Guide to the Ernest DeWitt Burton Papers 1875-1969

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Use</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Note</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope Note</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Resources</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVENTORY</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series I: Personal</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: General</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 2: Correspondance</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 3: Family History</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 4: Memorials</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 5: Notebooks</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series II: Writings</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: Addresses and Reports</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 2: Publications</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 3: Speeches</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series III: Foreign Education and Missions</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: Subject Files</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 2: Oriental Education Commission</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 3: Correspondence</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series IV: Universities and Colleges</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series V: YMCA</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series VI: National Religious Organizations</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series VII: University of Chicago</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: University Correspondence</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 2: General Correspondence</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 3: Committee on Buildings and Grounds</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 4: New Testament Department</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.BURTON
Title  Burton, Ernest DeWitt. Papers
Date  1875-1969
Size  45 linear feet (87 boxes)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
            University of Chicago Library
            1100 East 57th Street
            Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  The papers of Ernest DeWitt Burton comprise 45 linear feet of personal
          and professional material. The papers document his career as a New
          Testament scholar at Newton Theological Institute and the University of
          Chicago as well as his interest in missionary work and religious education
          in east Asia. The collection consists primarily of correspondence as well
          as publications, addresses, and a small amount of course materials from
          the New Testament Department. From his involvement in missionary
          organizations and commissions, such as the Oriental Investigation
          Commission and the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, there are
          minutes, correspondence, financial records, photographs, and reports. The
          collection also includes personal materials including family history, a large
          number of memorials and some journals and notebooks.

Information on Use

Access  The collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Burton, Ernest DeWitt.
Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note  Ernest DeWitt Burton was born on February 4, 1856 in Granville, Ohio. He was the third son
of Nathan Smith Burton and Sarah Johns Fairfield Burton. His father was a Baptist minister and
both his parents were teachers. Burton began his college education in 1872 at Griswold College
in Davenport, Iowa but after one year he transferred to Denison University in Granville, Ohio.
He received his B.A. from Denison in June 1876.
After graduating, Burton taught at a number of schools including Kalamazoo College in Michigan and Norwood School in Ohio, and in 1879 he entered Rochester Theological Seminary in Rochester, New York. His former teacher and mentor, W. Arnold Stevens was now part of the faculty there. Burton spent three years at the seminary, studying the New Testament, and graduated in 1882. He taught New Testament Greek at the seminary the following year. He was ordained a Baptist minister in the summer of 1883 and soon thereafter received a post at the Newton Theological Institution near Boston.

Burton had met Frances Mary Townson in Rochester and when he had secured a permanent position at Newton, they were married. The ceremony was performed on December 28, 1883 by Burton’s father, N. S. Burton. Ernest and Mary Burton had one daughter, Margaret, who shared many of her father’s interests in religious work.

Burton enjoyed his work at Newton where he befriended Charles Rufus Brown, an Old Testament scholar, and Shailer Mathews, a fellow student from Rochester who would later join him at the University of Chicago. In 1889 at Newton he also became friends with William Rainey Harper when the latter was giving a series of lectures in Boston.

When Harper became the president of the newly formed University of Chicago in 1891 he invited Burton to join the New Testament Department. Burton was reluctant to leave Newton, however, and initially refused the invitation. Nevertheless, Harper was persistent, and after three months of negotiations, in March 1892 Burton was elected professor of New Testament Interpretation in the Divinity School, professor of New Testament instruction and head of all New Testament work in the university.

After entering his new post in July 1892, Burton’s responsibilities immediately expanded. He became associate editor of Biblical World, a journal established at the opening of the university. In 1897 he temporarily left this journal to become the editor of the Journal of Theology. Additionally, he became involved in the American Institute for Sacred Literature in 1889, an organization that promoted the systematic study of the Bible outside of schools. The Institute produced pamphlets, leaflets and correspondence courses to encourage popular study of the Bible. Burton, with Harper, the Institute’s organizer, was an enthusiastic participant in the production of these materials.

Burton’s research interests in the New Testament and New Testament Greek are reflected in his publications. Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek was published in 1893, soon after his arrival in Chicago. With W. A. Stevens he published A Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels for Historical Study in 1894 and Records and Letters of the Apostolic Age one year later. Burton was a scholar who had adopted modern historical techniques for the study of the Bible, an approach that some traditionalists criticized. Burton remained unmoved by his critics, saying that he would continue to use and teach the modern approach.
Burton was awarded an honorary D.D. in 1897 by his Alma Mater, Denison University.

Burton’s health was in decline in 1901 and while recuperating at Harper’s request he researched building design and architecture. He collected information on campuses throughout the country and especially on library buildings.

Burton’s New Testament work continued with the publication of Constructive Studies in the Life of Christ with Shailer Mathews in 1901 and Principles and Ideals of the Sunday School also with Mathews in 1908. In the interim between these two books he also published Short Introduction to the Gospels, Studies in the Gospel of Mark, and Principles of Literary Criticism and Their Application to the Synoptic Problem. In addition he produced many essays, articles, and editorials for the Biblical World and the American Journal of Theology.

Besides teaching and writing, Burton was also deeply interested in missionary work. This interest had begun early in his seminary days, and he had seriously considered becoming a missionary. In 1908 he was appointed head of a commission of investigation to the east to explore “educational, social, and religious conditions in the Far East.” The Oriental Investigation Commission was to be organized by the University of Chicago and its expenses met by John D. Rockefeller. Travelling through England, Turkey, India, China, Japan, and Korea, the commission’s journey lasted for more than a year. Burton kept detailed notes of interviews and records of what he learned in his journal and reports. He was also involved in many missionary organizations such as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference.

In 1910 Burton became the director of the University libraries. Under his tenure as director, Harper Library was built and the books were reorganized in the Library of Congress system of classification. Besides centralizing the location of many books, the library holdings grew from approximately 218,000 volumes to one million. Burton remained Director of Libraries until his death.

Burton continued to research and write on the New Testament, publishing A Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels in English with Edgar Goodspeed in 1917 among other works. He also maintained his interest in missionary work in the east and was appointed chairman of the China Educational Commission in 1920. The purpose of this commission was to investigate the state of Christian education in China, and Burton traveled with other members of the commission to that country in 1921. Later the commission produced and published a report of their findings.

Burton was elected acting president of the university in January 1923 to replace the retiring Harry Pratt Judson. Subsequently he was elected president in July 1923 and served as president
until his death in 1925. Although his tenure in office was short, he made great strides to improve the university through a program of building, an increase in fundraising, and initiating the development of a medical school.

Ernest DeWitt Burton died on May 26, 1925 in Chicago.

**Scope Note**

The Ernest DeWitt Burton papers have been divided into seven series: I. Personal, II. Writings, III. Foreign Education and Missions, IV. Universities and Colleges, V. YMCA, VI. National Religious Organizations and VII. University of Chicago.

The concentration of material covers the period from 1890 to 1925. Burton was a prolific letter writer, and the majority of the collection is correspondence. He also preserved many of his notes and journals, which contain research ideas, drafts of lectures, and his observations. Much of the material centers on his interest on missionary work and education. This includes not only the material in Series III but also in series IV, V and VI. The divisions between the series are not strict and the subjects overlap in the series divisions. Included in the first series, Personal, is a small amount of the correspondence of Frances Mary Townson Burton, his wife; Margaret Burton, his daughter; and Eleanor Burton, his niece. The seventh series, University of Chicago, includes little material from Burton’s presidency.

**Related Resources**
The following related resources are located in the Special Collections Research Center:

Browse finding aids by topic.


William Rainey Harper. Papers

University of Chicago. Divinity School. Records

American Journal of Theology. Records

Baptist Theological Union. Records

University of Chicago. Board of Trustees. Minutes

**Subject Headings**
• Burton, Ernest DeWitt, 1856-1925
• Burton, Margaret E. (Margaret Ernestine), b. 1885
• Harper, William Rainey, 1856-1906
• Swift, Harold Higgins, 1885-1962
• Mathews, Shailer, 1863-1941
• Goodspeed, E. J. (Edgar Johnson), 1833-1881
• Brown, Charles Rufus, 1849-1914
• Denison University
• American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
• Chinese Educational Commission
• Rockefeller Foundation
• Baptist Central Tabernacle – Tokyo Japan
• Young Men’s Christian Association
• University of Chicago. Divinity School
• University of Chicago -- Administration
• University of Chicago -- Buildings
• University of Chicago -- History
• University of Chicago. Oriental Educational Commission
• Religious Education
• Universities and colleges -- China
• Universities and colleges -- Japan
• Missionaries
• Photographs

INVENTORY

Series I: Personal

Series I, Personal, contains Burton’s personal correspondence, genealogical materials, memorials, and other personal papers including his certificate of ordination and marriage license and covers the period 1879 to 1969. It is divided into five subseries: 1. General, 2. Correspondence, 3. Family History, 4. Memorials and 5. Notebooks.

Subseries 1, General, covers the period 1875 to 1931. It contains a few poems that Burton wrote, invitations, convocation programs, newspaper clippings, photographs, and postcards. Also of note in this subseries is the memorandum of a conversation between Harper and Burton that took place just before Harper’s death.

