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John D. Cannon papers 12135424

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Cannon, John Dyson, 1934-2014
Title:	John D. Cannon Papers
ID:	12135424
ID:	UA#0222
Date [inclusive]:	1900-1984
Date [bulk]:	1966-1969
Physical Description:	3.84 linear feet 3 record cartons and 2 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); John D. Cannon Papers; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

John Dyson Cannon (1934-2014) was born in St. Alban's, England. Until 1940, he lived in a London suburb, when the first of the German blitzes destroyed much of the city, and children were sent for safety to the United States. Upon arrival in America, he lived with his foster parents in Kennebunk, ME. In 1952, he graduated from Mt. Hermon School for Boys in Mt. Hermon, MA, followed by Harvard College (1956), and Union Theological Seminary, New York City (1959).

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Biographical / Historical

In 1959, Rev. Cannon was ordained a priest by Bishop Horace W.B. Donegan (1900-1991). He first served as an assistant to the rector at Saint Thomas Protestant Episcopal Church in Manhattan, NY. In 1963, Rev. Cannon began his chaplaincy ministry at Columbia University serving as Assistant Chaplain in the Protestant Office (1963-1964), Acting University Chaplain (1964-1966), and University Chaplain (1966-1969).

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Biographical / Historical

In the course of his tenure at Columbia University, Rev. Cannon was considered a new breed of clergyman, whose liberal politics and theology fostered a strong orientation toward progressive social action. In this regard, he was closely identified with many campus protest organizations. To illustrate, Rev. Cannon supported the creation of the Student Homophile League, now the Columbia Queer Alliance, protested the Vietnam War and racial inequality. He also recommended the elimination of the University Chaplaincy and the University's relationship with the Episcopal Church. These preceding actions and other projects such as the establishment of the Postscript, a coffee house located under St. Paul's Chapel created tensions between Rev. Cannon and the university administration. In October 1968, citing "a real barrier" with the administration and the "powerful pressures" placed upon the chaplain's office, Rev. Cannon announced his plans to resign before the end of the academic year upon the completion of a report undertaken by the Committee on Religious Life. This committee chaired by Rev. Cannon and formed by the University President engaged in an extensive, comprehensive review of religious programs, procedures, and policies at Columbia University.

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Biographical / Historical

After Columbia University, Rev. Cannon served a brief tenure at the Academy for Educational Development. Beginning in the mid-1970s, he worked as an assistant to Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. (1919-2003). In 1975, Rev. Cannon became the tenth Rector of Saint John's Church in Greenwich Village, NY. By 1985, he had returned to chaplaincy and teaching at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH. Rev. Cannon retired from the ministry in 1995.

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Summary

The collection consists of correspondence, memos, publications, reports, press clippings, press releases, sermons and speeches retained by the Rev. John D. Cannon, University Chaplain at Columbia University, 1966-1969.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 5 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Christopher M. Laico. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2017-09-13 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has restrictions.

Accrual

No additions are expected

Immediate Source of Acquisition

2016.2017.M035: Source of acquisition--Jeffrey Cannon. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--8/26/2016.

Processing Information

Papers processed CML 4/03/2017-05/26/2017.

Processing Information

Finding aid written CML 08/31/2017.

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Related Materials

Other Finding Aids

[Reminiscences of John D. Cannon: oral history, Columbia Crisis of 1968 project, Columbia Center for Oral History, Butler Library, Columbia University, 1968.](#)

Other Finding Aids

[http://findingaids.cul.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-ua/ldpd_4080180/summary.](http://findingaids.cul.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-ua/ldpd_4080180/summary)

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Controlled Access Headings

- College chaplains
- College students
- College students -- Religious life
- Gay college students -- United States
- Gay liberation movement -- United States -- History
- Student-administrator relationships
- Student strikes -- New York (State) -- New York
- Universities and colleges -- Sermons
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Speeches (documents)
- Cannon, John Dyson, 1934-2014
- Columbia University
- Columbia University -- Student strike, 1968
- Columbia University -- Students

Collection Inventory

Series I: Personal Files

Scope and Contents

This series contains Rev. Cannon's personal correspondence, lectures, notebooks and collected biographical information such as an interview, an oral history and newspaper mentions.

