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W97-1227. Benes II, Louis H. (1906-1978).
Papers, 1927-1977. 1.50 linear ft.



Abstract

Western Theological Seminary class of 1930; minister of the Reformed Church in America, 1930-1945; editor of the *Church Herald*, 1945-1974; president of General Synod, 1976-1977. Papers include bound class notes from Western Theological Seminary courses in English Bible and Old Testament History, correspondence, much of it regarding the "San Dimas Affair," his retirement and appreciation for his work as editor. Articles relating to his doctorate, lectures, and his great-grandfather's hymnal, 1846 (Dutch). Correspondents include Albertus Pieters and Gordon Van Wylen.

Accession No: W97-1227
Provenance: Louis Benes II
Donor: Louis Benes III
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, October 1997

Biography

Louis H. Benes II was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 15, 1906. He graduated from Western Theological Seminary in 1930, received doctorates from Central College, (Iowa), 1946 and Hope College, 1974. He pastored the Fifth Reformed Church in Albany, New York (1930-1936), Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan (1936-1944), and Hope Reformed Church in Los Angeles, California (1944-1945). He was editor of the *Church Herald* (1945-1974). Served as president of General Synod (1976-1977). He died in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on June 25, 1978.

Scope and Content

Most of the material consists of bound class notes from his Western Theological Seminary courses in the English Bible and Old Testament History and correspondence relating to his years as editor of the *Church Herald*, including the "San Dimas Affair" and Federal Council. The "San Dimas Affair" involved a fraudulent investment bond scheme with the San Dimas Valley Community Drive-In Church. Correspondence received when he retired includes very warm, respectful letters from his children. Also copies of lectures given and his great-grandfather's hymnal, 1846 (Dutch). Correspondents include Albertus Pieters and Gordon Van Wylen. Arranged alphabetically.

Container List

Albertus Pieters articles and correspondence, n.d., 1947-1949
Biographical, 1975-2002
Book of Psalms, 1846 (Dutch)
Church Herald Editorials, n.d., 1954-1976

Class Notes

English Bible, 1929
Old Testament History, 1927-1928

Correspondence

and brochures, Federal Council, 1945-1976 (scattered)
and newspaper articles, Doctorate, 1974
Election as Vice President of Synod, 1975
General, n.d., 1945-1976 (scattered)
Reformed Church in America, 1946, 1974, 1976
Retirement, 1973-1975
San Dimas Affair, n.d., 1977

Intelligencer Leader

Benes articles, 1940
Special Anniversary Issue, v. 7, No. 289, June 7, 1940

Lectures

By Benes, n.d., 1929-1930
By others, n.d., 1927

Bell and Wooden Clapper, "Presented to Reverend Louis H. Benes, Sr., D.D., President of General Synod, Reformed Church in America, 1976-1977"