Subseries 2, Correspondence, is arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent. It covers the period 1888 to 1969 and includes correspondence with William Rainey Harper, Harold Swift, Shailer Mathews, and Edgar Goodspeed. Earlier correspondence with Charles Rufus Brown, a colleague in the Old Testament Department at Newton Theological Seminary can also be found here. Also included at the end of the subseries is the correspondence of Burton’s wife, Mary Burton, his daughter, Margaret Burton, and his niece, Eleanor Burton.
Subseries 3, Family History, contains genealogical information about Burton’s family, a biography of Mary Burton by her daughter Margaret, and a number of photographs. The majority of this material is undated, but the bound life of Nathan S. Burton is dated to 1915.

Subseries 4, Memorial, includes tributes, bound memorials, letters of condolence, and a scrapbook of press clippings about Burton’s death. The materials date from 1925 to 1957. Also included in this subseries is the biography of Burton by Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed.

Subseries 5, Notebooks, covers the period from 1875 to 1923. The earliest notebooks contain notes from Burton’s student days at Denison University. These notebooks contain notes on many topics including notes on addresses and future topics of research and are arranged chronologically. The most extensive notebooks are from his trip to east Asia with the Oriental Education Commission in 1908 to 1909.

Subseries 1: General

Box 1
Folder 1
  Autograph book, 1908-1909
Box 1
Folder 2
  Card to Mrs. Burton
Box 1
Folder 3
  Christmas cards, n.d.
Box 1
Folder 4
  Convocation, 1923
Box 1
Folder 5
  Convocation, 1924
Box 1
Folder 6
  Convocation, 1925
Box 1
Folder 7
  Convocation, 1931
Box 1
Folder 8
  Datebook, 1919
Box 1
Folder 9
  Datebook, 1921
Box 1
Folder 10
  Financial records, 1901-1918
Box 1
Folder 11
  Friends and colleagues

Box 1
Folder 12
  "Friendship calendar" from daughter

Box 1
Folder 13
  Guest book, 1906-1924

Box 2
Folder 1
  Guest book, 1923-1924

Box 2
Folder 2
  Guest book, n.d.

Box 2
Folder 3
  Handwritten notes

Box 2
Folder 4
  Harper Library "party" program cards, n.d.

Box 2
Folder 5
  Invitations

Box 2
Folder 6
  Library order slips

Box 2
Folder 7
  Memorandum of conversation of Burton and Harper shortly before his death

Box 2
Folder 8
  Marriage invitation

Box 2
Folder 9
  Ordination, 1879

Box 2
Folder 10-14
  Newspaper clippings

Box 3
Folder 1-5
  Newspaper clippings

Box 3
Folder 6
  Passport photographs

Box 3
Folder 7
    Patent, 1923

Box 3

Folder 8
    Poetry

Box 3

Folder 9
    Poetry for daughter, Margaret

Box 3

Folder 10
    Photographs of Burton home, 1911

Box 3

Folder 11
    Postcards from Newton, MA and Rochester, NY

Box 3

Folder 12
    Smith, H. J. "Sojourn on a Summit"

Subseries 2: Correspondence

Box 3

Folder 13
    A
    • Abercrombie, D. N.
    • Armington, A. W.
    • Anderson, Thomas D.

Box 3

Folder 14
    Barnes - Burbank
    • Barnes, L. C.
    • Bartholomew, J. E.
    • Beman, Helen Elizabeth Burton
    • Benedict, Cornelia Golay
    • Bitting W. C.
    • Bray, Mellen
    • Brockman, F. S.
    • Brown, Charles Rufus
    • Burbank, A.

Box 3

Folder 15
    Burton, Margaret - Burton, Mary
    • Burton, Margaret
    • Burton, Mary (Mrs. Ernest DeWitt Burton)

Box 3

Folder 16
    Burton, N. S. - Buttrick
    • Burton, N. S.
• Burton, Sarah J. F. (Mrs. N. S. Burton)
• Buttrick, Wallace H.

Box 4
Folder 1
C
• Case, S. J.
• Chamberlin, Miss
• Cooper, Clayton S.
• Craig, R. W.
• Crandall, Susan
• Cunningins, J. L.

Box 4
Folder 2
D
• Dean, John M.
• Deming, John Howard
• Dodge, Grace H.

Box 4
Folder 3
E
• Eddy, D. Brewer
• Elkington, Joseph
• Elmer, Franklin D.
• English, J. M.
• Everett, Mabel

Box 4
Folder 4
F
• Foster, [George Burnam?]
• Frost, Edwin B.

Box 4
Folder 5
G
• Gates, Fred T.
• Gilmore, George W.
• Goodman, Herbert E.
• Goodman, Kate A.
• Goodspeed, Edgar
• Goucher, John F.
• Gow, George C.
• Grant, W. Henry

Box 4
Folder 6
H
• Harper, Ella D.
• Harper, William Rainey
• Hurrey, C. D.
Box 4
Folder 7
J
• Jordon, A. J.
• Judson, Henry Pratt
Box 4
Folder 8
K
• King, Henry C.
Box 4
Folder 9
L
• Luce, H. W.
Box 4
Folder 10
M
• Mathews, Shailer
• McKinney, William Ayer
• Miller, S. J. F.
• Moore, Edward C.
Box 4
Folder 10
M
• Moseley, John
Box 4
Folder 11
O
• Osgood, N.
Box 4
Folder 12
P
• Pattison, Harold
• Payne, Bruce R.
• Payne, Walter A.
• Pierson, Mrs.
• Porter, Mabel W.
• Pott, F. L. Hawks
Box 4
Folder 13
R
• Rammelkamp, C. H.
Box 4
Folder 14
S
• Schaeffer, W.
• Stearns, O. S.
• Stearns, Helen P.
• Stevens, G. B.
• Stevens, W. A.
• Strong, Augustus H.
• Swartz, Frank P.
• Swift, Harold H.

Box 4
Folder 15
  T
  • Taylor, Joseph
  • Townson, Margaret
  • Tuller, Edward P.
  • Turley, Althea B.
  • Turley, Calvin Judson
  • Tyne, Benjamin O.

Box 4
Folder 16
  W
  • Wang, Y. T.
  • Waterbury, Lucy
  • Weston, Dr.
  • Whitney, F. C.
  • Wilcox, Alice W.
  • Willcox, W. H.

Box 4
Folder 16
  W
  • Williams, J. E.
  • Workman, George C.

Box 4
Folder 17
  fragments, unknown author

Box 4
Folder 18
  Correspondence of Eleanor Burton

Box 4
Folder 19-21
  Correspondence of Frances Mary Townson Burton

Box 4
Folder 22-23
  Correspondence of Margaret Burton

Subseries 3: Family History

Box 4
Folder 24
Burton, Boniface, biographical information
Box 4
Folder 25
Burton, Charles S., biographical information
Box 4
Folder 26
Burton, Frances Mary Townson, biography by her daughter, Margaret
Box 5
Folder 1-2
Burton, Frances Mary Townson, photographs, oversize
Box 6
Folder 1
Burton, Frances Mary Townson and Margaret Burton, photograph
Box 6
Folder 2
Burton, Henry Fairfield, biographical information
Box 6
Folder 3
Burton, Henry Fairfield, Helen Elizabeth Burton, Charles Smith Burton, Edmund Fairfield Burton, and Ernest DeWitt Burton, color photocopies of photographs
Box 6
Folder 4
Burton, Margaret
Box 6
Folder 5
Burton, Nathan S., biography
Box 6
Folder 6
Burton, Nathan S.
Box 6
Folder 7
Burton, Nathan S. and Sarah Johns Fairfield Burton
Box 6
Folder 8
Burton, Smith, and Elizabeth Wilcox Burton, paternal grandparents, color photocopies of photographs
Box 6
Folder 9
DeWitt, notes on the name "DeWitt"
Box 6
Folder 10
Fairfield, Micaiah, (maternal grandfather) biographical info
Box 6
Folder 11
Fairfield, Micaiah, and Hannah Withers Wynn Neale Fairfield, maternal grandparents, photographs
Subseries 4: Memorials

Box 6
Folder 12
Alumni club, resolution, 1925

Box 6
Folder 13
"An Appreciation," Bailey, J.W., 1929

Box 6
Folder 14
The Baptist, June 6, 1925

Box 6
Folder 15
Baptist Theological Union, memorial, 1925

Box 7
Folder 1
Board of Trustees, resolution, 1925

Box 7
Folder 2
"The Burton Courier", 1931

Box 7
Folder 3
Chicago City Council, resolution, 1925

Box 7
Folder 4
Chicago Society of Biblical Research, memorial, 1925

Box 7
Folder 5
Chicago Symphony Orchestra, memorial concert in Mandel Hall, 1925

Box 7
Folder 6
City of Chicago

Box 7
Folder 7
The Commercial Club of Chicago

Box 7
Folder 8
Denison Alumni Bulletin, 1925

Box 7
Folder 9
Distinguished Service Professorship, 1955-1957

Box 7
Folder 10
Foreign Missions Conference of North America, memorial, 1926
Fountain Street Baptist Church, 1926

Box 8
Folder 1-2
  Funeral Service

Box 8
Folder 3
  Goodspeed biography, 1926

Box 8
Folder 4-6
  Goodspeed biography, correspondence, 1925-1948

Box 8
Folder 7
  Goodspeed biography, reviews and notices

Box 8
Folder 8
  Institute of Social and Religious Research, 1925

Box 8
Folder 9-11
  Letters of condolence

Box 9
Folder 1-8
  Letters of condolence

Box 9
Folder 9
  Memorial window - Harper Library, 1928

Box 9
Folder 10
  Memorial window - Hyde Park Baptist Church, 1953-1954

Box 9
Folder 11
  Memorial fund, 1925-1940

Box 10
Folder 1
  "The Daily Maroon" - May 25 - June 9, 1925, oversize

Box 10
Folder 2
  "The Daily Maroon" - January, 1923, oversize

Box 11
Folder 1
  Northern Baptist Convention - Board of Education, n.d.

