

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Charles Reynolds Brown Papers

RG 37



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1977

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 37

CREATOR: Brown, Charles Reynolds, 1862-1950

TITLE: Charles Reynolds Brown papers

DATES: 1860-1957

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9 linear feet (17 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection documents Brown's long and active career as a Congregational minister, Dean of Yale Divinity School and author. Prominent correspondents include William Lyon Phelps, Washington Gladden, Booker T. Washington, Henry Sloane Coffin, Herbert Hoover, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., John R. Mott, William H. Taft, Theodore Roosevelt and Luther A. Weigle. Charles Reynolds Brown was born in Bethany, West Virginia on October 1, 1862. He was educated at the University of Iowa and Boston University, and received several honorary degrees. He was a prominent Protestant clergyman in Congregational churches across the United States, Dean of Yale Divinity School (1911-1928) and an author. He served as Moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches and as Chairman of the Congregational Education Society. He died on November 28, 1950.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.037>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.037>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Brown family.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Charles Reynolds Brown Papers (RG 37), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1862 Oct 1	○ Born in Bethany, W. Va., son of Benjamin F. and Sarah T. Brown
1883	○ A.B. University of Iowa
1886	○ A.M., University of Iowa
1889	○ S.T.B., Boston University
1889-1892	○ Pastor of Wesley Chapel, Cincinnati, Ohio
1892-1896	○ Pastor of Winthrop Congregational Church, Boston
1896 Sep 23	○ Married Alice Tufts
1896-1910	○ Pastor of First Congregational Church, Oakland, Ca.
1897	○ Professional study in Egypt and Palestine
1911-1928	○ Dean of the Yale Divinity School - Pastor of Yale University Church for twelve years
1913-1915	○ Moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches
xx	○ Honorary degrees from Yale, Boston U., Brown, Mills College, Oberlin, U. of Vermont, Wesleyan
xx	○ Chairman of Congregational Education Society
1928-1950	○ During the years of his retirement Brown continued to preach and write extensively. He was considered to be one of the nation's foremost Protestant clergymen. ○ Dean Emeritus
1950 Nov 28	○ Died

Scope and Contents

The first series, Correspondence, is divided into Family Correspondence and General Correspondence. Within each of these sections the correspondence of Brown's wife is separated from his own. The Family Correspondence dates from 1886 to 1944. It includes letters to or from Brown, his wife, mother, father, sister, niece and cousins. Brown wrote long and detailed letters to family members regarding his trips abroad in 1894 and 1897 and regarding the San Francisco earthquake in 1906. During trips to Europe in 1911 and 1931 Brown wrote daily to his wife.

General Correspondence dates from 1894 to 1951 and consists primarily of letters received by Brown. The letters in this section are useful for tracing the development of Brown's own career. Factors influencing his

decisions first to accept a call to Oakland and later to become dean of the Divinity School are evident in his correspondence with friends and colleagues. Matters regarding Brown's extensive publications and his involvement in the affairs of the Congregational Church are also dealt with in the General Correspondence section. An abbreviated list of notable correspondents would include: Henry Sloane Coffin (1919, 1922, 1943), Alfred Coit (1920), David E. Fitzgerald (1922), Washington Gladden (1906), Herbert Hoover (1917, 1920, 1940), John R. Mott (1921), William Lyon Phelps (1928, 1939), John D. Rockefeller Jr. (1919), Theodore Roosevelt (1926, 1932, 1933), William H. Taft (1914, 1916, 1923, 1926) and Booker T. Washington (1902).

The second series, Notebooks and Journals, dates from 1883 to 1947 and includes material written by Brown and by his wife. Engagement record books and a record of sermons preached document Brown's long and active life. Other notebooks include notes for sermon illustrations. The journals of Alice Tufts Brown record daily activities during trips abroad in 1897, 1898, 1928, and 1931.

The Writings of Series III are divided into four sections.

