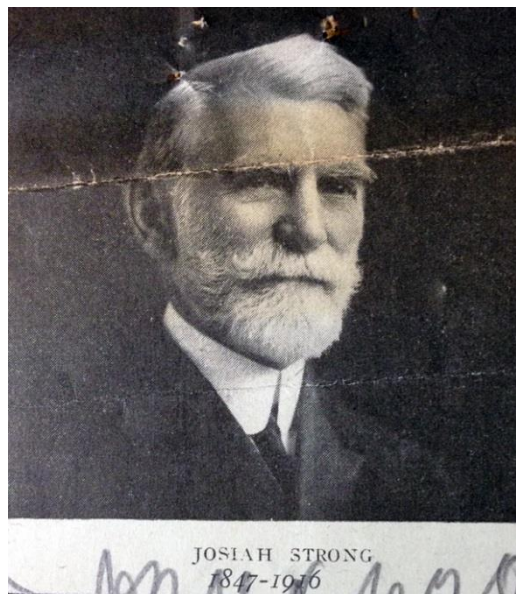


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Josiah Strong Papers, 1855 – 1969



Obituary Notice. Credit to: UTS1: Josiah Strong Papers, series 1, box 3, folder 1,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, 2012; Brigette C. Kamsler, and Margaret Kaczorowski, May 2015

With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Josiah Strong, 1847-1916
Title: Josiah Strong Papers
Inclusive dates: 1855-1969
Bulk dates: 1931-1969
Abstract: Collection captures the life of Rev. Josiah Strong, founder of the League of Social Service, through correspondence and manuscripts compiled by his two daughters, Elsie and Margery Strong.
Size: 6 boxes, 2.50 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: No written record of the donation has been traced. The records were probably given to Union Library by Strong's daughters beginning in the 1930s.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@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: Manuscript materials in Series 1 are **FRAGILE** and extra care is needed when handling or being copied, as some scraps and other pieces of material are clipped to the page.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, UTS1: Josiah Strong Papers, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Josiah Strong was born January 19, 1847 in Naperville, Illinois. He was a descendant of Elder John Strong, one of the early settlers in 17th century Puritan Massachusetts. He spent the remainder of his childhood in Naperville and experienced an evangelical conversion at the First Congregational Church as a young teen. Afterward he attended Western Reserve College; following graduation in 1869, he enrolled at Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati and was ordained Minister. Not long after ending his studies at Lane in 1871, he married Alice Bisbee of Chardon, Ohio. Rev. Strong spent some time as Pastor of a home missionary church in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

From 1877-1883, Rev. Strong was Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Sandusky, Ohio. It was there that he became aware of the major social problems within America and what inspired him to eventually become involved with the Social Gospel movement. This was a Protestant Christian intellectual movement that was most prominent in the early 20th century United States and Canada. The movement applied Christian ethics to social problems, especially issues of social justice such as economic inequality, poverty, alcoholism, crime, racial tensions, slums, unclean environment, child labor, inadequate labor unions, poor schools, and the danger of war.

Beginning in 1885, Strong published several influential books that dealt with religious solutions for social and economic problems, and emphasized interdenominational cooperation to achieve these social goals. Among his most widely read and influential published works are: *Our Country: Its Possible Future and Present Crisis*, *New Era*, *The Twentieth Century City*, *The Times and Young Men*, *Religious Movements for Social Betterment*, and *The Challenge of the City*.

Strong served as General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance for the United States from 1886-1898, a coalition of Protestant missionary groups. In reaction to the Evangelical Alliance's lack

of involvement in what he saw as an urgent need to deal with social problems in late 19th century USA, he founded the League for Social Service in 1898, which in 1902 was re-named the American Institute of Social Service, an organization to “promote social and industrial betterment.” Strong edited its magazine, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. He is considered a leader of the Third Great Awakening, a hypothetical historical period proposed by William G. McLoughlin that was marked by religious activism in American history and spans the late 1850s to the early 20th century.

Strong had three daughters named Mary, Elsie, and Margery, and one son, Howard. Mary died tragically in 1894. Strong appears to have been close to his children, as evident in his correspondence with his daughters in the collection. Strong died on April 28, 1916.

Publications by Strong are:

Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis, 1885
The New Era, 1893
The Twentieth Century City, 1898
The Times and Young Men, 1901
The Next Great Awakening, 1902
Religious Movements for Social Betterment
The Challenge of the City, 1907
My Religion in Everyday Life, 1910

Sources:

<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/johnson/strong.htm> [accessed 11/8/2012].

[The Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography](#), by John S. Bowman online. Cambridge University Press 1995. [accessed 11/8/2012].

The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization [accessed May 7, 2015]

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9780470670606.wbecc1324/abstract>

Social Gospel [accessed May 7, 2015]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Gospel

The Third Great Awakening [accessed May 7, 2015]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Great_Awakening

The Outlook 72 (1902): 472.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of personal papers and correspondence of Rev. Josiah Strong and showcase his international role as delegate for the Evangelical Alliance, as well as his interests in Turkey and South America. The bulk of the collection are the notes, manuscripts, news clippings and other papers compiled between the 1930s and 1969 by his daughters, Elsie and Margery Strong, for an unpublished manuscript of their father’s life, *Josiah Strong: Social Pioneer*. This manuscript was worked on for several decades by the daughters and Nathaniel Pratt, Charles Macfarland, C.Howard Hopkins, and Dorothea Muller.