Box 11
Folder 2
  Portrait, 1926

Box 11
Folder 3
  Religious Education Association, n.d.
Box 11
Folder 4
   Rockefeller Foundation, 1926
Box 11
Folder 5
   Smith, H.J., "His Victory"
Box 11
Folder 6-7
   Tributes and memorials, 1925-1927
Box 11
Folder 8
   University of Chicago Chapel- plaque, 1933
Box 11
Folder 9
   University of Chicago Magazine, 1925-1927
Box 11
Folder 10
   University Record, 1925-1926
Box 11
Folder 11
   Will and estate, 1925
Box 11
Folder 12
   Will and estate - bequest to University
Box 12
Volume 1
   Scrapbook of press clippings concerning Burton’s death

Subseries 5: Notebooks

Box 13
Folder 1
   1875
Box 13
Folder 2
   1876
Box 13
Folder 3
   "Newspaper Cuttings", 1877-1899
Box 13
Folder 4
   1879
Box 13
Folder 5
   "Index Rerum", 1879
Box 13
Folder 6
Series II: Writings

Series II, Writings, covers the period 1870 to 1927 and has been divided into three subseries: 1. Addresses and Reports, 2. Publications, and 3. Speeches. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.

Subseries 1, Addresses and Reports, includes lectures, addresses, sermons, and reports given by Burton from his student days until his presidency at the University of Chicago. Many of the address are handwritten although some are published reprints. The interests reflected in this
subseries echo Burton’s concern for missionization and the relationship between education and religion found in Series III, Foreign Education and Missions.

Subseries 2, Publications, contains both bound volumes of Burton’s works, often annotated, and reprints of his journal articles. The two harmonies of the synoptic gospels which Burton wrote with William Arnold Stevens and Edgar Goodspeed, respectively, indicate his scholarly interests in the New Testament as does his Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek. At the end of this subseries is correspondence concerning Burton’s publications. It is arranged by publication.

Subseries 3, Speeches, consists of a small collection of funeral addresses and memorials given by Burton. It covers the period 1906 to 1923.

**Subseries 1: Addresses and Reports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Folder 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compositions from Griswold College, 1870-1872</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Folder 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>&quot;Eloquence and Truth,&quot; manuscript essay, 1875</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Folder 6</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
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<td>&quot;Address for the close of a course on the Life of Christ,&quot; December 31, 1893</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Folder 7</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>&quot;Doubts,&quot; address, November 3, 1895</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
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<th>Folder 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>&quot;The Kingdom and the Individual&quot; address, 1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>&quot;Missionary Motives,&quot; address, May 7, 1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>Easter Thoughts,&quot; address, 1896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Folder 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1897</td>
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<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>&quot;The Bible and Missions,&quot; address, March 14, 1897</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Folder 10</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>&quot;The Moral Element in Scholarship or Scholarship and Religion,&quot; address, January 27, 1898</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Folder 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

19
1899
• "How can one become a Christian," June 4, 1899

Box 15
Folder 12
1900
• "Education in Relation to the Kingdom," address, January 31, 1900

Box 15
Folder 13
1901
• "The Ethics of Jesus," January 1901
• "The Problem of Jesus"
• "The Inspiration of the Record", address, January 25, 1901
• "Jesus as an Ethical Teacher"

Box 15
Folder 14
1903
• "Lead Us Not into Temptation", address, November 2, 1903
• Oxford

Box 15
Folder 15
1905
• "Religious Liberty in the Twentieth Century," typescript, March 1905
• "What is it to be a Christian?" January 22, 1906
• Theodor Zahn, April 1906

Box 15
Folder 16
1907
• "The Christian University and the World-wide Mission of Christianity", May 1907
• Round table, October 28, 1907
• "The Present Outlook in Missions," address, November 1907
• "Knowing God," manuscript notes, January 20, 1907

Box 16
Folder 1
1908
• "Education in China"
• "The Significance of Foreign Missions to the University," address, February 12, 1908

Box 16
Folder 2-3
1909
• "Mr. Burton’s Speech before the Students of Soochow University"
• "Excerpts of an Address delivered by Professor Ernest D. Burton ..."
• "The American University," address, February 12, 1909
• "After Three Years"
• "Why I am Content to be a Christian"
• "What is the attitude of the people ...
• "Effects of the Journey," manuscript notes, 1909
• "Impressions of the Orient," manuscript notes, 1909
• "Notes of an Address to the students in the Union Middle School, Chengtu," 1909

Box 16
Folder 4
1910
• "Educational Conditions in Eastern Lands," address, August 14, 1910
• "The Basis of Mission," January 30, 1910
• "An interesting world to live in," October 1910
• "YMCA in the Orient, The," manuscript notes, White House, 1910
• "Contribution of Friendship to Life, The," manuscript notes, 1910

Box 16
Folder 5
1911
• Bloomington, February 4, 1911

Box 16
Folder 6-8
1913
• "A Flexible or an Inflexible Christianity in the Mission Field"
• "Living in a New Age," November 28, 1913
• "Education in China"
• Divinity Chapel, August 7, 1913
• "Why Should Baptists Concern Themselves with Education?" address, October 23, 1913
• "Will the Chinese Republic Survive?" manuscript notes, Vassar College, 1913

Box 16
Folder 9
1914
• "Present Demand for Men and Women of Education in the Orient" (2 copies)
• "Round Table," manuscript notes, 1914

Box 16
Folder 10
1915
• Resolutions of the Executive Committee of the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention, January 1915
• "Why Should Baptists have a Board of Education?" January and March 1915
• Memorandum for California meetings
• "Paul as a Missionary," October 1915
• "Western Education in Eastern Lands," manuscript notes, 1915
• "The Future of West China" typescript and manuscript notes, December 1915

Box 16
Folder 11
1916
• "Missionary Education as a Vocation," January 24, 1916
• "Characteristics of an Effective Religion," April 1916
• "The Responsibility of an Education," October 14, 1916
Box 16
Folder 12
1917
• Bryn Mawr, October 1917
• "Two Themes of Political Life," November 25, 1917
• Chapel Talk, September 23, 1917
• "India," manuscript notes, 1917

Box 17
Folder 1
1918
• "The Christianizing of International Relations" and other manuscript notes, 1917-1918
• "The New World and Education," address, May 29, 1918
• "Baptists and Education," January 1918
• International Dinner, YMCA-Chicago, December 27, 1918

Box 17
Folder 2
1919
• "Address to the Cleveland Conference," typescript, 1919
• "College Men and Women and International Relationships," January 1919
• "Can a nation be Christian," YMCA, March 2, 1919
• "Education for Life" January 16, 1919

Box 17
Folder 3
1920
• Address, December 1920
• Provincial Teacher’s association, June 24, 1920

Box 17
Folder 4
1921

Box 17
Folder 5
1922
• "The Rationale of Church Cooperation"
• "Education in a Democratic World," address, September 1, 1922
• "Education in China," manuscript notes, 1922
• "China," typescript notes, Manuscript notes, 1922

Box 17
Folder 6
1923
• "An Address Delivered by Acting President Ernest DeWitt Burton Before the Chicago Alumni Club," 1923
• "Research"

Box 17
Folder 7-8
1924
• "The Quest for Truth, An Account of Scientific Research at the University of Chicago," 1924
• "Commemorative Chapel Address," 1924

Box 17
Folder 9-10
undated
• "The Phenomenal Word in Korea"
• "China"
• "Religion and Education: the Church and the School"
• "Religious Freedom in the Early Church"
• "Christianity and Education"
• "The Situation in China"
• "Some Recent Developments of Christian Education in China"
• "University Education in America"
• "University Education in the United States of America"
• "Women's Colleges in the Orient" (2 copies)
• "John 3:6"
• "The Rationale of Church Cooperation"
• Announcement of address at Indiana University
• "The Responsibility of the College Man"
• "The Kingdom of Self Respect"
• "Missionaries Going Out to China"
• "The Educational Situation in China"
• "Liberty"
• Notes on war
• "The History of Christian Missionary Education ..."
• "The ministers of today ..."
• Present conditions in China

Box 17
Folder 10
undated
• India

Subseries 2: Publications

Box 17
Folder 11
Burton, Ernest DeWitt and William Arnold Stevens, Outline of the Life of Christ, [n. p. 1885?]. (bound)

Box 18
Folder 1
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, Papers Grammatical and Other, 1889-1891, (bound)

Box 18
Folder 2
Burton, Ernest DeWitt and William Arnold Stevens, Outline of the Life of Christ, [n. p.], 1891. (bound)

Box 18
Folder 3
Box 18
Folder 4
Box 19
Folder 1
Inserts from Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek
Box 19
Folder 2
Two announcements of the publication of Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek
Box 19
Folder 3
Burton, Ernest Dewitt, Essays,1893 -1898 (bound)
Box 19
Folder 4
Box 19
Folder 5
Box 19
Folder 6
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, The Records and Letters of the Apostolic Age, New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1895. (bound)
Box 19
Folder 7
Inserts from The Records and Letters of the Apostolic Age.
Box 19
Folder 8
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, The Six Generally Accepted Letters of the Apostle Paul and their Testimony; A Syllabus of Nine Lecture-Studies, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1895
Box 19
Folder 9
Box 19
Folder 10
Box 19
Folder 11

Box 19
Folder 12

Box 20
Folder 1
  Burton, Ernest DeWitt, Essays, 1898-1915 (bound).

