



Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library

GRIBBLE (ROBERT FRANCIS) PAPERS, 1907-1993

Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert Francis Gribble papers

Dates: 1907-1993

Accession Number(s): 1993-004; 1997-001; 1997-003; 2000-002

Extent: 8.5 feet

Language: Materials are primarily written in English, with some Hebrew and Spanish.

Biographical Note:

Robert Francis Gribble (1890-1970) was a Presbyterian pastor and educator in Texas. He was born on January 6, 1890 in Waco, Texas to Robert Fonda Gribble and Lucy Sleeper Gribble. He graduated from Waco High School in 1908, and graduated from Austin College in 1911 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. From 1912-1913 he served as Student Supply to Midland, Texas. In 1914, he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He traveled to the University of Chicago to study in the summers of 1914 and 1916. He was licensed and ordained by the Presbytery of Central Texas in 1915. In that same year Gribble served as Student Supply in Bartlett, Texas. The following year he married Joyce Hudson in Fort Worth, Texas. From 1914-1918 he taught Hebrew at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The Seminary closed during the latter part of World War I; consequently, he worked at the YMCA headquarters in Dallas, Texas during 1918-1919. From 1919-1923, he was the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Mercedes. In 1924, he achieved a Doctorate of Divinity from Austin College. During his tenure as professor at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (1923-1960), Gribble served Bartlett's First Presbyterian Church as well as Leander Presbyterian Church.

Other professional activities included supervising the Seminary library from the late 1920s-1930s, serving as Moderator of the Synod of Texas in 1935, and serving as acting President of Austin Seminary from 1943-1945.

Professional highlights include a radio address delivered in 1934 in conjunction with Austin Bible Society, an appointment to the General Assembly of the PCUS "Ad-Interim Committee on Curricula of Our Seminaries," and editing *Baker's Dictionary of Theology* in 1960.

He officially retired from the Seminary in late 1960. During his retirement Dr. Gribble taught at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi (1960-1970). He died November 8, 1970 in Austin, Texas.

Scope and Contents:

Sermons, correspondence, record books, reports, clippings, notes, printed material, photographs, negatives, and scrapbooks comprise the Robert Francis Gribble Papers. The collection is divided into eight series: Ministerial work, Education materials, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Administration, Creative works, Personal material, Scrapbooks, Photographic material, and Printed material. There are notes throughout the collection made in a neat, printed handwriting by Nancy Gribble Nelson, Gribble's daughter.

Ministerial work consists of two pastoral record books, sermons, notes, clippings, minutes, reports, and outlines. The pastoral record books highlight Gribble's ministerial career, with entries occurring almost daily. He chronologically documented his tenure as stated supply in Midland and his pastorate in Leander, Bartlett, and Mercedes with weather conditions, attendance, and type of ceremony. The sermons are arranged by the book of the Bible and then by date. Clippings and notes relating to the sermons are included. Sermons and material used for special days, subjects, and occasions follow those linked to a specific Bible verse. The Topical Index is a bound volume containing entries on a variety of topics. Some entries refer to material in Scrapbook No. 1, while others refer to material within the index itself. Texas-Mexican Presbytery records include correspondence, budget information, meeting minutes, notes, reports, and publications related Gribble served on the Board of Trustees for the Texas-Mexican Industrial Institute.

Education materials contains course notebooks, notes, outlines, class registers, printed material, and clippings and is divided into two subseries, Student and Professor. The Student subseries contains class notebooks from courses Gribble took at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the University of Chicago, and Austin College, including a 1911-1912 session notebook from Thornton Rogers Sampson's junior Church History class and from Samuel Alexander King's junior Systematic Theology class. The notebook also includes notes from five of the six Seminary guest lecturers for 1911-1912. Gribble frequently used notebooks throughout his career for more than one purpose so many have wide date ranges and cover multiple topics from his career as a student and a professional. The second subseries, Professor, consists of material used by Gribble in his role as a professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the Reformed Theological Seminary. Gribble kept related notes, clippings, and printed material in labeled envelopes and utilized these as resources to pull from for his courses and other events such as prayer meetings and workshops. Gribble also retained his class registers; these have been restricted due to the confidential nature of student grades.

Creative works encompasses material composed by Gribble including drafts and notes for two religious manuscripts, lectures and addresses for special events, a pamphlet, and a large amount of poetry. Poetry was clearly a life-long pastime for Gribble, as poems date from the 1910s through 1970.

Personal material primarily consists of correspondence and an account/daily register. In this register, Gribble recorded the main events of his day, the weather, and sometimes significant national events. This series also includes personal correspondence, a driver's license, and several clippings about Gribble.

The Scrapbooks series is comprised of three scrapbooks. "Scrapbook created by Nancy Gribble Nelson" was compiled in 1993 and includes photographs, correspondence, family history materials, and World War II ration books. The Photograph scrapbook is a collection of photographs compiled by Gribble which documents family members, activities at Austin College, numerous trips to various locales, and life at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. On many pages, Gribble cut people out from photographs and wrote humorous narrations of the scenes depicted. These photos were labeled more extensively by Nancy and other relatives in 1993.

Photographic material includes both prints and negatives as well as two pages from a photo album featuring the APTS campus and the Gribble girls. Identification of individuals pictured is located in the holding record.

Printed material consists of pamphlets, clippings, and articles related primarily to religious topics.

Restrictions:

Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details. Class registers are restricted because they contain confidential student grade information.

Processing Information:

This collection was partially processed by Bill Brock, Seminary Archivist, and a student assistant in the late 1990s. It was completed in November 2009 by Elizabeth Garber, Archives Assistant.

Index Terms:

Gribble, Robert Francis, 1890-1970.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary--Faculty.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary--Study and teaching.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Presbytery of Texas-Mexican.
Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, Miss.)

Presbyterian Church--Clergy.
Sermons, English--Texas.

Preferred Citation: Robert Francis Gribble papers, 1907-1993, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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E020	Theology course notes [includes lectures on pastoral theology and lectures by Samuel A. King], 1912-1914 Pentateuch notebook [contains some material from Gribble's time at the University of Chicago and later], 1914-1916, and undated Course notebook [includes material on social politics, Hebrew, theology, and the Bible; from courses at the University of Chicago], 1914-1916 Notebook [includes material for courses on prophecy, poetry in the Old Testament, and Hebrew; contains notes from Homiletic Club and a Hebrew language course taught by Gribble], 1916, 1931-1941 Professor: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary course materials: Hebrew course booklet, undated Apologetics, 1955, and undated
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- Smyth Lectures at Columbia Theological Seminary:
 - Drafts and notes, circa 1944
 - Comments on the lectures by George Summey, circa 1944
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 - Poetry of Robert F. Gribble [bound volume], 1908-1914, 1959-1962

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- E019b** Photograph scrapbook, 1909-1924
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