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Guide to the Chicago Manual Training School Records 1882-1913



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.CMTS
Title	Chicago Manual Training School. Records
Date	1882-1913
Size	53.5 linear feet (32 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	The Chicago Manual Training School was established between 1882 and 1884 by the Chicago Commercial Club. It sought to provide both academic and vocational education for boys at the high school level. In 1903 it became part of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. The Chicago Manual Training School Records contain administrative and financial records, samples of student work, examinations, course catalogues, and publications relating to manual education. Material spans 1882-1913.

Information on Use

Access

This collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Chicago Manual Training School. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

The Chicago Manual Training School was conceived by members of the Chicago Commercial Club in 1882. It opened two years later at the corner of Michigan and Roosevelt Avenues.

The Chicago Manual Training School was the only independent institution of its kind when it opened. Along with Washington University's Manual Training School in St. Louis, it was the most influential in the country. Influenced by educational movements in late 1870s and 1880s America, the school's founders sought to provide a comprehensive three-year education that gave equal attention to "book work" and "shop work." Students were given a secondary education in mathematics, science, and literature, as well as training in drawing, carpentry, and mechanics. Founding director H.H. Belfield declared the industrial age an "age of brains" in

which engineering advancement was equally the product of intellectual innovation and technical skill. Believing that "a republic should have no proletariat," Belfield and the other trustees rejected both traditional secondary school instruction and the apprenticeship model for trades.

Within ten years the Chicago Manual Training School had more than tripled its admissions, and added business and college preparatory courses to its program. Between 1896 and 1897 the school's strained finances led the Chicago Commercial Club to transfer its trusteeship to the University of Chicago, though there was little initial change in curriculum. South Side Academy, a college prep school founded in 1892, similarly came under University administration in 1901; in 1903 the two merged to become University High School. This new institution formed the secondary school for the University's Laboratory Schools, then under the direction of John Dewey.

Scope Note

The Chicago Manual Training School Records span 1882-1913 and are divided into two series:

Series I: Administration and Curriculum, contains administrative accounts, correspondence, and meeting minutes. It includes course catalogues, as well as circular letters and program information distributed to parents and potential students. There are copies of the Chicago Manual Training School newsletter, "Hand and Brain." Materials span 1882-1911; those dating after 1903 are related to the University High School.

Series II: Students, contains applications, assignments, exam results, and grades. It includes examples of student work, programs for student exhibitions and graduations, and information about alumni. Dates for students' grades refer to the "class of," not the year in which the grades were assigned. Material spans 1883-1913.

Related Resources

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

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

Belfield, Henry H. Papers and Belfield Family Papers

South Side Academy. Records

University of Chicago. College of Education. Records

University of Chicago. Laboratory School. Records

Subject Headings

- Belfield, Henry Holmes, 1837-1912
- Chicago Manual Training School
- Education -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Manual training

INVENTORY

Series I: Administration and Curriculum

This series contains administrative accounts, correspondence, and meeting minutes. It contains course catalogues, as well as circular letters and program information distributed to parents and potential students. Of note are copies of the Chicago Manual Training School newsletter, "Hand and Brain." Materials span 1882-1911; those dating after 1903 are related to the University High School.

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Accounts, Foundry Department, 1890-1901

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Accounts, Machine Shop, 1891-1895

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Accounts, tuition payments, 1884-1889

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Circulars, 1888, 1907

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Folder 1

Correspondence, H.H. Belfield, circa 1884

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"Diary of the First Four Years," 1884-1888

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"Regulations Governing the Granting of Emblems at the University High School,"
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"Remarks to the Trustees," E.W. Blatchford, 1883

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Accounts, cash and general 1884-1891

Box 4

Accounts, cash and general, 1887-1890

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Accounts, cash and general, 1894-1898

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Accounts, cash and general, 1895-1908

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Accounts, cash and general, 1900-1901

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Accounts, tuition, 1884-1904

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Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1882-1896

Series II: Students

This series contains applications, exam results, and grades. It includes examples of student work, programs for student exhibitions and graduations, and information about alumni. Dates for students' grades refer to the "class of," not the year in which the grades were assigned. Material spans 1883-1913.

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