John Ferguson Moore papers 4492704

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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Table of Contents

Summary Information 3
Biographical / Historical 3
Scope and Contents 4
Arrangement 4
Administrative Information 5
Related Materials 6
Controlled Access Headings 6
Burke Library record group: 6
Collection Inventory 6

Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Moore, John F. (John Ferguson), 1867-1948
Title:	John Ferguson Moore papers
ID:	4492704
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1925 -- 1927
Physical Description:	0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	John Ferguson Moore, Protestant author and secretary in the Railroad Department of the Y.M.C.A. who wrote several pieces on the Roman Catholic Church, including an unfinished manuscript titled *The Attitude of the Christian Church Toward Secret Societies*. The collection contains Parts 1 and 2, as well as reports, bibliographies, and interviews on the subject of Catholicism.

Preferred Citation

Item description, WAB: John Ferguson Moore papers, circa 1925-1927, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Biographical / Historical

John Ferguson Moore was born in Albany, New York in 1867, and worked as a secretary in local branches of the Y.M.C.A. in New York. In 1897 he became a travelling secretary in the Railroad Department, maintaining communications between Y.M.C.A. headquarters and local branches. By 1919, Moore was the Senior Railroad Secretary for the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A.

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Biographical / Historical

Moore wrote several works on the development of the Y.M.C.A., including The Story of the Railroad "Y" (1930) and The "Y" in Rhyme (1940). He is most well-known for his manuscript, Will America Become Catholic? (1931), which examined the political, social, and financial influence of America's Catholic population. This work addressed rising fears that Catholics would assume a powerful position in American government and social institutions; Moore found these fears to be greatly exaggerated, and stated that "the issue today is not whether America is to be made Catholic but whether America … is to be made Christian."

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the unfinished typescript of John Ferguson Moore's *The Attitude of the Christian Church Toward Secret Societies,* in which Moore examines Roman Catholic views of secret societies such as the Freemasons, including the Leo Taxil hoax. The typescript includes Parts 1 and 2 of the work as well as the title pages for Parts 3 and 4. This collection also contains reports on the Roman Catholic Church that Moore compiled on behalf of the Y.M.C.A., documenting religious conditions in Europe and North America and focusing on the status of Catholicism, as well as bibliographies, lists of interview subjects, and conference notes used as part of Moore's research on the Catholic Church.

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in original order.

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

XML Instance Created by Virginia Pastor. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. EAD spot checked and corrected and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2013-08-22 2019-05-20 2020-05-19

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Acquisition

The exact provenance of this collection is unknown.

Processing Information

Manuscripts and memoranda were cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-08-09. 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 Virginia Pastor in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2020.

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.

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Related Materials

Related Materials

MRL 12: YMCA and YWCA Records, 1925-1945, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Related Materials

Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota.

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Controlled Access Headings

- Secret societies -- Religious aspects
- Europe -- Religious life and customs
- Catholic Church -- Controversial literature

Burke Library record group:

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives

ˆ Return to Table of Contents

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
The Attitude of the Christian Church Toward Secret Societies, Part 1, circa 1927 Physical Description: 5 folders **Scope and Contents** This file contains Part 1 of *The Attitude of the Christian Church Toward Secret Societies*, in which Moore focuses on Roman Catholic views of secret societies, particularly	box 1	folder 1-5

the Freemasons. Part 1 comprises Chapters 1-12, pages 1-229.

The Attitude of the Christian Church Toward Secret Societies, Part 2, circa 1927 Physical Description: 1 folder **Scope and Contents** This file contains Part 2, pages 1-66, of *The Attitude of the Christian Church Toward Secret Societies,* in which Moore examines Leo Taxil's hoax that began in 1884 with his sudden conversion to Catholicism and subsequent exposure of Freemason societies' secret satanic practices. Taxil revealed in 1897 that his revelations and conversion were fabricated with the goal of exposing anti-Masonic fanaticism within the Catholic Church.	box 1	folder 6
The Attitude of the Christian Church Toward Secret Societies, Parts 3 and 4 title pages, circa 1927 Physical Description: 1 folder	box 1	folder 7
Report on European Religious Conditions, circa 1927 Physical Description: 1 folder **Scope and Contents** This file contains a report on the Roman Catholic Church that Moore compiled, on behalf of the Y.M.C.A., documenting religious conditions in Europe and North America.	box 1	folder 8
Some Tentative Impressions Regarding the Roman Catholic Church, circa 1927 Physical Description: 1 folder **Scope and Contents** This file contains a report on the Roman Catholic Church that Moore compiled, on behalf of the Y.M.C.A., focusing on the status of Catholicism.	box 1	folder 9
Bibliographies, interview lists, and conference notes, circa 1925 **Scope and Contents** This file contains other material compiled as part of Moore's research on the Catholic Church, including bibliographies, lists of interview subjects, and notes on conferences.	box 1	folder 10