Box 20
Folder 2
  Inserts from Essays

Box 20
Folder 3

Box 20
Folder 4
  Burton, Ernest DeWitt, "He That Committeth Sin is a Slave to Sin," The Standard, 1899 photocopy.

Box 20
Folder 5
  Burton, Ernest DeWitt, The Life of the Christ, Chicago: The American Institute of Sacred Literature, 1904. (bound)

Box 20
Folder 6

Box 20
Folder 7
  Inserts from A Harmony of the Gospels for Historical Study

Box 20
Folder 8

Box 20
Folder 9

Box 21
Folder 1
Box 21
Folder 2
Inserts from A Handbook of the Life of the Apostle Paul

Box 21
Folder 3

Box 21
Folder 4

Box 21
Folder 5

Box 21
Folder 6

Box 21
Folder 7

Box 21
Folder 8

Box 21
Folder 9

Box 21
Folder 10

Box 21
Folder 11

Box 21
Folder 12

Box 21
Folder 13
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, "Exceptional Opportunities for Investment by Baptists," The Standard; A Baptist Newspaper, 1 April 1916, and manuscript notes.

Box 21
Folder 14
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, Education and the Church, Boston: The Baptist Board of Education, 1917.

Box 21
Folder 15
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, "While the Armies Fight What Shall We at Home Do?" The Standard; A Baptist Newspaper, 29 September 1917.

Box 21
Folder 16

Box 21
Folder 17
Inserts from A Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels for Historical and Critical Study.

Box 21
Folder 18

Box 21
Folder 19

Box 22
Folder 1

Box 22
Folder 2

Box 22
Folder 3

Box 22
Folder 4

Box 22
Folder 5
Box 22
Folder 6

Box 22
Folder 7

Box 22
Folder 8

Box 22
Folder 9
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, "Religion and Education," The Divinity Student 1, no. 4 (November 15, 1924): 81-94.

Box 22
Folder 10

Box 22
Folder 11

Box 22
Folder 12

Box 22
Folder 13

Box 22
Folder 14

Box 22
Folder 15
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, "The University of Chicago and the City," [?] (spring number, 1925): 19.

Box 22
Folder 16

Box 22
Folder 18
Reviews of Education in a Democratic World by Ernest DeWitt Burton, and manuscript introduction and preface by William F. Russell, editor, 1927.

Box 22
Folder 19

Box 22
Folder 20
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, A Word to College Students, issued by Board of Education of Northern Baptist Convention, Boston: Griffith-Stillings Press, [?].

Box 22
Folder 21

Box 22
Folder 22
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, "Jesus as a Thinker," (proofs?) Biblical World

Box 22
Folder 23
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, Baptists and Education, [n. p., n. d.].

Box 22
Folder 24
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, "Religion in the Christian College" [n. p., n. d.].

Box 22
Folder 25

Box 22
Folder 26

Box 22
Folder 27
Burton, Ernest DeWitt, editorials, n.d.

Box 23
Folder 1
correspondence on publications, Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels, 1909-April 1916

Box 23
Folder 2
correspondence on publications, Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels, May-December 1916

Box 23
Folder 3
correspondence on publications, Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels, 1917

Box 23
Folder 4
correspondence on publications, Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels, 1918-1923

Box 23
Folder 5
  correspondence on publications, Commentary on Galatians, 1917-1921
Box 23
Folder 6
  correspondence on publications, Christianity in a New World, 1919-1921
Box 23
Folder 7
  correspondence on publications, The Teaching of Jesus, 1920-1923

Subseries 3: Speeches

Box 23
Folder 8
  Funeral addresses and memorials, 1906 - 1923
Box 23
Folder 9
  Funeral addresses and memorials, undated

Series III: Foreign Education and Missions

Series III, Foreign Education and Missions, covers the period 1879 to 1923 and is divided into three subseries: 1. Subject files, 2. The Oriental Education Commission, and 3. Correspondence. The material in this series is predominately correspondence and reflects Burton’s interest in missionization, especially in East Asia. Burton was active in a number of Baptist organizations, which were involved in missionary activity, and participated in University sponsored commissions that had an interest in furthering education. Burton’s concern for religious education both in the United States and abroad is indicated in this series as well as by certain publications in Series II.

The first subseries, Subject Files, is organized alphabetically by the name of the organization. The papers of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society consist of correspondence, minutes, and some financial statements. The China Educational Commission, of which Burton was a member, was a commission sponsored by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America with the cooperation of similar group in England. Its purpose was to study Christian educational work in China and evaluate its progress and included a trip to China in 1921. Similar interests are reflected in Burton’s involvement in the Commission on Education of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference. The Foreign Missions Conference of North America and its subsidiary, the Board of Missionary Preparation, was a multi-denominational conference that aided in the coordination of a number of missionary organizations. The Rockefeller Foundation materials include copies of the U. S. Senate bill incorporating the foundation and Burton’s correspondence with foundation officers. The Tokyo Tabernacle folders include correspondence and other papers related to the rebuilding of the Baptist Central Tabernacle in Tokyo, which had been destroyed by fire.

Subseries 2, Oriental Education Commission, contains the papers of this commission, sent to East Asia in 1908-1909 to investigate educational, social, and religious conditions in the region. Burton was head of the commission, which was sponsored by the University and funded by John D. Rockefeller. The Report of the Oriental Education Commission found in this subseries was
never published but was influential in work done by the Rockefeller Foundation for the next two decades. The commission traveled to China via England, Turkey, Egypt, and India and included a two month journey up the Yangtze River. Many of the photographs in this subseries are from the time spent in China. Burton’s wife and daughter accompanied him, and the correspondence of Mary Burton, his wife, includes a rice paper scroll that she wrote during the trip. Other material includes correspondence, particularly the correspondence between Burton and Edgar Goodspeed, which Goodspeed had bound and presented to Burton as a gift. Burton’s journal from the trip is included as are newsclippings announcing the commission and pamphlets and other publications that Burton collected on the trip.

Subseries 3, Correspondence, overlaps in subject matter with the other two subseries, especially Subseries 1. This subseries dates from 1909 to 1923. It is arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent. Correspondence with the organizations itemized in Subseries 1, Subject Files, can be found here as well as general correspondence about education and missionization.

Subseries 1: Subject Files

Box 24
Folder 1
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1911
Box 24
Folder 2-3
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1912
Box 24
Folder 4
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1913
Box 24
Folder 5
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1914
Box 24
Folder 6
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1915
Box 24
Folder 7
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, January - April, 1916
Box 24
Folder 8
Box 24
Folder 9
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, August - December, 1916
Box 24
Folder 10
   American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1916
Box 25
Folder 1
American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1916
Box 25
Folder 2
American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1917
Box 25
Folder 3
American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1918
Box 25
Folder 4
American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1919 - 1922
Box 25
Folder 5
American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, undated
Box 25
Folder 6
Board of Missionary Preparation, 1912 - 1913
Box 25
Folder 7
Board of Missionary Preparation, 1913 - 1915
Box 25
Folder 8
Board of Missionary Preparation, 1916
Box 25
Folder 9
Board of Missionary Preparation, 1917 - 1922
Box 25
Folder 10
China Educational Commission, conference proceedings, May 29-30, 1920
Box 26
Folder 1
China Educational Commission, 1920
Box 26
Folder 2
China Educational Commission, January - June, 1921
Box 26
Folder 3
China Educational Commission, July, 1921
Box 26
Folder 4
China Educational Commission, August 9 - August 17, 1921
Box 26
Folder 5
China Educational Commission, August 17, 1921 - August 30, 1921
Box 26
Folder 6
China Educational Commission, September 1, 1921 - September 14, 1921
Box 26
Folder 7
  China Educational Commission, September 1, 1921 - September 30, 1921
Box 26
Folder 8
  China Educational Commission, October - November, 1921
Box 26
Folder 9
  China Educational Commission, December 1 - December 8, 1921
Box 27
Folder 1
  China Educational Commission, December 15 - December 26, 1921
Box 27
Folder 2
  China Educational Commission, December 27 - December 29, 1921
Box 27
Folder 3
  China Educational Commission, 1922
Box 27
Folder 4
  China Educational Commission, undated
Box 27
Folder 5
  China Educational Commission, minutes from meetings
Box 27
Folder 6
  Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, 1909
Box 27
Folder 7
  Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, January, 1910
Box 27
Folder 8
  Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, February, 1910
Box 28
Folder 1
  Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, March - May, 1910
Box 28
Folder 2
  Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, June - December, 1910
Box 28
Folder 3
  Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, 1911 - 1912
Box 28
Folder 4
  Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, 1913
Box 28
Student Conference, 1879

