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Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society records, 1841-1917. RG0741

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society.
Creator:	Sheldon, F. M. (Frank Milton)
Creator:	Wellman, Arthur Holbrook
Creator:	Congregational Publishing Society.
Creator:	Arakelyan Press
Title:	Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society records, 1841-1917. : [manuscript]
ID:	RG0741
Date [inclusive]:	1841-1917
Physical Description:	2.35 Cubic Feet (2 cartons, 1 pamphlet case)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society developed from the union of two earlier organizations: The Massachusetts Sabbath-School Society, and the American Doctrinal Tract Society. These two organizations joined in 1868 to form the Congregational Sabbath-School and Publishing Society. Its purpose was to "explain...and support the Congregational faith and polity" and to promote Sabbath-school organization and education. The Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society records document the administrative history and functions of the society.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society records, 1841-1917, RG0741. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society developed from the union of two earlier organizations: The Massachusetts Sabbath-School Society, and the American Doctrinal Tract Society. The former society was established in 1832, published literature for use in Sunday schools, and raised money to support Sunday schools in the west. The Tract Society, established in 1829, published doctrinal tracts for distribution. It incorporated in 1850 as the Doctrinal Tract and Book Society and changed its name to the Congregational Board of Publication four years later.

These two organizations joined in 1868 to form the Congregational Sabbath-School and Publishing Society. Its purpose was to "explain...and support the Congregational faith and polity" and to promote Sabbath-school organization and education. In 1870, the name changed to the Congregational Publishing Society. The missionary side of the operation was transferred to the American Home Missionary Society in 1873, but returned in May 1882 when the Publishing Society began failing financially. The name changed again a year later, back to Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society.

The Society gave literature to all Congregational Sunday schools and, on a limited basis, to colleges connected with the American Education Society, and to needy pastors. They published works in European languages, issued the Pilgrim Missionary, and provided "lesson helps" for teachers. The Pilgrim Press became the publishing arm of the Society in the 1890s. The Pilgrim Press and United Church Resources continues to be the United Church's publishing arm under the Local Church Ministries.

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Content Description

The Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society records document the administrative history and functions of the society, including annual meeting minutes, board of directors minutes, committee and departmental minutes, documents concerning the transfer and purchase of property, certified photo static copies of incorporating documents, official correspondence, and memorabilia such as photographs, brochures, and flyers. Records include both bound volumes and loose documents.

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Arrangement

The collection is divided into the four series listed below. The records are arranged by chronological order and topic.

- Series 1, Administrative Records, 1841-1913
- Series 2, Committee and Department Records, 1869-1916
- Series 3, Plant Transfer Records, 1910-1914
- Series 4, Scrapbooks and Albums, 1892-1917

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication.

Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Acquisition number: 1993-11.

Processing Information

Processed by Barbara E. Austen, October 1993.

Re-processed by Zachary Bodnar, August 2017, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Organizations.
- Religious literature--Publishing--Societies, etc
- Sunday school literature
- Sheldon, F. M. (Frank Milton)
- Wellman, Arthur Holbrook

Bibliography

Ewing, William. *The Sunday-School Century, Containing a History of the Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society*. Boston: The Pilgrim Press, 1918. Call Number: 30.9 EWI 1918

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Collection Inventory

Administrative Records, 1841-1913

Date [inclusive]: 1841-1913

Physical Description: 9 Files (8 folders and 1 pamphlet box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes administrative records and publications. Types of records include Board of Directors minutes, Executive Committee Minutes, Annual Meetings, Annual Reports, and official copies of legal documents pertaining to the incorporation of the Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society.

Title/Description	Instances
Board of Directors/Managers minutes, 1841-1891	box 1 folder 1

Date [inclusive]: 1841-1891

Board of Directors/Managers minutes, 1891-1910

box 1

folder 2

Date [inclusive]: 1891-1910

Executive Committee minutes, 1905-1906

box 1

folder 3

Date [inclusive]: 1905-1906

Executive Committee minutes, 1906-1907

box 1

folder 4

Date [inclusive]: 1906-1907

Annual Meetings, 1841-1912

box 1

folder 5

Date [inclusive]: 1841-1912

Delegates to 1912 Annual Meeting of the Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society, 1912

box 1

folder 6

Date: 1912

Certified copies of incorporating documents

box 1

folder 7

Scope and Contents

File contains certified and signed reproductions of legal documents pertaining to the incorporation of the Congregational Publishing Society and the various name changes it underwent between 1841 and 1937. The reproductions were created June 8, 1956 and signed by the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Originals are held by the offices of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Annual Reports, 1869-1903

box 3

Date [inclusive]: 1869-1903

Annual Reports, 1905-1913

box 1

folder 8

Date [inclusive]: 1905-1913

Business contracts and correspondence, 1894-1895

box 1

folder 9

Date [inclusive]: 1894-1895

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Committee and Department records, 1869-1916

Date [inclusive]: 1869-1916

Physical Description: 4 Files

Scope and Contents

This series includes records created by the various committees and departments of the Congregational Sunday-School & Publishing Society. Types of records include correspondence, committee reports and recommendations, ledgers, and other financial records.

Title/Description	Instances	
Missionary Committee, 1869-1889 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1869-1889	box 1	folder 10
Publication Committee, 1873-1910 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1873-1910	box 1	folder 11
Business Department ledger and reports, 1896-1900 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1896-1900	box 2	folder 1
Business Department ledger and reports, 1900-1902 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1900-1902	box 2	folder 2
Missionary and Extension Department transfer, 1916 <u>Date:</u> 1916	box 2	folder 3

Added Material

This folder was added to this collection 2017-08-28 as part of re-processing.

It was originally located with the Small Collection (RG0160) and given the identifier RG5072.

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Plant Transfer Records, 1910-1914

Date [inclusive]: 1910-1914

Physical Description: 6 Files

Scope and Contents

This series includes records created as part of the transfer of the Arakelyan Press plant to the Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society. Types of records include correspondence, legal documents, ledgers and other financial documents, and a blueprint of the Arakelyan Press.

Title/Description	Instances	
Plant transfer correspondence, proposals, etc., 1913 <u>Date:</u> 1913	box 2	folder 4
Plant transfer correspondence and offers, 1913-1914 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1913-1914	box 2	folder 5
Arakelyan Press ledger, 1911-1913	box 2	folder 6

Date [inclusive]: 1911-1913

Pilgrim Press Printing Department financial records, 1913 <u>Date:</u> 1913	box 2	folder 7
Pilgrim Press proof receipts, 1913-1914 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1913-1914	box 2	folder 8
Blueprint of the Arakelyan Press, 1910 <u>Date:</u> 1910	folder 1	

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Scrapbooks and Albums, 1892-1917

Date [inclusive]: 1892-1917

Physical Description: 2 Files

Scope and Contents

This series includes a bound scrapbook and bound photograph album. The scrapbook includes printed reports, newsletter articles, and many of the Society's published pamphlets. The photograph album, given to the outgoing president of the CSSPS, Samuel B Capen, includes portraits of the Board of directors with their names and correspondence regarding Capen's departure.

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook, 1892-1917 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1892-1917	box 2	folder 9
Photograph Album, 1900 <u>Date:</u> 1900	box 2	folder 10

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