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, 1952-1984, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 1
Job Search, 1965-1966	box 1
Lectures, undated	box 1
Newspaper Mentions, 1964-1968	box 1
Notebooks, 1967, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 1
<i>Reminiscences of John D. Cannon: Oral History--Columbia Crisis of 1968 Project</i> , 1968 June 12	box 1

Wu, Albert *The Secularization of the Chaplaincy: A History of the Columbia University Chaplaincy, 1908-1969*, Senior Thesis, Faculty of the Department of History, Columbia University, 2005 April 15

Cannon, John D.--Comments of, 2005 April 28 box 1

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Series II: Sermons, Speeches and Writings

Scope and Contents

Arranged in chronological order, this series consists predominantly of Rev. Cannon's sermons and speeches given during his chaplaincy at Columbia University.

Title/Description	Instances
Comments to Freshmen, 1965-1967	box 1
Sermons, 1963-1969 1975, undated, 1963-1969, 1975, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 7 folders	
"Christ and the Mature Man"--on Ephesians 4, 1964 February 2, 1964	box 1
"To Tell the Truth--on truth-telling on the language of faith, 1964 March 8, 1964	box 1
"Man's Coming of Age", St. Paul's Chapel, 1964 May 31, 1964	box 1
"The One and the Many", 1964 August 2, 1964	box 1
"The Christian and the Movement: Cooperation or Collision", 1966 February 13	box 1
"The College Consensus: A Commentary on Its Character", Miss Porter's School, 1966 May 1	box 1
"Is Nothing Sacred", St. Paul's Chapel, 1966 July 24	box 1
"Christian Presence in the University"--Opening Service, 1966	box 1
"The Church and Ecumenical Life", 1966	box 1
"Freedom-Now and Then"--Baccalaureate Sermon, 1966	box 1
"Relationship of Community of faith to Community of learning"--Opening Service, 1966	box 1
Vetlesen Award--Jan Hendrick Cort, 1966	box 1
"The Heart of the Wise in the House of Mourning"--Commemoration Service, 1967 January 15	box 1

"Conscienceless Power Meets Powerless Conscience"--Race Relations Sunday, 1967 February 12	box 1
"Godly Guides and Ungodly Gurus", 1967 April 9	box 1
"Christian Attitude toward Power in the Eucharist as Social Action", 1967 July	box 1
Good Friday--Dialogues, 1967	box 1
Hiroshima Day--Feast of Transfiguration, 1967	box 1
"On Church and State"--Reformation Sunday [text: give to Caesar the things that are Caesars], 1967	box 1
"Freedom Now and Then", Miss Porter's School, 1967	box 1
"Knowledge Beyond Knowledge", 1968 September	box 1
Baccalaureate Service, 1968	box 1
Passion Sunday--following the death of Martin Luther King, 1968	box 1
Race Relations Sunday, 1968	box 1
"True Religion and Political Relevance", 1968	box 1
"Why Tell it Like it is?", Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, 1969 February 9	box 1
"Guilt and Hope", 1st Sunday in Lent [Temptation in the Wilderness], 1969	box 1
Rogation Sunday [the Sunday preceding the Rogation Days], 1969	box 1
"The Advantage of Being Christian", undated	box 2
"Christian Identity in a Post-Christian World", undated	box 2
"Citizens of Heaven", St. Paul's Chapel, undated	box 2
"The Lure of Detachment", St. Paul's Chapel, undated	box 2
"The New Reformation: Will the Institutional Church Survive", Reformation Sunday, undated	box 2
Notes for a lecture--talk on the New Morality, undated	box 2
"On Detachment and Confessions" St: Luke's Hospital, undated	box 2
"On the Eucharistic Assembly in Prodigal Son", undated	box 2
"The Parable of the Prodigal Son", undated	box 2
Passion Sunday, Columbia University--with comments on Ed Crawford's paintings, undated	box 2
"Sower and the Seed", undated	box 2

