

Charles Henry Brent Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78023564>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms008040>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008
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Collection Summary

Title: Charles Henry Brent Papers

Span Dates: 1860-1991

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1901-1929)

ID No.: MSS23564

Creator: Brent, Charles Henry, 1862-1929

Extent: 14,740 items

Extent: 72 containers

Extent: 32 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mmm78023564>

Summary: Clergyman and missionary. Correspondence, diaries, sermon notes, speeches and articles, reports, memoranda, family and personal correspondence, obituaries, Bibles, printed matter, memorabilia, scrapbooks, and photographs documenting Brent's career as a clergyman and missionary.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Abbott, Lyman, 1835-1922--Correspondence.

Brent family.

Brent, Charles Henry, 1862-1929.

Brent, Helen C. C.

Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922--Correspondence.

Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947--Correspondence.

Chamberlain, Austen, Sir, 1863-1937--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

Davidson, Randall Thomas, 1848-1930--Correspondence.

Drury, Samuel S. (Samuel Smith), 1878-1938--Correspondence.

Forbes, W. Cameron (William Cameron), 1870-1959--Correspondence.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Knox, Philander C. (Philander Chase), 1853-1921--Correspondence.

Lang, Cosmo Gordon, 1864-1945--Correspondence.

Morgan, J. Pierpont (John Pierpont), 1837-1913--Correspondence.

Mott, John R. (John Raleigh), 1865-1955--Correspondence.

Northcliffe, Alfred Harmsworth, Viscount, 1865-1922--Correspondence.

Ogilby, Remsen B., -1943.

Page, Walter Hines, 1855-1918--Correspondence.

Peabody, Francis Greenwood, 1847-1936--Correspondence.

Pepper, George Wharton, 1867-1961--Correspondence.

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence.

Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

Willcox, Reginald N.--Correspondence.

Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations

Episcopal Church--Missions--Philippines.

Episcopal Church. Diocese of Western New York.

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces--Chaplains.
World Conference on Faith and Order.

Subjects

Ecumenical movement.
Military chaplains.
Narcotics--Congresses.
Opium.
World War, 1914-1918--Religious aspects.

Occupations

Clergy.
Missionaries.

Provenance

The papers of Charles Henry Brent, clergyman and missionary, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1954 by Helen C. C. Brent who converted the deposit to a gift in 1955. Further gifts were received from Frederick W. Kates in 1957 and 1958. Two other groups of papers were received and organized later. An addition of 1979 was given in installments between 1971 and 1979 by Whitney Hale, Frederick W. Kates, Roger W. Drury, and W. Scott Brent. An addition of 1996 was given in installments between 1989 and 1992 by Elizabeth Willcox Thomson, Douglas B. Thomson, and Philippiniana Sacra, Fathers' Residence, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines.

Processing History

The Brent Papers were processed in 1959 and revised and expanded in 1979 and again in 1996. Further revisions were made to the finding aid in 2008.

