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Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

Received his A.B. from Central College, Pella, Iowa, in 1951 and his B.D. from Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan, in 1954, and Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh in 1956. Licensed and ordained by the RCA Classis of Wisconsin in 1954 and served as pastor of the Fordham Manor Reformed Church, Bronx, New York, from 1957-1962, after which he joined the faculty of Western Seminary in 1962. He spent most of his professional career as James A. H. Cornell Professor of Historical Theology at Western Seminary from 1966 until his retirement in 1999. Sat on the jury for the prestigious Religious Art and Architecture Design Awards of the American Institute of Architects in 1995. Consultant for many church building projects, both in the Reformed Church in America and beyond. Books and publications include Guilt, Grace and Gratitude: A Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism (1963), Christ and Architecture: Building Presbyterian/Reformed Churches (1965), When Faith Takes Form: Contemporary Churches of Architectural Integrity in America (1971) and Worship the Lord (1987). Collection includes his papers and correspondence on church architecture, his role as an editor of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, and his lengthy career as an influential member of the Western Theological Seminary faculty and of the Reformed Church in America denomination as a whole.

Accession No: W89-1019
Provenance: Donald J. Bruggink
Donor: Donald J. Bruggink
Photographs: 120 images (Box 8)
Processed by: Kevin DeYoung, September, 1998
John H. Maassen, May-July, 2000
Leon Witteveen, November 2001

Biography

Donald J. Bruggink was born in 1929 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Dirk and Gertrude Bruggink. He received his A.B. from Central College, Pella, Iowa, in 1951 and his B.D. from Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan, in 1954. His Ph.D. was earned at the University of Edinburgh in 1956.

He was licensed and ordained by the RCA Classis of Wisconsin in 1954 and served as pastor of the Fordham Manor Reformed Church, Bronx, New York, from 1957-1962, after which he joined the faculty of Western Seminary in 1962. He spent most of his professional career as James A. H. Cornell Professor of Historical Theology at Western Seminary from 1966 until his retirement in 1999.

Bruggink is the recipient of many honors. In 1995, he sat on the jury for the prestigious Religious Art and Architecture Design Awards of the American Institute of Architects. Because of a special interest and training in church architecture, he became a consultant for many church building projects, both in the Reformed Church in America and beyond.

Scope and Content

The Donald Bruggink collection is representative of his broad and influential career. Of special interest are his papers and correspondence on church architecture, his role as an editor of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, and his lengthy career as an influential member of the Western Theological Seminary faculty and of the Reformed Church in America denomination as a whole. Also of special interest are papers and correspondence relating to his planning for and leadership of a Western Christendom Seminar for seminary students and their spouses in 1967.

The collection is divided into four sections: FACULTY: His work as a faculty member of the Western Theological Seminary, including his work on various committees and his position as adviser to the General Synod. This section also includes minutes of many of the faculty meetings he attended during his tenure, as well as memoranda related to his work as professor; ARCHITECTURE: His interest in church architecture produced many items relating to this field. It also includes the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors of the I.F.R.A.A. and reports of the many conferences of this organization he attended. HISTORICAL: His role as editor of the Historical Series of the RCA., and other materials related to his historical interests. SERMONS: His sermonic output during his pastorate at Fordham Manor Reformed Church in the Bronx, New York, is included in Box 14.

Container List

Box 1

Biographical Material, 1966-[ongoing]

FACULTY

Board of Trustees
  Meeting Agenda, 1988
  Minutes and Reports, 1989-1990
Administrative and Program Cabinet Logs, 1985-1996 (11 folders)
Chapel Worship, 1975-1989
Church Liaison, 1988-1993
Class Schedules, 1980-1999
Classis Examination of Seminary Students, 1986, 1989
Committees
  Ad hoc Committee on Liturgical Expressions of Unity, Minutes and Correspondence, 1981-1984
  Admissions Committee, 1974-1975
  Commission on Worship of RCA.
Consultation on Revision of I.C.E.T. Texts, 1986
Eucharistic Liturgy of Lima, 1984
Minutes and Correspondence, 1985-1986
“Worship the Lord,” Correspondence, 1987
Comparison of New Brunswick and Western Seminaries, Report, 1972
D. Min. Program, 1998
Faculty Retreat, 1995, 1997 (2 folders)
Farewell Committee, Marvin D. Hoff, 1994
Intercultural Experiences, 1990-1993
Interview with Abram Blank, Example of Faculty Care, 1980

