
Western Theological Seminary
Papers, 1886-1985. 9.50 linear ft.

Abstract

Hope College class of 1887; Western Theological Seminary class of 1891. Missionary to Japan of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), 1891-1923, professor of Bible and missions at Hope College, 1923-1926, professor at Western Theological Seminary, 1926-1939, vice-president of the General Synod, 1911. Correspondence with W. Murray Walton about newspaper evangelism in Japan, 1927-1938, comments on the RCA-Christian Reformed Church polemical writings of the 19th century; readings from patristic literature bearing upon the millennial expectation; lectures, writings, and pamphlets on infant baptism, Revelation of St. John, class lectures on apologetic, ethics, and Old Testament History, lecture on “The Union of 1850,” and “The responsibility of the Reformed Church in America towards missionary work in Japan”; “Christian Endeavor Home for Seamen at Nagasaki” (scrapbook). Bound notes of class lectures on various subjects; materials relating to his work in newspaper evangelism in Japan, Japanese literature on “Shinto”; bulletins and minutes of the Council of Missions Cooperating with the Church of Christ in Japan, 1893-1907; lecture, “Let Us Remember,” a history of Western Theological Seminary, 1935, and twelve of his books.

Accession No: W88-1231
Provenance: Albertus Pieters
Donor: Unknown
Photographs: 3 images (Box 4)
Processed by: Abby Platt, October 1997

Biography

Albertus Pieters was born February 5, 1869, at Alto, Wisconsin. His parents were Rev. and Mrs. Reolf Pieters. He graduated from Hope College in 1887 with an A.B. degree and 1890 with an A.M. degree.

In 1891, he graduated from Western Theological Seminary with a D.D. degree and was ordained a Christian minister and commissioned a missionary. In 1891, he married Emma Kollen before leaving for their missionary assignment in Japan and served there until 1923. While in service, he inaugurated the program Newspaper Evangelism and served as vice-president of the General Synod in 1911.

Upon his return to the United States, he taught at Hope College in their Bible Department from 1923-1926. He was named as Dosker-Hulswit Professor of English Bible and Missions at Western Theological Seminary in 1926 and taught there until 1939.

Pieters passed away in Holland, Michigan, on December 24, 1955.

Scope and Content

Collection is arranged alphabetically by folder and chronologically within each folder. Materials include addresses, articles, correspondence, class lecture notes from Hope College and
Western Theological Seminary and churches, pamphlets, publications, photographs, reports, and reviews of Pieters’ writings.

