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Josiah Strong papers4492500

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Description is written in: English.

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Strong, Josiah, 1847-1916
Title:	Josiah Strong papers
ID:	4492500
Date [inclusive]:	1855 -- 1969
Physical Description:	6 boxes 2.5 linear feet; 6 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Josiah Strong (1847-1916) was a Congregational minister and Social Gospel movement leader. This collection contains Josiah Strong biography manuscript drafts by Elsie Strong with commentary notes by Margery Strong; correspondence and notes written by Josiah Strong, personal effects and memorabilia, a travel diary, and other personal materials; as well as correspondence from and to Josiah Strong and correspondence between Strong's daughters Elsie and Margery to those involved with his biography, including publishers, scholars, and universities.

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Josiah Strong papers, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Josiah Strong was born January 19, 1847 in Naperville, Illinois. He was a descendant of Elder John Strong, one of the early settlers in 17th century Puritan Massachusetts. He spent the remainder of his childhood in Naperville and experienced an evangelical conversion at the First Congregational Church as a young teen. Afterward he attended Western Reserve College; following graduation in 1869, he enrolled at Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati and was ordained Minister. Not long after ending his studies at Lane in 1871, he married Alice

Bisbee of Chardon, Ohio. Rev. Strong spent some time as Pastor of a home missionary church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. From 1877-1883, Rev. Strong was Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Sandusky, Ohio. It was there that he became aware of the major social problems within America and what inspired him to eventually become involved with the Social Gospel movement. This was a Protestant Christian intellectual movement that was most prominent in the early 20th century United States and Canada. The movement applied Christian ethics to social problems, especially issues of social justice such as economic inequality, poverty, alcoholism, crime, racial tensions, slums, unclean environment, child labor, inadequate labor unions, poor schools, and the danger of war. Beginning in 1885, Strong published several books that dealt with religious solutions for social and economic problems, and emphasized interdenominational cooperation to achieve these social goals. Among his most widely read and influential published works are: *Our Country: Its Possible Future and Present Crisis*, *New Era*, *The Twentieth Century City*, *The Times and Young Men*, *Religious Movements for Social Betterment*, and *The Challenge of the City*. Strong served as General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance for the United States from 1886-1898, a coalition of Protestant missionary groups. In reaction to the Evangelical Alliance's lack of involvement in what he saw as an urgent need to deal with social problems in late 19th century USA, he founded the League for Social Service in 1898, which in 1902 was re-named the American Institute of Social Service, an organization to "promote social and industrial betterment." Strong edited its magazine, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. He is considered a leader of the Third Great Awakening, a hypothetical historical period proposed by William G. McLoughlin that was marked by religious activism in American history and spans the late 1850s to the early 20th century. Strong had three daughters named Mary, Elsie, and Margery, and one son, Howard. Mary died tragically in 1894. Strong appears to have been close to his children, as evident in his correspondence with his daughters in the collection. Strong died on April 28, 1916.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains Josiah Strong biography manuscript drafts by Elsie Strong with commentary notes by Margery Strong; correspondence and notes written by Josiah Strong, personal effects and memorabilia, a travel diary, and other personal materials; as well as correspondence from and to Josiah Strong and correspondence between Strong's daughters Elsie and Margery to those involved with his biography, including publishers, scholars, and universities.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series: Series 1: Biography drafts; Series 1A: Personal papers; and Series 2: Correspondence.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2024-06-26

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: entire collection. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The exact provenance of this collection is unknown. Papers may have been given to Union Library by Strong's daughters beginning in the 1930s.

Processing Information

Correspondence and draft notes of biography were cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-14. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. The finding

aid was created by Ruth Cameron in 2012, updated in 2015 by Brigette C. Kamsler and Margaret Kaczorowski with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2024. A detailed inventory was also created by Margaret Kaczorowski; to find out more about what was included in this inventory, please contact Burke Library staff.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Social gospel
- Clergy
- Strong, Josiah, 1847-1916 -- : Archives
- League for Social Service (U.S.)

Burke Library record group:

Union Theological Seminary Archives: UTS 1, papers of faculty and students

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Biography drafts, 1855 -- 1916

Physical Description: 1.75 linear feet 1.75 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by book section.

Scope and Contents

This series contains Josiah Strong biography manuscript drafts by Elsie Strong with commentary notes by Margery Strong. Drafts are subdivided into Parts 1-4, and these parts are further divided by chapter. Chapters encapsulate Strong's entire life, from early childhood and background, early influences, his time out west as a missionary, his role in social service and religion, and his later years. The title of this unpublished manuscript was Josiah Strong: Social Pioneer, and was worked on for several decades by the daughters and Nathaniel Pratt, Charles Macfarland, C.Howard Hopkins, and Dorothea Muller.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence and Deposit of materials to archive, 1969	box 1.1	folder 1
J Strong Biography- offprint by D.R. Miller; Statement by N. M. Pratt, circa 1969	box 1.1	folder 2
Manuscript drafts: 1a Part 3, circa 1886 -- 1916	box 1.1	folder 3-9
Manuscript drafts: Part 1, Chapters I-IV, circa 1847 -- 1916	box 1.1	folder 10-13
Manuscript drafts: Part 2, Chapters V-XIII, circa 1871 -- 1876	box 1.1	folder 14-18
Manuscript drafts: 1c Part 4 and 1d, circa 1881 -- 1916	box 1.1	folder 19-26
Manuscript Outlines Based on Pratt's Work, circa 1881 -- 1916	box 1.1	folder 27

Scope and Contents

Redrafted Contents List Outlines of Chapter XIX South America with JS travel diary Chapter III Creative influences; Chapter II Personality; Chapter XVI Egypt

