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Albert Edward Day Papers

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**Asbury Theological Seminary
Special Collections Department
Manuscripts Collection**

**Albert Edward Day
Papers**

ARC1993-005

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Biographical Sketch

Albert Edward Day was born August 18, 1884 in Euphemia, Ohio. 1904 marked a singular beginning for the young Mr. Day, for in that year he graduated with an A. B. from Taylor University, was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church and married Emma Reeder.

From 1904 to 1916, Rev. Day pastored four churches in the Central Ohio Conference: Belle Fontaine (1904-1906), West Liberty (1906-1909), Bradford (1909-1910), and St. Paris (1910-1913). During his fifth pastoral assignment (1913-1916), this time in the West Ohio Conference, in Cincinnati, Rev. Day earned an M.A. from the University of Cincinnati (1916). From here, Pastor Day took an appointment in Delaware, Ohio, and received an honorary D. D. from Taylor University.

Day's peace time ministry was interrupted from 1918-1919 while he was chaplain for the 117th Field Signal Battalion, 42nd Div., A.E.F. (Army). On returning from the European theater, Day pastored in the Northeast Ohio Conference at Canton (1919-1925). Here he served both as a delegate to General Conference (1924) and as a member of the Board of Foreign Missions (1924-1936).

1925 signaled Day's departure from the Ohio Conferences and his appointment to Christ Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1925-1932) in the Pittsburgh Conference. While at Christ Church, he received another Honorary D. D., this time from Ohio Wesleyan University, and began his literary career by writing, Present Perils in Religion (1928), and with others, he writes Whither Religion (1929), Revitalizing Religion (1920), and Contemporary Preaching (1931).

On the move again, Day took an appointment at Mount Vernon Place Church, Baltimore, Maryland in the Baltimore Conference (1932-1937). During these six years, Day lectured three times: Shepherd Lecture on Preaching, Bangor Seminary (1933), Lyman Beecher Lecture on Preaching, Yale (1934), and the Earl Lecture, Pacific School of Religions (1937). He was the

chairman of the Social Service Commission (1933-1937), wrote Jesus and Human Personality (1934) and received from Allegheny College his third honorary D. D.

In 1937, Dr. Day was called to the west coast. He pastored the First Methodist Church, Pasadena, California (1937-1945/48). Here Day seems to have entered the most active period of his life, for he writes five times: God In Us: We In God, The Evangel of a New World, The Faith We Live, The Terrible Meek, and Discipline and Discovery, lectures three times: Gates Lecture, Grinnell College (1938), Sam Jones Lecture, Emory University (1934) and Fondren Lecture, Southern Methodist University (1940), receives two more degrees: a Litt. D. from the University of Southern California (1934) and an honorary L. H. D. from the College of Osteopathic Phys. and Surg. (1942), is selected twice as a leading Methodist preacher: 1 of 6 in America by “Christian Century” Poll (1940) and 1 of 10 most influential living Methodists by “Christian Advocate” Poll (1947), becomes involved in church and federal government: Special mediator, National War Labor Board (1942-1943), Vice President, Federal Council of Churches (1942-1944), Chairman of the Committee on Evangelism, Southern California-Arizona Conference (1943), again delegate to the General Conference (1944), member of the General Board of Evangelism (1944), member of the sub-committee on Church and War (1944-1948) and Executive Committee, Crusade for Christ (1944-1948), contributes to Methodist periodicals (1945-1948), and founds the “Disciplined Order of Christ” in August, 1945 at Albion College in Michigan. In 1945, he also becomes the editor of the “New Life” magazine and the Director of the “New Life” movement.

1948 marks both the harvest and decline of a most popular and prolific Methodist preacher, for he returned to Mount Vernon Place Church in Baltimore (1948-1950) and commenced his most significant Radio Broadcast: “Heart to Heart” talks on WCBM in October. He lectured twice again: The English Lecture, Andover-Newton Seminary (1949) and The Ida S. Werneke Lecture, Eden Seminary (1955), is again a Delegate to General Conference (1952 and 1956), writes An Autobiography of Prayer (1952) and celebrates his 50th anniversary both in ministry and in marriage.

He retired from the pastorate in 1957, moving to Annandale, Virginia. He taught at Wesley Seminary in Washington (1957), lectured for the last time as Earl Lecturer, Pacific School of Religion (1958), wrote five more times: Existence Under God (1958), Dialogue and Destiny (1961), The Cup and the Sword (1962), Letters on the Healing Ministry (1964) and The Captivating Presence (1971). In 1966, Dr. Day began a prayer discipline and retreat ministry at Gently Farms in Virginia. Apparently this was his last work, for we have nothing until his death on October 12, 1973.

