Religion, pamphlet by E. S. Ames
• A Vital Church, pamphlet by E. S. Ames
• Three Great Words of Religion: Faith, Hope, Love, pamphlet by E. S. Ames
• Religion as Enrichment of Life, pamphlet by E. S. Ames
• Invisible Companions, prayer and sermon by E. S. Ames
• Ideals of Our Church, pamphlet by E. S. Ames
• Orders for the Communion Service, arranged by E. S. Ames
• Directory of Officers and Members of the University Church of Disciples of Christ, 1952-1953
• My Religion, pamphlet by Herbert L. Willett
• The Scroll, May 1944, includes address given by E. S. Ames Silver Anniversary of the Hyde Park Church of Christ, Disciples, Chicago, Illinois, 1919

Box 11
Folder 5
   New Testament
Box 11
Folder 6
   Misc. Clippings and Correspondence
Box 12
Folder 1
   Vachel Lindsey, correspondence
Box 12
Folder 2
• Certificate, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, issued to Damaris D. Van Meter, undated
• Mortarboard and academic hood