

FINDING AID 3372

FONDS 3372
WILLIAM MASSEY BIRKS FONDS

Accession Number 1986.347C

WILLIAM MASSEY BIRKS FONDS. – 1911-1946. – 7 cm of textual records.

William Massey Birks (October 25, 1868-1950) was a Montreal businessman who was active in the church. He was the son of Henry Birks, founder of Birks Jewellers and held a variety of significant posts, including Vice-Presidency of Henry Birks and Company, Governor of McGill University, President of the Association of Canadian Clubs (1920), and President of the Montreal Board of Trade (1922). Birks vigorously promoted church union and was interested in church architecture.

Fonds consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, reports, 1911-1946, dealing with such subjects as church architecture and decoration, church union, and the American Presbyterian Church, Montreal.

See also Appendix A for detailed item listing.

Acc.	Box-File	Title	Date(s)
86.347C	1-1	Addresses	1937-[ca. 1939]
	1-2	Memos and Reports	1938, 1946
	1-3	Church Union	1915-1917, 1920-1926
	1-4	Robert Johnston Case	
	1-5	Presbytery of Montreal – Sub-Committee on Church Architecture	1925-1926, 1937, 1945
	1-6	Renovation of Erskine American	1937-1938
	1-7	Periodicals and Pamphlets	[ca. 1912]-1920
	1-8	Newspaper and Magazine Clippings	1906-1930
	1-9	Newspaper Clippings	1930-1945
	1-10	Newspaper Clippings	1945-1947
	1-11	Newspaper Clippings – Miscellaneous	
	1-12	Scrapbook – William Massey Birks	1920-1949

APPENDIX A: DETAILED ITEM LISTING

86.347c

Personal Papers of William Massey Birks

FILE 1. Addresses

Importance of the "Church" as the foundation of Christianity-
Urging Protestants rely less on scriptures and more on the
Church.

Personal testament entitled "The Creed of a Modern Christian".
n.d.

Welcome address to Gerald Cragg (new minister at Erskine
American). c. 1939.

Address to the annual meeting of Erskine American - Wednesday,
January 26, 1938.

Introduction of Dean Hendel at church banquet - October 12,
1939 (Stressing importance of the Church).

Address in Ottawa, 1937, remarking on importance and beauty
of Church architecture.

2. Memos and Reports

Address to laymen of Erskine American re: Pension Fund for
United Church clergy - April 28, 1946.

Short letter to John David Eaton re: contribution to pension
fund - February, 1946.

Circular (1946) re: pension fund for United Church clergy.

Two articles from Montreal Daily Star (1946) concerning the pension
fund drive and the role of Birks as honorary national chairman of
the drive.

Article regarding the decline of the Church - by E.W. Wallace -
July 26, 1938. (incomplete).

Financial statement of the Joint Board of the Theological Colleges
affiliated with McGill University - March 31, 1946.

Memorandum re: founding of the Joint Board of the Theological
Colleges affiliated with McGill University.

3. Church Union

Sinclair Laird, Head of the School for Teachers of Macdonald
College, to W.M. Birks re: the Union Church at St. Anne de Bellevue,
Quebec and its significance for Church union in Canada - March 25, 1914.

86-347C

Birks to Arthur J. Hodgson re: the feasibility of American Presbyterian separating from the New York Presbytery - May 4, 1915.

George Hannah to W.M. Birks re: the relationship between American and Canadian Presbyterian churches - June 16, 1915.

H. Symonds to Birks re: laymen in the church - July 23, 1915.

Bishop of Montreal (Anglican) to Birks re: report on Church Union - August 15, 1915

"Canadian Church Union" - Montreal Gazette - October 26, 1915.

Richard Harlan/Birks re: Church Union - n.d.

Birks to Dr. A.W. Halsey (Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions) re: state of Church Union in Canada - November 1, 1916.

Birks to Dr. John R. Mott re: state of Church Union in Canada - November 3, 1916.

Birks to George Adam re: state of Church Union in Canada - November 3, 1916.

Birks to President H.M. Tory of Alberta University re: Church Union in Canada - November 3, 1916.

Birks to Dr. Roy R. Guild re: promotion of Church Union in Canada - November 3, 1916.

W.M. Birks to G.W. Birks re: promotional material for Church Union - November 3, 1916.

Birks to H.E. Wooten re: state of Church Union in Canada - November 4, 1916.