"Technology and Progress: Towards the New Jerusalem", undated	box 2
Thanksgiving Sermon, St. Thomas Church, undated	box 2
"What Resources Do We Have for Christian Living", St. Paul's Chapel, undated	
Preparation Materials--Miscellaneous Notes, 1963-1969 undated, 1963-1969, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 2
Speeches, 1959-1960	box 2
"Student Power -- Open Revolt" <i>Seventeen Magazine</i> , 1968	box 2

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Series III: Student Strike, 1968

Scope and Contents

Arranged alphabetically, series three encompasses news releases, periodicals, publications, reports, and student group information collected by Rev. Cannon about the 1968 Columbia Student Strike.

Title/Description	Instances
Columbia Crisis, 1968-1969	
News Releases, 1968-1969	
General Administration, 1968	box 2
Kirk, Truman and Trustees, 1968	box 2
Newspapers	
<i>The Columbia OWL</i> , 1968	box 2
<i>The Columbia Spectator</i> , 1963-1969	box 2
New York and other, 1968	box 2
Student Organizations--Columbia University, 1968	box 2
Publications and Reports	
<i>Columbia Crisis '68: A report submitted to The Ecumenical Foundation by The Reverend William F. Starr, staff member of the Foundation at Columbia</i> , 1968	box 2
<i>Columbia College Today: Six Weeks That Shook Morningside</i> , 1968	box 2
<i>The Columbia Crisis: Campus, Vietnam, and the Ghetto: A survey of student and faculty attitudes and behavior at Columbia University</i> , 1968 July 1	box 2

<i>Who Rules Columbia?</i> , North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), 1968 September	box 2
<i>Crisis at Columbia: What Happened, Why It Happened, The Future</i> by Robert E. Price, 1968 October 1	box 2
Student Groups, 1967-1969	box 2

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Series IV: Subject Files

Scope and Contents

This series contains files related to Rev. Cannon's campus ministry activities and committee work. The series has an alphabetical arrangement.

Title/Description	Instances
Abortion, 1966-1992	box 2
Alumni--Columbia University, 1968-1969	box 2
Campus Ministries, 1965	
<i>Case Studies in the Campus Ministry</i> , The Church Society for College Work, 1968	box 2
Columbia Student Christian Association, 1929-1942	box 2
Columbia University--Reform, 1968-1969	box 2
Commencements--Columbia University, 1966-1967	box 2
Committee on External Affairs, 1968	box 2
Committee on Religion, 1953-1954	box 2
Committee on Religious Life, 1966-1967	box 3
Correspondence, 1948-1969	box 3
Interim Report--Draft--Materials, 1933-1967	box 3
Outline Report of Review of Religious Life, Columbia University, 1967	box 3
Recommendations Memoranda, undated	box 3
Report--Price, Robert E., "Religious Life at Columbia, 1754-1922", undated	box 3
Reprint--Friess, Horace L., "Growth in Study of Religion at Columbia University, 1924-1954", <i>The Review of Religion</i> , 1955 November, 1955	box 3
Concerned Faculty and Students of Religion Department, 1968	box 3

The Danforth Foundation, 1966	box 3
The Ditchley Foundation, 1973	box 3
Draft--Conscientious Objectors--Columbia University, 1934-1968	box 3
Earl Hall	
Activities, 1942-1968	box 3
Advisory Committee, 1962-1968	box 3
Correspondence, 1900-1984 undated, 1900-1984, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 7 folders	box 3
Nominations for Clergy Appointments, Columbia University, 1968	box 3
Pamphlets, 1964-1967 undated, 1964-1967, undated	box 3
Photograph, undated	box 3
Report [incomplete], undated	box 3
Statistics--Religious Preference, 1954-1967	box 3
Student Governing Board, 1969	box 3
The Ecumenical Foundation for Higher Education in Metropolitan New York, Inc., 1965-1968	box 3
Education	
Articles, 1968	box 3
Syllabi, 1963-1964	box 3
Exhibition--Sister Mary Corita, 1959 1967, 1959, 1967	box 3
Faculty Viewpoints Meeting, Ferris Booth Hall, 1968	box 3
Invitations to Events, 1965-1968	box 4
Morningside Area Clergy, 1968	box 4
Newsletters, Pamphlets, and Reports, 1968-1969	box 4
The Protestant Foundation, 1955-1969	box 4
St. John's in the Village, 1975, undated	box 4
St. Thomas Church, 1960-1968	box 4
Strike Education Committee, 1968	box 4
Vietnam TEACH IN, 1966 March 24, 1966	box 4
The Westminster Foundation of Columbia University-- Program and Reports, 1946-1949	box 4

