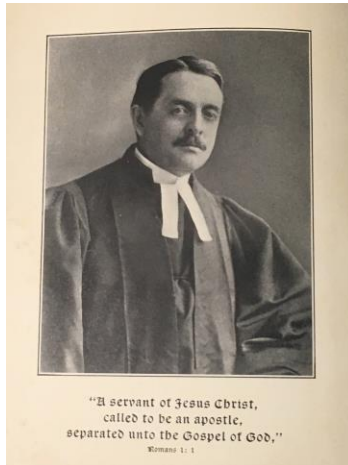


**The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,  
Columbia University in the City of New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

**Charles Eli Bronson, 1857-1926**



Frontispiece of Bronson's Book of Sermons, UTS: Charles Eli Bronson Papers, Series 1, box 1, folder 5, the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

Finding Aid prepared by: Rebecca Nieto, September 2016  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Charles Eli Bronson, 1857-1926  
Title: Charles Eli Bronson Papers  
Inclusive dates: 1845-1966  
Bulk dates: 1895-1920  
Abstract: UTS alumnus 1884; graduate of Amherst College, ordained Presbyterian minister who served in Marlborough, New York; Saginaw, Michigan; and West Hope Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia; President, Philadelphia School of Christian Workers. Papers consist of textual materials including sermon-related writings, church bulletins and personal copies of Biblical texts; personal effects relating to the Bronson family including genealogical research, wills, Bronson children hair clippings, and journals.  
Size: 3 boxes, 1.25 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Email: [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkespecial@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The Bronson papers were donated in part by Elizabeth Duvall, with additional materials supplied through the UTS Development Office. These papers are part of the Union Theological Seminary Archives, which comprises institutional and administrative records of the Seminary, combined with the papers of many organizations, scholars, pastors, laypersons, and others connected with the school.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkespecial@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS: Charles E. Bronson Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Charles Eli Bronson was born in Geneva, New York on December 6, 1857 to parents Eli Atwater and Amelia (Kellogg) Bronson. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College in 1880 before attending Union Theological Seminary, where he earned his diploma in 1884. He was ordained in the No-River Presbytery on November 6, 1884, and immediately embarked on a three decade-long ministerial career in the Midwest and Northeast. During his career, he served as a pastor in Marlborough, New York (1884-1892); Saginaw, Michigan (1892-1900), at West Hope Presbyterian Church from 1900-1922. In 1894, Bronson went on to receive his Doctorate of Divinity from Alma College in Alma, Michigan.

In addition to his ministerial work, Reverend Bronson served as President of the Philadelphia School of Christian Workers beginning in 1923, and was a member of Psi Upsilon and the Union League of Philadelphia. He married Amey Talbot Taintor – herself a graduate of Smith College, Columbia College and native of Stratford, Connecticut – in 1898, and had two children together.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The Bronson Papers are divided into two series showing the natural distinction found between Bronson's sermon-related writings, and the textual materials relating to his personal and family life:

- **Series 1: Writings, [1884]-1930 (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**  
This series contains Bronson's sermons as they were gathered by year. Note that many early sermons were revised and preached at various points in Bronson's pastorate, so many sermons include annotations with multiple locations and dates.

- **Series 2: Personal, 1845-1966 (2 boxes, 0.75 lin. ft.)**

This series comprises the personal effects, personal materials and genealogical research undertaken within Bronson's immediate and extended families. This series includes subheadings to gesture to these divisions, notably the division between Bronson's personal notebooks, Bibles and clippings; the personal effects belonging to immediate relatives such as his wife and children; and the genealogical research conducted by extended relations to Bronson, including the Taintor, Talbot, and Bewley families.

### **Processing**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

### **Further Sources**

Additional copies of West Hope's Bulletin celebrating Reverend Bronson's pastorate is available through the Presbyterian Historical Society by visiting WorldCat:

<http://www.worldcat.org/title/seventeenth-anniversary-of-the-pastorate-of-the-rev-charles-e-bronson-dd-june-seventh-1917/oclc/43116643>

Biographical information taken from the *Union Theological Seminary Alumni Catalog 1836-1927*:

[http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/cul/texts/ldpd\\_6093721\\_000/pages/ldpd\\_6093721\\_000\\_00000001.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/cul/texts/ldpd_6093721_000/pages/ldpd_6093721_000_00000001.html)

and *The Biographical Record of the Alumni of Amherst College, 1821[1896]:1871-1896*, viewable on HathiTrust: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006256195>

## Contents list

### Series 1: Writings, [1884]-1930

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Marlboro, Saginaw and Philadelphia Sermons, [1884]-1894
1	1	2	ibid., 1895-1912
1	1	3	1912-1917
1	1	4	1919-Undated
1	1	5	The Sermons of Reverend Charles Eli Bronson [bound], 1930
1	1	6	Correspondence, 1895-1922
1	1	7	Notes, Undated

### Series 2: Personal, [1845] - 1966

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
<b>Notebooks, Bibles, and Personal Clippings</b>			
2	1	1	Personal Workers' Testament, 1905
2	1	2	Polyglot Bible (English version), 190?
2	1	3	West Hope Presbyterian Church Bulletins, 1911-1929
2	1	4	West Hope – 17 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rev. Bronson's Pastorate, 1917
2	1	5	Calendar and Journal, 1922-1925
2	1	6	Tenant College of Christian Education – Bulletin and Clipping, 1941
<b>Bronson Family Materials</b>			
2	1	7	Amy Talbot Taintor [Bronson] Wedding Datebook [1898]
<b>Extended Family – Genealogical and Personal Materials</b>			
2	2	1	Notes on Bronson Children [1900-1911]
2	2	2	Clippings of Bronson Childrens' Hair, 1907-1916
2	2	3	Amey Bronson – Pressed flowers, Smith College records [1928]
2	2	4	Margaret Letters, 1910-1911
2	2	5	Letter from Katherine [June 14, no year]
2	2	6	Biographical clippings [Undated]
2	2	7	Manuscript – Pattern Language by Julia Talbot [Undated]
2	2	8	Poem – The New England Mother [typescript, Undated]
2	2	9	E.C. Taintor Valedictory Poems and Notebooks, 1845
2	2	10	Ralston Genealogical Correspondence [Reprints of corr., 1865]
2	2	11-12	Genealogical Correspondence – Bewley, Talbot, Bronson (inc. copies), 1951-1966
2	2	13	Bronson-Talbot-Taintor Family Genealogy, 195?
2	2	14	Ralston Family Wills, 1962 [RESTRICTED]
2	2	15	Genealogical Research – Methodist Church Records, 1966
2	2	16	Ralston Family Gravestone Illustrations, Undated