Oklahoma School of Religion Collection

Center for religious education. Correspondence (1917–1950) of E. Nicholas Comfort, the director of the school, regarding its functions, programs, and status; minutes (1927–1946) of meetings of the school’s governing board; and publications (1927–1946), including school newsletters, catalogs, and annual reports of the First Presbyterian Church of Norman, Oklahoma, the school’s sponsor. The collection also includes biographical materials (1956–1966) on E. Nicholas Comfort and the Comfort family.

Boxes 1-6 contain subject files of Reverend E.N. Comfort. They include correspondence, printed materials, and other documents.

Box 1: Subject Files
Folder:

1. American Association of University Professors, 1938-39
2. American Friends Service Committee, 1943-44
3. Board of Trustees, Oklahoma School of Religion (includes correspondence, "Constitution - Associates in Religion at the University of Oklahoma", minutes, and financial reports), 1930-44
5. Colleges, religious (includes report titled "The Denominational College Situation in Oklahoma), 1925-38
6. Comfort investigation (Tom Kight, state representative from Claremore, Oklahoma assailed E.N. Comfort and the Oklahoma School of Religion for "communistic" teachings in state colleges)
7. Correspondence and materials re: formation of Oklahoma School of Religion, 1926-30
8. Constitution and By-Laws of the Oklahoma School of Religion, including correspondence to O.D. Foster from E.N. Comfort, 1927

Box 2: Subject Files
Folder:

1. Correspondence of E.N. Comfort (1), also includes miscellaneous materials, 1918-42
2. Correspondence of E.N. Comfort (2), also includes miscellaneous materials, 1917-24
3. Correspondence of E.N. Comfort, personal and business (includes letters from the Board of Pension of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.), 1937-54
4. Finances, Oklahoma School of Religion (includes audit reports, information re. endowments and subscription agreements, receipt statements, etc), 1937-45

Box 3: Subject Files
Folder:

1. Fund raising (includes names of contributors, financial records, etc.), 1934-38
2. History, Oklahoma School of Religion (includes histories, course listings, objectives and methods), 1933-46
3. Letters of recommendation, 1925, 1930-32
3a. Minutes of Faculty of the School of Religion, 1937-47
5. National Conference of Christians and Jews (includes correspondence with Hastings Harrison, Director, and printed matter), 1936-43
6. National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, 1944
7. Miscellaneous organizations, 1937-50
8. Norman School Board and Norman Forum, 1937

Box 4: Subject Files
Folder:

1. Oklahoma Committee on Constitutional Rights, 1940-46
2. Oklahoma Communist Party, 1941
3. Oklahoma Council of Churches, 1926-45
4. Oklahoma League of Women Voters, 1944-46
5. Oklahoma YWCA, 1944-46
6. Oklahoma Youth Legislature, 1937-40

**Box 5: Subject Files**

**Folder:**

1. Peace organizations (including Natl. Council for Peace Mobilization), 1937-43
2. Pharmacists (Conference Committee of the Industrial Welfare Committee Setting Wages for Pharmacists), 1938
3. The Preacher's Club, 1929
4. Presbyterian Activities, 1928-30
5. Presbyterian Foundation of the University of Oklahoma, 1925-27
6. Progressive Party of Oklahoma
7. Publications of Oklahoma School of Religion (includes program and course descriptions, "The Oklahoma School of Religious Bulletin, and "Why a School of Religion at the University of Oklahoma"), 1927-34
8. Publicity (includes press releases, etc.), 1930-41
10. "Religion on the Campus" (handwritten essay), also "Opinion of the School of Religion" and "Interpreting the Christian Religion on the Campus", 1935-36
11. Reports of Presbyterians and School of Religion, 1924-30

**Box 6: Subject Files**

**Folder:**

1. School of Religion, class notes, bibliographies, etc. (1), 1938-44
2. School of Religion, class notes, bibliographies, etc. (2), 1927-44
3. School of Religion, legal papers and reports (includes "A Report to the Julius Rosenwald Foundation on the Place of the Oklahoma School of Religion in the Educational and Religious Life of Oklahoma", articles of incorporation, and land agreement), 1930, 1944.


