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H88-0097. Lubbers, Irwin J. (1895-1985).
Papers, 1867-2005. 9.50 linear ft.



Abstract

The Irwin J. Lubbers collection consists of seven sections: Biographical, Photographic, Early Years, Central College Presidential Years, Hope College Presidential Years, Later Years, and Publications, Speeches, Sermons and Other Writings sections.

Accession No: H88-0097
Provenance: Irwin J. Lubbers
Donor: Irwin J. Lubbers
Photographs: 386 images (Box 1); 99 images (98 in a scrapbook) (Box 6)
Processed by: Danielle Anderson
William Van Dyke, June 2006
Ian Post, July 2013

Biography

Irwin Jacob Lubbers was born November 15, 1895, in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. He attended Wisconsin Memorial Academy, graduating in 1913. After graduation from the Academy, he went on Hope College, receiving his A.B in 1917. During his student years at Hope, he created a scrapbook, which can be found in the collection, containing 98 photo images of student life at the college. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1918, and during this time he kept a journal, which can be found in the collection. From 1919-1922, he worked in the Reformed Church Mission at Vellore, India, teaching at Voorhees College, working in Arcot Central Stores, and editing *Indian Temperance News*. When he returned to the U.S. in 1922, he entered Teachers College, Columbia University, and earned his master's degree in 1927. He married Margaret Van Donselaar on January 1, 1923. From 1923-1929, he was an instructor at Hope College, lecturing in English. While instructing at Hope, their first son was born, Irwin J. Lubbers, Jr., in 1924. From 1929-1930, he attended Northwestern University, where he undertook research for his thesis on college organization and administration. His research was published as a book in 1932. In 1930, he took the job of Assistant to the President and Instructor in Psychology and Education at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin. In 1931, he received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University. That same year, his second son, Arend Don Lubbers, was born. In 1934, he and his family moved to Pella, Iowa, where Dr. Lubbers became president of Central College. Central awarded him a LL.D. in 1945. Dr. Lubbers became president of Hope College in 1945. Hope awarded him a Litt.D. that same year, and he also received a Litt.D. from Rutgers University in 1945. He served as president at Hope College until 1963 when he left to become president of the Iowa Association of Private Colleges and Universities, a post he held until his retirement in 1969.

Irwin Lubbers' presidency of Hope College was a time of significant growth and achievement. Enrollment quickly expanded from 401 in the fall of 1945 to more than 1,200 by the 1947-1948 school year, as Hope enrolled hundreds of returning World War II veterans. After a drop-off in the early 1950s, enrollment again expanded reaching 1,534 by the time Lubbers left

office. Campus facilities were greatly expanded to properly serve the current student body and to accommodate projected enrollment demands, including the construction of Durfee, Nykerk, Kollen, Van Zoeren, Phelps, and Gilmore Halls, a heating plant; a fraternity complex (now Scott, Cosmopolitan, Lichty and Wyckoff Halls); and the renovation of Carnegie Gymnasium and Graves Hall. As Lubbers retired from Hope's presidency, construction began on a Physics-Mathematics building (now Vander Werf Hall). Lubbers was very active in fundraising and led several fund drives through the Reformed Church and a major fund drive called "Looking Ahead with Hope."

Lubbers worked to enhance the academic vitality of Hope College and broaden its interaction with other quality colleges. During his presidency, Hope received national recognition as a college of distinction. The Vienna Summer School, a popular program at Hope, was founded in 1956. In 1960, Lubbers helped to form an association of top rank colleges, the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA). Hope College remains a member of this twelve-college consortium. Lubbers' top priority was the Hope College student. Throughout his presidency, he held an "open door policy" and started presidential luncheons, where students could communicate their needs and opinions.

After his retirement, Lubbers remained deeply involved with Hope College. He served as an honorary member of the college's Board of Trustees and was active in several of the college's fundraising endeavors. In 1974, the college's humanities and social science building was named in Lubbers' honor.

Lubbers authored the book *College Organization and Administration* (1932), and has contributed to many magazines and was a well-known speaker. His book is available in Hope College's Van Wylen Library, and most of his other writings can be found in the collection.

A number of recognitions have been accorded him. He was granted doctoral degrees by Central College, Hope College and Rutgers University; decorated by the Netherlands government with the rank of "Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau" in 1947; presented with a Freedom Foundation Award in 1953; elected vice-president of the National Council of Churches for the triennium 1960-1963; and elected president of the North Central Association of private Colleges and Secondary Schools for the year 1962-1963. He passed away on September 8, 1985, at the age of 89.

Scope and Content

The Irwin J. Lubbers collection contains notes from his lectures and sermons. There is family material and photographs, and also a diary that he kept when he was a cadet in the Air Force during WWI. The collection is divided into seven sections which are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Container List

Box 1

BIOGRAPHICAL

Lubbers, Arend Don (son of Irwin J. Lubbers), Book, *The Lubbers Legacy: A Salute to Arend D. Lubbers, President of Grand Valley State University, 1969-2001*
Lubbers, Irwin J.