Container List

Box 1

Biographical, 1948-1955
Addresses, 1917-1951

“Address on the New Christian Manhood in Japan,” 1925
“The Calvinistic View of the Fourth Commandment,” 1940
“The Cause and Significance of the War with Japan,” n.d.
“The Certainty of the Scriptures,” 1941
“Checking Up the Spiritual Life,” 1938
“Christian Education, the Gateway to a Splendid Opportunity,” 1925
“Christian Solidarity,” 1939
“The Christian View of Marriage and Divorce,” 1930
“Dankbaarheid en Godsdienst,” n.d.
“Darbyism Versus the Historic Christian Faith,” 1936
“Denominational Loyalty,” 1931
“De Psalm van Des Heeren Nabijheid,” 1940
“Diplomatic Relations between Japan and the United States,” 1943
“The Earthly Purpose of the Incarnation,” 1938
“Een Goede Wereld,” 1924
“The Extent of the Influence of the Christian Church,” 1937
“Fig Leaves and the Skin Garments,” 1925
“First Lesson in the Doctrine of Total Depravity,” n.d.
“Funeral Oration for Mrs. Samuel M. Zwemer,” 1937
“The Gift of Morning Star,” 1943
“Guarding the Heart,” 1925
“He gave Himself for Me,” 1947
“The Help of God for Sixty Years,” 1942
“Het is ook aan ons Geschied,” 1938
“Het Verlorene Wet-boek Gevonden,” n.d.
“In the Beginning God Created the Heavens and the Earth,” n.d.
“The Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures,” 1925
“Is a Return of the Jews to Palestine Prophesied?” 1936
“Japan Paganism,” 1934
“Let Us Remember...,” 1935
“Loyalty to Our Doctrinal Standards,” 1929
“Marriage and Divorce,” 1947
“The Missionary Work that Was and Is Not and Is to Come,” 1943
“The Morning Star,” 1931
“The Mystery and the Might of the Cross,” 1935
“The Nameless Book,” 1930
“Newspaper Evangelism in Japan,” 1924
“Objections to the Federal Theology,” 1951
“Our Creeds: What are they and What Shall We Do with Them?” 1929
“The Outstanding Discoveries in Biblical Archaeology During the Last 50
Years,” 1938
“A Plea for World-Wide Newspaper and Correspondence Evangelism,” 1920
“Predikarie over de van God Toebereide Goede Werken,” 1923
“Predikatie,” n.d.
“Predikatie over Het Zien op het Onzienlijke,” n.d.
“Predikatie to Hamilton, Michigan,” 1937
“The Priest, the Prophet and the Minister,” 1927
“The Progress of Christianity in Asia during the Last 50 Years,” 1938
“The Reformation in the Netherlands,” 1917
“Remembering the Lord’s Leading,” 1925
“Remembering the Ways of the Lord,” 1947
“Science and the Bible,” 1933
“Sermon on Being Heavenly Minded,” 1926
“Sermon on the Doctrine of Free Will and Moral Responsibility,” 1945
“Sermon on the Doctrine of Election,” 1945
“Sermon on the Enthronement Vision of Revelation 4 & 5,” 1942
“Sermon on the Problems of Christian Membership on Secret Societies,” 1927
“Sermon Preached at the Reformed Church of Spring Lake,” 1937
“Sermon Preached at South Benton, August 29, 1943,” 1943
“Sermon Prepared for the Evening Service of the First Methodist Church of
Holland,” 1928
“Sermon for Thanksgiving Day,” 1936
“Sermon on Prayer Sanctifying Food,” 1929
“Sermon at Western Theological Seminary,” 1927
“The Theolog,” 1935
“The Union of 1850,” 1950
“The Value of Sunday,” 1936
“Wandelen Met God,” n.d.
“The Weaver’s Shuttle,” 1935
“What Should be Our Attitude Towards Non-Christian Religions?” 1925

Articles, 1913-1985
“Andrizesthe-Krataious theorem,” 1924
“The Battle of Armageddon,” 1937
“The Bible and Science,” 1936-1937
“Bulletin Cover and Short Article,” 1951
“Calvin’s Views of the Fourth Commandment,” n.d.
“Challenging the Sun Goddess in Japan,” n.d.
“Chiliasm in the Writings of the Apostolic Fathers,” 1938
“Christ’s Resurrection—The Citadel of Christian Faith,” 1927
“The Christian Religion,” 1926
“The Correspondence of Philip and Nathanael: Two Ministers of the Gospel,” n.d.
“Dr. G. H. Hoppers vs. Dr. Martin J. Wyngaarden,” 1935
“Dr. J. M. Gray and the Undenominational Churches,” 1931
“Emperor Worship in Japan,” 1921
“The Extension of Christ’s Incarnation,” 1959
“The Far-Reaching Results of a Newspaper Article,” 1936
“The First Fruits of Newspaper Evangelism,” 1927
“Free Masons and Church Membership,” 1933
“The Future of the Jews,” 1936
“The Future of Newspaper Evangelism,” 1929
“The Heidelberg Catechism,” 1939-1940
“Heidelberg Catechism and Apostle’s Creed,” 1940
“Hirohito, Emperor of Japan,” 1945
“Islam and the Church,” 1937
“Japan as an International Danger,” 1935
“The Japanese Come from Somewhere,” 1942
“Japanese Church Numbers 129,102,” 1949
“The Korean Conspiracy Case,” 1913
“Letter to Editor,” 1947
“Making a ‘Go’ of Newspaper Evangelism—And in Japan,” 1922
“Mary Pieters Keohane, 81,” 1985
“Missionary Problems in Japan,” n.d.
“Miss Jennie M. Kuyper,” 1923
“Modernism in Japan,” 1923
“Newspaper Evangelist,” n.d.
“Newspaper Evangelism—Present Status and Prospects,” 1921
“The Opportunity of the Printed Page in Japan,” n.d.
“Our Tribute to Albertus Pieters,” 1948
“Our Wonderful Sunday,” n.d.
“Piercing Through the Barriers,” 1922
“The Pieters Family,” 1951
“A Problem and a Solution,” n.d.
“The Question of Church Union,” 1930
“The Relation between the Bible and Foreign Missions,” 1926
“The Resurrection of Jesus Christ—The Inner Citadel of the Christian Faith,”
1927
“A Review of the Sabbath Discussion,” n.d.
“The Seed of Abraham,” 1936
“The Seed of Abraham,” 1945
“Shall We Allow Women to Be Elected as Elders and Deacons?” 1952
“The Significance of Thanksgiving Day,” n.d.
“Sinful and Guilty,” 1944
“The Situation in the Far East,” 1935
“The Three Covenants,” 1959
“The Three Stages of the Shinto Religion,” 1923
“Vaarde Vriendin,” 1903
“Wanted: An Institute of Learning,” n.d.
“What the Western Seminary Seeks to Do,” 1937
“Who Crucified Jesus Christ?” 1938
“Why I Became a Missionary,” 1959

