MS 28 Zelotes Coombs Papers

ABSTRACT

The Zelotes Coombs Papers (1915-1928) contain drafts and finished writing for his unpublished book "The History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute." The history he describes ends by the late 1920s.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Note: Most of this information is taken from WPI Journals.

Zelotes Wood Coombs was born in 1865 in Worcester. He graduated from Amherst College in 1888, and studied law and taught Physical Education at the University of Virginia. In 1890, he became assistant in languages and clerk to President Homer T. Fuller at WPI. In 1892 he became instructor and in 1895 Assistant Professor of Modern Languages. From 1903 to 1913 he served as head of the Department of English and Modern Languages. When the department was divided in 1913, he became head of the Department of English, and served in this capacity for twenty-four years. Beginning in 1910 and until his retirement in 1937, he was secretary of the faculty. He was chairman of the admissions committee from 1916 until his appointment as Dean in 1935. He was interested in WPI's athletics programs, and served for several years as treasurer of the Athletic Association.

Professor Coombs wrote several small published books, including a biography of Homer Taylor Fuller. Most of these books are on specific topics, including the Worcester Art Society, Worcester and Worcester Common, and the Blackstone Canal.

Professor Coombs retired from WPI in 1937. He died in 1946.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

All of the materials in this collection appear to be drafts and finished writing for his unpublished book The History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Materials are not dated, but the history he describes generally ends by the late 1920s.

Most of Box 1 contains the typewritten manuscript. There are two copies, and the first has been divided into several folders containing sections of the manuscript. A large part of the manuscript is the section titled "History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute," which includes history of the founding of the school, its land and buildings, and other information about its early history until about 1927.

Beginning at the end of Box 1, with Folder 16, are handwritten drafts of the many sections of the manuscript. Some handwritten sections do not appear to have been included in the typed manuscript, and these are at the end of the collection.

Before the collection was processed, all the handwritten sections were together in a box. Because there seemed to be some order, folders were numbered in the order they were found. These numbers, which do not correspond to the final arrangement, are on the right side of the folders. The final arrangement of the handwritten materials corresponds to the typewritten draft.

Folder 1 in Box 1 contains an index of the sections of the manuscript.
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 01</td>
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Series I: Index and Typewritten Manuscripts of
"History of WPI"
"Baccalaureate preachers"
"Class day exercises"
"Commencement speakers"
"Dramatics"

Box 01 Folder 10
Typed manuscript
"Acquisition of real estate"
"Theses"
"Laboratory Fees"
"Fraternities and clubs"
"Presentation of the flag"

Box 01 Folder 11
Typed manuscript
"Publications"
"Conditions of admission"
"Alumni Association"
"Tuition"
"Examinations"
"Summer school"
"Lunch room"
"Special students"

Box 01 Folder 12
Typed manuscript - Biographical sketches
Emory P. Aldrich
Seth Sweetser
Hiram Kallock Pervear
Stephen Salisbury, 2nd
Charles O. Thompson
Charles Hill Morgan
Milton Prince Higgins
Stephen Salisbury, 3rd

Box 01 Folder 13
Typed manuscript - "The Washburn Shops"

Box 01 Folder 14
Typed manuscript
"Magnetic Station"
"Institute seal"
"Institute at expositions"
"Student customs"
"Dept. of Chemistry"
"John Boynton"

Box 01 Folder 15
Typed manuscript - Copy 2 of "History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute"

Series II: Handwritten Drafts of Sections and Notes for "History of WPI"

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MS 28_02 Manuscript
Box 02   Folder 26   Handwritten draft - “Baccalaureate Sermons”
Box 02   Folder 27   Handwritten draft - “Class Day Exercises”
Box 02   Folder 28   Handwritten draft - “Commencement Speakers”
Box 02   Folder 29   Handwritten draft - “Dramatics”
Box 02   Folder 30   Handwritten draft - “A Record of Acquisition of Real Estate by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute”
Box 02   Folder 31   Handwritten draft - “Attendance”
Box 03   Folder 01   Handwritten draft - Notes re. land and other matters
Box 03   Folder 02   Handwritten draft

