

THE CHARLES SPAIN COLLECTION

three manuscript boxes

Born in 1869, Charles Spain was educated in the public schools of South Bend, Indiana and the University of Michigan from which he received three degrees, a bachelor's in 1893, a master's in 1920 and a doctorate in philosophy in 1923. His career as an educator began in the Grand Rapids public schools where he served as both a teacher and a principal. He entered the Detroit public school system in 1901 as a vice principal of the Washington Normal School, becoming principal in the following year. In 1906 he was appointed supervisor of primary grades, a position which involved responsibility for curriculum-reorganization and administration in early elementary grades. In 1913, Spain became General Supervisor of Elementary Education and, in the following year, was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools under Superintendent Charles Chadsey. When Frank Cody was elected Superintendent by the Detroit Board of Education in 1919, Spain became Deputy Superintendent with responsibility for the technical administration of the entire school system. As a result of the rapidly growing importance of the school system's collegiate units, the College of the City of Detroit, the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery, and the Detroit Teachers College, he was named Executive Vice President of University Education in 1933, a title later changed to Executive Vice President of Wayne University. On his retirement in 1939 he received an honorary doctor of laws degree and the title Vice President Emeritus.

Although Charles Spain was instrumental in the organization of the school system's collegiate units into Wayne University, his most important work was done in the field of elementary education where he enjoyed a considerable reputation and nation-wide prominence. Although his early work received little attention outside of the Detroit area, his progressive ideas about the role of art, music, physical education, theater arts and the school library in elementary

education later gained wide approval. He was one of the first school administrators to work closely with architects to design buildings better suited to individual educational curricula. A frequent contributor to educational journals, his articles on "Platoon Schools" in 1920 and "The Public Elementary School Plant" in 1930 attracted considerable attention.

The Charles Spain Collection occupies one and one-half linear feet of space in three manuscript boxes in the Personal Collection Record Group of the University Archives.

DESCRIPTION OF RECORD SERIES

Series One
twelve folders, box one

personal papers, correspondance and memorabilia; a small amount of general business correspondance; congratulatory letters received on retirement in 1939; miscellaneous items related to retirement; assorted clippings

Series Two
thirty-four folders and one spiral-bound volume, boxes two and three

professional publications and speeches; reprints; manuscripts of journal articles; notes for speeches given

Series Three
one bound volume, box three

a scrapbook dealing with the history of the Detroit Board of Education between 1907 and 1929

Series Four
two bound volumes, box three

the Spain family scrapbook; a transcription of Spain's father's gold-hunting trip to Colorado in 1859

FOLDER INVENTORY

Box One

1. Correspondance, 1919-1944
2. Personal correspondance and memorabilia
3. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
4. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
5. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
6. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
7. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
8. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
9. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
10. Congratulatory letters on retirement, 1939
11. Miscellaneous memorabilia related to retirement, 1939
12. Assorted Clippings

Box Two

1. Reprints
2. Manuscripts: "The Administration of Handwriting", 1930
3. Manuscripts: "The Administration of the Detroit Public Schools", 1931
4. Manuscripts: "Art in the Service of the Changing Curriculum", 1932
5. Manuscripts: "The Auditorium", incomplete with no date
6. Manuscripts: "The Community's Responsibility to Nursing", 1934
7. Manuscripts: "Contribution to Education", no date
8. Manuscripts: "Detroit's Municipal University", 1933
9. Manuscripts: "Economy and the Modern Curriculum", 1933
10. Manuscripts: "The Evolution of the Elementary School Building", no date
11. Manuscripts: "Frank Cody - an Appreciation", 1929
12. Manuscripts: "Freedom in Modern Schools", 1930
13. Manuscripts: "The Functions of Supervision", 1929
14. Manuscripts: "General Arts - Elementary Schools", no date
15. Manuscripts: "Growth in Self-Control and Self-Direction", no date
16. Manuscripts: "Guiding Principles", 1930
17. Manuscripts: "The Historical Method in the Study of Education", 1923
18. Manuscripts: "An Investment in Education", 1931
19. Manuscripts: "Is the Cost of Education Excessive", no date
20. Manuscripts: "Is the Individual Submerged in the Mass", 1926
21. Manuscripts: "Metropolitan Campus of Wayne University", no date
22. Manuscripts: "The Municipal University of the Future", 1939
23. Manuscripts: "The Place of Wayne University in the Community", 1934
24. Manuscripts: "Progress in Administering and Building Swimming Pools", 1933
25. Manuscripts: "Proposal for a School of General Studies at Wayne University"
no date
26. Manuscripts: "Public Schools and the National Crisis", 1931
27. Manuscripts: "The Relation of Wayne University to the Community", 1935
28. Manuscripts: "The Reorganization of the Elementary School to meet Major Objectives", no date

29. Manuscripts: "The School as a Socializing Force", 1931
30. Manuscripts: "To the Students of Wayne University", no date
31. Manuscripts: "Wayne University - its Origins and Aims", 1935
32. Miscellaneous manuscripts of Speeches
33. Notes for Speeches Given
34. Notes for Speeches Given

Box Three

1. Notes for a history of Wayne University, spiral-bound volume
2. Scrapbook dealing with the history of the Detroit Board of Education, 1907-1929 (materials collected by Samuel C. Mumford)
3. The Spain family scrapbook
4. Transcription of David Spain's diary of a gold-hunting expedition to Colorado during the spring and summer of 1859