
Western Theological Seminary

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
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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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Adult Christian Education, n.d.
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   The Book of Job, n.d.
   Ephesians, 1978-2006, 5th Reformed Church, Grand Rapids
   Getting to Know Paul, 1982-1988
   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
“Stewarding the Gospel of the Kingdom,” 1998

Associate Reformed Church Greetings, 1982
Baptized Children at the Lord’s Table, n.d., 1977-1994
Biographical materials, 1925-2007
Blawenburg Reformed Church
Call to James I. Cook, 1953
Candlelight Services, n.d., 1955-1962
Education Building Dedication, 1960
Holy Week Services, 1954-1962
125th Anniversary, 1957
150th Anniversary, 1982
175th Anniversary, 2007
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
Volume I, 1985
Manuscript, Volume II (no.1), 2002
Manuscript, Volume II (no.2), 2002

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“The Church Speaks” (cont.)
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Volume II, correspondence, 1999-2001
Committee on RCA Philosophy of Higher Education, 1967-1969
Committee on Stewardship, NCC Conference, 1986-1987
Consultation of the Eight Principles, R.C.A., 1987
Cook, Brian, 2005
Cook, Carol, 1972, 1994 (2 images, 2004)
Cook, Douglas J., 1993
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Cook, Paul Brian, 1980-1982
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Cook Center for Theological Research, 1981 (2 images)
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   n.d., 1952-2006 (4 folders)
   Barrett, Dr. C.K., n.d., 1977-2004
   Blawenburg Reformed Church Members, 1955-1956, 1963
   Cranfield, Dr. C.E.B., n.d., 1977-2007
   Family Members, n.d., 1955-2004
   Park, Rev. Soo Am, 1977-1980
   Sabbatical, 1976-1977
   Vander Kolk, Dr. Justin, 1987-1992
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   “Death and Resurrection,” 1985-2004
Evangelism: Symposium, Synod of Albany, 1988
Festival of Faith and Writing, March 31, 2000
General Synod
   Correspondence, 1982-1983 (2 folders)
   Festival, 1982-1983
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   Report of the President, 1983
   Sermons, 1981
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   Tribute to Garry and Fran Wilterdink, 1986
   Worship, 1982
Goodspeed, Dr. Edgar Johnson, 1948
   “Grace Upon Grace,” Festschrift for Dr. Lester J. Kuyper
   Correspondence, 1975
   Correspondence with contributors, 1973-1975
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   “Grace Upon Grace,” Festschrift for Dr. Lester J. Kuyper (cont.)
   Draft Copy II, 1975
   Galley Proofs, 1975
   Hardcover Copy, 1975
   News Release, 1975
Hope College
   Course on Basic Christian Thought, 1980-1981
   Commencement Program, 1948
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1985
Lecture Notes, “Intertestamentary History,” Dr. Albertus Pieters, 1947
Oral History Project, 1981
Hope Reformed Church
Institute for Mediterranean Studies, 1966 (2 images)
Institute on Biblical Interpretation, 1977
Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, 1970
Marriage Licenses and Wedding Services, n.d., 1968-2005
Metzger, Dr. Bruce, 1987, 1988, 1990
Middle East Journey, RCA, 1998-1999
“Mining Pastoral Riches from Biblical Research” Central College, 1983
“The Minister as Enabler” Seminary in the Rockies, 1977
Missionary Conference, RCA, Worship Services, 1982
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
Photographs
Barrett, C. K., n.d., 1977 (2 images)
Blawenburg Reformed Church, n.d., 1953-1960 (17 images)
Metzger, Bruce, n.d. (2 images)
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
    Correspondence, 1963-1964
    Handwritten draft (I), 1963
    Handwritten draft (II), 1963
    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
  “Patristic Latin,” Dr. Theron, 1953
  “Seminar on the Apostle Paul,” Dr. Otto Piper, 1953
  “Synoptic Problem,” Dr. Theron, 1953-1954
  “Theology of Crisis,” n.d.
Lecture Notes and Paper
  “Exegesis of the First Epistle of Peter,” Dr. Kuist, 1954
  “The Four Gospels,” Dr. Otto Piper, 1953
Minutes of meeting, April 5, 1954
Notes from Readings
  the Life of Paul, n.d.
  the Theology of Paul, n.d.
RCA Board of Benefit Services, 2001-2002
  “The Repair Job,”
Resolution for Jeanette M. Doyle, 1989
“Romans for Preachers and Pastors,” Wisconsin Classis, 1993
Sabbatical, Correspondence and Memorabilia, 1976-1977
“The Sacraments,” 1987
“Saved By Hope,” Essays in Honor of Richard C. Oudersluys
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“Saved By Hope” (cont.)
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“Pilate Before Christ,” CBS Church of the Air, 1958 (also contains correspondence)
“Shared Pain and Sorrow,” Correspondence, 1991-2001
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Theological Commission, RCA, 1961, 1965-1968 (4 folders)

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Theological Commission, RCA (cont.), 1969-1972 (3 folders)
Theological Education in the West, 1983, 1995
“Through the Valley of the Kwai,” 1962
University of Michigan, Lecture notes in American Literature, 1949
Vienna Summer School (Hope College) & Mid-east Trip (RCA), 1998-1999 (3 images)
Western Theological Seminary Lecture Notes (Student Years, 1949-1952)
“Beginning Hebrew,” 1951
“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
“Theology,” Dr. John R. Mulder, 1950-1952

Western Theological Seminary
Term Paper, “The Nature of the Church,” 1951

Teaching Years (1963-2006)
Biblical Field Curriculum, 1977-1986
Class Evaluations, 1999
Field Education Team, 1975
A Field-Oriented Core Experiment, 1971
Guides to Exegesis, 1980-1996
Importance of Studying the Biblical Languages, 1973, n.d.
Introduction to Exegesis, 4 sample papers, n.d.

Lecture Notes
“The Advanced Reading Greek,” (also includes exams) 1976, 1978
“Baptism,” 1967
“The Biblical Concept of Satan,” 1965
“The Church and the World,” 1968, 1970
“Ephesians,” 2002
“Ephesians,” 2002 Summer
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“The Introduction to Exegesis,” 1969-1976
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Faculty Letter to Alumni/ae, 1993
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Field Chairpersons Minutes, 1980
Master of Religious Education Degree Program, n.d., 1980
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Reunion Day, Class of 1952, 2002
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In Appreciation for Commitment to The Campaign for Western: Mission in the 21st Century, 1997 (See Oversized Drawer)
Paddle, Knickerbocker Fraternity, 1948
Princeton Theological Seminary Doctor of Theology Degree, 1964
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