Additional Guides

The papers are the subject of a press release issued by the Library of Congress on 7 March 1955. Published notes appeared in the Library's *Information Bulletin*, vol. 14 (28 Feb. 1955), pp. 1-2, and vol. 16 (16 Aug. 1957), pp. 410-411. In addition, the material was described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, vol. 12 (May 1955), p. 122, and vol. 15 (May 1958), pp. 190-191.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Henry Brent in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles Henry Brent are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles Henry Brent Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1862, Apr. 9 | Born, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada |
| 1884 | A.B. with honors in classics, Trinity College, University of Toronto, Canada |
| 1885-1987 | Undermaster, Trinity College School, Port Hope, Canada |
| 1886 | Ordained deacon, Protestant Episcopal Church |
| 1887 | Ordained priest |
| 1889 | A.M., Trinity College, University of Toronto, Canada |
| 1891 | Became an American citizen |
| 1891-1901 | Assistant rector, St. Stephen's Church, Boston, Mass. |
| 1899 | Published <i>With God in the World</i> . New York: Longmans, Green |
| 1901-1918 | Missionary bishop to the Philippine Islands |
| 1903-1914 | Member of committee appointed by the Philippine government for investigation of the opium question |
| 1904 | Paddock lecturer, General Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y. |
| 1907 | William Belden Noble lecturer, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. |
| 1908-1919 | Chief commissioner for the United States and president of the first International Opium Commission, Shanghai, China |
| 1910 | Attended International Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland |
| 1911-1912 | Chairman, U.S. delegation to the International Opium Conference, Hague, Netherlands (president of the conference, 1912) |
| 1916 | Published <i>A Master Builder, Being the Life and Letters of Henry Yates Satterlee, First Bishop of Washington</i> . New York: Longmans, Green |
| 1918 | Published <i>The Mount of Vision, Being a Study of Life in Terms of the Whole</i> . New York: Longmans, Green Elected Bishop, Diocese of Western New York, Protestant Episcopal Church |
| 1918-1919 | Chief, Chaplain Service, American Expeditionary Forces, France |
| 1919-1929 | Bishop, Diocese of Western New York, Protestant Episcopal Church |
| 1920 | Chairman, Geneva meeting to plan the World Conference on Faith and Order |
| 1921 | Duff lecturer, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen universities, Scotland. |
| 1923 | Appointed by President Warren G. Harding to the Advisory Committee on Narcotics of the League of Nations |
| 1924 | Last attendance at opium conference |
| 1926-1928 | Bishop in charge of American Episcopal churches in Europe |
| 1927 | President, first World Conference on Faith and Order |
| 1928 | Represented the Protestant Episcopal Church of America at the installation of Cosmo Gordon Lang as Archbishop of Canterbury; last public appearance |
| 1929, Mar. 27 | Died, Lausanne, Switzerland |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Henry Brent span the years 1860-1991, but are concentrated in the period 1901-1929. The papers document Brent's service as first missionary bishop to the Philippine Islands representing the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, 1901-1918; his term as chief of the Chaplain Service of the American Expeditionary Forces, 1918-1919; his activities as a bishop of the church and as a member of various conferences on the opium problem; and his presidency of the World Conference on Faith and Order, 1927. The papers consist of [correspondence](#), chiefly 1908-1929, [sermon notes](#), [diaries](#), [manuscripts of books and articles](#), [speeches](#), a [subject file on the opium conferences](#), [scrapbooks](#), and [printed material](#). There is also a related group of papers assembled by Remsen B. Ogilby, who died in 1943 before he had completed his planned [biography](#) of Bishop Brent. [Additions](#) contain family and personal correspondence, obituaries,

articles, speeches, photographs and miscellaneous material concerning his church missions, conference work, and personal relationships.

Prominent correspondents include Lyman Abbott, James Bryce, Nicholas Murray Butler, Austen Chamberlain, Calvin Coolidge, Randall Davidson, W. Cameron Forbes, Herbert Hoover, Philander Chase Knox, Cosmo Gordon Lang, Jr., Pierpont Morgan, John R. Mott, Alfred C. W. H. Northcliffe, Walter Hines Page, Francis G. Peabody, George Wharton Pepper, John J. Pershing, Whitelaw Reid, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, William Howard Taft, and Leonard Wood.

The [1979 Addition](#) spans the years 1888-1976, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1888-1929. Brent corresponded fairly regularly with his sisters, and letters to them as well as those to his mother comment on subjects such as his missionary work in the Philippines, attendance at various religious and political international conferences, and the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Western New York.

The diary in this addition, dated 1907, relates to diaries in the original collection. The general correspondence is strictly of a personal nature. One folder, consisting of letters to Samuel W. Drury and his family, is composed entirely of copies of originals not included in this collection. The Writings include notes of sermons given in 1902 and several poems and talks. The Miscellany is comprised of biographical data presented at an American bicentennial ceremony honoring Brent in 1976.