Box 29
Folder 11
   Tokyo Tabernacle, 1913

Box 30
Folder 1
   Tokyo Tabernacle, 1914

Box 30
Folder 2
   Tokyo Tabernacle, 1915 - 1919

Subseries 2: Oriental Education Commission

Box 30
Folder 3
   Address before the Imperial Educational Association, July 13, 1909

Box 30
Folder 4
   Arabic newspaper

Box 30
Folder 5
   Calling cards

Box 30
Folder 6
   Chinese articles

Box 30
Folder 7
   Chinese documents

Box 30
Folder 8
   Correspondence, Questions on India and Burma, 1908

Box 30
Folder 9
   Correspondence, Replies to questionnaire, January - March, 1909

Box 30
Folder 10
   Correspondence, Replies to questionnaire, May 1909 - 1910

Box 30
Folder 11
   Correspondence, 1908

Box 30
Folder 12
   Correspondence, 1909

Box 31
Folder 1
   Correspondence, 1910

Box 31
Folder 2
Correspondence, 1918

Box 31
Folder 3
Correspondence concerning Report and Journal of 1908-1909

Box 31
Folder 4
Correspondence and notes, undated

Box 31
Folder 5
Edgar Goodspeed correspondence, July - September, 1908

Box 31
Folder 6
Edgar Goodspeed correspondence, October - December, 1908

Box 31
Folder 7
Edgar Goodspeed correspondence, January - March, 1909

Box 31
Folder 8
Edgar Goodspeed correspondence, April - August, 1909

Box 31
Folder 9
Edgar Goodspeed correspondence, bound, "An Unofficial Record of an Unscientific Journey on the Yangtze Kiang" [bound]

Box 31
Folder 10
Itineraries

Box 31
Folder 11
Journal - part 1

Box 32
Folder 2
Journal - part 2

Box 32
Folder 2
Journal - pages 713-822

Box 32
Folder 3
Journal - part 1

Box 32
Folder 4
Journal - part 2

Box 32
Folder 5
Journal - part 2 - pp. I - XXXIV

Box 33
Folder 1
   Journal - part 1 (pp. 225 - 408 only)
Box 33
Folder 2-3
   Newspaper clippings
Box 33
Folder 4-5
   Newspaper clippings - photocopies (see folders 2-3)
Box 33
Folder 6
   Pamphlets
Box 33
Folder 7-9
   Photographs
Box 33
Folder 10
   Poem, Christmas card
Box 33
Folder 11
   Postcards and photographs
Box 33
Folder 12
   Postcards and photographs
Box 33
Folder 13
   Proposal - "American Japanese Educational Society"
Box 33
Folder 14
   Reports
Box 34
Folder 1
   Report
Box 34
Folder 2
   Report - photographs
Box 34
Folder 3
   Report (draft) - introduction, Turkey, Egypt, India
Box 35
Folder 1
   Report (draft) - China
Box 35
Folder 2
   Report (draft) - China
Box 35
Folder 3
Report (draft) - China

Box 35
Folder 4
  Report (draft) - China

Box 35
Folder 5
  Report (draft) - Japan

Box 35
Folder 6
  Report (draft) - Japan

Box 35
Folder 7
  Report (draft) - Korea

Box 35
Folder 8
  YMCA reports

Box 36
Folder 1
  Arabic newspapers, oversize

Box 36
Folder 2
  Imperial Rescript on Education in Japan, oversize

Box 36
Folder 3
  poster - "God Save the Sultan," oversize

Box 36
Folder 4
  Maps - University of Nanking, oversize

Subseries 3: Correspondence

Box 37
Folder 1
  Correspondence, A-Ai
  • Abells, Mrs. B.
  • Abernathy, William S.
  • Aitchison, John Y.

Box 37
Folder 2
  Correspondence, Am
  • American Baptist Foreign Mission Society

Box 37
Folder 3
  Correspondence, An-Ay
  • Anderson, Franck
  • Anderson, Frederick
  • Andru, H.
• Armitage, E.
• Armstrong, A.E.
• Arnett, Trevor
• Ashcroft, Frank
• Ashida, K.
• Ayer, F. W.

Box 37
Folder 4
Correspondence, Ba
• Bachelor, Frank B.
• Bailey, Ambrose
• Bailey, John William
• Baker, Benson
• Baldwin, Arthur

Box 37
Folder 5
Correspondence, Ba
• Baldwin, Elbert
• Balme, Harold
• Barber, B. R.
• Barbour, C. H.
• Barnes, John S.

Box 37
Folder 6
Correspondence, Ba-Be
• Barnes, L. C.
• Barton, James L.
• Batty, E. Jean
• Bawden, Samuel D.
• Beach, Harlan P.
• Beach, Joseph
• Beaven, A. W.
• Beeman, Hulbert G.
• Beman, W. W.

Box 37
Folder 7
Correspondence, Be-Bi
• Benninghoff, Harry Baxter
• Berry, Arthur
• Berry, Fred
• Bestor, Arthur E.
• Bible, Frank W.

Box 37
Folder 8
Correspondence, Bi-Bo
• Bitting, W. C.
• Blakeslee, George H.
• Blodgett, J. F.
• Bond, Henry

Box 37
Folder 9
Correspondence, Bo
• Bond, Henry

Box 37
Folder 10
Correspondence, Bo-Br
• Bowerman, Louis S.
• Bowler, W. H.
• Boyton, Charles L.
• Brand, E. P.
• Brauer, F.
• Bridgemann, Howard
• Briggs, George E.
• Brockman, F. S.
• Brown, Arthur J.

Box 38
Folder 1
Correspondence, Br-Bu
• Brown, Charles Sumner
• Brown, G. Warren
• Brown, John R.
• Bryan, William Jennings
• Bulkley, L. Duncan
• Burlingame, G. E.
• Burton, Henry F.
• Burton, Margaret E.
• Bustard, William W.
• Butler, Ernest S.

Box 38
Folder 2
Correspondence, Bu
• Butler, Ernest S.
• Butterfield, Kenyon L.
• Buttrick, Wallace

Box 38
Folder 3
Correspondence, Ca-Co
• Calder, Helen B.
• Calley, Walter
• Capen, Edward Warren
• Carman, Augustine S.
• Case, C.
• Cassett, Paul C.
• Celma, A.
• Central China Baptist Mission
• Chadsey, C. E.
• Chamberlain, W. I.
• Chamberlin, Willard D.
• Chaney, Florence J.
• Chang, P. C.
• Chester, S. H.
• China Christian Educational Association
• China Society of America
• Clark, Robert M.
• Clinch, Edward S.
• Cline, John W.
• Coats, A. B.
• Coats, Orville
• Cochrane, Samuel
• Coffman, L. D.

Box 38
Folder 4
Correspondence, Co-Cr
• Cole, Evangeline
• Coleman, George W.
• Coppock, Grace
• Coolidge and Hodgdon
• Corbett, Charles H.
• Crandall, L. A.

Box 38
Folder 5
Correspondence, Cr-Cu
• Crandall, L. A.
• Crawford, J. T.
• Cressy, Earl Herbert
• Cummings, John E.
• Curry, E. R.

Box 38
Folder 6
Correspondence, Da-Di
• Davis, Melissa J.
• Davis, O. S.
• Davison, W. A.
• Day, Charles H.
• Day, Mahlon H.
• Dearing, John L.
• DeBlois, Austen K.
• Deming, John H.
• Dewolf, Delavan
• Dickerson, J. Spencer
• Dinsmore, Carlos M.

**Box 38**

**Folder 7**
Correspondence, Di-E
• Dittmer, C. C.
• Dixon, Mrs. Thomas J.
• Donnelly, Alice M.
• Doughty, William E.
• Dudgeon, Winfield
• Duncan, Kenneth
• Edmunds, Charles K.
• Edwards, D. K.
• Edwards, Preston H.
• Engels, G.
• Erdman, Charles R.
• Eubank, M. D.
• Ewell, Glenn B.
• Ewing, J. C.
• Ewing, R. L.

**Box 38**

**Folder 8**
Correspondence, Fa-Fo
• Fairbanks, Charles W.
• Faunce, W. H. P.
• Fennell, W. G.
• Fenwick, M.
• Ferguson, W. L.
• Fillmore, Wellington F.
• Ferris, G. N.
• Fisher, Galen M.
• Fisher, R. H.
• Fiske, Horace S.
• Fitch, Robert F.
• Ford, S. T.

**Box 39**

**Folder 1**
Correspondence, Fo-Fr
• Fosdick, Harry E.
• Foster, J. M.
• Foster, W. E.
• Franklin, James H.

**Box 39**

**Folder 2-4**
Correspondence, Fr
• Franklin, James H.

Box 39

Folder 5
Correspondence, Fr-Fu
• Franklin, James H.
• Fryer, John
• Fugh, Paul C.
• Fulton, C. A.

Box 39
Folder 6
Correspondence, Ga
• Gallup, Clarence M.
• Galpin, Frederic Tower
• Gamewell, Frank D.

Box 39
Folder 7
Correspondence, Ga-Go
• Gamewell, Frank D.
• Gardner, George N.
• Gascoyne-Cecil, William
• Gates, Fred T.
• Gieselbusch, Gust
• Gilman, Alfred A.
• Gilman, J. Bruce
• Gollock, G. A.

