



Guide to the James Cannon III Papers, 1912 - 1974

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Summary

Collection Title:

James Cannon III papers, 1912 - 1974

Creator:

Cannon, James, 1892-1960

Abstract:

James Cannon III worked as an educator and administrator at Trinity College and Duke University from 1919 to 1960, serving as Dean of the Divinity School from 1951 to 1958. The Cannon papers contain correspondence, manuscript drafts of sermons and publications, course materials, subject files, clippings, photographs, ephemera, and scrapbooks relating to the life and work of James Cannon III. Major subjects include biblical literature and the Bible as literature, religious education, missionary training, history of religion, Christianity, Buddhism, comparative religion, and the Cannon family, especially James Cannon, Jr. and James Cannon IV. English.

Extent:

4.6 Linear Feet
4,500 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult University Archives, Duke University.

Language:

English

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

UA.29.02.0067

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/uacannon/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], James Cannon III Papers, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The Cannon papers were originally organized into three main files and arranged alphabetically within these files. Three series reflecting the original order were created: Personal files and family history, Writings, and Subject files. The Writings series was reorganized by type of writing into three subseries: Sermons, Articles, and Course materials. Some clippings files, reference materials, gradebooks, and duplicates were removed from the papers.

Biographical/Historical

From 1919 to 1960, Reverend Dr. James Cannon III worked as an educator and administrator at Trinity College and Duke University, serving as Dean of the Divinity School from 1951 to 1958. He was born on November 30, 1892 in Farmville, Virginia to Bishop James Cannon, Jr., and Lura Bennett Cannon. He earned a bachelor's degree from Trinity College in 1914 and a master's degree at Princeton University in 1917. Cannon served in the military as a chaplain during World War I, for which he merited the French Croix de Guerre in 1919. Later that year, he returned to Trinity College to teach Biblical Literature and Missions. While he taught at Trinity, he continued his graduate studies at the Princeton Theological Seminary, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in theology in 1925. When the Duke University Divinity School opened in 1926, Cannon became the Ivey Professor of the History of Religion and Missions, a position he held until his death on March 9, 1960.

In addition to his work at Duke University, Cannon actively participated in several religious and educational organizations and authored and edited a number of scholarly publications. In 1958, he was elected president of the Association of Methodist Theological Schools. Cannon also served as president of the Professors of Missions in Eastern Universities in 1941. He was secretary of the Duke chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and served on the Phi Beta Kappa National Senate in 1953. He wrote the *History of Southern Methodist Missions* (Cokesbury Press, 1926) and co-authored *A Guide to the Study of the English Bible* (Duke University Press, 1926). Cannon also edited periodicals such as *Christian Advocate* and *The Muslim World*.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Use Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

The James Cannon III Papers was received by the University Archives as a gift in 1974.

Processing Information

Processed by Jill Katte

Completed July 2002

Encoded by Jill Katte, September 2003

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Related Materials

Related Material

Chapel Sermons [sound recordings]. University Archives, Duke University. James Cannon, Jr. papers. David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Names and Subjects

- Sermons
 - Bible as literature -- Study and teaching
 - Buddhism -- Study and teaching
 - Clippings (information artifacts)
 - Christianity -- Study and teaching -- Sermons
 - Missions -- Study and teaching
 - Religion -- History -- Study and teaching
 - Religions -- Comparative studies
 - Religious education -- North Carolina
 - Religious literature
 - Theological seminaries -- United States
 - Photographs
 - Scrapbooks
 - Duke University -- Faculty
 - Duke University. Divinity School
 - Cannon, James, 1864-1944
 - Cannon, James, 1892-1960
 - Cannon, James, 1892-1960
-

Collection Inventory

Personal files and family history, 1912-1974

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence, clippings, publications, photographs and ephemera primarily related to Cannon's life and career. Typed note cards within some of the files provide background information on major events and cross-references to other

files; a family member or office assistant of Cannon most probably created these. Additional personal and family photographs, clippings, and scrapbooks can be found in Oversize Boxes 10 and 11.