- a) Addresses and Sermons (1891-1946, n.d.); primarily in manuscript form.
- b) Published works (1898-1944, n.d.); primarily in printed form with a few typescript drafts
- c) Miscellaneous (1860-1946, n.d.); including notes for lectures and published works, an unpublished manuscript, publication agreements and a few writings by others.
- d) Reviews of Brown's books (1924-1944, n.d.)

The material in this series supplemented by the newspaper clippings in bound volumes 1 through 7 gives a reasonably complete picture of Brown's career as a preacher and writer. The collection contains little which deals with issues or events at Yale Divinity School during Brown's tenure as dean.

The fourth series, Personal Items and Memorabilia (1883-1951, n.d.), includes biographical material, memorabilia, newspaper clippings which spotlight important events in Brown's career, and one folder of photographs.

Bound volumes 1 through 7 contain primarily newspaper clippings about Brown, by him or reviewing his publications. These volumes are recorded on microfilm. Bound volume 8 is apparently a record of members received by the churches Brown served from 1889 to 1896. Bound volumes 9 and 10 contain the International Sunday School Lessons written by Brown from 1911 to 1917. Bound volumes 8 - 10 and microfilm (vol. 1-7) are found in the oversize box.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1886-1951
- II. Notebooks and Journals, 1883-1947
- III. Writings, 1860-1946, n.d.
- IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1883-1951, n.d.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1886-1951

Family Correspondence is arranged chronologically with the recipient or sender other than Brown noted on the folder. The correspondence of Alice Tufts Brown follows that of her husband. General Correspondence is arranged chronologically. Notable correspondents are indicated on the folder headings. The correspondence of Alice Tufts Brown again follows that of her husband.

Correspondence: Family

b. 1, f. 1	CRB: To/from mother	1886-1890
b. 1, f. 2	CRB: To parents ret trip abroad	1894
b. 1, f. 3	CRB: To fiancée, father, sister incl. ret trip abroad	1896-1897
b. 1, f. 4	CRB: To parents ret trip to Hawaii	1898
b. 1, f. 5	CRB: To mother incl. ret San Francisco earthquake	1906-1907
b. 1, f. 6	CRB: To parents, sister ret trip abroad	1908
b. 1, f. 7	CRB: To/from mother, sister	1910-1911 Jun
b. 1, f. 8	CRB: To wife from Europe	1911 Jul
b. 1, f. 9	CRB: To wife from Europe	1911 Aug
b. 2, f. 10	CRB: To wife from Europe	1931 Jul. Aug
b. 2, f. 11	CRB: From cousins	1939-1944
b. 2, f. 12	CRB: To mother	n.d.
b. 2, f. 13	ATB: Incl. to parents	1906-1908
b. 2, f. 14	ATB: To sister-in-law, niece	1928

Correspondence: General

b. 2, f. 15	CRB: Re. call to Oakland church	1894-1896
b. 2, f. 16	CRB: Re. publications	1899
b. 2, f. 17	CRB: Incl. from Booker T. Washington, Frank K. Sanders	1901-1905
b. 2, f. 18	CRB: Incl. from Washington Gladden	1906
b. 2, f. 19	CRB: Incl. from Geo. Gordon	1907-1908
b. 2, f. 20	CRB: Re. publications	1909
b. 2, f. 21	CRB: Incl. ret leaving Calif.	1910
b. 2, f. 22	CRB: Incl. from Charles Eliot	1911-1912
b. 2, f. 23	CRB: Incl. from Wm. H. Taft	1913-1914