Dr. Day’s life and work falls easily into four phases: (I) The Formative Years (1884-1904),

(II) The Struggling Years (1904-1924), (III) The Achieving Years (1925-1948), (IV) The Harvest and Decline (1948-1973). These four phases are marked primarily by major pastoral moves: to Ohio between Phase I and Phase II, to Pittsburgh (also Baltimore and Pasadena) between II and III and back to Baltimore for IV.

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Scope and Content

The Albert Edward Day papers span the years from 1939 to 1973, with the bulk of the material, though undated, representing the period of his teaching at Wesley Seminary in Washington and his ministry of healing, prayer, and retreats. Included are some of his students' papers written for class assignment. Some of the material also reflects his writings for his last book, **The Captivating Presence**. The bulk of the material falls between 1957 and 1973 and contain lecture notes, seminar notes, retreat lecture notes, book chapters, poems, works on spiritual healing, articles, scrapbook material and a partial copy of his last book.

The greatest drawback to this collection is Day's penmanship. The bulk of the material in this collection is handwritten by Day with some exceptions. It is difficult to decipher.

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Series Description

BIOGRAPHICAL

Series

Biographical Information.
1884-1973.
Arranged.
Includes curriculum vitae.

CORRESPONDENCE

Series

Correspondence--The Captivating Presence
1971.
Arranged chronologically.
Includes correspondence in regards to clearing quoted passages he
used in the publishing of the book as well as correspondence with
his publisher.

SUBJECT FILES

Series

Retreats, conferences, sermons, etc.
1957-1962, n.d.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
Includes materials from teaching, retreats, and conferences.

Notebook Contents
1959-1968, n.d.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Manuscripts
1968, n.d.
Arranged alphabetically by title.

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS

Series

Manuscripts
1939-1940, n.d.
Arranged alphabetically.
Includes three different manuscripts and one personal journal.

Research Notes.
n.d.
Arranged alphabetically.
Includes note for writings on mysticism.

Speeches.
1951.
Arranged.
Includes a speech in manuscript form given at one of his lectures.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Series

Claim to Copyright Certificate.
1971.
Includes the copyright to his book, The Captivating Presence.

SCRAPBOOK MATERIALS

Series

Newsclippings.

1948-1959.

Arranged chronologically.

Includes a variety of clippings covering different topics.

PRINTED MATERIAL

Series

Articles.

1936-1973, n.d.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Includes several short articles and the memorial service bulletin from Albert Edward Day's service.

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Chronological Biographical Sketch

1884	Born 11/18 to Elem Mansfield Day or Benjamin Wilson and Mary Ellen (Bright) Day in Euphemia, Ohio.
1904	A.B. Taylor University. 9/28 Married Emma Reeder (5 children: 4 daughters, 1 son). Ordained in Methodist Episcopal Church
1904-06	Pastored in Bells Fontaine, Ohio.
1906-09	Pastored in West Liberty, Ohio.
1909-10	Pastored in Bradford, Ohio.
1910-13	Pastored in St. Paris, Ohio.
1913-16	Pastored in Cincinnati, Ohio.
1916	M. A., University of Cincinnati, Ohio.
1916-19	Pastored in Delaware, Ohio.
1918	D. D. (Honorary), Taylor University.
1918-19	Chaplain, 117th Field Signal Battalion, 42nd Div., A.E.F. (Army).
1919-25	Pastored in Canton, Ohio.
1924	Delegate to General Conference.
1924-36	Member of the Board of Foreign Missions.
1925	Delegate to South American Conference.

1925-32	Pastored at Christ Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
1926	D. D. (Honorary), Ohio Wesleyan University.
1928	Wrote: <u>Present Perils of Religion</u> .
1929	Wrote: <u>Whither Religion</u> (with others).
1930	Wrote: <u>Revitalizing Religion</u> (with others).
1931	Wrote: <u>Contemporary Preaching</u> (with others).
1931-42	Radio Addresses (KDKA?).
1932	Delegate to General Conference.
1932-37	Pastored at Mount Vernon Place Church, Baltimore, Maryland.
1933	Shepherd Lecturer on Preaching, Bangor Seminary
1933-1937	Chairman of Social Service Commission
1934	Wrote: <u>Jesus and Human Personality</u> Lyman Beecher Lecturer on Preaching, Yale.
1936	D. D. (Honorary) Allegheny College.
1937	Earl Lecturer, Pacific School of Religions.
1937-45 (48?)	Pastor of United Methodist Church, Pasadena, California
1938	Wrote: <u>God in Us: We in God</u> . Gates Lecturer, Grinnell College
1939	Wrote: <u>The Evangel of a New World</u> . Sam Jones Lecturer, Emory University. Litt. D., University of Southern California.
1940	Wrote: <u>The Faith We Live</u> (Presented at Fondren Lecture). Fondren Lecturer, Southern Methodist University. Chosen as 1 of 6 leading Preachers of America by "Christian Century" Poll.
1941	Wrote: <u>The Terrible Meek</u> .
1942	L. H. D. (Honorary) College of Osteopathic Phys. and Surg.
1942-43	Special Mediator, National War Labor Board.
1942-44	Vice President, Federal Council of Churches in Christ.