Box 2

FACULTY (cont.)
Committees (cont.)
Long Range Planning Committee, 1983-1984
M. Div. Committee Logs, 1988-1999 (9 folders)
Master of Religious Education Program, 1994-1995
Master of Religious Education Program Seminars, 1984
N.C.C.C. Faith and Order Commission, Correspondence and Papers, 1984-1989 (5 folders)
President’s Inaugural Committee, Minutes, 1994
Search Committees
General, Correspondence and Minutes, 1992-1994
Henry Bast Professor of Preaching, 1988-1989
Ordained Woman Faculty Member, 1989-1990, 1991-1992 (2 folders)
Reformed Theology Position, 1997-1998

Box 3

FACULTY (cont.)
Committees (cont.)
Teaching Skills Committee, 1971-1972
Theological Commission, General Synod
Agenda and Minutes
Correspondence, 1960-1965
New Confession, 1962
Scripture, 1961-1962
Worship Task Force Report, 1971
Correspondence
Centennial, Third Reformed Church, Holland, 1967
Committee on Revision of Liturgy, 1966-1968
Foundation for Theological Education, 1967-1970
Hope Financial Campaign, 1964
Liturgy and Psalms, 1972
RCA Board of Education, 1961-1965
General, 1955-1978 (5 folders)
Osterhaven Lectures, 1988-1998

Conferences
Conference on Liturgy and Music, 1995
Conference on Ministry, 1995
Ecumenical Conference on Worship, 1992
Teaching Church Conference, 1996
Course Outline, C. Kaiser, n.d.
Course Revision, TF411, 1986

Box 4

FACULTY (cont.)
Ecumenical Consultation, RCA, 1980 (3 folders)
“The Education of American Ministers–A Historical Bibliography,” Norman J.
Kansfield
Faculty Handbook, 1992-1993
Faculty Memoranda, General, 1972-1985 (11 folders)

Box 5

FACULTY (cont.)
Faculty Memoranda, General, 1985-1997 (14 folders)

Box 6

FACULTY (cont.)
Faculty Memoranda re Students, 1972-1997 (21 folders)
Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia, Minutes, 1976-1977

Box 7

FACULTY (cont.)
General Synod Agenda and Reports, 1976-1991 (20 folders)

Box 8

FACULTY (cont.)
General Synod Agenda and Reports (cont.), 1993-1999 (5 folders)

Personal Papers
- Correspondence
  - Drappers, Oliver G., 1957-1961
  - Edinburgh, 1955-1956
- Date Book, 1962
- Notes and Papers, WTS
  - O.T. Class, WTS, 1952-1953
  - English, Bible/Missions, 1952
  - O.T. Theology, n.d.
- Papers
  - New College, Scotland, 1954-1956
  - “Offices in the Kingdom and the Church,” by A. A. Van Ruler, n.d.
  - Women’s ordination and the Book of Church Order, 1974-1979
  - The Biblical View of the Ordination of Women, n.d.
- Photographs, Students, 1974-1993, n.d. (120 images)
- Sabbatical, Rome, 1970-1961
- Service of Installation, 1966
- Western Christendom Travel Seminar, 1967
- Schedules, WTS, 1972-1976
- Student Council Minutes, 1972-1974, 1977-1979
- Student Directories, 1965-1975
- Student Recruitment, Correspondence, 1991-1992
- Sunday School Lessons, 1971

Box 9

ARCHITECTURE
- Book, When Faith Takes Form by Bruggink and Droppers, 1971
- Contact Prints for “Christ in Architecture,” n.d. (4 folders)
- Correspondence
  - AIA-IFRAA Transition, 1993-1994
  - Graafschap CRC, 1998
  - 33rd Conference on Religious Architecture, 1972
  - “When Faith Takes Form,” 1968-1970 (2 folders)
- Form/Reform Conference, Albuquerque, 1990
- I.F.R.A.A.
  - Board of Directors Meetings, 1984-1993 (9 folders)
  - Conferences, 1979-1985 (13 folders)
Box 10