Correspondence: General (continued)

b. 2, f. 24	CRB: Incl. from Arthur Twining Hadley Dotha Bushnell Hillyer	1915-1916
b. 2, f. 25	CRB: Incl. from Herbert Hoover, Charles E. Jefferson	1917-1918
b. 3, f. 26	CRB: Incl. from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Arthur T. Hadley, Henry Sloane Coffin	1919
b. 3, f. 27	CRB: Incl. from Herbert Hoover, Alfred Colt, John R. Mott	1920-1921
b. 3, f. 28	CRB: Incl. from David E. Fitzgerald, Henry S. Coffin, Wm. H. Taft	1922-1923
b. 3, f. 29	CRB: Incl. from Theodore Roosevelt, Wm. H. Taft	1924-1926
b. 3, f. 30	CRB: Incl. Re. publications	1927
b. 3, f. 31	CRB: Incl. from James R. Angell, Wm. Lyon Phelps, Luther A. Weigle	1928-1929
b. 3, f. 32	CRB: Incl. from Charles McLean Warren	1930-1931 May
b. 3, f. 33	CRB: Incl. from James R. Angell, Theodore Roosevelt	1931 Jun-1932
b. 3, f. 34	CRB: Incl. from Theodore Roosevelt	1933-1934
b. 3, f. 35	CRB	1935-1937
b. 3, f. 36	CRB: Incl. from Wm. H. Danforth, Wm. Lyon Phelps	1938-1939
b. 3, f. 37	CRB: Incl. from Herbert Hoover	1940
b. 3, f. 38	CRB: Incl. from Harry Emerson Fosdick	1941-1942 Jun
b. 3, f. 39	CRB: Re. his 80th birthday	1942 Sep-Dec
b. 3, f. 40	CRB: Incl. from Henry S. Coffin, Anson Phelps Stokes	1943-1949
b. 3, f. 41	CRB: Incl. from Henry S. Coffin, Harry Emerson Fosdick	n.d.
Correspondence of Alice Tufts Brown		
b. 3, f. 42	ATB	1941-1957, n.d.

Series II: Notebooks and journals, 1883-1947

Notebooks belonging to Brown are arranged chronologically within each of three sections: a) Engagement record books; b) Record book of sermons preached; c) Miscellaneous notebooks. The fourth section in this series, the travel journals of Alice Tufts Brown, is also arranged chronologically.

Engagement record books		
b. 4, f. 43	CRB: engagement records	1883-1893
b. 4, f. 45	CRB: engagement records	1914-1919
b. 4, f. 46	CRB: engagement records	1920-1926
b. 5, f. 47	CRB: engagement records	1927-1932
b. 5, f. 48	CRB: Engagement Records	1933-1938
b. 5, f. 49	CRB: Engagement Records	1939-1947
Record book of sermons preached		
b. 5, f. 50	CRB: Record of sermons preached	1912-1945
Miscellaneous notebooks		
b. 5, f. 51	CRB: Miscellaneous notebooks	1908, 1910, n.d.
b. 5, f. 52	CRB: Miscellaneous notebooks	n.d.
Travel journals of Alice Tufts Brown		
b. 6, f. 53	ATB: Journals from trips abroad	1897
b. 6, f. 54	ATB: Journals from trips abroad	1897, 1898
b. 6, f. 55	ATB: Journals from trips abroad	1928-1931

Series III: Writings, 1860-1946, n.d.

a) Addresses and Sermons are arranged alphabetically by title with dates indicated when available; b) Published works are arranged chronologically; c) Miscellaneous writings are arranged alphabetically by type of material, i.e. notes, publication agreements, unpublished manuscript, etc. d) Reviews of Brown's books are arranged alphabetically by the title of the book being reviewed. One folder of miscellaneous reviews follows those arranged by title.

