

Guide to
Arthur G. Edgerton Collection of Sermon Notes and Photograph

1880, 1941-1945 and undated

.02 linear feet

Accession Number: 2005-21

Collection Number: CN 013

Prepared by Lolana Thompson
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Abstract: Handwritten sermon notes by Thomas Chalmers, Charles H. Spurgeon, and Alexander Whyte.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of the Item], Arthur G. Edgerton Collection of Sermon Notes and Photograph, CN 013, Box [number], Folder [number], Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary, 3909 Swiss Ave., Dallas, TX 75204

Biographical Sketches:

Arthur G. Edgerton entered Spurgeon's College in 1889 and lived in Winchester, England in the 1940s. He apparently became a clergyman. Edgerton collected and donated to Dallas Theological Seminary handwritten notes of sermons by three famous preachers: Thomas Chalmers, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, and Alexander Whyte.

Thomas Chalmers was born on March 17, 1780, in the fishing village of Anstruther Easter, Scotland. He entered St. Andrews University at the age of eleven, and later served in parish ministry. Chalmers was saved when he was thirty. He married Grace Pratt in 1812 and they had six daughters. Chalmers connected social and scientific questions to a personal faith. The theories about dealing with poverty he implemented in the parish of St. John's in Glasgow were not entirely successful, but he inspired other churches to take action and influenced social work. In 1823 Chalmers left his parish to teach moral philosophy at St. Andrews University. Chalmers reached the conclusion that the church should separate from the state and lead the Disruption in 1843, when over a third of the ministers and lay people resigned from the Church of Scotland to form the Free Church. That same year he became Principal and Professor of Theology at New College, Edinburgh. He died May 30, 1847.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was born in England in 1834. When he finished school, he became a junior tutor at an Anglican school in 1849. He was converted on January 6, 1850 and was soon baptized. He was only sixteen when he preached his first sermon. In 1851 he became pastor of Waterbeach Baptist Chapel, where attendance grew from forty to four hundred in two years. In 1854, Spurgeon was called as pastor at New Park Street Chapel in London. Attendance grew beyond the capacity of the building, and eventually services were held at a hall which seated 10,000. His congregation got a new home in 1861 when the Metropolitan Tabernacle opened. He ministered here for thirty-one years, with an average attendance of nearly 6,000. Spurgeon married Susanna Thompson in 1856, and they had twin sons. Spurgeon started a school for ministers. He began publishing *The Sword and Trowel* in 1865. He authored 135 books. Spurgeon was aware of social and political issues, but tried to avoid partisanship in the pulpit. He suffered from rheumatic gout and depression. He died on January 31, 1892.

Alexander Whyte was born January 13, 1836 in Kirriemuir in Scotland to parents who never married. He received little education, but read voraciously. He served an apprenticeship to a shoemaker. With hard work and financial assistance from his father in America, Whyte entered King's College, Aberdeen, in 1858. He preached during the revival which culminated in 1859. Whyte started seminary in 1862 at New College, Edinburgh. While in seminary he ministered at Free St. George's and also at St Luke's. Whyte became assistant pastor at Free St. John's Church, Glasgow in 1866. In 1870, he became junior minister at Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh, and became the main pastor in 1873. He married Jane Elizabeth Barbour in 1881, and they had eight children. He became principal of New College in 1909 and served there almost nine years, then retired because of poor health. Whyte died January 6, 1921. He was imaginative and skilled at painting dramatic pictures with words. Most of his books were collections of sermons. He spent much time preparing his sermons, and continued writing sermons even after he retired. His preaching often emphasized sin and grace.

References:

Armstrong, J. "Charles Haddon Spurgeon" in *Biographical Dictionary of Evangelicals*, ed. by Timothy Larsen, 624-627. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Bradley, Maureen. "Scottish Presbyterian Alexander Whyte" 1997. Online. The Alexander Whyte Homepage. <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/4199/bio.htm>, Accessed 12 August 2005.

Roxborough, J. "Thomas Chalmers" in *Biographical Dictionary of Evangelicals*, ed. by Timothy Larsen, 138-141. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

System of Arrangement:

The Arthur G. Edgerton Collection of Sermon Notes and Photograph is arranged in two series.

Series I. Sermons, 1880, 1941-1945 and undated .02 linear feet (3 folders)

Arranged alphabetically by author.

Series II. Photograph, 1945 1 leaf (1 folder)

Scope and Content Note: This collection is housed in four file folders within a wallet and is divided into two series. Series I consists primarily of handwritten notes for three sermons by Thomas Chalmers, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, and Alexander Whyte. The notes are significant because of the importance of the men who wrote them. Included are notes from Edgerton indicating how he acquired the sermons. Series II contains one photograph of Edgerton's family.

Selected Search Terms:

Chalmers, Thomas

Sermons, English 19th century

Spurgeon, C. H. (Charles Haddon)

Whyte, Alexander

Donor/Source: Rev. Arthur G. Edgerton donated these documents in 1942 and 1945.

Custodial History: Spurgeon's notes were presented to Edgerton by Spurgeon's sons, Charles and Thomas, in 1904. Edgerton received Chalmer's and Whyte's notes in 1945 from the librarian of New College in Edinburgh, Scotland

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Note to the Researcher: See the attached Container List for more details about this collection. Chalmer's and Whyte's handwriting are very difficult to read.

Container List

Series I. Sermons **1880, 1941-1945 and undated****Folder# Title, Dates, Description**

- 1 Chalmers, Thomas 1945 and undated
Handwritten sixteen page sermon and four page "shorthand 'key'" [donor's description] on paper 5" W x 8" H; Edgerton's 1945 note describing the source of the documents; total of eleven leaves.
- 2 Spurgeon, Charles Haddon 1880 and 1941-1942
Handwritten two page sermon outline on paper 4 1/2" W x 7 1/2" H; printed text of sermon "A Powerful Reason for Coming to Christ" delivered March 21, 1880 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle; scripture reference Mark 3:8; Edgerton's 1941 note describing the source of the sermon notes; and John Walvoord's memo to Lewis Humphrey, DTS Librarian, regarding the donation; total of nine leaves.
- 3 Whyte, Alexander 1945 and undated
Handwritten twenty-six page sermon on paper 5 1/4" W x 8 1/2" H; scripture reference Romans 8:17; Edgerton's 1945 note describing the source of the document; total of nineteen leaves, a few pages are blank.

Series II. Photograph **1945**

- 4 Family photograph 1945
Arthur G. Edgerton with wife and daughter, 2 1/4" x 3 1/4."