Birks to John Pringle re: state of Church Union in Canada - November 6, 1916.

J.M. Gibbon to Birks re: Church Union - March 14, 1917.

Memo addressed to members of American Presbyterian re: relationship to New York Presbytery - February, 1920.

Pastoral letter re: Church Union - From the Session to the members of American Presbyterian - January, 1924.

E.A. Corbertt to W.M. Birks re: Church Union - January 29, 1924.

Letter from George Budd (Superintendent of Presbyterian Church of New Zealand) to Birks re: the culmination of Church Union in Canada and its inherent problems - May 17, 1926.

Birks' reply to Budd - July 5, 1926.

The Church Union Movement - Address to members of the Presbyterian church - W.J. Clark.

FILE 4. Robert Johnston Case

Various letters, dated primarily in the month of February, 1920, concerned with attempt to dismiss Dr. Robert Johnston from his post as Minister of American Presbyterian. These letters make little, or no, mention of the reasons behind the Session's attempt to release Johnstone from his duties.

5. Presbytery of Montreal - Sub-Committee on Church Architecture

Percy E. Nobbs (architect) to Birks re: Birk's tour of England to observe church architecture - September 16, 1925.

United Church of Canada Architecture Committee - Draft Memorandum on Church Design - October 26, 1926.

Memorandum #1 on Church Design-Sub-Committee on Church Architecture - March, 1926. (two copies).

Comments of Dr. Hugh Matheson on the moranda of the Committee of Architecture of the Presbytery of Montreal. (2 copies)

Fact sheet on financial assistance needed for church work in Montreal Presbytery.

A.D. Anderson, (treasurer representing Montreal Presbytery), to S.K. Campbell, Chairman of the Special Committee re: Erskine and American Property Fund - November 29, 1937.

E.M. Conover to Birks - Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture (N.H.) - December 13, 1945.

John Bland, (Director of School of Architecture - McGill University), to Birks - December 17, 1945.

Announcement of North American Conference on Church Architecture - January 5, 1946.

6. Renovation of Erskine American

Florence B. Laing (Chairman, Ladies House Committee), to Chairman of Erskine/American Renovation Committee re: Ladies House needs - November 17, 1937.

Walter J. Armstrong (Consulting Engineer) to S.K. Campbell, Chairman of the Erskine/American Church Property Committee - November 29, 1937.

Janet M. Dorsey (General Superintendent, Sunday School), to Mr. M. Chipman re: renovations to include expansion of Sunday School area - November 30, 1937.

86.347C

- 4 -

Dr. Leslie Pidgeon to Murray R. Chipman re: disposal of American Church property.

Birks to Dr. Conover (architectural adviser for Federal Council of Churches (U.S.) re: renovation plans for Erskine American - December 10, 1937.

Dr. Conover to Birks re: advice on renovation of Erskine American - December 14, 1937.

S.W. Dean, (Chairman of Committee on Church Architecture of the United Church of Canada), to Dr. Conover - December 28, 1937.

Report of Dr. Conover to Erskine American - January 6, 1938.

Dr. Conover to Birks re: proposed remodelling of Erskine American - January 6, 1938.

Dr. Conover to Birks - January 13, 1938.

Dr. Conover to S.K. Campbell - January 13, 1938.

Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture - Suggestions for Assembling a Program and Policy Stating Suggestions Offered to Erskine American - January 13, 1938.

FILE 7. Periodicals and Pamphlets

Coffin, Henry Sloane. "The Christian and the Church" - c. 1912.

Orchard, W.E. Free Catholic Tracts - #1 "The Church" - 1920.

World Conference for the consideration of questions touching Faith and Order - Report of Joint Commission to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church (U.S.) - 1913.

Documents agreed upon by the Joint Committee on Church Union in Canada.

Soares, Theodore G. "The Church in the Modern World" - May 5, 1912.

Address of C.H. Brent - Bishop of the Phillipines - September 28, 1916.

8. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings - 1906-1930

"The Religion of the Future", The Outlook, 1906.

"Principal's Message", Queen's University Journal.

Lynch, Frederick. "A Protestant View of Catholic Virtues", The Literary Digest - January 6, 1912.

86.347C

- 5 -

Correspondence of Professor David Smith - July 25, 1912.

"A Possible Disaster", The Outlook, January 17, 1914.

"Kikuyu", The British Weekly, February 4, 1914.