Correspondents among this additional material include Brent's sisters Evelyn, Edith S, and Helen C. C. Brent, and his mother Frances Sophia Cummings Brent. Other individuals to whom he wrote were Mrs. John Markoe and Edith Eaton (Mrs. William B. Cutter).

The [1996 Addition](#) spans the years 1919-1991, but is concentrated in the period 1919-1929. It consists of correspondence, articles and addresses by Brent, obituaries, memorials, photographs, and miscellaneous material. The correspondence dates from 1919-1929 and contains letters written almost exclusively to Reginald N. Willcox and family, rector of Saint Luke's Church, Jamestown, N. Y., a parish in Brent's diocese of Western New York. The issues mentioned chiefly concern parish financial problems and Willcox's family. Speeches and writings are predominantly addresses before the conventions of the diocese of Western New York, 1922-1925, and the articles by Brent concern religious matters.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in eleven series:

- [Diaries, 1901-1929](#)
- [General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1886-1949](#)
- [Sermon Notes and Related Material, 1890-1929](#)
- [Book, Article, and Speech File, 1908-1928](#)
- [Material Relating to Brent's Death, 1929-1930](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Subject File: Conferences on Opium, 1860-1931](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1896-1928](#)
- [Printed Matter](#)
- [Biographer's Papers, circa 1890-1943](#)
- [Additions, 1888-1991](#)

Description of Series

| Container | Series |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1-3 | <p><u>Diaries, 1901-1929</u></p> <p>Bound diaries. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 4-20 | <p><u>General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1886-1949</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by month.</p> |
| BOX 21-32 | <p><u>Sermon Notes and Related Material, 1890-1929</u></p> <p>Bound and loose notes and related material. Arranged chronologically by year.</p> |
| BOX 33-34 | <p><u>Book, Article, and Speech File, 1908-1928</u></p> <p>Holograph and typewritten drafts and galley proofs. Arranged by type of material and alphabetically by title.</p> |
| BOX 35-36 | <p><u>Material Relating to Brent's Death, 1929-1930</u></p> <p>Letters received chronologically arranged by month. Also material concerning the Bishop Brent Memorial Fund.</p> |
| BOX 37 | <p><u>Miscellany</u></p> <p>Memorabilia, commissions, licenses, passports, poems, fragments, financial papers, photographs, and Bibles. Arranged by type of material.</p> |
| BOX 38-41 | <p><u>Subject File: Conferences on Opium, 1860-1931</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, and printed and near-printed matter relating to Brent's service on various conferences on opium. Arranged largely by conference.</p> |
| BOX 42-43 | <p><u>Scrapbooks, 1896-1928</u></p> <p>Clippings and typed copies of Brent's articles and editorials mounted in scrapbooks. Chronologically arranged.</p> |
| BOX 44-48 | <p><u>Printed Matter</u></p> <p>Pamphlets, clippings, and near-printed and miscellaneous material. Arranged by subject.</p> |
| BOX 49-67 | <p><u>Biographer's Papers, circa 1890-1943</u></p> <p>Correspondence, notes, and manuscripts assembled by Remsen B. Ogilby, including typed copies of Brent's letters and transcripts of excerpts from Brent's diaries, 1901-1929, and drafts of Ogilby's biography.</p> <p>A collection of holograph Brent letters is chronologically arranged by month. Most of the Ogilby correspondence has been reassembled into an alphabetical arrangement.</p> |
| BOX 68-72 | <p><u>Additions, 1888-1991</u></p> |

BOX 68-71

1979 Addition, 1888-1976

A diary, family and general correspondence, speeches and writings, and miscellany.
Organized by type of material and further arranged alphabetically or chronologically where possible.

