S0300 Gibson, George Miles, Jr. (1896-1980)
Papers, 1913-1996
138 Folders

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The papers of George Miles Gibson, pastor, professor, and author, were given to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection by Dr. Gibson's son, Morgan Gibson, on August 15, 1996.

George M. Gibson was born in Macon, Missouri, in 1896. His father, George M. Gibson, Sr., a Methodist minister, moved his family to north Texas where George Jr. grew up. Gibson received his bachelor of arts degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He served as an officer in France in World War I. After the war Gibson had a brief career as a businessman and as a reporter for the Dallas Dispatch, and then he returned to Southern Methodist University to study theology.

Gibson married Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Leeper in Coleman, Texas, in 1921. He served as pastor of Methodist Churches in Pilot Point, Texas, in Mesquite, Texas, and of a Congregational Church in Cleveland, Ohio. His son, George Morgan (Morgan) Gibson, was born in Cleveland in 1929.

George Gibson served as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Webster Groves, Missouri, from 1930 to 1938. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves in 1938. He left St. Louis to become pastor of the great United Church of Hyde Park in Chicago, Illinois, which he served from 1938 to 1946. The United Church of Hyde Park was both Congregational and Presbyterian.

Gibson was editor-in-chief of Pilgrim Press in Boston from 1946 to 1948. He then returned to Chicago where he became Professor of Homiletics (preaching) at McCormick Theological Seminary. He taught at McCormick for 17 years, and Westminster Press in Philadelphia published his textbook, called Planned Preaching, in 1954.

In 1965 Gibson retired from McCormick Theological Seminary to become an associate pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He also served as an adjunct professor at San Francisco Theological Seminary, beginning in 1968. He retired from preaching in 1971 and from teaching in 1972.

Gibson was a dynamic speaker and a prolific writer. He was an ardent pacifist and promoted liberal causes. During the Depression, while supplying the Congregational Church in Webster Groves, Dr. Gibson was an active member of the Metropolitan Church Federation of St. Louis and served on the Interracial Task Force. He promoted integration and better conditions for labor. Gibson wrote and spoke about Socialism and advocated many of the social reforms that became part of Roosevelt's New Deal.
In Chicago Dr. Gibson gave generously of his time to the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, and in the 1940s he lead a crusade to reform the Chicago School Board and the Chicago city aldermen responsible for corruption in the Chicago public school administration. In the 1960s Gibson supported the Civil Rights Movement and in the 1970s he opposed the war in Viet Nam.

The Gibsons spent their summers at the Congregational Assembly on Crystal Lake in Frankfort, Michigan. Dr. Gibson served as president of the Assembly, designed its meetinghouse, and wrote a hymn, "Christ of the Pilgrim Way," which was a favorite there.

Dr. Gibson wrote The Story of the Christian Year in 1945, and it is still available in most libraries. He wrote many articles which were published by The Christian Century, The Journal of Bible and Religion, The McCormick Quarterly, Crossroads, and Social Progress. His papers include several full length manuscripts which have not been published, including "Conversations on Socialism," "The Drama of Preaching," "The Final Octave," "George Miles Gibson (Sr.), Liberal of the Old Order," "These Things I Remember," and "By the Rivers of My Memory."

Gibson's son, Morgan, became a professor of creative writing and a published poet, a member and literary critic of the beat generation.


**SCOPE AND CONTENT**
The George Miles Gibson Papers contain published and unpublished books, articles, sermons, manuscripts, journals, and correspondence of George Miles Gibson, Jr. They contain class outlines for teaching homiletics and literature and notes and quotes for sermons. They contain newspaper clippings about Gibson, and they contain books written by Gibson and books in which Gibson is mentioned. And they contain biographical and autobiographical writings and other genealogical materials about George Miles Gibson, Sr., George Miles, Jr., and Betty Leeper Gibson. The papers also contain correspondence and some of the published poetry of Morgan Gibson.

Gibson collected his sermons, articles, clippings, journal entries, class outlines sermon notes and ideas, and quotations in small, black, three-ring notebooks. The materials have been removed from those notebooks. The original order of the pages has been preserved and the titles of the notebooks have been retained as the folder titles. The Gibson Papers are organized into 14 series and arranged chronologically within each series.

To find materials on specific topics, such as Webster Groves, World War II, the Depression, or McCormick Theological Seminary, look through Sermons, Correspondence, Scrapbooks, Sermon Notes, and journals for the appropriate years.

**SERIES DESCRIPTION**
**Series 1: Personal Life, 1913-1986. Folders 1-10.**
Diplomas, certificates, miscellaneous correspondence, clippings, and church brochures, bulletins, directories, and histories. Arranged chronologically.

**Series 2: Sermons and Papers, 1936-1961. Folders 11-16.**

Correspondence, mostly to George Gibson, on leaving Chicago for Pilgrim Press and then on returning to Chicago; also correspondence to George Gibson regarding the publication of his writings and in response to his published work. Arranged chronologically.

Small Scrapbook pages containing newspaper clippings written by George Gibson for the Dallas Disl2atch; newspaper clippings about George Gibson and George Gibson, Sr.; clippings about sermons; clippings from church bulletins; and clippings of articles and sermons by Gibson published in various religious publications. Arranged somewhat chronologically.