Autobiographical Notes by Irwin J. Lubbers, ca. 1930s
Awards and Citations (Oversized, Box 6)
Degrees and Diplomas, 1931, 1945
Family, 1948, 1976
Life after 60 Study, Lubbers' Response to Questions About his Life, 1975
Profiles (one folder containing)
 Grand Rapids *Press* Profile of Irwin J. Lubbers, Nov. 22, 1977
 Porter Hills *Villager*, December 1982
Resume and Vita, ca. 1960s
Vital Records, Obituary, and Funeral, 1940, 1985
Lubbers, Margaret Van Donselaar (wife of Irwin J. Lubbers), 1963, 1985, 1991
Personal Papers of Peter and Tannetje Van Donselaar
 Van Donselaar, Peter and Tannetje (Margaret Lubbers' parents)
 Adoption papers for Ruth Van Donselaar, 1894
 Birth Certificate of Pieter Van Donselaar, Netherlands, 1867
 Correspondence, Letters of Peter Van Donselaar, n.d.
 First State Bank of Sioux Center, Iowa records, 1923-1934
 Henry Mouw and Peter Mouw, Jr. Estate Accounting Records for Margaret Van
 Donselaar, 1914
 Idaho Investment Company records, 1910-1911, 1927
 Land Contracts held by Peter Van Donselaar, 1892-1928
 Letter from Peter Van Donselaar of Sioux Center, Iowa to Rev. J. Wesselink,
 Pella, Iowa, 1919
 Life Insurance and Death Records of Peter Van Donselaar, 1905-1936
 Newspaper clipping, Image of ship (Dutch), n.d.
 Peter Van Donselaar Investments records, 1910-1940
 Photograph, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Van Donselaar?, n.d.
 Records of the building and insurance of 47 West 19th Street, Holland, MI, 1924-
 1932
 Six written speeches/outlines used by Peter Van Donselaar, n.d.
 U.S. Citizenship papers of Peter Van Donselaar, 1897
Dutch Documents (Oversized, Box 6)
Estate, 1921-1944 (Oversized, Box 6)
General

PHOTOGRAPHIC

Carroll College Years, 1930-1934 (29 images)
Central College Years, 1934-1945 (12 images)
China and Japan, 1922 (18 images)
Dutch in Japan, Post Cards from Lubbers' visit to Japan, 1922 (8 images)
England and en Route to India, 1919 (88 images)
Hope College Presidential Years, 1945-1962 (26 images)
Hope College Student Days, 1913-1917
 Individual Photographs (13 images)
 Photo Album/Scrapbook (98 Images) (Oversized, Box 6)
India, Layman's Evangelical Fellowship, Vellore, 1955 (1 image) (Oversized, Box 6)

India Mission Service, 1920-1922 (2 folders) (97 images)
Ketema Yifru and sons Mulugetta and Yohannes Ketema, 1980-1981 (4 images, 1
negative)
Later Years
Contributors to Book *Into All the World; Hope College and International Affairs*,
1985 (foreword by Lubbers) (2 images)
Portraits, 1963-1985 (9 images)
Retirement, 1975 (3 images)
Lubbers Family Photographs, 1924-1961 (47 images)
Margaret Van Donselaar Photographs, n.d. (20 images)
Parents, Anthony and Wilhelmina (Hyink) Lubbers, n.d. (3 images)
Travelling, Photograph envelope with travel log, 1961
U.S. Army Air corps, 1918-1919 (5 images)
Van Donselaar Family Photographs (Margaret Lubbers' family) (44 images from late
19th and early 20th centuries)

EARLY YEARS, 1895-1934

Carroll College Professor, 1930-1934
Cedar Grove, Wisconsin (See Also Memoir in Publications, Speeches, Sermons and
Other Writings Section)
Centennial Homecoming Souvenir Program, 1947
First Reformed Church Centenary Booklet, 1954
Mission Fest, 1952
Wisconsin Memorial Academy, 1961
German Grammar Notes

Box 2

EARLY YEARS, 1895-1934

Graduate Study (course notes)
Northwestern University (1929-1931)
Advanced Educational Psychology
Advanced Principals of Religious Education
Christianity in the Light of Modern Knowledge
Curriculum Problems
Educational Research
Educational Survey
Graduate Student Program
High School Administration
The Junior College
Materials and Methods for Worship
Measurement of Intelligence
Public School Supervision
Teachers College, Columbia University (1922-1923)
Class Schedule and General Information
European Educational Systems & Lessons for America