BOX 72

1996 Addition, 1919-1991

Correspondence, speeches and writings, biographical material, photographs, and printed items.
Organized by type of material and chronologically therein where possible.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1-3 | Diaries, 1901-1929 Bound diaries. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1 | 1901-1906 |
| BOX 2 | 1909-1917 |
| BOX 3 | 1918-1919 1921 1923-1926 1929 |
| BOX 4-20 | General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1886-1949 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by month. |
| BOX 4 | 1886-1900 |
| BOX 5 | 1901 |
| BOX 6 | 1902-1907 |
| BOX 7 | 1908, Jan.-Aug. |
| BOX 8 | 1908, Sept.-1909-Dec. |
| BOX 9 | 1910-1911 |
| BOX 10 | 1912-1914 |
| BOX 11 | 1915, Jan.-Sept. |
| BOX 12 | 1915, Oct.-1916, Oct |
| BOX 13 | 1916, Nov.-1917, May |
| BOX 14 | 1917, June-1918, Feb. |
| BOX 15 | 1918, Mar.-Sept. |
| BOX 16 | 1918, Oct.-1925, Dec. |
| BOX 17 | 1926-1928 |
| BOX 18 | 1929, undated Brent, Helen C. C., correspondence, 1931-1949, undated |
| BOX 19 | Gardiner, Robert H., correspondence, 1908-1924 |
| BOX 20 | Brown, Ralph W., correspondence, 1924-1929 |
| BOX 21-32 | Sermon Notes and Related Material, 1890-1929 Bound and loose notes and related material. Arranged chronologically by year. |
| BOX 21 | Bound 1890-1897 (6 vols.) |
| BOX 22 | 1893-1898 (7 vols.) |

Sermon Notes and Related Material, 1890-1929

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 23 | 1896-1898 (7 vols.) |
| BOX 24 | 1897-1901 (10 vols.) |
| BOX 25 | 1901-1909 (17 vols.) |
| BOX 26 | 1910-1917 (14 vols.) |
| BOX 27 | 1918-1928, undated (14 vols.) |
| BOX 28 | Undated (15 vols.) |
| BOX 29 | Unbound 1917-1922 |
| BOX 30 | 1923-1927, undated |
| BOX 31 | Undated |
| BOX 32 | Miscellaneous notes, 1897-1929, undated (15 vols.) |
| BOX 33-34 | Book, Article, and Speech File, 1908-1928 Holograph and typewritten drafts and galley proofs. Arranged by type of material and alphabetically by title. |
| BOX 33 | Books "Adventures in Prayer" "The Commonwealth" "The Mystic Sense" Untitled, chapter III ("Our Opportunities") |
| BOX 34 | Articles and speeches Articles "European Nations and Christian Statesmanship" "On 'Peril' Among Robbers" Speeches Edinburgh, Scotland, lectures, 1921 Various, 1908-1928, undated |
| BOX 35-36 | Material Relating to Brent's Death, 1929-1930 Letters received chronologically arranged by month. Also material concerning the Bishop Brent Memorial Fund. |
| BOX 35 | Letters received, 1929 |
| BOX 36 | Bishop Brent Memorial Fund, 1929-1930 |
| BOX 37 | Miscellany Memorabilia, commissions, licenses, passports, poems, fragments, financial papers, photographs, and Bibles. Arranged by type of material. |