William Earl Dodge Center for Religion and Life, University Religious Affairs, 1969	box 4
Worship Services	
Liturgies and Services	
St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University, 1963-1969	box 4
Marriage Service--The Certificate, 1963 undated	box 4
Meditations, undated	box 4
Ministry Related, 1962-1964 undated, 1962-1964, undated	box 4
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>	
Conditions Governing Access	
[restricted until 2039]	
Prayers	box 5
Benedictions, undated	box 5
Memorial Services, 1956-1969	box 5

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Series V: Publications--Collected

Scope and Contents

This series contains publications collected by Rev. Cannon and deals with the political, religious, and social upheavals facing university ministries during the late 1960s. These publications, many of them rare, contain Cannon's marginalia and notes evincing the development of his thoughts about how to lead a chaplaincy in a time of great campus turmoil. This series is arranged alphabetically by author. If the author is not known, the publication is arranged alphabetically by either article or periodical title.

Title/Description	Instances
"An Activist Bishop Faces Life" <i>Newsweek</i> , 1972 December 25	box 5
Campus Ministers' Conference for the Metropolitan New York City Area, Catholic Center, New York University, under the auspices of the Metropolitan New York City Chapter of the Religious Education Association, 1966 March 22, 1966	box 5
Carey, John J., "The Changing Campus" <i>Dialogue on Campus</i> , vol. 19, pp. 2-6, 1969 April	box 5
Chambeau, Frank Alsid de, "An Exploratory Ministry in Education: Analysis and Recommendations", undated	box 5
The Chautauquan: Illustrated Book of Chautauqua, 1952 April, 1952	box 5

<i>Free Student: Published by May 2nd Movement</i> , no. 3, undated	box 5
Goodman, Paul, "Student Chaplains", <i>The New Republic</i> , 1967 January 7, 1967	box 5
<i>Heights</i> , 1967	box 5
Hill, Herbert, "Planning the End of the American Ghetto: A Program of Economic Development for Equal Rights", 1966	box 5
Hudson, Frederic M., "The American College Chaplaincy as an Action Research Community", undated	box 5
<i>Journal of Social Commentary</i> , 1967 May, 1967	box 5
Kavanaugh, Robert E., "The Grim Generation", <i>Psychology Today Magazine</i> , 1968 October, 1968	box 5
Merkovic, Lee, "Rabbi Goldman", <i>Manhattan Tribune</i> , vol. 1, no. 27, 1969 May 24	box 5
Moore, John M. <i>The Place of Moral and Religious Values in Programs of General Education</i> , 1952	box 5
New York State Campus Ministry Consultation--Reaction Papers, 1967 May 25-June 3, 1967	box 5
<i>The Proceedings from an Invitational Workshop on Religious Studies in Higher Education</i> , 1967	box 5
Roy Rogers: a magazine of the arts, 1967 May, 1967	box 5
Schlossberg, Edwin, ed. <i>Good News</i> , The Institute for Contemporary Studies, undated	box 5
SenarcLens, Jacques de <i>The Church and the University</i> , undated	box 5
<i>Summer '69: Published by Columbia University and Teachers College</i> , 1969	box 5
Tremmel, William C., "Changing Patterns of Religion on Campus", undated	box 5
Wedel, Theodore O. <i>The Church and the University</i> , undated	box 5

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