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W95-1236.5. Mulder, Bernard J. (1896-1983).
Papers, 1722, 1922-1983. 1.50 linear ft.

Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

Hope College class of 1919; Western Theological Seminary class of 1922; Central College (Ph.D.), 1931; editor and manager of the *Church Herald* (1937-1945). Contains a number of articles and books written by Mulder, a Dutch New Testament dated 1722, pastor's register books, records of baptisms, marriages, and funeral services conducted at his various pastorates, and anniversary booklets from each of the churches he served as pastor including: Covenant Church in Muskegon Heights, Michigan (1922-1925), First in Pella, Iowa (1926-1932), and Bethel Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1932-1936).

Accession No: W95-1236.5
Provenance: Bernard J. Mulder
Donor: Mr. and Mrs. Craig VanZanten
Photographs: 3 images (2 oversize)
Processed by: Lee Witteveen, September 1998

Biography

Bernard J. Mulder was the first of seven children born to John B. Mulder and Kathryn (Bouma) Mulder in Holland, Michigan, in 1896. In 1921, he married Louise Ella Weaver of Hamilton, Michigan, and the couple had three daughters.

He graduated from Hope College in 1919 and from Western Theological Seminary in 1922. He received his license from the Classis of Holland that same year. He received his doctorate of divinity from Central College in Pella, Iowa, in 1931.

Mulder served three pastorates in the Reformed Church in America: Covenant Church in Muskegon Heights, Michigan (1922-1925), First in Pella, Iowa (1926-1932), and Bethel Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1932-1936).

In 1937, he was appointed editor and manager of the *Church Herald* and served in that position until 1945. At that time, he became the general secretary of the Board of Education of the RCA, where he served until his retirement in 1966. During that time, he also served on numerous committees and boards of the RCA and the larger church community.

After his retirement, Mulder became assistant pastor at the Douglas Community Church and visiting pastor for the Hamilton Reformed Church in Michigan. He died on March 25, 1983.

Scope and Content

The Bernard J. Mulder collection contains a number of articles and books written by Mulder. Of special interest is a Dutch New Testament dated 1722. A large segment of the collection is his pastor's register books, which contain a rather complete history of his pastoral work, including topics of sermons and dates preached, records of baptisms, marriages, and funeral services conducted at his various pastorates. It also includes anniversary booklets from

each of the churches he served as pastor.

Container List

Articles

Notes from W.C.C.E.S.S.A Conference, 1957
"The Press of the Lord," 1957

Biographical Information, 1976, 1983

Books

Bible (Dutch New Testament), 1722
Christian Faith in Action, Founding of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 1951
Curriculum Syllabus for the Sunday Schools of the Near East, 1957
From Bondage to Freedom (Covenant Curriculum and Teachers' Book), 1967
The King Came Riding, 1943
The Kingdom of God, n. d.

Church Anniversary Booklets

Covenant Reformed Church, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, 1979
First Reformed Church, Pella, Iowa, 1981
Bethel Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1981

Pastor's Registers

Book I, 1922-1928
Book II, 1929-1935
Book III, 1935-1943
Book IV, 1944-1951
Book V, 1951-1964
Book VI, 1965-1983

Photographs

One group photograph, n.d.

Oversize

General Synod, Asbury Park, New Jersey, 1927 (WTS Oversize Photographs)
Third World Conference on Faith and Order, Lund, Sweden, 1952 (WTS Panoramic Photographs)