ARCHITECTURE (cont.)
  I.F.R.A.A. (cont.)
  Conferences, 1986-1994 (16 folders)
  Membership Information, 1979-1983
  Newsletters, 1979-1983

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES
  American Catholic Historical Association, Programs, 1982-1997
  American Historical Association, Correspondence and Programs, 1965-1987
  American Society of Church History
    Programs and Correspondence, 1974
  Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, Newsletters, 1980-1990
  Calvin Studies Society, Bylaws and Programs, 1986-1993
  Commission on History of RCA
    Agenda, 1989
    Correspondence, 1978-1995
    Development of Archival Program, 1977
    Papers
      General, 1968-1969
      Treasury of Prayers, 1964
  Dutch-American Historical Commission, Correspondence and Minutes, 1963-1977
  Historical Commission
    Correspondence, 1990-1996 (3 folders)

Box 11

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)
  Historical Commission (cont)
    Minutes, 1975-1981 (2 folders)
    Report, 1976-1977
  Historical Directory of RCA, Correspondence, 1972-1978
  Historical Markers Correspondence
    Graafschap CRC, 1974-1976
    Western Theological Seminary, 1966
    Winifred Hager Hostetter Memorial, 1968
  Historical Series
    Arabian Mission Personnel, n.d. (2 folders)
    Correspondence
      Arabian Mission History Project, 1986-2000 (2 folders)
Brumm, James L. H., “Psalms and Hymns,” 1994
Re: Commemorative Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism, 1962-1963
Re: Deacons’ Account Book Project, 1995-1999
De Jong, Gerald F.
“The Dutch Reformed Church in the American Colonies,” 1973-1979
“From Strength to Strength,” 1981-1983
Harmelink, Herman, “Ecumenism and the RCA,” 1968
Heideman, Eugene, “Our Song of Hope,” 1974
Heynen, A. James, “Christian Reformed Church History,” 1981
Historical Series Fund, 1968-1993 (4 folders)
House, Renee S., “Patterns and Portraits,” 1997-1999
Luben, Barnerd M., “Episodes,” 1999

Box 12

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)
   Historical Series (cont.)
      Correspondence (cont.)
Mc Alpine, Jean Baum, “One Hundred Years of Evangelism in Japan,” 1982-1985
Meeter, Daniel J., “Meeting Each Other,” 1989-1993
Neckers, Doug, re Vander Werf Biography, 1989
Schuppert, Mildred, “Digest and Index of Minutes of General Synod,” 1978-1982
Staal, Harvey, re: Publication of Commentaries by Paul Harrison, 1992-1993
Swart, Morrell F.
  Correspondence, 2003
  Draft Copy of “The Call of Africa,” 1990-1999
Van Ess, Dorothy, “Pioneers in the Arab World,” 1974
Veldman, Jeanette, 1989

Draft Copies
  “History of Arabian Missions,” Lewis Scudder, 1990-1994 (4 folders)
  “Memoirs of Dr. C. Stanley G. Mylrea, M.D., 1911-1950”
  “The Story of the First Protestant Church in China,” by Dorothy and Henry Poppen, (?), 1950 (?)

Box 13

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)
  Historical Series (cont.)
  Draft Copies (cont.)
    “The Dutch Reformed Church in the American Colonies,” Gerald F. De Jong
    Illustrations for “Brothers Quarrels,” Robert Swierenga, 1999
Guide to N.B.T.S. Archives, 1979
Middle East Peacemakers – Newsletters and Correspondence, 1991-1992
Promotions, Historical Series, 1987
Joint Archives Council Minutes, 1987-1996 (7 folders)
Papers re Preservation of Historic Church Buildings, 1972
Review of Report of Liturgical Committee of CRC, 1995
Tributes to VandenBerge, De Jong, and Shuppert, 1979
Box 14

SERMONS
   Sermons, Fordham Manor Reformed Church, 1957-1962 (30 folders)