Correspondence, 1894-1959
The Extension of Christ’s Incarnation, 1959
An Appeal to the Public, n.d.
Christian Comfort, The, 1945 (catechism)
Concerning “Interpreter’s Bible,” n.d.
The Church Herald, 1951-1955
Rev. C. P. Dame, 1943, 1947
Did Calvin’s Views Change? n.d.
S. M. Ferrer, 1930
Paul Honigsheim, 1942
Japan, 1894-1972
Dr. De Jonge, 1925
Mr. Delbert Kinney, 1928
Dr. Kuiper, 1947
Jacques Marchais, 1942
Rev. M. E. Osterhaven, 1953
Personal, 1920
Prof. Roger Nicole, 1951
R. J. Reid, 1944
L. J. Shafer, 1950
Rev. Herbert Van Wyk, 1948
Western Theological Seminary, 1943
Rev. J. M. T. Winther, 1946
Rev. Walter E. Woodbury, 1940
Rev. S. M. Zwemer, 1951

Inventory of Publications by Pieters
Lectures, 1848-1951
“The AntiChrist,” 1948
“Apologetic,” n.d.
“At Gorden College of Theology,” 1951
“At Pine Lodge Summer School of Theology,” 1929-1930 (2 volumes)
“The Authority and Use of the Bible,” n.d.

Box 2

Lectures (1848-1951) (cont.)
“Reading the Minutes of the Classis of Holland,” 1848-1858
“Berean Bible Class, New Testament, First Semester,” 1940
“Berean Bible Class, Old Testament, First Semester,” 1940
“The Berean Christian and the Scofield System,” 1933
“Biblical Prophecy and Jewish People To-day,” 1951
“Bible Study Lectures, Central Reformed Church,” 1942
“Book of Daniel,” (Grand Rapids, Michigan) 1946
“Book of Daniel,” (Mayfair) 1946
“The Classis of Holland and the Union of 1850,” 1951
“Comparative Study of Non-Christian Religions,” n.d.
“Comparative Study on Non-Christian Religions,” n.d. (copy two)
“The Cult of the Sun Goddess,” 1923
“Ethics,” n.d.
“Genesis,” Jan.-Feb. 1942
“Highlights of Passion Week,” 1944
“History of Japan,” 1942, 1946
“How to understand the First Chapter of Genesis,” n.d.
“Middle Class-Theory of Missions,” 1927, 1928
“The Prophets,” Jan.-Mar. 1946
“The Revelation of St. John,” 1929
“The Secession of 1857,” 1951
Summary of “How the First Chapter of Genesis is to be Understood,” 1935

Map, Showing Through Connections Between China and Japan

Notes (Lectures)
“Across the Pacific by Raft,” n.d.
“The Alleged Conditional Union of the Hollanders with the Reformed Church of America,” n.d.
“Bible Notes,” n.d.
“Church History,” n.d.
“Church History,” 1949
“Church History” (Inter-test. & 590 A.D.), n.d.
“The Church under the Cross,” n.d.
“The Covenants,” n.d.
“Critical Questions about the Kingdom of God,” n.d.
“The Dutch Reformation,” n.d.
“Extracts from ‘Dogmatic Theology,” n.d.
“Imitation of Christ,” n.d.
“Junior Class, Old testament History,” n.d.
“Junior Class, Old testament History,” n.d. (copy two)

Box 3

Notes (Lectures) (cont.)
“Junior Class, Systematic Theology,” n.d.
“Landverhuizers,” n.d.
“Life of Christ and Apolostic Age,” n.d.
“Misc.,” n.d.
“Old Testament Notes,” n.d., 1937 (2 folders)
“Outlines of Theology,” n.d.
“Pastoral Psychology,” n.d.
“The Praises of Israel,” n.d.
“Scofield Bible,” n.d.
“Systematic Theology,” n.d.
“This Believing World,” n.d.
“The Vatican in World Politics,” n.d.
“Fukuzowa Yuukichi,” n.d.