Box 39
Folder 8
Correspondence, Go-Gr
• Goodchild, Frank M.
• Goucher, John F.
• Gould, George P.
• Granger, W. A.
• Grant, W. Henry
• Gray, Clifton D.

Box 39
Folder 9
Correspondence, Gr
• Graybill, H. B.
• Greene, Roger S.
• Gregg, James S.
• Griffith, R. B.
• Gring, Ambrose Daniel
• Grose, H. B.

Box 40
Folder 1
Correspondence, Ha
• Halliday, Vernon
• Haggard, Fred P.

Box 40
Folder 2-3
  Correspondence, Ha
  • Haggard, Fred P.

Box 40
Folder 4
  Correspondence, Ha-He
  • Haggard, Fred P.
  • Hamilton, Clarence M.
  • Hanley, E. A.
  • Hanson, Howland
  • Haring, Douglas G.
  • Harlan, Rolvix
  • Harper, W. F.
  • Hartwell, Emily S.
  • Haskell, Edward H.
  • Haydon, Albert E.
  • Hayne, Paul
  • Hazen, Joseph C.
  • Heath, Hugh A.
  • Henry, Edward A.
  • Henson, L. L.

Box 40
Folder 5
  Correspondence, Hi-Ho
  • Hirsch, Emil
  • Ho, M.
  • Hoadley, Horace G.
  • Hodgkin, R. H.
  • Hoefs, A.
  • Holcombe, Chester
  • Holgate, Thomas F.
  • Holmes, Robert S.
  • Holt, George Frederick
  • Holton, Henry D.
  • Horr, George E.
  • House, Herbert E.
  • Howells, George

Box 40
Folder 6
  Correspondence, Hu
  • Hughes, Charles E.
  • Huizinga, Henry
  • Hulbert, D. W.
• Hume, Edward H.
• Hunsburger, J. E.
• Hunt, E. W.
• Huntington, George B.

Box 40
Folder 7-8
Correspondence, Hu
• Huntington, George B.

Box 41
Folder 1-4
Correspondence, Hu
• Huntington, George B.

Box 41
Folder 5
Correspondence, Hu-Jo
• Huntington, George B.
• Innes, George
• Isaac, Alfred E.
• Jansson, E.
• Jen, Timothy
• Jenks, D. S.
• Johnson, Herbert S.
• Johnson, Vergil V.
• Johnston, J. Leslie
• Jones, Carter Helm
• Jones, Harry W.

Box 41
Folder 6
Correspondence, Ju-K
• Judd, O. R.
• Judson, H. P.
• Kato, K.
• Keen, W. W.
• Keith, G. E.
• King, Henry C.
• Kinley, David
• Kinney, Bruce
• Knight, M. Letitia
• Koo, Telly H.
• Kuo, P. W.

Box 41
Folder 7
Correspondence, La-Lo
• Lake, E. M.
• Lambert, Clara J.
• Law, Y. T.
• Levering, Joshua
• Levy, Maurice Ambrose
• Lew, Mrs. T. T.
• Lewis, Robert E.
• Lipphard, William B.
• Lobenstine, E. C.

Box 41
Folder 8
Correspondence, Lu-Ly
• Luce, H. W.
• Lunt, Theodore R. W.
• Lynch, Robert Newton
• Lyon, D. Willard

Box 42
Folder 1
Correspondence, Ma
• MacClintock, W. D.
• MacIennan, Kenneth
• MacGregor, Charles P.
• Mackenzie, W. Douglas
• MacLaRurien, Ella D.
• MacLeish, Andrew
• MacIennan, Kenneth
• Mallory, H. F.
• Mathews, Shailer

Box 42
Folder 2
Correspondence, Ma-Mi
• Maxwell, J. A.
• McBee, Silas
• McConnell, Francis J.
• McCormick, Frederick
• McCourtney, T. F.
• McCracken, J. C.
• McKinney, William Ayer
• McRai, Milton A.
• Messer, L. Wilbur
• Methodist Publishing House
• Michel, F. J.

Box 42
Folder 3
Correspondence, Mi-Mo
• Millar, W. B.
• Miller, Mrs. Frank J.
• Mills, Annette T.
• The Mission Book company
• Moncrief, J. W.
• Monroe, Paul

Box 42
Folder 4
Correspondence, Mo
• Montgomery, Helen
• Montgomery, W. A.
• Moore, Edward C.
• Moore, L. B.
• Morrison, H. C.
• Morse, A. H. C.
• Morse, Richard C.
• Moss, Charles H.

Box 42
Folder 5
Correspondence, Mo-Mu
• Mott, John R.
• Mullins, E. M.
• Murphy, D. D.
• Murphy, Starr J.

Box 42
Folder 6
Correspondence, N
• National City Bank, New York City
• Ngon Han
• Nicholson, Edward K.
• Nicholson, Mrs. Thomas
• Nickels, Frank C.
• Nind, J. Newton
• Nixon, Justin N.
• North, Eric M.

Box 42
Folder 7
Correspondence, O
• Ogilvie, J. N.
• Okuma, Count
• Oldham, J. H.
• Orvis, Susan W.
• Osgood, E. S.

Box 42
Folder 8
Correspondence, Pa-Pe
• Padelford, Frank W.
• Palmer, R. B.
• Parshley W. B.
• Partridge, Warren G.
• Peabody, Mrs. Henry W.
• Pease, K. E.

**Box 42**

**Folder 9**

Correspondence, Pe-Po
- Peking Union Medical College
- Perkins, Fellows and Hamilton
- Petty, Alonzo M.
- Peirson, Ida Goepp
- Pope, William B.
- Pott, F. L. Hawks

**Box 43**

**Folder 1**

Correspondence, Pr
- Price, Mrs. O. J.
- Price, Willard
- Priest, H. C.
- Proctor, J. T.

**Box 43**

**Folder 2**

Correspondence, Pr
- Proctor, J. T.

**Box 43**

**Folder 3**

Correspondence, Pr-Py
- Proctor, J. T.
- Pyre, Ernest

**Box 43**

**Folder 4**

Correspondence, Ra-Ru
- Rawlinson, F.
- Reed, H. S.
- Reid, G.
- Reinsch, J. S.
- Rhoades, C. L.
- Richard, Timothy
- Richardson, W. S.
- Robbins, J. C.
- Rockefeller Jr., John D.
- Rogers, Laura P.
- Rose, C. J.
- Roxby, Percy M.
- Rudd, Herbert F.
- Rugh, Arthur
- Russell, J. E.
Folder 5
Correspondence, Ru
• Russell, William F.
• Rust, C. H.
• Ryrie, James

Box 43
Folder 6
Correspondence, Sa
• Sage, T. Bartlett
• Sailer, T. H. P.

Box 43
Folder 7-9
Correspondence, Sa
• Sailer, T. H. P.

Box 44
Folder 1
Correspondence, Sa
• Sailer, T. H. P.

Box 44
Folder 2
Correspondence, Sa
• Sailer, T. H. P.
• Saillens, R.
• Sanders, Frank K.

Box 44
Folder 3
Correspondence, Sa-Sc
• Sanders, Frank K.
• Sargent, O. C.
• Sato, Shosuke
• Schieder, D. B.
• Schurman, Jacob G.
• Scott, George T.
• Scott, Robert L.
• Schulte, G. A.

Box 44
Folder 4
Correspondence, Se-Sm
• Severance, L. H.
• Shaw, A. A.
• Shaw, S. P.
• Shedd, Mrs. Jessie T.
• Sherwin, Henry A.
• Shirk, Mrs. Milton
• Shore, T. E. Egerton
• Shull, D. C.
• Skevington, Samuel J.
• Simmons, J. W.
• Slaught, H. E.
• Sleman, John B.
• Small, A. W.

Box 44
Folder 5
Correspondence, Sm-Sp
• Smith, F. Herron
• Smith, Gerald B.
• Snape, John
• Soares, T. G.
• Soars, C. A.
• Sombito, F. C.
• Speer, Robert E.
• Speicher, Jacob

Box 44
Folder 6
Correspondence, St
• Stacy, Thomas H.
• Stallings, W. H.
• Stark, C.
• Stephens, Edwin W.
• Stevenson, George E. T.
• Steward, John
• Steifler, James M.
• Stilwell, H. F.
• Stokes, Anson P.

Box 44
Folder 7
Correspondence, St
• Stokes, Anson P.
• Stockham, A. H.
• Streeter, B. H.
• Strong, John H.
• Strong, William E.
• Stuart, J. Leighton
• Stuart, Warren H.
• Stump, John S.

Box 44
Folder 8
Correspondence, Su-Sw
• Suvert, E. R.
• Swasey, Ambrose W.
• Sweet, Franklin W.

Box 45

50
Folder 1
Correspondence, Ta-Th
• Taylor, Frederick E.
• Tenny, Charles B.
• Thoms, Charles M.

Box 45
Folder 2
Correspondence, Th-Tu
• Thomson, R. A.
• Thurston, Mrs. Lawerence
• Tilden, C. H.
• Tingley, C. E.
• Tokushi, Y.
• Tuller, E. P.
• Turner, Fennell P.

Box 45
Folder 3-5
Correspondence, Tu
• Turner, Fennell P.

Box 45
Folder 6
Correspondence, Tu-Tw
• Turner, Fennell P.
• Twing, Martin W.