5. Southern Tenant Farmers Union, 1936-37

6. Speakers for Oklahoma School of Religion (rosters, correspondence and resumes), 1937

7. State Teacher's Meeting, Moral and Religious Education Section - correspondence, agenda and outlines of bible study, 1929-31

8. Students, correspondence re., 1928-30

9. Students in School of Religion - rosters, grade reports, correspondence, 1925-37

10. Stuart, Streeter - his dismissal from Southeastern State College, 1940

**Box 7: Publications**

*In Fact* magazine, 1940-50

"Information Service" Weekly, 1946-52


**Box 8: Publications**


**Box 9: Publications**


**Box 10: Publications**


**Box 11: Publications**


**Box 12: Publications**

"Weekly News Sheet" published by the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Dept. of Publicity, 1936

"The Canadian Far Eastern Newsletter," Toronto, 1949-51

"New South" published by Southern Regional Council, 1947-51

"Fellowship", 2 issues, 1941

"The Southern Patriot", New Orleans, 1947-52
"The Emancipator", Georgetown, Texas, 1939-40

"Christianity and Crisis", New York, 1945-50

**Box 13: Books, Church Conference Bulletins**

*Tarbell's Teachers' Guide to the International Sunday School Lessons* by Martha Tarbell, 1911

*Self-Help* by Samuel Smiles, 1889

*Peloubet's Select Notes on the International Sunday School Lessons* by Wilbur Smith, 1937

*The History of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Lawrence, Kansas* by Mary Clarke, n.d.

"Proceedings of the 17th Annual Assembly of the Western Oklahoma District," 1929

"Journal of the 38th Session of the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church", 1929

"East Oklahoma Conference Journal" and "West Oklahoma Conference Journal", 1929

"Oklahoma Conference", 1930

"Proceedings of 25th Annual Assembly", 1937

"Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma", 1937

**Box 14: Card Files, Census and Attendance**

Blank Oklahoma School of Religion receipt books

Student address, attendance and course enrollment cards, 1941

**Box 15: United States Government Documents**


"Questions and Answers Concerning War Claims", War Claims Commission
"How to Sell the US Army"


"The National Bureau of Standards in World War II" by Lyman Briggs, 1949

"Economic Aid to China under the China Aid Act of 1948", 1949

Blank stationary of Congressman George Howard Wilson

**Box 16: Hillel Foundation Material**

**Folder:**


2. Miscellaneous (includes blank membership cards, Oklahoma School of Religion student identification cards, church directory cards, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation song sheets, information re. Birobidjan, advertisements, and announcements), 1945

3. Publications (1)

   *The New Palestine*, six issues, 1945-46
   *United Nations News*, 1946
   *Freeland*, 1946
   *In Jewish Bookland*, 1946
   *Jewish War Heroes*, n.d.
   *Liberal Judaism*, 1946
   *Jewish Affairs*, 1946
   *Bloch's Book Bulletin*, 1946
   *The Story of the Jewish People*, 1945

4. Publications (2)

   *Hillel Objectives*, n.d.
   "Virginia Tech Hillel News", 1946
   "B'nai B'rith News and Views", 1945
   "Phonograph Recordings of Jewish Interest" by Norman Kiell

**Box 17: Brochures, Newspaper Articles, and Notices about the School of Religion Folder:**
1. Catalogs of religious books, plays, etc.