"Vital Points in Kikuyu Incident", Montreal Gazette, February 6, 1914.

Kirkwood, John C., "Selling the Church's Wares", The Presbyterian, October 26, 1916.

Cook, Henry, "Sanctuary and Sea", Christian World, June 1, 1922.

Fosdick, Harry E. "A Time to Believe in the Church", Christian World, September 9, 1922.

Dunkley, E.H. , "The Union of Christendom", The Spectator, April 16, 1927.

Morrison, Charles C., "Church Union in Canada", The Christian Century, April 26, 1928.

Morrison, Charles C., "The Non-Concurring Presbyterians", The Christian Century, May 3, 1928.

Fosdick, Dr. Harry E., "The Limitations of Anxiety", The Christian World, May 2, 1929.

FILE 9. Newspaper Clippings - 1930-1945

Day, Albert E. "Let the Half-Gods Go", Christian Century, April 21, 1943.

McKeehan, Hobart D., "Publicizing Religion", Christian Century, August 4, 1943.

Barnett, Ernest., "Religious Life in a London Dormitory", British Weekly, August 12, 1943.

Turner-Smith, N.A., "A Covenant of Christian Witness", Christian World, November 25, 1943.

Warren, Harriet., "American Presbyterian Church: An Appreciation and glance Backwards", The New Outlook, December 5, 1943.

Fiddes, Victor, "Church Union - A Hopeful Sign", United Church Observer, February 1, 1944.

"Church Unity - Possible and Imperative", Christian Century, February 19, 1944.

Howard, George P., "The Voice of Liberal Spain", Christian Century

86.347C

Fey, Harold E., "Catholicism and the Press", Christian Century, December 13, 1944.

Howse, Ernest Marshall, "Century Plant in Canada", Christian Century, May 16, 1945.

"The P.P.P.'s", British Weekly, August 9, 1945.

Watson, Angus. "Life's Eternal Enigma", British Weekly, November 22, 1945.

FILE 10. Newspaper Clippings - 1945-1947

Braden, Charles S., "Why are the Cults Growing", Christian Century, January 12, 1946.

Morrison, Charles C., "The Protestant Task", Christian Century, May 5, 1946.

Morrison, Charles C., "Protestant Localism", Christian Century, May 29, 1946.

Morrison, Charles C., "Protestant Misuse of the Bible", Christian Century, June 5, 1946.

Morrison, Charles C., "The Waster Power of Protestantism", Christian Century, June 12, 1946.

Eby, Kermit, "Japan Then and Now", Christian Century, June 12, 1946.

Morrison, Charles C., "The Concept of an Ecumenical Protestantism:", Christian Century, June 19, 1946.

Morrison, Charles C., "Protestantism and the Lordship of Christ", Christian Century, July 3, 1946.

Pittenger, W. Norman, "Christianity is a Culture", Christian Century, July 3, 1946.

"The Nature, Origins, Organization and Duty of the Church", United Church Observer, February 1, 1947.

Newton, Joseph, "The One Great Church", Christian Century, February 19, 1947.

Hicks, Doughals H. "Churchmanship and Christianity", Christian World, May 15, 1947.

Weatherhead, Leslie D., "Christ is Relevant to Life To-Day", Christian World, December 11, 1947.

86.347C

- 7 -

FILE 11. Newspaper Clippings - Miscellaneous

Gravenor, Gordon C., "What the United Church Believes", c. 1946.

Allport, Gordon, W. (Professor), "Interested in God But Not in Church".

White, F.C., "Is Religion Dope?", Christian World, n.d.

"Anglican Church Discord"

"A Natural Church of England"

"The Bishop's Quarrel" (Re: Kikuyu Incident), c. 1914.

"Come out strong for Church Union"

"Growth of Union Churches"

Robinson, Herbert C., "Youth and the Churches", December 7, 1945.

"Testing Days for the Church"

"The Obligation of Church Membership"

Meserve, Harry C., "On Believeing in God", The Atlantic, n.d.

Matthews, Stanley G., "Linking of Religion, Education Essential, Hold Educationists"

Wood, H.G., "Freedom and Tradition"

Box 2

Scrapbook - William Massey Birks

Articles, ranging from the 1920's to 1940's, deal mainly with the role and nature of "The Church"; Church Unity in Canada; the nature of Protestantism; and Christian philosophy.