1943	Chairman of the Committee on Evangelism, Southern California-Arizona Conference.
1944	Delegate to General Conference. Member of General Board of Evangelism.
1944-48	Member of the Sub-Committee on Church and War. Executive Committee, Crusade for Christ.
1945	Founder of Disciplined Order of Christ (in August at Albion College in Michigan).
1945-47	Editor of "New Life" Magazine. Director of New Life Movement.
1945-48	Contributor to Methodist Periodicals.
1947	*Wrote: <u>Discipline and Discovery</u> . Chosen 1 of 10 Most Influential Living Methodists by "Christian Advocate" Poll.
1948-57	Returns to Pastor at Mount Vernon Place Church, Baltimore, Maryland.
1948-56	"Heart to Heart" Radio Broadcasts (WCBM) First Address: 10-3-48.
1949	English Lecturer, Andover-Newton Seminary.
1952	Delegate to General Conference. *Wrote: <u>An Autobiography of Prayer</u> .
1954	50th Anniversary of Wedding <u>and</u> Ministry.
1955	Ida S. Werneke Lecturer, Eden Seminary.
1956	Delegate to General Conference.
1957	Retired from Pastorate; moved to Annandale, Virginia; taught at Wesley Seminary in Washington.
1958	Wrote: "Existence Under God." Earl Lecturer, Pacific School of Religions.
1961	Wrote: <u>Dialogue and Destiny</u> .
1962	Wrote: <u>The Cup and the Sword</u> .
1964	Wrote: <u>Letters on the Healing Ministry</u> .
1966	Gently Farms Ministry near Front Royal, Virginia. Ministry of Prayer,

	Disciplined Life and Retreats.
1971	*Wrote: <u>The Captivating Presence</u> .
1973	Died 10/12; Buried in New Hampshire

*Considered by Baltimore Conference of U. M. Church to be best works.

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Box # 1:

Folder	Series	Title	Date
1	Biographical		n.d.
2	Correspondence	<u>The Captivating Presence</u>	1971
3	Subject Files	“Authentic Selfhood”	n.d.
4	Subject Files	“Class of 1957 Survey”	1957
5	Subject Files	Collateral Reading/Notes	1965
6	Subject Files	Columbus Retreat	1959
7	Subject Files	Course/Sermon Notes	n.d.
8	Subject Files	Course 213B	n.d.
9	Subject Files	Course 403: Worship (1)	1959
10	Subject Files	Course 403: Worship (2)	1959
11	Subject Files	Course 403: Worship (3)	1959
12	Subject Files	Course 453	n.d.
13	Subject Files	Course 453: The Mystic Way	1959
14	Subject Files	Course: Salvation for Moderns	1961-1962

Box # 2:

Folder	Series	Title	Date
1	Subject Files	Bible Dialogue	1968
2	Subject Files	Bible II	1968
3	Subject Files	Journal of Meditation	n.d.
4	Subject Files	“Learning to Love God”	n.d.
5	Subject Files	Miscellany/Retreats	1967
6	Subject Files	Notes	n.d.
7	Subject Files	Notes on Luke	n.d.
8	Subject Files	Prayer and Healing	n.d.
9	Subject Files	Spiritual Healing	1968

Box # 3:

Folder	Series	Title	Date
1	Subject Files	Salvation from Ego Centricity	n.d.
2	Subject Files	Theological Conferences	n.d.
3	Literary Productions	Manuscripts “Ministry to the Sick”	n.d.
4	Literary Productions	Manuscripts “Patterns Again”	n.d.
5	Literary Productions	Manuscripts Personal Journal	1939-1940
6	Literary Productions	Manuscripts <u>Where the Trembling Stops</u> (Chapters 1-5)	n.d.
7	Literary Productions	Manuscripts <u>Where the Trembling Stops</u> (Chapters 6-9)	n.d.
8	Literary Productions	Manuscripts <u>Where the</u>	n.d.

		<u>Trembling Stops</u> (corrected)	
9	Literary Productions	Research Notes “The Mystic Way”	n.d.
10	Literary Productions	Research Notes “Mysticism”	n.d.
11	Literary Productions	Speeches “Why Should Anybody Be a Christian”	1951
12	Legal Documents	Claim to Copyright Certificate	1971
13	Financial Documents	Price Quotation	1971
14	Scrapbook Materials	Newsclippings	1948-1959
15	Printed Material	“The Crisis of ...”	n.d.
16	Printed Material	“The Cross: A Dialog”	n.d.
17	Printed Material	“Love...As You Love Yourself”	n.d.
18	Printed Material	“Memorial Service” for Albert Edward Day	1973
19	Printed Material	“The Rebellious Powers of the World”	n.d.
20	Printed Material	“What do You Think?” by Albert E. Day	1936