Outlines
“Book of Joshua,” n.d.
“Jeremiah,” n.d.
“Lecture on Newspaper Evangelism,” 1951

Pamphlets, 1894-1946
“Advertising Makes Mission Work Easy,” 1918
“Appreciation and Depreciation,” n.d.
“The Borderland of Right and Wrong,” 1934
“Brief on China,” n.d.
“Candid Examination of the Scofield Bible,” 1938
“The Christian Attitude Toward War,” 1932
“The Christian Comfort,” 1944
“Co-operation: Which Shall It Be?” 1907
“Cultural Nippon,” 1933
“The Dutch Settlements of Sheboygan,” 1918
“The Federal Council and the Churches,” 1946
“Gedachten over het Rechtsbestaan der Hollandsche Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerk,” 1894
“The Healing of his Seamless Dress,” 1943
“Het Rechtsbestaan der Hollandsche Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerk in America,” n.d.
“Doctrine and Practice of Tenrikyo,” n.d.
“The How and Why of Water Baptism... (An Epistle to Mr. Albertus Pieters),” 1931

Box 4

Pamphlets, 1894-1946 (cont.)
“The Inspiration of Israel and the Body of Christ,” 1945
“The Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures,” 1925
“Japan Christian News Agency,” 1930
“The Japan Newsletter,” 1931
“Jonah and the Whale,” n.d.
“Jonah, the Whale, and Dr. M. R. DeHaan,” 1929
“Kiku Ko San’s Bible School,” n.d.
“Leaflet Evangelism,” n.d.
“A Letter to the Presbyterian and Reformed Missionaries in Japan on Theological Education,” n.d.
“The Logos,” 1945
“The Millennium,” 1945
“Minutes of the Convention of Protestant Missionaries,” 1878
“The Morning Star,” 1946
“Newspaper Evangelism,” n.d.
“Omoto-kyo,” 1920
“A Plea for a Christian College in Japan,” 1899
“Prayer Sanctifying Food,” n.d.
“The Relation of Hope College to the Western Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church of America,” 1902
“The Relation between the Church of Christ in Japan and the Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America,” n.d.
“Rural Evangelism in Japan and the Newspaper Method,” n.d.
“Seven Years of Newspaper Evangelism in Japan,” 1919
“Sketch of Japan Mission,” 1922
“The Theology,” 1935
“Tracts of Philadelphia Bible Testimony,” n.d.
“Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan,” 1901
“United States and Japan Questionnaire,” n.d.
“Why I Left the Futurist School,” 1938
“Why We Baptize Infants,” 1929
“The Works of God,” 1901

Papers, 1915-1955
“Character Dictionaries, Past and Present,” n.d.
“The Christian Position with Regard to War,” 1924
“The Doctrine of the Reformed Church in America,” n.d.
“Early Days in Michigan,” 1946
“Enoch Walked with God,” 1955
“Extracts from an Address by Albertus Pieters at the Meeting of the Particular Synod of Chicago,” 1950
“Fifty Years of Friction,” n.d.
“Historical Introduction,” n.d.
“Memorandum of the Secession of 1882, in the First Reformed Church of Holland, Mich.,” 1952
“Present Day Shinto,” 1934
“Problems and Results of Christian Education in Japan During Pieters’ First Twenty Years as a Missionary,” n.d.
“The Proposed Christian University in Japan” (Version One), n.d.
“The Proposed Christian University in Japan” (Version Two), n.d.
“The Responsibility of the Reformed Church in America towards the Missionary Work in Japan,” 1915
“Synopsis of Paper on Infant Baptism,” 1929
“The Third Year of Jeroiakim,” 1934
“Three Views of the Fourth Commandment,” n.d.
“What Shall Churches do with Members Who Sell Strong Drink?” 1936

