The Charles Rosenbury Erdman Manuscript Collection

Collection Summary

Creator: Erdman, Charles Rosenbury, 1866-1960
Dates: 1887-1960
Extent: 16 boxes (9 linear feet)
Language(s): English

Chronology

1866 July 20 Born, Fayetteville, New York
1886 B.A., College of New Jersey (now Princeton University)
1887-1891 Student, Princeton Theological Seminary
1890 Travel
1891 May 8 Ordained in the Presbytery of Philadelphia North, PCUSA
1891-1897 Pastor, Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia
1897-1906 Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Germantown, Pennsylvania
1905-1936 Professor, Practical Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary
1924-1934 Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Princeton, New Jersey
1960 Died, Princeton, New Jersey

Biographical Information

Dr. Erdman also received honorary doctorates from the College of Wooster (1912), Davidson College (1924), and Princeton University (1925). He was the
author of over thirty popular biblical commentaries and books of pastoral theology. Professor Erdman was elected the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1925.

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**Scope and Content**

This collection includes the personal papers Dr. Erdman. Among these are scrapbooks, correspondence, diaries, daybooks, lecture notes, sermon outlines, article manuscripts, printed materials, photographs, and memorabilia.

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**Subjects**

Erdman, Charles Rosenbury, 1866-1960--Manuscripts.


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**Administrative Information**

**Processing Information**

Dr. Erdman's papers were donated by his family, following his death in 1960. The collection was semi-organized some years ago (probably in the 1960's), though no finding aid was developed. The items were assigned call numbers (each beginning with "Doc .E") and cataloged. This collection remained in library storage and was not generally available to library patrons. In April of 1996 the collection was reorganized and a finding aid was written by Raymond D. Cannata, under the direction of William O. Harris, Archivist. At that time additional papers from the Seminary archive's department files and from "File D" were joined to the collection as addendum. The finding aid was edited in June 2008 by Sarah Malone.

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**Access**

There are no special restrictions to access of this collection. It may be examined by library patrons under the normal rules and conditions of Special Collections.
Use of Materials

The following is the acceptable citation for publication: The Charles Rosenbury Erdman Manuscript Collection. Special Collections, Princeton Theological Seminary Library.

Related Material

See also the following materials in Special Collections:

The John Gresham Machen Manuscript Collection
The Alexander Napier MacLeod Manuscript Collection
The Joseph Ross Stevenson Manuscript Collection
The Robert Dick Wilson Manuscript Collection

The PTS Board of Directors Records

See also the following oral histories in the PTS Audio Cassette Collection:

Oswald Allis (Tape #0514)
Muriel Jennings (Tapes #0339-0342)
Allan A. MacRae (Tapes #0314,0323-0324,0467)
Carl McIntire (Tapes #0310,0404)
Edwin Rian (Tapes #0331-0334)
Eloise Smith Wolferteig (cook for the Erdmans) (Tape #1414, interview by Matthew Reeder, 2002)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in eight series: Diaries and Daybooks, Correspondence, Manuscripts (sermons, notes, lectures, and articles), Sermon outlines, Scrapbooks, Printed material, Clippings and Miscellany, and Addendum.
Contents

Box 1: Diaries and Daybooks
   16 volumes

Box 2: Personal Letters
   2:1 Letters, 1889-1899
   2:2 Letters, 1900-1909
   2:3 Letters, 1910-1919
   2:4 Letters, 1920-1929
   2:5 Letters, 1930-1939
   2:6 Letters, 1940-1949
   2:7 Letters, 1950-1960
   2:8 Letters, undated
   2:9 Letters, pre-1889.

Box 3: Correspondence Arranged by Subject
   3:1 Letters concerning biography, 1925-1960
   3:2 Birthday greetings, 1941
   3:3 Birthday greetings, 1946
   3:4 Birthday greetings, 1947
   3:5 Letters concerning J. Gresham Machen, 1925-1926
   3:7 Letters concerning Moderatorship, (folder 2 of 4). 1925-1926
   3:8 Letters concerning Moderatorship, (folder 3 of 4). 1925-1926

Box 4: Correspondence Arranged by Subject
   4:1 Letters concerning "Quiet Day" Group, 1929
   4:2 Letters concerning Princeton Seminary Alumni Association, 1918-1949
   4:3 Letters concerning Princeton Seminary, Class of 1891, 1905-1956
   4:4 Letters of sympathy to Mrs. Erdman, 1960
Letters concerning position as student adviser, 1925

**Box 5: Manuscripts: Sermons, Notes, Lectures, and Articles**
- 3 notebooks

**Box 6: Manuscripts: Sermons, Notes, Lectures, and Articles**
- 6:1 Sermon manuscripts by W.J. Erdman.
- 6:2 Article manuscripts.
- 6:3 "Epistles" notebook.
- 6:4 "Junior Lectures" notebook.

**Box 7: Manuscripts: Sermons, Notes, Lectures, and Personal Papers**
- 1897-1959 4 notebooks,

**Box 8: Sermon Outlines**
- 4 notebooks.

**Box 9: Sermon Outlines**
- 4 notebooks.

**Box 10: Sermon Outlines**
- 4 notebooks.

**Box 11: Sermon Outlines**
- 5 notebooks.

**Box 12: Scrapbooks**
- 5 notebooks (quotations, etc.).

**Box 13: Scrapbooks**
- 1925 2 notebooks, In re Moderatorship,[Photocopy in Box 16]

**Box 14: Printed Material**
- 14:1 Folder 1.
- 14:2 Folder 2.
- 14:3 Folder 3.
- 14:4 Folder 4.
- 14:5 Folder 5.
Box 15: Clippings and Miscellaneous Personal Papers

15:1 Clippings, 1899-1925
15:2 Clippings, 1926-1929
15:3 Clippings, 1930-1949
15:4 Clippings, 1950-1960
15:5 Miscellaneous manuscripts.
15:6 Poems and anecdotes.
15:7 Photographs.

Box 16: Addendum

16:1 Scrapbook, (photocopy of item in Box 13). 1925-1926
16:2 Scrapbook, Moderatorship,(photocopy of item in Box 13). 1925
16:3 "Our Marriage Vow," notebook of the Erdmans' wedding.
16:4 Clipping, Public Ledger (Philadelphia), 1896 October 22.
16:5 Miscellaneous news clippings In re Charles Rosenbury Erdman
16:6 "Lord's Supper" address by Charles Rosenbury Erdman. First Church, 1932 December 4 and 1933 February 5.
16:8 Photographs.
16:9 Copper engraving of Charles Rosenbury Erdman.