Typed manuscripts, all unpublished, except for Planned Preaching which was published by Westminster Press in Philadelphia, in 1954. "The Story of Preaching" and "The Timeline of Greek Literature" are both long, horizontal, multicolored timeliness "The Drama of Preaching" is a history of preaching and of great preachers from biblical times completed through the Reformation and outlined from the Reformation through the twentieth century. "Final Octave" is a Drama of Holy Week and the Easter Faith. The manuscripts are arranged chronologically.

Sermon Notes are the short outlines for sermons, or quotations or reflections used in sermons, giving the date used, but arranged alphabetically by title or subject. Table Talk Notes are random ideas for sermons, classes on preaching, articles, and books. The Parts of Worship include Calls, Invocations, Assurances, Collects, Offering Prayers, Creeds, Covenants, Benedictions, Prayers, and Hymns, arranged in that order. The Sermon Notes that are dated are brief outlines from sermons.

Typescripts for articles, speeches, editorials, and lectures. Similar to Series 2, but later chronologically. Includes materials from McCormick Theological Seminary and First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Diary entries, some typed, some handwritten. Reflections on personal, local, and world events. Arranged chronologically.

Unpublished memoirs of George Gibson from his youth through his pastorate at Mesquite, Texas (about 1896-1926) Both memoirs are the same, although they have different titles.

A biography of George M. Gibson, Sr. by George M. Gibson, Jr. Scrapbooks, correspondence, and published writings of George M. Gibson, Sr. Correspondence between
father and son, Sr. and Jr., and between George Gibson Jr. and his son, Morgan. Correspondence regarding publication of books by George Gibson. Miscellaneous correspondence, poetry, and genealogy of George Gibson. And family memoirs of Betty Leeper Gibson.


Books on religion which mention George Gibson, except Fortitude by Hugh Walpole which contains handwritten notes by George Gibson and a young woman parishioner.


FOLDER LIST
BOX 1 (103517)
Series 1: Personal Life


Series 2: Sermons and Papers
11. The Seven Teachings and Seven Rules, 1936.

12. Sermons, 1938-1942.


Series 3: Correspondence

BOX 2 (103518)
Series 4: Small Scrapbooks
25. Published Articles and Sermons, 1915-1928.
26. Published Articles and Sermons, 1930-1938.
27. Published Articles and Sermons, 1938-1941.
28. Published Articles and Sermons, 1942-1948.
29. Published Articles and Sermons, 1949-1952.
30. Published Articles and Sermons, 1953-1955.
31. Published Articles and Sermons, 1956-1958.
32. Published Articles And Sermons, 1959-1970.

Series 5: Manuscripts
33. Conversations on Socialism, 1932.
34. Realism and Reality, 1941.
35. The Strait Gate, 1943.
38. The Story of Preaching (Chart), 1952.
40. Planned Preaching, 1953.
41. The Drama of Preaching, 1960.

**BOX 3 (103519)**
42. The Drama of Preaching, Draft, pp.1-131, 1960.
44. The Drama of Preaching, Draft, Part 2, 1960.

**Series 6: Sermon Notes and Ideas**
51. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, D-F, 1938-1964.
52. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, G-L, 1938-1964.
57. Table Talk Notes, no date.
58. Table Talk Notes, no date.
59. The Parts of Worship, Calls - Benedictions, no date.
60. The Parts of Worship, Prayers, no date.
61. Quotations, no date.
BOX 4 (103520)
64. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1938-1968.
66. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1941-1969.

Series 7: Published and Unpublished Writings
71. Chicago Voices, (Preachers), 1964.

Series 8: journals
73. Journal, 1938.
74. Journal, 1938-1940.
75. Journal, Jan.-May, 1941.
77. Journal, 1942.
78. Journal, 1943.


**BOX 5 (103521)**


**Series 9: Autobiographical Writings**


**Series 10: Family Matters**
106. George Miles Gibson (Sr.), Liberal of the Old Order, 1932

107. The Evangelization of Children, George M. Gibson Sr., n.d.

108. Scrapbook of George M. Gibson Sr., 1887-1923.

**BOX 6 (103522)**
109. Scrapbook of George M. Gibson Sr., 1924-1930.


111. Correspondence of George M. Gibson Sr., 1847-1913.

112. Correspondence of George M. Gibson Sr. and Jr., 1914-1931.

113. Correspondence of George M. Gibson Sr. and Jr., 1924-1932.

114. Correspondence, Morgan Gibson to George Gibson, 1949-1960.

115. Correspondence, Morgan Gibson to George Gibson, 1960-1968.


121. Correspondence, 1949-1974.


**BOX 7 (103523)**

Series 11: Books by George M. Gibson


Series 12: Art by George M. Gibson

130. Sketchbook, n.d.

131. Miss Lola and Other Sketches, n.d.

132. The Seven Lamps of Theology, Satires in Tempera, 1950.
Series 13: Books Containing Mention of George M. Gibson
133. There is This About Letters, A Collection of Letters Delivered Before the Six O'Clock Club, 1931.


Series 14: Morgan Gibson
138. Published Writings of Morgan Gibson, 1965-1996.

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