Association of Methodist Theological Schools, 1958	Box 1
Bennett, William Wallace, 1939-1959	Box 1
Bermuda shorts, 1957	Box 1
Bishop Cannon's Own Story, 1950-1958	Box 1
Blackstone, [Virginia], 1960-1965	Box 1
Cannon, James, Jr., Bishop and Mrs., 1937-1964	Box 1
Cannon, Walter, 1943-1958, undated	Box 1
Cape Cod, Mass., July 1957	Box 1
Cards, undated	Box 1
Cartoons, James Cannon III, ca. 1954	Box 1
Chairman, Duke Divinity School Faculty, 1950	Box 1
Chaplaincy: Appointment, assignments, identity card, 1918-1919	Box 1
Citation, United States Army, 1918-1919	Box 1
Cleland, James T., 1950-1959	Box 1
Conference, Western North Carolina, 1959-1960	Box 1
Convocation and James A. Gray Lectures, 1953-1956	Box 1
Correspondence, 1958-1963	Box 1
Croix de Guerre, 1919	Box 1
Cushman, Robert E., 1958-1959	Box 1
Daily Suggesters [pocket calendars], 1950, 1952	Box 1
Dean, 1951-1958	

Appointment as Dean [Congratulatory correspondence]	
A-J, 1951	Box 1
K-Z, 1951	Box 1
Installation as Dean, 1951	Box 1
Resignation as Dean, 1958	Box 2
Letters, A-L, 1958-1959	Box 2
Letters, M-Z, 1958	Box 2
Deanness, 1951	Box 2
Death and funeral notices, 1960	Box 2
Diary, War years, 1918	Box 2
Discharge, Army, 1918-1919, 1960	Box 2
Divinity School	
1951-1958	Box 2
1958-1960	Box 2
Divinity School students, 1953-1967	Box 2
Duke Circuit Rider, 1952	Box 2
Duke Divinity School Bulletin, First editor, 1946	Box 2
Duke University, 1938-1955, undated	Box 2
Duke in Scotland, 1957	Box 2
Edens, A. Hollis, President, 1949-1960	Box 2
Edinburgh [University], 1919	Box 2
Faculty resolutions on death, 1960	Box 2
Faculty resolutions on retirement, 1958	Box 2
Famous Virginians' Dinner, 1957	Box 3
Federal Council of Churches, 1925	Box 3

First Division, 1918-1960	Box 3
Football, undated	Box 3
France and Germany, World War I [photographs and post cards], ca. 1920	Box 3
Funeral, 1960	Box 3
Garrett Biblical Institute, 1924	Box 3
[Graduate Department of Religion], 1959	Box 3
History of Southern Methodist Missions, 1924-1927	Box 3
Holy Land [photographs], ca. 1937	Box 3
Honorary degrees, 1938, 1956	Box 3
Hope Valley [photographs], undated	Box 3
Ireland, World War I, ca. 1920	Box 3
Italy, Army YMCA, ca. 1918	Box 3
Jimmy [James Cannon IV], 1923-ca. 1934	Box 3
Kendall, Helen M., 1957-1958	Box 3
Kodak pictures (Assorted) [photographs of James Cannon III], 1938-1959	Box 3
Library Lectures, Duke Divinity School, 1955, 1959	Box 3
Memorial service, April 19, 1960	Box 3
Methodist Theological Seminaries, 1958-1960	Box 3
Missions, Courses in; Missionary Institutes; Missionary Alumni, 1950-1966	Box 4
National Cyclopedia of American Biography, 1960-1961	Box 4
Painting, Lura Bennett Cannon, 1957, undated	Box 4

Phi Beta Kappa, 1925, 1957-1960	Box 4
Photographs, 1914-1960, undated	Box 4
Princeton Theological Seminary, 1915-1917, 1924-1925, 1951	Box 4
Princeton University, 1924	Box 4
Princeton University Alumni Association, 1960	Box 4
Publications, 1925-1931	Box 4
Publications, 1932-[1958]	Box 4
Randolph-Macon College, 1956	Box 4
Registration Cards, 1917, 1942	Box 4
"Those Who Remembered," 1960	Box 4
The Richmond Virginian, 1915	Box 4
Rocky Mount, North Carolina, 1921	Box 4
Seminars, Duke Divinity School, 1952-1956	Box 4
Sigma Chi [certificate of membership], 1912	Box 4
Spence, H. E., 1942-1963, undated	Box 4
Standard Training Schools, M. E. Church, South, 1922, 1924	Box 4
The Stars and Stripes, 1918	Box 4
Stockham, Herbert C., 1958-1960	Box 4
Supply Pastors' School, Duke Divinity School, 1954-1955	Box 4
"A Tribute to Dean Cannon," 1958	Box 4
Trinity College, 1913-1955	Box 4
Wedding, 1920	Box 4
Who Was Who, 1960	Box 4