3. Newspapers (The Oklahoma Daily August 17, 1946, and article by E.N. Comfort entitled "News of the School of Religion" in OU Campus News January 10, 1936)

4. Pamphlets and bulletins, miscellaneous (includes "The People's Rights and the 1944 Elections", "Why the Pastor Failed", "The Things That Matter Most", and "Was Jesus a Patriot")


**Box 18: Examination and Term Papers**

Blue books and other papers, religion courses, 1938-44

**Box 19: First Presbyterian Church, Norman, Oklahoma**

**Folder:**

1. Administrative file (includes annual reports dated March 31, 1944 and March 31, 1946; progress report on building fund, Aug. 1, 1945; announcements; correspondence to members and consistory; "The Saturday Letter"; building program circular; and some financial information), 1940-46


3. Miscellaneous publications (2), includes reports of the Board of Christian Education of the US Presbyterian Church, This Is Our World Mission, and Money, Methods and Men- But the Greatest of These is Men, 1925-38

4. Miscellaneous publications (3), includes religious pamphlets, brochures, bulletins and magazines, 1927-45
Box 20: First Presbyterian Church, Norman, Oklahoma
Folder:

1. Miscellaneous correspondence, 1942-46
2. Lists of church members, 1945
3. Printed materials pertaining to youth work, Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H Clubs
   Sunday school attendance cards and offering envelopes

Box 21: First Presbyterian Church, Norman, Oklahoma
Folder:

1. Annual Report, 1943
2. Annual Report, 1945
3. Church announcements (1), 1939-44
4. Church announcements (2), 1939-45

Box 22: Copper Plate Block Prints

Nine copper plate blocks

Box 23: Lists of Donors, Lists of Oklahoma Ministers
Folder:

1. Lists of ministers of Oklahoma churches, includes Churches of Christ, Churches of the Nazarene, Jews, Evangelical Churches, and Congregational Churches, 1930, 1942
2. Lists and contributors to Oklahoma School of Religion, names and addresses, 1934-37
3. Religious census of mental patients, forms, n.d.
4-6. Lists of donors, includes names and addresses, 1930s

Box 24: Publications
Various pamphlets such as "The Fifth Column in Washington", "Neither to Right nor Left", "Lynching Goes Underground", "Proposals for Action, National Action Conference for Civil Rights", and "Migration of Workers"

**Box 25: Personal Correspondence, John P. Lewis and E.N. Comfort**

1. Personal correspondence of John P. Lewis, 1933-35
2. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (Mc), 1925-38
3. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (M, N), 1924-33
4. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (O), 1925-34
5. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (P), 1924-33
6. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (Q, R), 1925-33

**Box 26: Personal correspondence, E.N. Comfort**

1-2. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (S), 1925-37
3. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (T), 1927-34
4. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (U-V), 1925-32
5. Personal correspondence of E.N. Comfort (W-Z), 1925-33

**Box 27: Duplicate Check Books, Bills**

Oklahoma School of Religion check books, carbon, 1928-38

**Box 28: Schools of Religion Catalogs**
Catalogs and bulletins of schools of religion with information about the schools and listings of course offerings (includes the Bible College of Missouri, Omaha Seminary, McCormick Seminary, Yale Divinity School, etc.), 1921-45

**Box 29: Examination and Term Papers**

Blue books and term papers, religious courses, 1939-42

Grade books kept by Comfort, includes names of courses, names of students, and grades, 1935-39

**Box 30: Publications**

Various publications including "For Your Children, Too", "School For Barbarians", "A Primer on Intergroup Education", "Karl Marx An Essay", "In the Shadow of War: The Story of Civil Liberty 1939-40", "Political Primer for All Americans", "The Challenge to Americans", "Improving the Quality of Living", and "When He Comes Back If He Comes Back Nervous: Two Talks to Families of Returning Servicemen"

**Box 31: Writings**

E.N. Comfort wrote most of the lectures, sermons, stories, radio talks, and other writings contained in Box 31.

**Folder:**

1. Eulogies (Ruth Bollinger Nina Swan Gould, Justin Bowers), wedding speech, letters to the editor, 1931

2. "A Report to the Julius Rosenwald Foundation on the Place of the Oklahoma School of Religion in the Educational and Religious Life of Oklahoma" (2 copies), 1930


4. Minutes of faculty meetings, 1927-1939


9. Correspondence of E.N. Comfort, 1940-50

**Box 32: Writings**

E.N. Comfort wrote most of the lectures, sermons and newspaper columns contained in Box 32.