Death Announcements of J. Strong: Clippings, Correspondence Transcriptions, Funeral Addresses, 1916	box 1.1	folder 28
As His Children Knew Him; In His Thought and Work, circa 1930 -- 1939	box 1.2	folder 1
Chapter XII: The Evangelical Alliance and Social Point of View, final written manuscript, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 2
Ancestry; Boyhood; Cheyenne; Return to Northern Ohio, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 3
Cincinnati; Chapter XXII: Neighbors and Friends; Hospital,, 1951	box 1.2	folder 4
South America and Social Needs of Latin America, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 5
Misc., 1889 -- 1905	box 1.2	folder 6

Scope and Contents

Areas for Consideration by International Congress on General Economic Expansion, Belgium, Source Documents and Notes, 1905 Report of Evangelical Alliance House to House Visitation, 1889; Content

of Clippings re: JS and John Brown Draft Letter and
Autobiographical Notes

Misc., 1886 -- 1938	box 1.2	folder 7
Scope and Contents		
Miscellaneous Sources and Clippings: Testimonial to JS from Central Congregational Church, Cincinnati, 1886 Draft letter to First Cong'l. Church, Cheyenne for 25th Anniversary, 1894 Clippings re JS, 1895 -- 1898 Transcribed Comments re Death of JS Postal envelopes, 1887-1938		
Clippings and Articles by and about JS, annotated by ES/MS, 1898 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 8
Misc., 1891 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 9
Scope and Contents		
Clippings: Obituaries; Book Reviews, 1891 Opposition to Rockefeller funding Addresses and speeches delivered by JS at 75th Anniversary of Western Reserve University, 1891-1916 Invitation to Banquet for Emperor of China, 1906		
Chapter IX: Conferences, Notes and Documents, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 10
Chapter X: London and the Continent, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 11
First Manuscript and Notes: Background, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 12
First Manuscript and Notes: Cheyenne; Boyhood, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 13
Interchurch Conference of Federation Pamphlet, 1905 Background Notes, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 14
Chapter VIII: Evangelical Alliance-Notes and Documents, circa 1893 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 15
MacMillan: Notes and Correspondence re: N. Pratt's Manuscript, 1940	box 1.2	folder 16
Manuscript notes and clippings, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.2	folder 17
NY Times Book Review: Rebel America, 1934	box 1.3	folder 1
Tributes and Correspondence about JS- YMCA, circa 1934	box 1.3	folder 2
Notes, Correspondence, American Institute of Social Service, 1906 -- 1910	box 1.3	folder 3
Chapter XI draft: International interests, [19??] Arbitration treaty at Gridelwald, circa 1896 -- 1916	box 1.3	folder 4-5
Chapter IX draft: International and national conferences, 1885 -- 1891	box 1.3	folder 6

Manuscript draft Ch. XII: Evangelical Alliance First MS, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.3	folder 7
Drafts for Manuscript 2 on JS Biography by M. Strong, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.3	folder 8-10
Draft Clippings for Ch. I-IX, circa 1900 -- 1916	box 1.3	folder 11
Draft clippings and discarded notes for Ch. XII, 1938	box 1.3	folder 12

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Series 1A: Personal papers, circa 1855 -- 1954

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence and notes written by Josiah Strong, personal effects and memorabilia, a travel diary, and other materials.

Title/Description	Instances	
Social Consciousness Notes, circa 1855 -- 1954	box 1A.4	folder 1
Chapter XXVIII: The Problem of Wealth, circa 1855 -- 1954	box 1A.4	folder 2
Plans for Our World: Introductions, Preface, Appendix, circa 1855 -- 1954	box 1A.4	folder 3
Notes on The Great Discord and Social Consciousness Publisher correspondence, 1895 -- 1913	box 1A.4	folder 4
Misc. files and memorabilia, circa 1855 -- 1954	box 1A.4	folder 5

Scope and Contents

Offices and Events Memorabilia; Clippings on JS 1889-1915 Poem entitled The Closed Gentian by JS; Book Reviews Henry Farwell Tribute to JS; Obituary of Major William Strong, 1914 Annual Report of Evangelical Alliance 1886-1887 Studies in Social Christianity, 1918

Personal effects, circa 1855 -- 1954	box 1A.4	folder 6
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Scope and Contents

Minister's license, passport Photographs of family members, including J. Strong, Senior Bisbee and

Strong Family Genealogy, 1939 Attendance record for Mary Strong [sister?], 1855 Western Reserve documents Announcement of Margery Strong Death, 1954

Record of South American Trip Part 1, circa 1855 -- 1954	box 1A.4	folder 7-8
Letter to NY Times Editor from JS about Civil War and Journal brochures, circa 1855 -- 1954	box 1A.4	folder 9

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1883 -- 1969

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in chronological order.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence from and to Josiah Strong, including correspondence with Theodore Roosevelt, Jacob Riis, WJ Pratt, William Dodge, Philip Schaff, founder of Howard University Major General Oliver O. Howard, Walter Rauschenbusch, and Woodrow Wilson. Organizations and topics in his correspondence include but are not limited to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), the Evangelical Alliance, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the situation in Turkey in 1896 and the missionaries there, the YMCA, and various divinity schools and seminaries. This series also contains correspondence between Strong's daughters Elsie and Margery to those involved with his biography, including publishers, scholars, and universities.

Title/Description	Instances
Josiah Strong correspondence, 1883 -- 1917	box 2.1
Elsie and Margery Strong correspondence, 1931 -- 1969	box 2.2

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