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Western Theological Seminary

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Papers, 1867-2006. 2.50 linear ft.

Abstract

Minister of the RCA and missionary to Arabia, India, and Egypt; professor of missions at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1929-1937. Many pamphlets on missions, including “The Ship That Sailed and the Keel That Never Kissed the Sea” (Missionary Ship); published articles by or about him. See also W88-0060 for additional correspondence.

Accession No: W88-0128
Provenance: Samuel M. Zwemer
Donor: Unknown
Photographs: 13 images (Box 1)
Processed by: Geoffrey D. Reynolds, July 1997

Biography

Samuel Marinus Zwemer was born on April 12, 1867, in Vriesland, Michigan. Zwemer received an A.B. from Hope College in 1887, M.A from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1890; Classical Literature degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1890, ordained by the Pella, Iowa, Classis in 1890; D.D. from Hope College in 1904; L.L.D. from Muskingham College in 1918, and a D.D. from Rutgers College in 1919.

Zwemer was a member of the Church Missionary Society in Arabia (1890-1913) where he met and married fellow missionary Amy Elizabeth Wilkes on May 18, 1896. He also served in Egypt (1913-1929). His tenure as professor at the Princeton Theological Seminary lasted from 1929-1952. Besides his many duties, he had time to write over fifty religious books and hundreds of articles; founded the Moslem World, a missionary periodical; and served as its editor for thirty-five years.

He retired from active work on the faculty of Princeton College Seminary at the age of seventy in 1937; however, he was allowed to teach for another year. He continued to write and publish books and articles, as well as doing a great deal of public speaking. Zwemer died in New York City on April 2, 1952, at the age of eighty-four.

Scope and Content

Collection mainly contains selected articles and monographs written by Samuel Zwemer. Other materials include correspondence, biographical information and photographs of Zwemer and his family taken in America, Arabia, and Egypt.

Container List

Box 1
Biographical information and publications, 1914-2006
Correspondence, 1894-1967
Ephemera, hand fan sold to fund the beginning of the Arabian mission, n.d.
Memorial Services Materials, 1952
Miscellaneous, 1897-1898
Photographs, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1899 (13 items)
Program, Facsimile of original program The Laying of the Keel of the New Missionary Ship, 1864 (WTS Oversized Collections)
Publications, Samuel Zwemer

*Arabia: The Cradle of Islam*. 1900
“Are We Stockholders or Ambassadors?” 1933
“Bubonic Plague in Scripture,” 1951
“Calvinism and Islam,” 1938
“Calvinism and the Missionary Enterprise,” 1950
“Confessions of Octogenarians,” 1949
“Cost of Leadership,” 1949
“Christ Supreme and Final,” 1937
“Determining Factor in the Fight for Character,” 1924
*Dynamic Christianity and the World Today*, 1939
*Excelsiora* writings, 1882-1883
*Flaming Prophet: The Story of Samuel Zwemer*, 1970
*Genealogy and History of the Zwemer-Boon Family*, 1932
*The Golden Milestone*, 1938 (coauthored with James Cantine)
“The Hands of Jesus,” 1950
*Holy Scriptures: The Genius of Practical Theology, An Inaugural Address*, 1907 (2 copies)
“In Appreciation,” *Hope College Bulletin*, November 1921
“Incarnation and Our Attitude Toward Other Religions,” 1947
“Influence of Dutch Immigration of 1847 on Foreign Missions,” 1915
*Into All the World*, 1943
*Islam and the New Era in the Near East After the War*, n.d.
“Is Suicide Sin,” 1952
“Jubal Cain Invades the Sanctuary,” 1939
“Life Begins at Seventy,” 1937
“Life Everlasting, Amen,” 1943
*Missionary Keel*, 1898
*Missions to the Jews Are Not a Mistake and a Folly*, n.d.
*Mohammedan World of Today*, 1898
*Moslem Awakening*, n.d.
*Mystery of Bethlehem*, n.d.
“Now Concerning Collection,” 1939
“One the Difficulty of the Obvious: The Proper Approach of Missions to Moslems,” 1944
Our Moslem Sisters, 1907 (edited with Annie Van Sommer)
“The Origin of Religion-By Evolution or by Revelation,” 1934 (2 copies)
Perpetuating Our Heritage, 1937 (2 copies)
“Place of the History of Religion in a Theological Discipline,” 1930
Popular Islam, n.d.
Prayer for Arabia, n.d.
Price of Missionary Leadership, 1912
“Proof of the Pudding,” 1949
Raymond Lull:  First Missionary to the Moslems, 1902
Return of Our Lord and World Wide Evangelism, n.d. (2 copies)
“Search-Light of God,” 1936
The Ship That Sailed and the Keel That Never Kissed the Sea, n.d.
Star-Worshippers of Mesopotamia, n.d.
“St. James, Apostle to India,” 1944
Taking Hold of God, 1936

Box 2

Publications, Samuel Zwemer (cont.)
What Business Has a Business Man With Foreign Missions, n.d. (2 copies)
“Why a Golden Milestone,” 1938
Zendings-Woorden en Gezangen, 1889

Publications (not Zwemer)
Coranus Arabice, 1837
What Constitutes a Missionary Call? by Robert E. Speer, 1944

Box 3

Publications (not Zwemer) (cont.)
“The Arabic Versions of the Bible, Reflections on Their History and Significance” by Kenneth Bailey and Harvey Staal, 1982
Biography and Traditions of the Life of Mohammad, 1895
Gospel of Matthew signed by Zwemer in Arabic, n.d. (Arabic)
Islam, 1876
Israel My Glory, 1894
New Testament owned by Muslim convert Kamil Abdel Messiah, n.d.
(Arabic)
“One On the Shoulders of a Century” by John W. Beardsee, III, 1989
“Our Muslim Brethren: The Contribution of Samuel M. Zwemer to Christian Mission” by Lyle Vander Werff, 1982
“We Wish to See Jesus”—Christianity Through Muslim Eyes” by Lewis R. Scudder, Jr., 1982