
Western Theological Seminary

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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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   Last Things, 1998, 3rd Reformed Church, Grand Rapids
   Philippians, 1999
   Reading the Bible Devotionally, 2000, 3rd Reformed Church, Holland
   Study Guide for Churches, 1998
   Surviving (and Thriving?) Spiritually, Fig Orchard, NJ, 1996
   What the Bible Is, 1997, 1998

Anton Biemolt Professor of Theology, 1994

Articles
   “Covenant of Grace/Covenant of Care,” 2002
   “The Fruit of the Spirit in the Life of Believers,” 1982
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Buechner, Frederick, Faith and Writers Conference, 2004  
“Christian Life and Worship,” Rocky Mountain Classis Retreat, 2004  
Christianity and Literature, n.d., 1989-1990  
Church Herald/President’s Commentary & Related Correspondence, 1982-1983  
“The Church Speaks,” Papers of the Commission on Theology, RCA  
– Manuscript, 1959-1985  
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– Manuscript, Volume II (no.1), 2002  
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“The Church Speaks” (cont.)  
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  “Grace Upon Grace,” Festschrift for Dr. Lester J. Kuyper (cont.)
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  Course on Basic Christian Thought, 1980-1981
  Commencement Program, 1948
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Lecture Notes, “Intertestamentary History,” Dr. Albertus Pieters, 1947
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Institute for Mediterranean Studies, 1966 (2 images)
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“Mining Pastoral Riches from Biblical Research” Central College, 1983
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My Pastoral Record, 1953-2000
The Nature of Ministry, Theological Commission, 1968
Newspaper Articles, Western Theological Seminary Career, 1964-1994
“On Getting to Know God” From Text to Sermon on John 1:18,” n.d.
“One Lord, One Body,” 1991
“One Lord, One Body” Revised Edition and Correspondence, 2006
Ordination and Installation Services, n.d., 1955-2006
Ordination of Women, n.d., 1918-1999
“The Origin and Purpose of Ephesians,” Reformed Review, 196?
“Our Song of Hope” Draft Copies, 1972-1973
Perspectives, Beginnings, n.d., 1984-1987
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Pioneer/Temple Time, Devotionals in Dutch, 1957
Prayer Meeting Meditations, Richmond Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, 1951
Princeton Theological Seminary
   Bibliographies, 1962
   Class papers, Dr. Piper, 1953-1954
   Commencement Invitation and Program, 1964
   Comprehensive Exams, 1955
Dissertation on Edgar J. Goodspeed
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   Handwritten draft (I), 1963
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   Typed, Bound Copy, “A Critical Evaluation of the Contributions of Edgar
   Johnson Goodspeed as a New Testament Scholar,” 1963
Lecture Notes
   “Apocrypha,” n.d.
   “Gospel of John,” Dr. E. K. Lee, 1952-1953
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   “Seminar on the Apostle Paul,” Dr. Otto Piper, 1953
   “Synoptic Problem,” Dr. Theron, 1953-1954
   “Theology of Crisis,” n.d.
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   “Exegesis of the First Epistle of Peter,” Dr. Kuist, 1954
   “The Four Gospels,” Dr. Otto Piper, 1953
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   “Romans for Preachers and Pastors,” Wisconsin Classis, 1993
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   “The Sacraments,” 1987
“Saved By Hope,” Essays in Honor of Richard C. Oudersluys”
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Western Theological Seminary Lecture Notes (Student Years, 1949-1952)
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“Church History—Sects,” 1952
“Doctrine of Man,” Dr. Eugene Osterhaven, 1953
“English Bible,” Dr. George Mennenga, 1950-1951
“Greek,” n.d.
“The Holiness of God,” Old Testament Theology, Dr. Lester Kuyper, 1951
“Old Testament History,” Dr. George Mennenga, 1950-1951
“Old Testament Introduction,” Dr. Lester Kuyper, 1950
“Paul’s Corinthian Correspondence,” Dr. Richard Oudersluys, n.d.
“Systematic Theology,” Dr. John R. Mulder, 1951-1952
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Western Theological Seminary
Term Paper, “The Nature of the Church,” 1951
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   Introduction to Exegesis, 4 sample papers, n.d.
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   “Baptism,” 1967
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