
Western Theological Seminary
Papers, 1946-1970. 2.50 linear ft.

Abstract

Papers, documents, and records dating from 1946-1970. Papers include a large body of Jan Heersink’s correspondence, as well as the correspondence of other officials and members of the Canadian-Netherlands Immigration Council (CNIC). Documents and records of the CNIC and other institutions associated with the Reformed Church are also included.

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Biography

Herman Ganzevoort was born in 1942. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Calgary, publishing his dissertation, Dutch Immigration to Canada: 1892-1940, in 1978. Ganzevoort has published several other books, including: A Dutch Homesteader on the Prairies; Letters of Willem de Gelder 1910-13; The Dirty Thirties in Prairie Canada (co-edited with R. D. Francis); Dutch Immigration to North America (co-edited with Mark Boekelman); A Bittersweet Land: the Dutch Experience in Canada, 1890-1980; and The Last Illusion: Letters from Dutch Immigrants in the ‘Land of Opportunity,’ 1924-1930 (translated, edited and introduced). He has also published articles in scholarly journals including Canadian-American Slavic Studies and The Journal of American History.

Scope and Content

This collection, through a variety of materials from several different sources, gives information concerning the Reformed Church in Canada, the Canadian-Netherlands Immigration Council (CNIC) and Dutch immigration to Canada. The inner-workings of the Reformed Church in Canada are described through correspondence (largely in Dutch), official documents and memorandums, papers and reports, recorded agendas and minutes from meetings, financial reports, brochures, and bulletins. Newspaper clippings, publications, and newsletters from many different sources are also included. Items are arranged in alphabetical order by document type.

Correspondence, which comprises a large portion of the collection, is of both a personal and an official nature, spanning two decades, 1950-1970. The majority of the correspondence involves Jan Heersink, the president of the CNIC for several years. The correspondence of other important Reformed Church officials including Lambert Huizingh, Jan Vander Vliet, and William G. Warnaar is also contained in this collection. Letters are arranged alphabetically by writer; the second name listed is the letter’s recipient.

Two important documents are present: The Constitution of the Reformed Church of America (1961), and The Constitution of the Canadian-Netherlands Immigration Council (1955). Several reports and papers regarding immigration issues, the Reformed Church in Canada, and
Dutch life in Canada are included, written by J. Heersink, W. G. Warmaar, and J. R. Euwema, and a variety of individual church committees, among others. There are financial reports, attendance records, and immigration records for churches, organizations and programs such as the CNIC and the Young Farmers Program, as well as recorded agendas and minutes from their official meetings. Brochures from programs such as the Youth Program and the Holland Program, and “Welcome” brochures for Dutch immigrants are also included. Many of the bulletins from different Reformed churches in Canada are for the churches’ dedication or anniversary celebration services.


Container List

Box 1

Agendas
- Canada Committee, 1952
- Canadian-Netherlands Immigration Council (CNIC), 1956-1967, n.d.
- "Christelijke Emigratie Centrale," J. Hamoen, 1950
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- "De Hoofdbestuursvergadering der Christelijke Emigratie Centrale," 1950
- Jongerenavond, Toronto, 1966
- "Notulen Vergadering Consistorial Union," 1956
- Pre-Classic Session, 1962
- Agreement Form, Board of Domestic Missions, RCA, n.d.
- Airline Ticket, J. Heersink, 1966
- Announcement, J. Heersink, 1966

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- CNIC, Agenda Meeting, 1966
- Dutch Presbyterian Migrants Report, 1953

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- Jongeren Programma, Canada, n.d.
- Permanent Residence in Canada, Department of Manpower and Immigration, n.d.

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- Van Verzonden Circulaires Picnic, 1954

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