“Salisbury Second Land Gift”
“Boynton Street Purchase”
“Mr. Salisbury’s Third Gift”
“The Lot for the President’s House”
“Gift of the Hill Estate”
“The Gift of the Howe Estate”

Box 03   Folder 03   Handwritten draft - “The Lot for the President’s House”
Box 03   Folder 04   Handwritten draft - “Theses”
Box 03   Folder 05   Handwritten draft - “Laboratory Fees”
Box 03   Folder 06   Handwritten draft - “Fraternities”
Box 03   Folder 07   Handwritten draft - “The Scholarship Fraternities”
Box 03   Folder 08   Handwritten draft - “The Cosmopolitan Club”
Box 03   Folder 09   Handwritten draft - “The Tech Council”
Box 03   Folder 10   Handwritten draft - “The Camera Club”
Box 03   Folder 11   Handwritten draft - “The Evening Drawing Classes”
Box 03   Folder 12   Handwritten draft - “The Presentation of the Flag” [Class of 1902]
Box 03   Folder 13   Handwritten draft - “Publications”
Box 03   Folder 14   Handwritten draft - “Conditions of Admission”
Box 03   Folder 15   Handwritten draft - “The Alumni Association”
Box 03   Folder 16   Handwritten draft - “Tuition”
Box 03   Folder 17   Handwritten draft - “Examinations”
Box 03   Folder 18   Handwritten draft - “The Summer School”
Box 03   Folder 19   Handwritten draft - “The Lunch Room”
Box 03   Folder 20   Handwritten draft - “The Lunch Room”
Handwritten draft - "Special Students"

Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - Judge P. Emory Aldrich

Handwritten draft - Biographical sketches

Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Charles H. Morgan"

Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Milton Prince Higgins"

Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Stephen Salisbury, the third"

Handwritten draft - "The Washburn Shops"

Written copies of records re. how/whether Shops fit as part of the Institute

Handwritten draft - "The Foundry"

Handwritten draft - "The Magnetic Station"

Handwritten draft - "The Institute Seal"

Handwritten draft - "The Institute at Expositions"

Handwritten draft - "Student Customs"

Handwritten draft - "The Department of Chemistry"

**Series III: Handwritten Drafts of Sections not included in Typed Manuscript**

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<td>Handwritten draft - &quot;The Power Laboratory&quot;</td>
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Box 03 Folder 44 Handwritten draft - "The Salisbury Laboratories"
Box 03 Folder 45 Handwritten draft - "The President's House"
Box 03 Folder 46 Handwritten draft - "The Institute in the Spanish War"
Box 03 Folder 47 Handwritten draft - "The Courses"
Box 03 Folder 48 Handwritten draft - "Courses of Study"
Box 04 Folder 01 Handwritten draft - "The Department of Mechanical Engineering"
Box 04 Folder 02 Handwritten draft - "The Department of Electrical Engineering"
Box 04 Folder 03 Handwritten draft - "The Department of Physics"
Box 04 Folder 04 Handwritten draft - "The Department of Mathematics"
Box 04 Folder 05 Handwritten draft - "Drawing and Design"
Box 04 Folder 06 Handwritten draft - "Department of Civil Engineering"
Box 04 Folder 07 Handwritten draft - "Course in Physical and Political Science"
Box 04 Folder 08 Handwritten draft - "The Department of Language"
Box 04 Folder 09 Handwritten draft - "The Course in Geology"
Box 04 Folder 10 Handwritten draft - "Descriptive Geometry"
Box 04 Folder 11 Handwritten draft - "The Course in Elementary Mechanics"
Box 04 Folder 12 Handwritten draft - "Business Law"
Box 04 Folder 13 Handwritten draft - "Mineralogy"
Box 04 Folder 14 Handwritten draft - "Graduate Courses"
Box 04 Folder 15 Handwritten draft - "Apparatus"
Box 04 Folder 16 Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Rev. Seth Sweetser"
Box 04 Folder 17 Handwritten draft - "Libraries"
Box 04 Folder 18 Handwritten draft - "Branch Alumni Associations"
Box 04 Folder 19 Notes - written by someone other than Prof. Coombs probably - mostly concerning land and buildings