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W88-0024. Cook, James I. (1925-2007).
Papers, 1945-2007, 2014. 12.50 linear ft.



Abstract

Hope College class of 1948; Western Theological Seminary class of 1952; Th.D Princeton Theology Seminary class of 1964; professor of New Testament and Biblical languages at Western Theological Seminary, 1963-1995. Collection contains biographical materials; newspaper clippings; articles written by Cook; Reformed Church in America committee materials; sermons Cook preached at Blawenburg Reformed Church (1953-1963), at many other churches around the country, and at the 175th General Synod (1981); and several draft copies of published manuscripts either written or edited by Cook.

Accession No: W88-0024
Provenance: James I. Cook
Donor: Western Theological Seminary
Photographs: 51 images (Boxes 1-3, 6-8)
Processed by: Amy Mosier, November 1994
Elaine Bruins, 2008

Biography

James Ivan Cook was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on March 8, 1925. He attended Grand Rapids Community College from 1942 to 1943, then transferred to Hope College for his A.B., which he received in 1948. The next year, Cook went to Michigan State University for his M.A. In 1950, Cook married Jean Rivenburgh, a native of Chatham, New York, and a Hope graduate. They had four children: Mark James, Carol Jean, Timothy Scott, and Paul Brian (deceased 1982). In 1952, Cook returned to Holland for his B.D. at Western Theological Seminary and was soon licensed by the Classis of Grand Rapids. Following his ordination by the classis of Philadelphia in 1953, Cook became a pastor in Blawenburg, New Jersey, and remained there for ten years. In 1963, he became a professor at Western Theological Seminary. He received his Th.D from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1964, and completed his post-doctoral studies at the Institute for Mediterranean studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in 1966. Ten years later, Cook studied at the University of Durham, England (1976-1977).

While teaching at Western Theological Seminary, James Cook became Anton Biemolt Professor of the New Testament, and Biblical languages. He has edited and made contributions to several books and essays including: *The Church Speaks*, *Grace Upon Grace: Essays in Honor of Lester J. Kuyper*, *Saved by Hope*, *Essays in Honor of Richard C. Oudersluys*, and *The Reformed Review*, and he was the author of *Edgar Johnson Goodspeed; Articulate Scholar*. In addition, Cook has published numerous articles for theological journals and books. He has served as a member of the Theological Commission from 1967-1968 and later, became chairman of the commission. In 1981, Cook was elected Vice President at the General Synod of the Reformed Church, and was elected President in 1982. He retired from teaching at Western Theological Seminary in 1995.

James I. Cook died on May 1, 2007, in Holland, Michigan.

Scope and Content

The James I. Cook Papers, 1955-1988, contain a wealth of information about the life and professional interests of this RCA Biblical theologian. Newspaper clippings give biographical information, praise James Cook's achievements, announce his changing job positions, and advertise lectures he gave to various organizations. Articles written by Cook for the *Church Herald*, in both published and draft form are a part of the collection, along with meditation prayer booklets and material for adult education courses in churches. The collection contains several draft copies of manuscripts that were either published or edited by Cook. Correspondence includes letters written to James Cook in response to the various publications; correspondence with family members, former students, RCA personnel, etc. The collection also includes sermons preached by Cook at Blawenburg Reformed Church (1953-1963); at Hope Reformed Church in 1969; at the 175th General Synod in 1981 and at many other churches and conferences in the RCA. The files on the Theological Commission include minutes of the commission's meetings, assorted study papers, committee reports and reports on the Commission, general correspondence, and miscellaneous topical papers. This collection is organized in alphabetical order by topical heading. The papers from Western Theological Seminary are divided into three sections: his student years from 1949-1952; his teaching years from 1963-1995; other materials dealing with Seminary life.

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"The Minister as Enabler" Seminary in the Rockies, 1977
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"On Getting to Know God" From Text to Sermon on John 1:18," n.d.
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- Pioneer/ Temple Time*, Devotionals in Dutch, 1957
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 Typed, Bound Copy, "A Critical Evaluation of the Contributions of Edgar Johnson Goodspeed as a New Testament Scholar," 1963
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"Romans for Preachers and Pastors," Wisconsin Classis, 1993
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