

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

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

**Mary Eliza Moxcey, 1901-1920**



Detail of Questionnaire Notebook. UTS1: Mary Eliza Moxcey Papers, 1901-1920, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 3. The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Rebecca Nieto, February 2017

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**Summary Information**

Creator: Mary Eliza Moxcey, 1875-1970  
Title: Mary Eliza Moxcey Papers, 1901-1920  
Inclusive dates: 1901-1920  
Bulk dates: 1911-1917  
Abstract: Union alumnus, 1917; Ph.D. Philosophy,  
Size: 3 boxes, 1.5 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 exact provenance of this collection is unknown. The Mary Eliza Moxcey Papers were among a large group of unprocessed materials that were organized in 2016/2017 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.
- 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: UTS1: Mary Eliza Moxcey Papers, 1901-1920, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Mary Eliza Moxcey was an influential leader of religious education in the early to mid-twentieth century. She was born in Atchison, Kansas, on February 2, 1875. She earned her Ph.B. from Syracuse University in 1897, and completed additional graduate work at a number of institutions, first an M.A. from Oberlin College in 1907, then additional studies at Teachers College, Columbia University from 1913 to 1915, and again in 1917. In the interim, she briefly attended Union Theological Seminary from 1914 to 1915. She returned to Columbia to complete her PhD. in Philosophy. There, she committed to a rigorous, years-long study of careers in the Christian ministry using several American seminaries and conferences as her subjects. She earned her doctorate from Columbia in 1922.

Moxcey spent the majority of her academic and professional career devoted to the study and improvement of religious education in primary school education (with a focus on education for young girls), analyzing the Christian ministry as a professional field, and assessing student experience in American seminaries. In her research and work, she strove to assess and improve the relationship between student's actual lives and the vocational work that religious leaders and teachers strive to animate in their students. She developed a number of Sunday school primers, teaching manuals and related curricular materials for use in YWCA and public school settings. She was a religious education teacher at the New York Trade School for Christian Workers from 1916 to 1917, and taught as a Professor of Religious Education at Boston University from 1917 to 1918. She eventually worked as an assistant educator in Cincinnati, Ohio, remaining there from 1918 to 1940.

Moxcey was the author of a number of leadership manuals relating to religious education, Sunday school lesson materials, and general education. Her publications include *Good Times for Girls* (1922), *Parents and their Children: An Introductory Manual for Parents' Classes* (1922), *Physical Health and Recreation for Girls* (1920), *Some Qualities Associated with Success in the Christian Ministry* (1922; Moxcey's doctoral dissertation toward a Doctorate of Philosophy at

Columbia University), and *Finding My Place: A Girl's Outlook on Life and Vocation* (1927). Much of the statistical and quantitative data collection process, correspondence, research, and notes relating to Moxcey's doctoral dissertation are present in this collection.

In addition to her extensive research and teaching, Moxcey was a long-time editor of *The Methodist Book Concern*. She retired in 1940, and passed away in Claremont, California in 1970.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of research materials resulting from Moxcey's intensive study of the academic and work environment at theological institutions in the United States.

- **Series 1: Dissertation Research, 1901-1920**

This series consists of research files and quantitative data spreadsheets and charts gathered and evaluated by Moxcey as part of her doctoral research on measuring factors of success in Christian ministries. These materials consist of salary, transcript, and personal information for individuals employed by or undertaking religious studies at Boston area seminaries, Drew Theological Seminary, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and more. Raw statistical matter is supplemented by with correspondence, questionnaires (filled out and templates) distributed to research participants, pamphlets and minutes of ministries that Moxcey investigated.

### 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. Loose individual profiles in Box 3 were secured with cotton ties and placed in acid-free folders.

### Further Sources

The Claremont School of Theology Library and Special Collections have a [library guide](#) containing biographical information on Mary Eliza Moxcey, whose papers are housed in part in the library. Please contact CST Library for information on collection scope and access.

Many of Moxcey's books are in the public domain and are freely available online at the University of Pennsylvania's [Online Books Page](#) and through the Internet Archive.

General biographical information about Moxcey can also be found in the [Union Theological Seminary Alumni Directory, 1836-1970](#).

## Contents list

### Series 1: Dissertation Research, 1901-1920

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Data and Notes for Talks/Recordkeeping, 1902-1911
1	1	2	Marking College and Theological Subjects Using Questionnaire Tables [1911]
1	1	3	Dissertation Data Questionnaires [including blanks], 1917
1	1	4	Boston Replies [Surveys, 1917]
1	1	5	Distribution of Boston Grades by Random Values (Medians Marked) [1917]
1	1	6	Drew Theological Seminary Replies, 191?
1	1	7	Drew Grades and Salaries, 1902-1917
1	1	8	Garrett [Evangelical Theological Seminary] Replies, 191?
1	1	9	Garrett Grades, 1902-1911
1	1	10	Boston and Drew Grades, 1902-1911
1	1	11	Salaries of All Conference Ministries from 1917 General Minutes, 1917
1	2	1-2	Salaries of 212 Conference Ministries, 1917-1920
1	2	3	Rough Data and Completed Charges Served by Twenty Five Ministries, 1901-1916
1	2	4	Correspondence [Calls for Participation and Responses], 1917
1	2	5-7	Dissertation Data – Judgment on Conference Ministries [1917]
1	2	7	Dissertation Data – All Correlations [1917]
1	3	1	Judgment on Conference (Random Values/Additions/Averages) [1917]
1	3	2	[Handwritten Profiles and Grades of Individuals Surveyed], 1903-1911
1	3	3	Special Copies of Minutes and Catalogues of Ministries [Consulted for Dissertation Research – Pamphlets], 1916-1918