

Hope College

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February 2014

### H88-0421. YMCA and YWCA. Records, 1883-1972. 2.00 linear ft.

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**H88-0421. YMCA and YWCA.**

Records, 1883-1972. 2.00 linear ft.

Abstract

The Hope College Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was organized in 1878. In 1901, the Hope College Young Woman's Christian Association (YWCA) was organized. These two organizations sponsored most of the social and religious activities of the college for many years. They conducted Bible and mission study classes, and conducted Sunday school classes for residents of rural areas around Holland. In 1961, the Ys became the Student Christian Association (SCA). In 1966, the SCA was disbanded and replaced by the Student Christian Coordinating Committee. This collection contains minute books for the YMCA dating back as far as 1884, and for the YWCA dating back as far as 1901. Unfortunately, some minute books are missing, and at least one is disorganized, with minutes from a later period proceeding minutes from an earlier period. There is some correspondence and reports of activities from 1883-1960. Unfortunately, most of this material did not survive. The activities folders contain some listings of topics and programs as well as cards with the Hope YW Girl's Creed and the Purpose of YWCA. The collection contains photographs of the Ys Holland area Sunday school programs in 1925, a revised YMCA constitution from 1937, and materials from the deputation program from the late 1940s. Some of the correspondence from 1947-1960 is about the deputation program. Schedules and programs for the annual variously named Prayer Week or Religious Emphasis Week or Spiritual Life Week for 1916-1917, 1930-1937, 1940-1941, 1945-1959 and 1961-1964 are in the collection. Several issues of the Ys Publication *Y-Fore* from 1936-1951 are in the collection. The collection will not be enough to provide a full history of the Ys at Hope College. Researchers who wish to learn more about the Ys at Hope will also need to search Hope College publications such as the Hope College *Anchor*.

Accession No: H88-0421  
Provenance: Hope College  
Donor: Hope College  
Photographs: 7 images (Box 2)  
Processed by: William Van Dyke, December 2003

History

The Hope College Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was organized in 1878. In 1901, the Hope College Young Woman's Christian Association (YWCA) was organized. These two organizations sponsored most of the social and religious activities of the college for many years. They conducted Bible and mission study classes, and conducted Sunday school classes for residents of rural areas around Holland. Later the Ys were involved in a deputation program, under which a small group of Hope students would visit churches to lead worship services, or youth meetings, or hymn sings or participate in a radio broadcasts.

In the 1890s, an annual "Week of Prayer" or later "Prayer Week" began and came under the auspices of the Ys. During the annual week, special worship services, prayer meetings and discussions were held under the leadership of faculty members or outside speakers. In 1948, "Prayer Week" became "Religious Emphasis Week." In 1949, the annual week was called

“Spiritual Emphasis Week.” From 1950 through 1958 it was called “Religious Emphasis Week,” and from 1959-1964 it was called “Spiritual Life Week.” It appears that the week was not observed 1965-1970, but was briefly revived as “Religious Emphasis Week” in 1971-1972.

In 1961, the Ys became the Student Christian Association (SCA). In 1966, the SCA was disbanded and replaced by the Student Christian Coordinating Committee.

### Scope and Content

This collection contains minute books for the YMCA dating back as far as 1884, and for the YWCA dating back as far as 1901. Unfortunately, some minute books are missing, and at least one is disorganized, with minutes from a later period proceeding minutes from an earlier period. There is some correspondence and reports of activities from 1883-1960. Unfortunately, most of this material did not survive. The activities folders contain some listings of topics and programs as well as cards with the Hope YW Girl’s Creed and the Purpose of YWCA. The collection contains photographs of the Ys Holland area Sunday school programs in 1925, a revised YMCA constitution from 1937, and materials from the deputation program from the late 1940s. Some of the correspondence from 1947-1960 is about the deputation program. Schedules and programs for the annual variously named Prayer Week or Religious Emphasis Week or Spiritual Life Week for 1916-1917, 1930-1937, 1940-1941, 1945-1959 and 1961-1964 are in the collection. Several issues of the Ys Publication *Y-Fore* from 1936-1951 are in the collection. The collection will not be enough to provide a full history of the Ys at Hope College. Researchers who wish to learn more about the Ys at Hope will also need to search Hope College publications such as the Hope College *Anchor*.

### Container List

#### Box 1 (Record Books)

##### Minute Books of the Hope College YMCA

Book B, 1884-1891

Book C, 1891-1894

Book I, 1904-1923

Book II, 1923-1941

##### Minute Books of the Hope College YWCA

1901-1914

1935-1942

1942-1946

1946-1950

1950-1953

1953-1957

1957-1958

Treasurer’s Report (Record Book) of the YWCA, 1940-1957

#### Box 2

Activities and Correspondence, 1883-1914, 1916-1930 (2 folders)

Activities and Reports, 1937-1958  
Background information, *Milestone*, 1905-1961  
Constitution of the Hope College YMCA, as revised April 6, 1937  
Correspondence, 1947-1960  
Deputation Program, 1945-1951  
Holland Area Hope College YMCA Sunday Schools, 1925 (7 images)  
Hope Y.W. Girls Creed, n.d.  
Organization of Student Christian Coordinating Committee and Disbanding of the  
Student Christian Association, 1966  
Purpose of the YWCA, n.d.  
Religious Emphasis Week (AKA—Week of Prayer, Prayer Week, Spiritual Emphasis  
Week, Spiritual Life Week)  
Correspondence, 1947-1960  
History 1892-1917 by E. D. Dimnent, P. E. Hinkamp, and I. J. Lubbers  
Messages, 1953 and 1958  
Programs, 1916-1949, 1950-1964 (2 folders)  
Revival, 1971-1972  
Student Christian Association (Successor Organization to the YMCA and YWCA),  
1961-1965  
*Y-Fore* (newspaper), 1936-1951