Addresses and Sermons		
b. 7, f. 56	A	n.d.
b. 7, f. 57	B-Ch	1918-1934, n.d.
b. 7, f. 58	Co-Da	n.d.
b. 7, f. 59	De-Dr	1943, n.d.
b. 7, f. 60	E	1898-1946, n.d.
b. 7, f. 61	Fa	n.d.
b. 7, f. 62	Fi-Gi	n.d.
b. 8, f. 63	Go-Ha	n.d.
b. 8, f. 64	He-Je	n.d.
b. 8, f. 65	Jo-Ju	n.d.
b. 8, f. 66	K-Le	1898, n.d.
b. 8, f. 67	Li-Ma	n.d.
b. 8, f. 68	Me-N	1924, n.d.
b. 8, f. 69	O-Pa	n.d.
b. 8, f. 70	Pe-Pu	1923, 1933, n.d.
b. 9, f. 71	R	n.d.
b. 9, f. 72	S-So	1917, n.d.
b. 9, f. 73	Sp-Su	1932, no..
b. 9, f. 74	T	1891-1943, n.d.
b. 9, f. 75	U-We	1945, 1946, n.d.
b. 9, f. 76	Wha-Whe	n.d.
b. 9, f. 77	Who-Y	n.d.
b. 9, f. 78	Untitled	
Published Works		
b. 10, f. 79-85	Various	1898-1944, n.d.

Published Works (continued)

b. 11, f. 86	Various	n.d.
Miscellaneous Writings		
b. 11, f. 87	Notes for <i>The Art of Preaching</i>	n.d.
b. 11, f. 88	Notes on "Care of the Parish"	n.d.
b. 11, f. 89	Notes; incl. on Methodist polity	n.d.
b. 11, f. 90	Publication agreements and records; incl. list of published works	1898-1946, n.d.
b. 11, f. 91	Unpublished manuscript	1945
b. 11, f. 92	Writings by others	1860-1942, n.d.
Reviews of CRB's Books		
b. 12, f. 93	<i>Being Made Over</i>	1939
b. 12, f. 94	<i>Dreams Come True</i>	1944
b. 12, f. 95	<i>Finding Ourselves</i>	1935
b. 12, f. 96	<i>Have We Outgrown Religion?</i>	1933-1936
b. 12, f. 97	<i>Ten Short Stories From the Bible</i>	1925
b. 12, f. 98	Miscellaneous	1924-1939, n.d.

Series IV: Personal items and memorabilia, 1883-1951, n.d.

a) Biographical material is arranged chronologically; b) Memorabilia is arranged by type of item; c) Newspaper clippings are divided into biographical, regarding sermons and addresses, and miscellaneous. The clippings are arranged chronologically within these sections.; d) Photographs are arranged chronologically.

Biographical Material		
b. 13, f. 99-101	Various	1892-1951, n.d.
Memorabilia		
b. 13, f. 102	Marked Bibles belonging to CRB and ATB	1900, 1929, n.d.
b. 13, f. 103	Incl. Masonic Material	1883-1937
Newspaper Clippings		
b. 14, f. 104	Biographical	1892-1939, n.d.
b. 14, f. 105	Biographical	1950, 1951
b. 14, f. 106	Regarding sermons and addresses	1896-1943, n.d.
b. 14, f. 107	Regarding sermons and addresses	n.d.
b. 14, f. 108	Regarding lecture about Lincoln	1936-1950, n.d.
b. 14, f. 109	Miscellaneous	1906, n.d.
Photographs and additional memorabilia		
b. 14, f. 110	Photographs	1921, n.d.
b. 15	Honorary degrees and citations; Guest books; Bon voyage greetings written by friends of the Browns on occasion of their trip to Japan; Photo of League of Nations traveling group (boxes 15 and 16)	1910-1939
b. 16	Honorary degrees and citations; Guest books; Bon voyage greetings written by friends of the Browns on occasion of their trip to Japan; Photo of League of Nations traveling group (boxes 15 and 16)	
b. 17	Bound Volumes 8-10, Microfilm (vols. 1-7)	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Clergy
Congregational churches -- United States

Occupations

Authors
Deans

Names

Brown, Charles Reynolds, 1862-1950
Coffin, Henry Sloane, 1877-1954
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964
Phelps, William Lyon, 1865-1943
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930

Corporate Bodies

Congregational Education Society
National Council of Congregational Churches
(1865 Boston, Mass.)
Yale University. Divinity School