Box 45
Folder 7
Correspondence, V
• Vichert, J. F.
• Viller, Thomas J.
• Vincent, P.
• Vosburgh, Homer J.

Box 45
Folder 8
Correspondence, Wa
• Wallace, E. W.
• Walwood, Anthony
• Wang, K. S.
• Wang, Y. T.
• Warner, Lucien C.
• Warnshuis, A. L.
• Watson, Charles R.
• Watson, J. F.

Box 45
Folder 9
Correspondence, We-Wh
• Webb, Robert L.
Series IV: Universities and Colleges

Series IV, Universities and Colleges, contains information Burton collected on educational institutions from 1909 to 1923. These universities and colleges were located in China, Japan, and India. This series contains correspondence, minutes, descriptive pamphlets, and financial statements, and it reflects Burton’s interest in missionary work and education.
Folder 3
   Central China University, undated
Box 47
Folder 4
   Chengtu College, 1909
Box 47
Folder 5
   East China Union Medical College, undated
Box 47
Folder 6
   Japanese Women’s University, 1909 - 1913
Box 47
Folder 7
   Jaro Industrial School, 1914 - 1915
Box 47
Folder 8
   Jorhat Christian Schools, 1915
Box 47
Folder 9
   Madras Christian College, 1914 - 1915
Box 47
Folder 10
   Madras Christian College, 1915 - 1923
Box 47
Folder 11
   Peking Federated University, undated
Box 47
Folder 12
   Rangoon Baptist College, 1913 - 1921
Box 47
Folder 13
   Serampore College, undated
Box 47
Folder 14
   Shanghai Baptist College, 1911 - 1921
Box 47
Folder 15
   Tokyo Imperial University, 1915
Box 47
Folder 16
   University of Nanking, 1910
Box 47
Folder 17
   University of Nanking, 1911 - 1912
Box 48
Folder 1
University of Nanking, January - June, 1913  
Box 48  
Folder 2  
University of Nanking, July - December, 1913  
Box 48  
Folder 3  
University of Nanking, 1914  
Box 48  
Folder 4  
University of Nanking, 1914  
Box 48  
Folder 5  
University of Nanking, 1915  
Box 48  
Folder 6  
University of Nanking, 1916  
Box 48  
Folder 7  
University of Nanking, 1917  
Box 48  
Folder 8  
University of Nanking, 1918  
Box 48  
Folder 9  
University of Nanking, 1918 - 1922  
Box 48  
Folder 10  
University of Nanking, photographs  
Box 48  
Folder 11  
University of Nanking, undated  
Box 48  
Folder 12  
Waseda University, 1910 - 1912  
Box 48  
Folder 13  
Waseda University, January - June, 1913  
Box 49  
Folder 1  
Waseda University, July - December, 1913  
Box 49  
Folder 2  
Waseda University, 1914 - 1922  
Box 49  
Folder 3  
West China University, 1909 - 1920
West China University, 1921 - 1922

Series V: YMCA

This small series, YMCA, covers the period 1908 to 1916 and is arranged chronologically. It contains memos and correspondence concerning the Young Men’s Christian Association in China, Japan, and Korea. This series is also related to the material on the YMCA in the United States found in Series VI, National Religious Organizations, and the YMCA at the University of Chicago, found in Series VII, Subseries 1, University Correspondence.

Box 49
Folder 4
Young Men’s Christian Association; China, Japan, Korea, 1908 -1910
Box 49
Folder 5
Young Men’s Christian Association; China, Japan, Korea, 1911 -1913
Box 49
Folder 6
Young Men’s Christian Association; China, Japan, Korea, 1914 -1916

Series VI: National Religious Organizations

Series VI, National Religious Organizations, covers the period 1910 to 1923 and is arranged topically. The American Baptist Home Mission Society material is correspondence with this affiliate of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, found in Series III. Educational Activity includes correspondence with the American Baptist Educational Society among others, some minutes, and reports, and it overlaps with other subjects in this series. The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and the Interchurch World Movement are both small collections of correspondence, minutes, and reports; Burton was a member of both groups. He was also actively involved in the Northern Baptist Convention, which is heavily represented here in the form of correspondence, minutes and reports. Burton was also a member of the Northern Baptist Laymen, a group which gathered to consider the duty of the Christian Church and the Baptist Denomination in the context of World War I. The Young Men’s Christian Association, which is also found in Series III and Series VII, is represented here; the correspondence of the YMCA in this series refers to the organizations activity in the United States.

Box 49
Folder 8
American Baptist Home Mission Society, 1913 - 1922
Box 49
Folder 9
Educational Activity, 1911 - 1912
Box 49
Folder 10
Educational Activity, 1913
Box 50
Folder 1
  Educational Activity, 1914
Box 50
Folder 2
  Educational Activity, January - July, 1915
Box 50
Folder 3
  Educational Activity, August - December, 1915
Box 50
Folder 4
  Educational Activity, 1916 - 1919
Box 50
Folder 5
  Educational Activity, 1920 - 1921
Box 50
Folder 6
  Educational Activity, January - May, 1922
Box 50
Folder 7
  Educational Activity, 1913
Box 50
Folder 8
  Educational Activity, June 1922 - 1923
Box 50
Folder 9
  Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America
Box 51
Folder 1
  Interchurch World Movement, 1919
Box 51
Folder 2
  Interchurch World Movement, 1920-1921
Box 51
Folder 3
  Interchurch World Movement, undated
Box 51
Folder 4
  Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, 1910
Box 51
Folder 5
  Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, April - August, 1911
Box 51
Folder 6
  Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, August - December, 1911
Box 51
Folder 7
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, 1912

Box 51
Folder 8
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, 1913

Box 51
Folder 9
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, 1914

Box 51
Folder 10
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, 1915 - 1917

Box 51
Folder 11
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, 1918

Box 52
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, May 1 - May 26, 1919

Box 52
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, May 27 - May 31, 1919

Box 52
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 1 - 3, 1919

Box 52
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 4 - 8, 1919

Box 52
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 9 - 10, 1919

Box 52
Folder 6
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 11 - 13, 1919

Box 52
Folder 7
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 14 - 17, 1919

Box 53
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 18, 1919

Box 53
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 18, 1919

Box 53
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 18, 1919

Box 53
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 19 - 24, 1919
Box 53
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 25, 1919
Box 53
Folder 6
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 26 - 30, 1919
Box 53
Folder 7
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, July 1 - 6, 1919
Box 53
Folder 8
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, July 7 - 31, 1919
Box 54
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, August 1919
Box 54
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, September 1919
Box 54
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, October 1919
Box 54
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, November - December 1919
Box 54
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, January - February 1920
Box 55
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, March - April, 1920
Box 55
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, May, 1920
Box 55
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 1 - 20, 1920
Box 55
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June 21 - 31, 1920
Box 55
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, July 1920
Box 55
Folder 6
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, August - October, 1920
Box 55
Folder 7  
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, November - December, 1920

Box 55
Folder 8
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, January 1921

Box 56
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, January, 1921

Box 56
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, February - May, 1921

Box 56
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June - July, 1921

Box 56
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, August - December, 1921

Box 56
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, January - April, 1920

Box 56
Folder 6
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, May, 1921

Box 56
Folder 7
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, June - December, 1921

Box 56
Folder 8
Northern Baptist Convention, General Board of Promotion, 1923

Box 57
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Laymen, October - December, 1917

Box 57
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Laymen, December, 1917

Box 57
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Laymen, January, 1918

Box 57
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Laymen, February - May, 1918

Box 57
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Laymen, June - July, 1918

Box 57
Folder 6
Northern Baptist Laymen, August - September, 1918
Box 57
Folder 7
Northern Baptist Laymen, October, 1918
Box 57
Folder 8
Northern Baptist Laymen, November, 1917
Box 58
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Laymen, December, 1918
Box 58
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Laymen, January, 1919
Box 58
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Laymen, February, 1919
Box 58
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Laymen, March 1-15, 1919
Box 58
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Laymen, March 16-31, 1919
Box 58
Folder 6
Northern Baptist Laymen, April 1-14, 1919
Box 58
Folder 7
Northern Baptist Laymen, April 15-30, 1919
Box 59
Folder 1
Northern Baptist Laymen, May 1 - 11, 1919
Box 59
Folder 2
Northern Baptist Laymen, May 12 - 31, 1919
Box 59
Folder 3
Northern Baptist Laymen, June - August, 1919
Box 59
Folder 4
Northern Baptist Laymen, undated
Box 59
Folder 5
Northern Baptist Laymen, undated
Box 59
Folder 6
Young Men’s Christian Association, 1912 - 1923
Series VII: University of Chicago

Series VII, University of Chicago, is divided into four subseries: 1. University of Chicago Correspondence, 2. General Correspondence, 3. Committee on Buildings, and 4. New Testament Department. It covers the period 1890 to 1925.

Subseries 1, University Correspondence, is divided by subject and arranged alphabetically by subject title. Most of this correspondence consists of administrative matters. The correspondence with the Press relates to the publication of Burton’s books.

Subseries 2, General Correspondence, covers a wider range of subjects and includes correspondence with William Rainey Harper, Shailer Mathews, Eri Hulbert, and other correspondents outside the university community. It is arranged chronologically.