The collection is organized into two series:

- **Series 1: Josiah Strong Biography Drafts, 1855 - 1916 (4 boxes, 2.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains Josiah Strong Biography manuscript drafts by Elsie Strong with commentary notes by Margery Strong. Drafts are subdivided into Parts 1-4, and these parts are further divided by chapter. Chapters encapsulate Strong's entire life, from early childhood and background, early influences, his time out west as a missionary, his role in social service and religion, and later years.

- **Subseries 1A: Josiah Strong Personal Papers**

Contains correspondence and notes specifically written by Josiah Strong himself. Of note is a travel diary from Strong's trip to South America in Box 4 Folders 7-8.

- **Series 2: Correspondence, 1883-1969 (2 boxes, 0.50 lin. ft.)**

This series is arranged in chronological order, and broken in two sections.

This series contains correspondence from and to Josiah Strong. He corresponded with many famous people from notable organizations. For example in Folder 5 are letters from Theodore Roosevelt and Jacob Riis. Other individuals of note were WJ Pratt, William Dodge, Philip Schaff, founder of Howard University Major General Oliver O. Howard, Walter Rauschenbusch and Woodrow Wilson. Organizations and topics in his correspondence include but are not limited to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), the Evangelical Alliance, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the situation in Turkey in 1896 and the missionaries there, the YMCA, and various divinity schools and seminaries. Rev. Strong's influence in the missionary world is apparent in letters discussing the massacres in Turkey and in his role in selecting the Minister to Constantinople.

Box two of the correspondence was between his daughters Elsie and Margery to those involved with the biography, including publishers, scholars, and universities. The letters also perhaps explain why the biography was never published, as several people writing in the 1960s allude to Strong's documents, held at the UTS library, were destroyed by a staff member or perhaps by members of Strong's family in the 1930s. These can be viewed in Box 2, Folder 8.

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.

The Strong Papers have been organized and reorganized by many people throughout the years. In 2015, the finding aid was completed as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. Along with the finding aid, a detailed inventory was created by Margaret Kaczorowski before description and processing was undertaken. To find out more about what was included in this inventory, please contact Burke Library staff by email at: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu.

Josiah is indicated as JS, Elsie is ES and Margery is MS noted throughout the finding aid.

Further Sources

The Burke Library contains a number of other collections related to the people and organizations included in the Josiah Strong Papers. Examples consist of UTS: Philip Schaff Papers, UTS: Walter Rauschenbusch Papers; WAB: Evangelical Alliance Records; MRL12: American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Records; and MRL2: Near East Relief Committee Records. For more information and to view the finding aids, please see [the Burke Library Archives website](#).

Contents list**Series 1: Josiah Strong Biography Drafts, 1855 - 1969****Series Box Folder Contents**

1	1	1	Correspondence and Deposit of materials to archive, 1969
1	1	2	J Strong Biography- offprint by D.R. Miller; Statement by N. M. Pratt
Manuscript Drafts			
1a Part 3			
1	1	3	VIII – XVI - General Christian Conference, 1886-1916
1	1	4	IX--National and International Conferences, 1887-1896
1	1	5	X Letters from London and Continent, 1888-1896
1	1	6	XI International Interests, 1896
1	1	7	XII Evangelical Alliance and Social Point of View
1	1	8	[XIII/XIV?] Visit to South America
1	1	9	XV [XIV?] Manifold Interests
Part 1			
1	1	10	Chapter I: The Times, 1847 – 1916
1	1	11	Chapter II: Ancestry and Early Influences
1	1	12	Chapter III: Boyhood in Hudson
1	1	13	Chapter IV: College and Seminary
Part 2			
1	1	14	Chapter V: Home Missionary Cheyenne, 1871-1873
1	1	15	Chapter VI: Return to Northern Ohio,
1	1	16	Chapter VI: 2 A City Pastor, 1876
1	1	17	Chapter VII: Minister in a Strategic Center: Cincinnati
1	1	18	Chapter XIII: Institute for Social Service
1c Part 4			
1	1	19	Seer and prophet: Chapter XVII: After the War – What?
1	1	20	Chapter XVIII: Social Needs of Latin America; XIX South America
1	1	21	Chapter XX: As His Children Knew Him Chapter XXI: In His Thought and Work
1	1	22	Chapter XXII: With Neighbors and Friends Chapter XXIII: In the Hospital
1	1	23	1d Strong as Pioneer of Christian Unity and Social Christianity
1	1	24	Relations of American Missions to Turkish Government, 1896-[19??]
1	1	25	Biographies of Josiah Strong, the Irwin Family, and others, 1881-1913
1	1	26	Minutes of Congregational Conference of Ohio, 1916
Manuscript Outlines Based on Pratt's Work			
1	1	27	Redrafted Contents List Outlines of Chapter XIX South America with JS travel diary Chapter III Creative influences; Chapter II Personality; Chapter XVI Egypt

