

Walter P. Reuther Library
Wayne State University Archives

Vergil V. Phelps Papers
.75 linear feet (2 MB)
1864-1972, bulk 1924-1967

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Finding aid written by Casey Westerman on November 8, 2012.

Accession Number: WSP000403

Creator: Vergil V. Phelps

Acquisition: The papers of Vergil Phelps were placed in the University Archives in May, 1968. Material was added in 1974.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

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Notes: Citation style: "Vergil V. Phelps Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], University Archives, Wayne State University"

Related Material: A copy of a Brigham Young Diary of 1857 is on loan to the University of Utah. Other papers of Phelps may be found in the University of Illinois Archives at Urbana.

Biographical Note:

Vergil Phelps was an instructor of Rhetoric and English, College of the City of Detroit from 1924-1928, in the middle of a long career as a lecturer and teacher.

Phelps was born in 1879 in Chicago and received a Ph.B. from the University of Chicago in 1901. From 1902 to 1905, Phelps taught at Muskegon (Michigan) High School under Superintendent David Mackenzie and from 1906 to 1912 was the executive secretary to the president of the University of Illinois, Edmund J. James. During this period, Phelps was a Williams Fellow at Harvard and received a Ph.D. from Yale in 1910. During World War I, he served as the Y.M.C.A. secretary at Camp Travis, Texas, and in 1921 was considered for the presidency of the University of Maine and of Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont.

While an instructor at the College of the City of Detroit, Phelps taught courses in effective writing and speech, and during this time was the National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest Division Director. Throughout his career, Phelps wrote extensively on topics concerning business and religious education, and personal relationships. The papers of Vergil Phelps reflect his interests in the areas of effective communication in business, government, personal relationships and daily living.

Abstract:

Correspondence, clippings, publications, programs and other material collected by Phelps relating to business and religious education, effective communication, biographical materials, and materials on famous persons such as James Couzens, Henry Ford and Arthur Vandenberg. A major portion of the materials are copies of Phelps' publications.

Important Subjects:

Effective communication
National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contests

Important Names:

Abbott, Lawrence Kelsey, W.K.
Bryan, William Jennings Kendrick, John B.
Couzens, James Kinley, David
Eddy, Clarence Lindsey, Ben B.
Eliot, Charles W. Mathews, Shailer
Fernald, Bert Nims, Louis
Heilman, Ralph Pick, Albert, Jr.
Henry, David Piggins, Edward S.
Hill, Louis Terhune, M.V.
Hughes, Charles E. Vandenberg, Arthur H.
James, Edmund J.

Arrangement:

The files are arranged alphabetically by subject, and chronologically within each folder, and cover the period from 1864 to 1972. Phelps' publications are listed chronologically.

Box 1

1. Autographed Letters of Famous Americans - Advice to Youth, Miscellaneous, 1916-1918, 1934, 1945, 1962
2. Clippings - Miscellaneous, 1887-1926, 1965-1967, Undated
3. Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1906, 1909, 1918
4. Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1953-1956, 1960-1961
5. Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1965, 1967-1969
6. Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1970-1972, Undated
7. Couzens, James - Clippings, 1930-1935, Undated
8. Couzens, James - Correspondence, 1928, 1935
9. Ford, Henry I - Clippings, 1922
10. Ford, Henry I and II - Clippings, 1959, 1964, 1967
11. Harvard Divinity Bulletin, Spring, 1968, Fall, 1969
12. Muskegon (Michigan) High School - Student Publication, April, 1904
13. National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contests - Correspondence, 1926 - March, 1928
14. National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contests - Correspondence, April, 1928 - July, 1928, 1930
15. National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contests - Programs, Clippings, Photograph, Miscellaneous, 1924-1928
16. Nims, Louis M. - Correspondence, Clipping, 1936, 1942
17. Phelps Family - Genealogy, Miscellaneous, 1864, Undated
18. Phelps, Vergil V. - Biographical Material, 1908, 1914, Undated
19. Phelps, Vergil V. - Correspondence Concerning Phelps' Candidacy for Various Positions, 1918-1921
20. Phelps - The Pastor and Teacher in New England, July, 1911
21. Phelps - Religious Education - The Problem and Solution, 1916
22. Phelps - If I Were Back in High School, 1917; Success and Life, 1917
23. Phelps - The Michigan Council for World Peace, 1925, How to Study, 1928
24. Phelps - "Higher Education for Business", 1926
25. Phelps - Do You Think?, 1941
26. Phelps - Whither? Rainbows? Sunsets?, 1968
27. Phelps - Why Not See Yourself and the World in History's Mirror . . . , 1972
28. Phelps - Do You Want To Be Lucky and Liked?, Undated

Box 2

1. Piggins, Edward S. - Correspondence, 1961, 1965-1967
2. Political Items - Police Courtesy Card, 1911, Poster, 1940, Sample Ballot, 1944
3. Publications - Miscellaneous, 1896, 1916, 1923
4. Publications - Miscellaneous, 1967-1969
5. Vandenberg, Senator Arthur H. - Campaign Folders Posters, Clippings, 1939, 1940
6. Vandenberg, Senator Arthur H. - Clippings, 1933-1952
7. Vandenberg, Senator Arthur H. - Correspondence, 1930-1931, 1935-1949
8. Vandenberg, Senator Arthur H. - Pamphlets, 1935-1936, 1940-1945
9. Vandenberg, Senator Arthur H. - Speeches in Congressional Record, 1935-1938

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