Four notebooks that Burton kept on university buildings make up Subseries 3, Committee on Buildings and Grounds. He kept notes on both University of Chicago buildings and the buildings of other universities. It also includes a brochure on University of Chicago development plans from 1924.

Subseries 4, New Testament Department, contains copies of examinations, course notes, correspondence, class schedules and other administrative materials. The series is arranged chronologically and covers the period 1893 to 1922.

Subseries 1: University Correspondence

Box 60
Folder 1
Association of American Colleges, 1915 - 1923
Box 60
Folder 2
American Association of University Professors, 1914 - 1918
Box 60
Folder 3
George Peabody College for Teachers, 1911 - 1912
Box 60
Folder 4
George Peabody College for Teachers, 1913 - 1922
Box 60
Folder 5
Illinois Centennial Fair, January - June, 1918
Box 60
Folder 6
Illinois Centennial Fair, July - December, 1918
Box 60
Folder 7
Library Commission, 1900 - March 1902
Box 60
Folder 8
    Library Commission, March - June, 1902
Box 60
Folder 9
    MacDougal Visit, 1915
Box 60
Folder 10
    Quarter Centennial Celebration, October, 1915 - February, 1916
Box 61
Folder 1
    Quarter Centennial Celebration, March 1916
Box 61
Folder 2
    Quarter Centennial Celebration, April 1916
Box 61
Folder 3
    Quarter Centennial Celebration, May 1916
Box 61
Folder 4
    Quarter Centennial Celebration, June 1 - 15, 1916
Box 61
Folder 5
    Quarter Centennial Celebration, June 16 - 30, 1916
Box 61
Folder 6
    Quarter Centennial Celebration, July 1916 - December 1917
Box 61
Folder 7
    United War Work Campaign, August - October 1918
Box 61
Folder 8
    United War Work Campaign, November 1 - 5, 1918
Box 62
Folder 1
    United War Work Campaign, November 6 - 15, 1918
Box 62
Folder 2
    United War Work Campaign, November 16, 1918
Box 62
Folder 3
    United War Work Campaign, undated
Box 62
Folder 4
    University of Chicago Press, 1899 - 1904
Box 62
Folder 5
Subseries 2: General Correspondence

Box 65
Folder 1
  1890
Box 65
Folder 2
  January - May 1891
Box 65
Folder 3
  June - December 1891
Box 65
Folder 4
  January - February 1892
Box 65
Folder 5
  March 1892
Box 65
Folder 6
  April - May 1892
Box 65
Folder 7
  June - July 1892
Box 65
Folder 8
  August - September 1892
Box 66
Folder 1
  October 1892
Box 66
Folder 2
  November 1 - 15, 1892
Box 66
Folder 3
November 16 - 30 1892
Box 66
Folder 4
  December 1892
Box 66
Folder 5
  January - April 1893
Box 66
Folder 6
  May - July 1893
Box 66
Folder 7
  August - October 1893
Box 66
Folder 8
  November - December 1893
Box 66
Folder 9
  January - March 1894
Box 66
Folder 10
  June - July 1894
Box 67
Folder 1
  January - April 1895
Box 67
Folder 2
  May - October 1895
Box 67
Folder 3
  November - December 1895
Box 67
Folder 4
  January - March 1896
Box 67
Folder 5
  April - December 1896
Box 67
Folder 6
  January - June 1897
Box 67
Folder 7
  July - September 1897
Box 67
Folder 8
  October - December 1897
Folder 8
January - April 1904

Box 70
Folder 1
May - December 1904

Box 70
Folder 2
1905

Box 70
Folder 3
January - August 1906

Box 70
Folder 4
September - December 1906

Box 70
Folder 5
January - March 1907

Box 70
Folder 6
April - September 1907

Box 70
Folder 7
October - December 1907

Box 70
Folder 8
January 1908

Box 71
Folder 1
February - March 1908

Box 71
Folder 2
April 1908

Box 71
Folder 3
May 1908

Box 71
Folder 4
June 1908

Box 71
Folder 5
July 1908

Box 71
Folder 6
August 1908

Box 71
Folder 7
September 1908
Box 72
Folder 1
    October 1908
Box 72
Folder 2
    November 1-15, 1908
Box 72
Folder 3
    November 16-30, 1908
Box 72
Folder 4
    December 1908
Box 72
Folder 5
    January 1-14, 1909
Box 72
Folder 6
    January 15 - February, 1909
Box 72
Folder 7
    March - April, 1909
Box 72
Folder 8
    May 1909
Box 73
Folder 1
    June 1909
Box 73
Folder 2
    July 1909
Box 73
Folder 3
    August 1909
Box 73
Folder 4
    September 1909
Box 73
Folder 5
    October 1909
Box 73
Folder 6
    November 1909
Box 73
Folder 7
    December 1909
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 73</th>
<th>Folder 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 73</td>
<td>Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 74</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 74</td>
<td>Folder 2</td>
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<td>Box 74</td>
<td>Folder 3</td>
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<td>May - July 1910</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
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<td>January - March 1911</td>
</tr>
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<td>Box 74</td>
<td>Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>April - July 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 75</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>August - September 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 75</td>
<td>Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>October - December 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 75</td>
<td>Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>January - September 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 75</td>
<td>Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October - December 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 75</td>
<td>Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January - June 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 6
    July - December 1913
Box 75
Folder 7
    January - April 1914
Box 76
Folder 1
    May - August 1914
Box 76
Folder 2
    October - December 1914
Box 76
Folder 3
    January - March 1915
Box 76
Folder 4
    April - June 1915
Box 76
Folder 5
    July - September 1915
Box 76
Folder 6
    October - November 1915
Box 76
Folder 7
    December 1915
Box 76
Folder 8
    January - April 1916
Box 77
Folder 1
    May - August 1916
Box 77
Folder 2
    September - December 1916
Box 77
Folder 3
    January - June 1917
Box 78
Folder 1
    July - December 1917
Box 78
Folder 2
    January - March 1918
Box 78
Folder 3
April - June 1918
Box 79
Folder 1
   July - September 1918
Box 79
Folder 2
   October - November 1918
Box 79
Folder 3
   December 1918
Box 79
Folder 4
   January 1919
Box 79
Folder 5
   February 1919
Box 79
Folder 6
   March - July 1919
Box 79
Folder 7
   August - December 1919
Box 79
Folder 8
   January - April 1920
Box 80
Folder 1
   May 1920
Box 80
Folder 2
   June 1920
Box 80
Folder 3
   July - September 1920
Box 80
Folder 4
   October - December 1920
Box 80
Folder 5
   January - February 1921
Box 80
Folder 6
   March - April 1921
Box 80
Folder 7
   May - November 1921
Box 80
Folder 8
December 1921
Box 81
Folder 1
January - March 1922
Box 81
Folder 2
April - June 1922
Box 81
Folder 3
July - August 1922
Box 81
Folder 4
September 1922
Box 81
Folder 5
October 1922
Box 81
Folder 6
November 1922
Box 81
Folder 7
December 1922
Box 82
Folder 1
January 1-17, 1923
Box 82
Folder 2
January 18-20, 1923
Box 82
Folder 3
January 21-27, 1923
Box 82
Folder 4
January 28-31, 1923
Box 82
Folder 5
February 1923
Box 82
Folder 6
March - December 1923
Box 82
Folder 7
1924
Box 82
Subseries 3: Committee on Buildings and Grounds

- Box 83
- Folder 2
  - General notebook
- Box 83
- Folder 3
  - Notebooks on University of Chicago buildings
- Box 83
- Folder 4
  - Notebooks on college and university buildings
- Box 83
- Folder 5
  - "The Plan for the Development of the University of Chicago," brochure, 1924

Subseries 4: New Testament Department

- Box 83
- Folder 6
  - Examination copies, 1918-1923
- Box 83
- Folder 7
  - Course notes, 1918-1922
- Box 83
- Folder 8
  - 1893-1911
- Box 83
- Folder 9
  - 1912
- Box 84
- Folder 1
  - January - July 1913
- Box 84
- Folder 2
  - August - October 1913
- Box 84
- Folder 3
  - November - December 1913
- Box 84
- Folder 4
  - January - February 1914
Folder 5
   March - May 1914
Box 84
Folder 6
   June - December 1914
Box 84
Folder 7
   January - February 1915
Box 84
Folder 8
   March - April 1915
Box 85
Folder 1
   May - June 1915
Box 85
Folder 2
   July - August 1915
Box 85
Folder 3
   September - December 1916
Box 85
Folder 4
   January - May 1916
Box 85
Folder 5
   June - September 1916
Box 85
Folder 6
   October - December 1916
Box 85
Folder 7
   January - May 1917
Box 86
Folder 1
   June - December 1917
Box 86
Folder 2
   January - June 1918
Box 86
Folder 3
   July - November 1918
Box 86
Folder 4
   December 1918
Box 86
Folder 5
January - March 1919
Box 86
Folder 6
April - December 1919
Box 86
Folder 7
January - February 1920
Box 86
Folder 8
March 1920
Box 86
Folder 9
April - May 1920
Box 87
Folder 1
June - December 1920
Box 87
Folder 2
January - April 1921
Box 87
Folder 3
May - December 1921
Box 87
Folder 4
January - June 1922
Box 87
Folder 5
July - December 1922
Box 87
Folder 6
1923
Box 87
Folder 7
undated