Series 1: Josiah Strong Biography Drafts (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents**

Series Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	28 Death Announcements of J. Strong: Clippings, Correspondence Transcriptions, Funeral Addresses, 1916
1	2	1 As His Children Knew Him; In His Thought and Work, [193?]
1	2	2 Chapter XII: The Evangelical Alliance and Social Point of View, final written manuscript, [19??]
1	2	3 Ancestry; Boyhood; Cheyenne; Return to Northern Ohio, [19??]
1	2	4 Cincinnati; Chapter XXII: Neighbors and Friends; Hospital, 1951
1	2	5 South America and Social Needs of Latin America, [19??]
1	2	6 Areas for Consideration by International Congress on General Economic Expansion, Belgium, Source Documents and Notes, 1905 Report of Evangelical Alliance House to House Visitation, 1889; Content of Clippings re: JS and John Brown Draft Letter and Autobiographical Notes
1	2	7 Miscellaneous Sources and Clippings: Testimonial to JS from Central Congregational Church, Cincinnati, 1886 Draft letter to First Cong'l. Church, Cheyenne for 25 th Anniversary, 1894 Clippings re JS, 1895 – 1898 Transcribed Comments re Death of JS Postal envelopes, 1887-1938
1	2	8 Clippings and Articles by and about JS, annotated by ES/MS, 1898-1916
1	2	9 Clippings: Obituaries; Book Reviews, 1891 Opposition to Rockefeller funding Addresses and speeches delivered by JS at 75 th Anniversary of Western Reserve University, 1891-1916 Invitation to Banquet for Emperor of China, 1906
1	2	10 Chapter IX: Conferences, Notes and Documents, [19??] International Arbitration re JS
1	2	11 Chapter X: London and the Continent, [19??]
1	2	12 First Manuscript and Notes: Background, [19??]
1	2	13 First Manuscript and Notes: Cheyenne; Boyhood, [19??]
1	2	14 Interchurch Conference of Federation Pamphlet, 1905 Background Notes, [19??]
1	2	15 Chapter VIII: Evangelical Alliance-Notes and Documents, [1893-19??]
1	2	16 MacMillan: Notes and Correspondence re: N. Pratt's Manuscript, 1940
1	2	17 Manuscript Notes by Elsie Strong: Contents, [19??] News clipping from Sterling Kansas Bulletin on JS
1	3	1 <i>NY Times</i> Book Review: <i>Rebel America</i> , 1934
1	3	2 Tributes and Correspondence about JS- YMCA
1	3	3 Notes, Correspondence, American Institute of Social Service, 1906-1910
1	3	4-5 Chapter XI draft: International interests, [19??] Arbitration treaty at Gridelwald, 1896
1	3	6 Chapter IX draft: International and national conferences, 1885-1891

Series 1: Josiah Strong Biography Drafts (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents**

1	3	7	Manuscript draft Ch. XII: Evangelical Alliance First MS, [19??]
1	3	8-10	Drafts for Manuscript 2 on JS Biography by M. Strong, [19??]
1	3	11	Draft Clippings for Ch. I-IX, [19??]
1	3	12	Draft clippings and discarded notes for Ch. XII, 1938

Subseries 1A: Josiah Strong Personal Papers, 1855-1954

1A	4	1	Social Consciousness Notes
1A	4	2	Chapter XXVIII: The Problem of Wealth
1A	4	3	Plans for <i>Our World</i> : Introductions, Preface, Appendix
1A	4	4	Notes on <i>The Great Discord</i> and Social Consciousness Publisher correspondence, 1895-1913
1A	4	5	Offices and Events Memorabilia; Clippings on JS 1889-1915 Poem entitled <i>The Closed Gentian</i> by JS; Book Reviews Henry Farwell Tribute to JS; Obituary of Major William Strong, 1914 Annual Report of Evangelical Alliance 1886-1887 Studies in Social Christianity, 1918
1A	4	6	JS Personal Effects: Minister's license, passport Photographs of family members, including J. Strong, Senior Bisbee and Strong Family Genealogy, 1939 Attendance record for Mary Strong [sister?], 1855 Western Reserve documents Announcement of Margery Strong Death, 1954
1A	4	7-8	Record of South American Trip Part 1
1A	4	9	Letter to <i>NY Times</i> Editor from JS about Civil War Journal brochures, 1901-1913

Series 2: Correspondence, 1883 – 1969**Josiah Strong, 1883-1917**

2	1	1	1883-1887
2	1	2	1891; 1893
2	1	3	1894-1895
2	1	4	1896
2	1	5	1897-1898
2	1	6	1899-1901
2	1	7	1902-1906
2	1	8	1907-1909
2	1	9	1910-1912
2	1	10	1913
2	1	11	1914-April 1916
2	1	12	April 1916-1917

Series 2: Correspondence (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents****Elsie and Margery Strong, 1931-1969**

2	2	1	1931-1935
2	2	2	1936-1937
2	2	3	1938
2	2	4	1939-1942
2	2	5	1945
2	2	6	1946-1948
2	2	7	1949-1953
2	2	8	1961-1969
2	2	9	[19??]