**Folder:**


2. E.N. Comfort, biographical material. Includes both biography and autobiography, memorial service program and news clippings re. Comfort and his family, 1956
3. "Remembering" by Esther Obee Comfort. 197 page copy of handwritten manuscript concerning the life of E.N. Comfort and his family, 1966


5. "So This Is Life", 1936

6. "So This Is Life", 1937

7. "So This Is Life", 1938

8. "So This Is Life", 1939

9. "So This Is Life", 1940


**Oversized Materials (Location: 8313)**

1. Pencil drawing of Oklahoma School of Religion building showing front elevation and end elevation

2. Blueprint of South Congregational Church Chapel showing elevation of altar and dossal.

3-4. Two pencil drawings of Oklahoma School of Religion building showing first floor plans

5. Pen and ink rendering of view in courtyard looking towards the SE showing great reading hall and library. Harold Gineur?, architect

6. Pen and ink rendering of view in court looking towards the NW, dining hall, guest rooms, dormitory and cloister way from main chapel to guest quarter in view. Harold Grineur?, architect

7. Pen and ink rendering of view of interior of court looking towards NE main entrance. Harold Grineur?, architect

8. Pen and ink drawing showing great reading hall and library, offices, memorial tower, prayer room, main memorial church, dining hall, and guest quarters
9. "Blazing a Spiritual Trail in Oklahoma", building plans including floor plans, drawings, and charts showing organization, personnel, and financial plan of Oklahoma School of Religion (1929?)

10. Broadsides - Announcing speeches

"The Religion of Jesus Series at Presbyterian Church" by E. Nicholas Comfort (3 copies)

"Robert A. Milikan" (3 copies)

"Gaius Glenn Atkins, On What Christianity Should Do To Our Time"

"Charles W. Gilkey"

"Nahum Sokolow, President, World's Zionist Congress" (6 copies)

"John A. Rice"

"Home Coming and Home Finding"

11. "The Boy Jesus at Church" and "How Have We Learned to Help at Church", copies of lithograph posters

12. Guest Register. Includes names of people involved with the following: Religion 146, 143 & 140, Nov. 14, 1940; family party, Feb. 8, 1941; School of Religion picnic, May 21, 1941; open house, Sep. 18, 1941; and other events involving E.N. Comfort and the Oklahoma School of Religion, 1940-1944

Certificates and Diplomas Collection
Folder:

1. 1927, State of Oklahoma Certificate of Incorporation filed by W.B. Bizzell and Homer L. Dodge to form a corporation to be known as The Oklahoma School of Religion

2. 1910, License to Administer the Ordinances, E.N. Comfort having been approved by the North Missouri Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church

3. 1930, Certificate of advancement from the Junior Department of the Presbyterian Sunday School to the Intermediate Department

4. 1924, Certificate of advancement from the primary Department of the Samers Community Sunday School to the Junior Department

5. 1913, Certificate of Ordination as Elder in the Methodist Protestant Church
6. 1923, Certificate of membership in the American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association
7. 1933, Diploma from the University of Oklahoma, Degree of Bachelor of Arts
8. 1933, Salutem in Christo Iesu Nos Curatores Seminarii Theologici Unionensis
9. 1915, Diploma from the McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, Degree of Bachelor of Divinity
10. 1913, Diploma from the Dillenbeck School of Oratory, Kansas City, Missouri
11. 1910, Diploma from the Wilson High School, Kansas City, Missouri
12. 1912, Diploma from the Kansas City University, Mather College, Degree of Bachelor of Philosophy
13. 1909, Diploma from the Wilson High School, Kansas City, Missouri

Map Collection:

Special Collections III:
1. University of Oklahoma campus showing the School of Religion west of Elm Street (in the approximate location of the present infirmary). A linen map of approximately 14" x 15" dimensions in black and gray
2. Oklahoma; A 1925 road map of Cleveland County, done in the "blueprint" style. Sections are shown on this 24" x 25" map. Two copies, and the negative copy has a reversed image