

Joseph Henry Crooker Autograph/Letter Collection

The Joseph Henry Crooker Autograph/Letter Collection is one of a series of small autograph collections held by Missouri Valley Special Collections.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Joseph Henry Crooker
Title: Joseph Henry Crooker autograph/letter collection
Dates: 1880-1916
Size: 1 box, 9 folders, 56 letters
Location: SC35-1

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: Gift, Joseph Henry Crooker, January 30, 1929.

Citation note: Joseph Henry Crooker autograph/letter collection (SC35-1), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Dr. Joseph Henry Crooker was a Unitarian minister who was born in Maine on December 8, 1850, the son of Orin and Ellen Crooker. He was first ordained a minister of the Baptist Church and became a Unitarian in 1877. He held several pastorates, primarily in the Midwest.

In 1903 he delivered the annual sermon for the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in London. During his life he authored about a dozen books on religious subjects. He died in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 29, 1931, and was survived by one son, Orin Crooker.

Scope and content note

Collecting autographs was a popular hobby during the late 19th century and early 20th century. This collection preserved by Dr. Crooker consists of dated correspondence, handwritten and typewritten, addressed to him and arranged in alphabetical order by sender. He appears to have initiated the correspondence by sending his publications to noted people of the time and then keeping their responses as an autograph collection.

Much of the return correspondence concerns acknowledgement and appreciation for the publication sent as well as sometimes a critique of it. Most of the correspondence is between educators, theologians, and ministers of the time. Temperance is another topic of interest. A letter listed from President Woodrow Wilson is missing from the collection. Letters/autographs include those of Booker T. Washington, Carl Schurz, and many others.

Joseph Henry Crooker publications found in Missouri Valley Special Collections include: *Unitarians as Congregationalists*, *The Atheism in Religions*, *American Ideals in Education*, *An Address Delivered at the International Unitarian*

Conference, held at Amsterdam, Holland, Sept. 1-4, 1903, The Way to Utopia, and John Wise, A Forgotten American.

Collection Inventory

Index of names of correspondents

Folder 2

H. B. **Adams**, James Burrill **Angell**, John **Bascom**, Austin **Blair**, George **Boros**, George S. **Boutwell**, F. F. **Brown**, James **Bryce**

Folder 3

Rev. Joseph Estlin **Carpenter**, W. H. **Carruth**, Rev. Thomas Kelly **Cheyne**, John **Clifford**, George W. **Cooke**, T. D. **Crothers**, George William **Curtis**

Folder 4

W. J. **Dawson**, S. R. **Driver**, Charles W. **Eliot**, E. W. **Emerson**, William **Everett**

Folder 5

Frank J. **Garrison**, William Lloyd **Garrison**, George A. **Gordon**, Hattie T. **Griswold**

Folder 6

Edward E. **Hale**, W. J. **Harris**, Benjamin **Harrison**, P. S. **Henson**, Florence **Hill**

Folder 7

L. P. **Jacks**, Charles E. **Jefferson**, Jenkin Lloyd **Jones**, Abraham **Kuenen**, John D. **Long**, James **Martineau**, Edwin D. **Mead**, John **Morley**

Folder 8

R. Heber **Newton**, Cyrus **Northrop**, C.E. **Norton**, Francis Greenwood **Peabody**, Carl **Schurz**, Edwin Burritt **Smith**, Goldwin **Smith**, Lillian M. N. **Stevens**

Folder 9

C. H. **Toy**, William Freeman **Vilas**, Charles Dudley **Warner**, Booker T. **Washington**, Thomas Franklin **Waters**, Lillian **Whiting**, Woodrow **Wilson** (missing), and Carroll D. **Wright**.

Processed by Special Collections Manager Gloria Maxwell, September 1992.