Photographs, Albertus Pieters and family (3 images)

Publications
“The Scofield Bible,” 1917
“Why I Became a Missionary,” 1949
“Mahatma Gandhi, an Interpretation,” 1949
“Thou Shalt Be With Me,” 1961
“The Final Cause of World Missions,” 1965
“What do we mean by an Infallible Bible?” 1964
“The Lord’s Day,” 1954
“The First Chapters of Genesis—Are they Parables or History?” 1954

Reports, 1886-1952
“Annual Report for 1926 of work for Lepers in Japan,” 1926
“Tenth Annual Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan,” 1886
“Thirteenth Annual Report of Steele Academy, Nagasaki, Japan,” 1928
“Twentieth Annual Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan,” 1897
“Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan,” 1899
“Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan,” 1900
“Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan,” 1902
“Twenty-Sixth Annual Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan,” 1903
“Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan,” 1904
“Women’s Christian College in Japan,” 1929

Reviews
  “Behold the Man,” by Toyohiko Kagawa, n.d.
  “Brochure op Kerkelijk Gebied,” n.d.
  “Christians in the Ancient World,” by Dr. A. Sizoo, n.d.
  “Controversy Between Books by Prof. Henkes and Dr. N. M. Steffens,” n.d.
  “Dutch Pamphlet Reviews,” by various authors, n.d.
  “Genesis I - XI (Torchlight Bible Commentaries),” by Alan Richardson, n.d.
  “The Interpreter’s Bible,” 1951
  “A Life of Jesus,” by Edgar J. Goodspeed, n.d.
  “Misc.” by various authors, n.d.
  “The New Bible Translation (Revised Standard Version),” 1952
“A Short Exposition of the Seventy Week Prophecy,” by Philip Mauro, n.d.

Box 5

Shinto Pamphlets (Japanese)
Amalgamation of Three Religious Bodies- Shinto, Buddhism, and Christianity- Tenri-Kyo, 1912
Biography of the Founder of Tenri-Kyo, n.d.
A Bird’s-Eye View of Shinto-Tanaka, Tatsu, n.d.
Collected Lectures by Tenri-Kyo Teachers, n.d.
Collected Lectures Spoken at Workshops for Propagators- Masuno, Shohei-ed., n.d.
Collected Prayers of Tenri-Kyo, revised, n.d.
The Companion for The Way, September 1914-January 1915, April 1915

Box 6

Shinto Pamphlets (Japanese) (cont.)
An Exposition on Tenri-Kyo Doctrines, 1912
The Great Exorcism of Shinto Gods- Konomura, Shosuke, 1907
A Healing Theory of Tenri-Kyo Faith, with some Narratives of Spiritual Experience, 1913
The Imperial Message on Education and Tenri-Kyo, n.d.
An Outline on Religious Laws- Masuno, Shohei, ed., 1909
Prayer in Morn and Vesper, 1906
Rituals of Tenri-Kyo- Masuno, Shohei, ed., 1911
A Short Story of the Beginning of the Land Before Emperor Jinmu, Masuno, Shohei, ed., 1911
A Side-View of Tenri-Kyo, 1909
Song of Kagura-Sacred Music and Dancing- Nakayama, Miki, 1888
Talks on Festival Days, Masuno, Shohei, ed., 1910
Tenri Hymnal, 1903
Tenri-Kyo no Shinzui (I, II) in Bunmei Hyoron, January and February: 51-54, 130-134, 1915
Tenri-Kyo from a Believer’s Viewpoint- Hiroike, Senkuro, 1914
On Three Major Doctrines of Tenri-Kyo, 1901

Box 7

Books by Albertus Pieters
Can We Trust Bible History? Grand Rapids: Society for Reformed Publications, 1954 (2 copies)


Mission Problems in Japan: Theoretical and Practical. New York: Board of Publication of the Reformed Church in America, 1912


Box 8

Books by Albertus Pieters (cont.)


Book Edited by Albertus Pieters


Book by Other

Lewis, Tayler. Bible and Science; or The World Problem. Schenectady: G.Y. Van DeBogert, 1856 (used by Albertus Pieters as a source for his book Notes on Genesis.

Box 9 Oversized

“C. E. Home for Seamen-Nagasaki (Photographs & Articles),” n.d.