Miscellany

Container

Contents

| | |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 37 | Bibles Memorabilia Commissions, licenses, passports, and fragments Photographs Financial papers |
| BOX 38-41 | Subject File: Conferences on Opium, 1860-1931 Correspondence, memoranda, reports, and printed and near-printed matter relating to Brent's service on various conferences on opium. Arranged largely by conference. |
| BOX 38 | Conferences on opium 1909-1912 |
| BOX 39 | 1923, May-June |
| BOX 40 | 1924, Nov.-1925, Jan. |
| BOX 41 | 1909-1925 Personal conference file, 1923-1929 Printed matter, 1860-1931 State Department, correspondence, 1923 Miscellany, 1921-1924 |
| BOX 42-43 | Scrapbooks, 1896-1928 Clippings and typed copies of Brent's articles and editorials mounted in scrapbooks. Chronologically arranged. |
| BOX 42 | 1896-1901 (2 vols.) |
| BOX 43 | 1901-1928 (3 vols.) |
| BOX 44-48 | Printed Matter Pamphlets, clippings, and near-printed and miscellaneous material. Arranged by subject. |
| BOX 44 | By and about Brent |
| BOX 45 | Clippings |
| BOX 46 | Geneva Convention, Geneva, Switzerland Lanman-Orient New York Diocese publications Peace movement |
| BOX 47 | Philippine Islands St. Stephen's Church, Boston, Mass. "Why the Church?" World Conference on Faith and Order |

Printed Matter

Container

Contents

| | |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 48 | Miscellany |
| BOX 49-67 | Biographer's Papers, circa 1890-1943 Correspondence, notes, and manuscripts assembled by Remsen B. Ogilby, including typed copies of Brent's letters and transcripts of excerpts from Brent's diaries, 1901-1929, and drafts of Ogilby's biography. A collection of holograph Brent letters is chronologically arranged by month. Most of the Ogilby correspondence has been reassembled into an alphabetical arrangement. |
| BOX 49 | Holograph letters by Brent 1890-1903 |
| BOX 50 | 1904-1910 |
| BOX 51 | 1911-1915 |
| BOX 52 | 1916-1929, undated |
| BOX 53 | Transcript of excerpts from Brent's diaries Vol. 1, 1901-1910 |
| BOX 54 | Vol. 2, 1911-1929 |
| BOX 55 | Draft of "The Impatient Crusader" |
| BOX 56 | Correspondence A-B |
| BOX 57 | C-G |
| BOX 58 | H-L |
| BOX 59 | Ma-Mi |
| BOX 60 | Mo-Pepper |
| BOX 61 | Pepper, George W. |
| BOX 62 | Ph-R |
| BOX 63 | S-V |
| BOX 64 | W-Z and unarranged |
| BOX 65-67 | Miscellaneous material |
| BOX 68-72 | Additions, 1888-1991 |
| BOX 68-71 | 1979 Addition, 1888-1976 A diary, family and general correspondence, speeches and writings, and miscellany. Organized by type of material and further arranged alphabetically or chronologically where possible. |
| BOX 68 | Diary, 1907 Family correspondence, 1889-1929, undated Brent, Frances Sophia Cummings (mother), 1897-1900 Brent, Edith S. (sister) 1901-1917 (3 folders) |
| BOX 69 | 1918-1929, undated (2 folders) Brent, Evelyn (sister), 1889-1929, undated (3 folders) Brent, Helen (sister) |

Additions, 1888-1991

Container

Contents

| | |
|---------------|---|
| BOX 70 | 1910-1911 1912-1929, undated (3 folders) "Dear Sisters" letters 1911-1928 (3 folders) |
| BOX 71 | 1929, undated, and fragments (2 folders) General correspondence, 1888-1929, undated Drury, Samuel W. and family, 1905-1921 Eaton, Edith (Mrs. William B. Cutter), 1888-1893 Markoe, Mrs. John, 1910-1921, undated Miscellaneous, 1918-1929 Miscellany, American Bicentennial memorial service honoring Brent, 1976 Speeches and writings, 1902-1928, undated "A National Memorial to Our Soldier Dead," 1928 Notes Poems and other writings, undated |
| BOX 72 | 1996 Addition, 1919-1991 Correspondence, speeches and writings, biographical material, photographs, and printed items. Organized by type of material and chronologically therein where possible. |
| BOX 72 | Correspondence, Reginald N. Willcox and family, 1919-1929 (2 folders) Miscellany Obituaries, memorials, and articles concerning Brent, 1929-1991, undated Photographs, undated Printed and near-printed items, 1919-1988, undated Speeches and writings, 1922-1926, undated |