York Chapel, 1951-1958	Box 4
YMCA -- Army, 1917-1918	Box 4
Correspondence, Margaret Faw, 1917-1919, undated Physical Description: [5 folders]	Box 5
Automobile accident, 1952	Box 5
James Cannon Jr. O'Brien-Glass correspondence, other papers in re-trial	Box 5
Guest book from memorial service for James Cannon III, 1960	Box 5
Reviewers Club, 1974	Box 5

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Writings, 1920-1961

Scope and Contents note

Research notes, manuscript drafts, clippings, programs, and bulletins related to Cannon's sermons, publications, and courses. Additional course-related material can be found in the Subject Files series.

Organized by type of writing into the following subseries: Sermons, Articles, and Course materials; then arranged alphabetically by title within each subseries.

Sermons, 1941-1957, undated

Box 6

"At Ease with God," Randolph-Macon College Commencement, June 3, 1956	Box 6
"Christ and Human Need," Duke University Church, February 28, 1954	Box 6
"Christian Faith," Duke University Chapel, January 20, 1957	Box 6

"The Christian Message," St. Paul Methodist Church, Durham, N. C., August 5, 1951	Box 6
"The Christian Ministry; or, How Shall They Hear Without a Preacher?" 1951	Box 6
"The Consolations of God," Duke University Church, March 15, 1953	Box 6
"The Daily Cross," undated	Box 6
"Easter Message," Duke University Chapel, undated	Box 6
"Jesus Christ: Who He Was; What He Did," York Chapel Talk, undated	Box 6
"Men of Conviction," Duke University Church, January 13, 1952	Box 6
"The Opportunity of a Chain," undated	Box 6
"The Pilgrims," Duke University Chapel, July 13, 1952	Box 6
"The Pure Flame of Truth," Phi Beta Kappa address, undated	Box 6
"Three Ways of Life: the Communist Way, the American (Democratic) Way, the Christian Way," Duke University Church, July 15, 1951	Box 6
"Truth and Faith," undated	Box 6
"When Our Ideals Betray Us," undated	Box 6
"Women in Today's World," Columbia College Commencement, 1941	Box 6

Articles, 1925-1956, undated

"An Appreciation of the Duke Endowment," North Carolina Christian Advocate, May 31, 1956	Box 6
"Can the Hebrew Old Testament be Relied Upon?" undated	Box 6

"David Livingstone," undated	Box 6
"A Day's Work for a Day's Pay," Christian Advocate, September 4, 1925	Box 6
"The Department of Religious Training," Trinity Alumni Register, undated	Box 6
"The Doctrine of the Future Life in India," The Union Seminary Quarterly, January 1926	Box 6
"Every Christian a Missionary," Christian Advocate, June 5, 1925	Box 6
"Figures by Which the Church is Represented in the New Testament," undated	Box 6
"The Functions of a College Department of Missions," North Carolina Christian Advocate, May 14, 1925	Box 6
"Future Life among Animistic Peoples," Methodist Quarterly Review, October 1925	Box 6
"The Gospel of Barnabus," The Moslem World, April 1942	Box 6
"Habakkuk, a Monograph on Faith," Nashville Christian Advocate, February 19, 1926	Box 6
"Investment Opportunity," North Carolina Christian Advocate, August 16, 1951	Box 6
"Japanese Indigenous Christianity," South Atlantic Quarterly, July 1925	Box 6
"The Linguistic Argument for the Late Date of Canticles," Methodist Quarterly Review, April 1925	Box 6
"Methodist Theological Schools Are Growing," North Carolina Christian Advocate, July 31, 1952	Box 6
"Missionary Education at the Home Base," The Missionary Review of the World, April 1926	Box 6

