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W18-1460.10. Spaan, Cornelius H. (1872-1940).
Papers, 1906-2001. 0.25 linear ft.

Abstract

Hope College Class of 1899; Princeton Theological Seminary class of 1904; McCormick Theological Seminary class of 1912; Hope College Doctor of Divinity recipient of 1935; pastor at Grace Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1912-1938. Collection consists of handwritten sermons preached at Grace Reformed and other churches, 1906-1924.

Accession No: H12-1825
Provenance: Cornelius H. Spaan
Donor: Marty Evert
Processed by: Sarah Lundy, January 2019

Biography

Reverend Cornelius H. Spaan was born on December 19, 1872, in Pella, Iowa, to parents Henry and Cornelia Spaan. He graduated from Hope College in 1899 and continued his education at Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating in 1904. Following ordination, Spaan served as a missionary in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for one year before beginning a six-year pastorate in the town of Cordell. He taught Greek and Bible at Cordell Academy as well, where he met and then married Ruth Gutzman.

After a year of post-graduate work at McCormick Theological Seminary, Spaan accepted a position as the pastor of Grace Reformed Church in 1912. He and his wife moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and raised their children, Milton and Eleanor, there. Spaan served as pastor of Grace Reformed Church for twenty-five years, retiring in 1938 due to failing health. Spaan also completed many years of service to his alma mater, Hope College. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for twenty years and gave several public addresses at the school. In 1935, Hope College presented him with an honorary Doctor of Divinity.

Cornelius H. Spaan died in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on August 20, 1940, at the age of 67.

Scope and Content

The Rev. Cornelius H. Spaan papers contain materials from 1906 to 1925, many of which focus on the book of Acts. The twenty-two sermons included, dating from 1906 to 1924, are handwritten, titled, and bound as paper booklets. There are also notes on the inside cover of each message identifying them by date and by the locations at which Spaan preached that particular message. The booklets have been arranged chronologically according to the dates noted, except for the last sermon, which is not dated. The collection also contains a 1925 pamphlet by Daniel Martin Hoffman and biographical documents on Spaan.

Container List

Biographical, 1931-2001

- Pamphlet, Martin, Daniel Hoffman. "What Next?: An Address to New Communicants on the Privileges of Church Membership," 1925
- Sermons of Cornelius H. Spaan, 1906- 1924 (two folders)
- "Paul's Thorn: 2 Cor. 12: 17," 1906
 - "Why Become a Christian, Acts 26: 28," 1909
 - "Paul, Surety in the Storm, Acts 27: 23-25," 1910
 - "Mark Who Had a Second Chance: Acts 15: 37-38," 1911
 - "The Nature of the Resurrected Body: 1 Cor. 15: 35," 1913
 - "The Generosity of Jesus: Acts 20: 25," 1914
 - "The Modern Eutychus: Acts 20: 9," 1916
 - "Conditions of Recovery, the Holy Spirit: Acts 19: 2," 1917
 - "The Battlefield of Prayer: Acts 9: 11, Matt. 4: 11," 1917
 - "Paul at the Shrines of Diana: Acts 19: 28," 1919
 - "The Prophet's Symbolic Warning to Paul: Acts 21: 11," 1919
 - "The Art of Giving: Acts 20: 35," 1920
 - "Rejecting the Corner Stone, Acts 4: 11," 1920
 - "Acts 13: 36," 1920
 - "The Forty Days, Acts 1: 3," 1921
 - "The Ascension, Acts 1: 9," 1921
 - "Stephen, the Martyr: Acts 6: 5, 6: 8, 6: 10, 6: 15," 1922
 - "The Power of Prayer, Acts 2: 12, Acts 4: 31," 1923
 - "In Sight of Cyprus, Acts 21: 3, 27: 4," 1923
 - "Barnabas, a Good Man, Acts 11: 24," 1923
 - "Number Years in Our Pulpit, Acts 28: 15," 1924
 - "Philip: The Evangelist, Acts 21: 8," 1924
 - "A First Century Congregation, Acts 10: 33," n.d.