"Missionary Families," undated	Box 6
"The Order of the Green Mustaches," [Poem], undated	Box 6
"Our Missionary Literature," Christian Advocate, March 13, 1925	Box 6
"The Philosophy of Missions," World Outlook, April 1952	Box 7
"Proofs of the Christian Life," Christian Advocate, July 9, 1926	Box 7
"The Search for Saviors," undated	Box 7
"Shinto: Literary Sources and Popular Cultus," The Review and Expositor, July 1925	Box 7
"The Teaching of Missions in Colleges," Christian Advocate, March 27, 1925	Box 7
"Transmigration and Karma in Hinduism," undated	Box 7
"The Vital Breath of Missions," North Carolina Christian Advocate, August 16, 1928	Box 7
"Who Should Pay for Educating Methodist Ministers?" Virginia Methodist Advocate, Nov. 23, 1950	Box 7
"Will We Run Out of Preachers?" Shepherds, April 1952	Box 7
"The Witness of the Roman Catacombs to Early Christianity," New York Christian Advocate, undated	Box 7
"The World Outlook of Duke University," World Outlook, July 1941	Box 7

Course materials, 1920-1960, undated

The Bible as literature, Summer school, undated	Box 7
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The Bible, The use of in public schools, Summer school, ca. 1920	Box 7
Bo tree, 1944-1951	Box 7
Buddhism, Miscellaneous, 1929-1933	Box 7
Buddhism in Ceylon, Burma, Cambodia, Siam, undated	Box 7
Buddhism in China, ca. 1929	Box 7
Buddhism in India, undated	Box 7
Buddhism in Japan, undated	Box 7
Christianity and world movements, undated	Box 7
The Church on the mission field, ca. 1947	Box 7
College courses in missions, 1929, 1949	Box 7
Divinity School, early days, 1926	Box 7
Divinity School faculty, 1926-1958	Box 7
Ethical ideals and social practice in the religions of the world (Comparative Religion), undated	Box 8
Expansion of Christianity to the Reformation, Summer school, ca. 1920	Box 8
Great preachers and missionaries, undated	Box 8
Ideas of future life [Religion 284: Comparative Religion], ca. 1941	Box 8
The idea of God, Comparative Religion, ca. 1945	Box 8
The idea of salvation, Comparative Religion, undated	Box 8
The idea of sin (Comparative Religion), ca. 1942	Box 8

Hinduism, 1940-1950	Box 8
How religions have spread, undated	Box 8
Judaism, ca. 1947	Box 8
Latin America, Christian work in, ca. 1936	Box 8
Missionary education, suggested program for a local church, ca. 1944	Box 8
Missions in the modern world, 1935-1960	Box 8
The nature and early development of religion [Religion 181], undated	Box 8
Preaching, Expository, undated	Box 8
Religions of Eastern Asia, China, Korea, Japan, ca. 1943	Box 8
Religions of India, Religion S285, 1939-1947	Box 8
Rise and expansion of Islam, undated	Box 8
Superstitions, ca. 1949	Box 8
Theological scholarships, ca. 1950	Box 8

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Subject files, 1917-1965

Scope and Contents note

Research notes, correspondence, clippings, and other materials related to Dr. Cannon's teaching and writing. Some files contain outlines for courses included in the Course materials subseries above.

Africa, ca. 1943	Box 9
Program of Advance in Foreign Ministries, October 1948	Box 9
Chronology of China, undated	Box 9
Cleland, James T., 1955-1965	Box 9

Comparative religion, Outlines, undated	Box 9
Garber, Bishop and Mrs. Paul N., 1947-1963	Box 9
Garber diary	
February 10, 1945 - October 5, 1945	Box 9
October 11, 1945 - March 12, 1946	Box 9
March 13, 1946 - December 15, 1946	Box 9
March 22, 1947 - September 4, 1947	Box 9
Hindu sacred literature, course notes, undated	Box 9
History of Religion 15, Examination, 1951	Box 9
Islam, lecture notes, ca. 1939	Box 9
Living religions, course outline, undated	Box 9
The philosophy of the Christian world mission, lecture notes, 1946-1951	Box 9
Mohammedanism - Outline, ca. 1946	
Bibliography, undated	Box 9
Clippings, ca. 1945	Box 9
Nature and Development of Religion [Religion 181], undated	Box 9
Petry, Ray C., 1950-1964	Box 9
Phi Beta Kappa, 1960	Box 9
Photographs, undated	Box 9
Schweitzer, Albert [Clippings], 1947	Box 9
World mission of the Christian religion, course, ca. 1930	Box 9

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Oversize materials

"The Book of Jimmy Cannon"

Box 10

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook details the life of James Cannon IV, son of James Cannon III. The book contains photographs, ephemera, correspondence and other materials.

Scrapbook

Box 11

Photographs

Box 11

Clippings

Box 11

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