Improvement of Instruction in Secondary Schools
Major Course for High School Principals
Organization and Administration of Junior High Schools
Philosophy of Education
Reconstruction of Jr. & Sr. High School Curriculum
Socialization of Religious Institutions
Tests in Secondary Education
Union Theological Seminary (1922), English Bible
Holland, Michigan
Holland Civic Club, Constitution, 1932
Holland Exchange Club, 1927-1929
House Owned by Irwin Lubbers, 1931-1935
Social Progress Club Program 1932-1933
Hope College Professor, 1924-1928
India
Correspondence, 1923-1933
Mission Service in India, 1919-1922
American Literature Course Notes for Class Taught at Voorhees College,
Vellore, India, c. 1920
Arcot Central Stores Cash Book, 1921
Correspondence, 1919-1922
General
Folder I, 1918-1922
Folder II, (Oversized, Box 6), 1921-1922
Indian Temperance News, (I. J. Lubbers, editor) May-June 1921 Issue
Lubbers' Notes and Writings, 1920-1922
Minutes, Arcot Mission, 1921-1924
Leadership Training Course, 1933-1934
Military Service
Diary, 1918-1919
Letter to Hope College Classmates from School of Military Aeronautics, July 4,
1918
Military Discharge, 1918
Newspaper Clippings, 1919-1976, n.d.
Personal Correspondence, 1927-1933
Professional Related Mailings, 1930-1933
Professor of Education and Psychology
Elementary Psychology Lecture Notes, 1930, n.d.
History of Education Lecture Notes, 1932-1934, n.d.
How to Study: A Course for Freshmen Lecture Notes, n.d.
Methods of Teaching Lecture Notes, n.d.
Principals of Secondary Education Lecture Notes, n.d. (2 folders)
Teaching Resources and Materials, 1931-1932, n.d.
Professor of English, English Literature Lecture Notes, n.d.

EARLY YEARS, 1895-1934 (cont.)

Research on College Organization and Administration at Northwestern University
Book Publication and Sales, 1932-1935
Colleges Cooperating in the Research Project, ca. 1930
Corrections to Dissertation Typed Manuscript (fragments), 1931
Correspondence, 1930
Notes on College Organization and Finance, n.d.
Project Description and Ongoing Notes, 1929-1930
Questionnaire, ca. 1931
Telegrams, 1930

CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL YEARS, 1934-1945

Acceleration of College Students, 1943
Adjusted (Military) Service Bonds, 1936
American Bible Society Bible Study Programs, 1936, 1943-1944
Cottage Ideas for, ca. 1939
Executive Secretary of Reformed Church Board of Education, Position Offered to Irwin J. Lubbers, 1945 (see also: Office of the President Collection, H90-1088)
Faculty Tribute to President Lubbers, 1945
Holland, Michigan
 First State Bank, 1941
 Holland City News Subscription, 1939
India, Published Materials, Correspondence, 1934-1945
Law School, Application to Enroll in American Extension School of Law
Lubbers Family
 Family Farm Finances, 1935-1943
 Sons, Irwin Jr. and Arend Don, Correspondence, Art Work, n.d. (Oversized, Box 6)
Memberships, 1934
Newspaper Clippings, 1934, 1942, n.d.
New York World's Fair, 1939
Personal Correspondence, 1934-1945 (5 folders)
Plays, 1931, n.d.
Proposed Reformed Church in America Bible Institute, 1945-1946
 Correspondence
 Questionnaire and Study Report
Report on Kentucky Missions for RCA Woman's Board of Domestic Missions, 1941

HOPE COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL YEARS, 1945-1962 (See Also: Office of the President Collection, H90-1088 and College Advancement Collection, H88-0322)

Auto Accident at Mendota, IL, 1947
Book, *College Organization and Administration*, Correspondence, 1950-1951
Congratulatory Correspondence upon Appointment as President of Hope College, 1945
Grandchildren, 1951-1962
Grandchildren (Rob, Rich, Peggy) - 1966, 1972, 1976-1979
Guest Book, 1958-1963

Holland, Michigan

Appointment of Dr. Lubbers to Special Mediation Commission, Labor Dispute
between City and Employees, 1946

Bohn Aluminum and Brass Company, Strike of 1947, Mayor's Fact Finding
Committee

Centennial, 1945-1947 (See Centennial of Holland, Mich. Collection,
H02-1365.3)

Century Club, 1945-1960

Chamber of Commerce, 1950-1959

Holland Furnace Co., 1952

Hope Church, 1946-1952

Rotary Club, 1955-1960

Social Progress Club, 1951-1976

Memberships, 1959-1960

Northwestern University Alumni Merit Award, 1949

Personal Correspondence

1945-1962 (2 folders)

Ghandi Poster from D. V. Gokhale, 1953 (Oversized, Box 6)

Henry Cox on Music, 1956

Box 4

HOPE COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL YEARS, 1945-1963 (cont.)

Commentary on Dr. Irwin Lubbers J. Lubbers Presidential Years, 1963 (Reel-to-Reel;
Digital)

Personal Pocket Engagement Calendar Books, 1945-1962 (4 folders)

Sale of Parent's Home in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, 1949

Schutt, Sandrene A., Power of Attorney, 1954

LATER YEARS, 1963-1985

Association of Independent Non-Tax Supported Colleges and Universities of Iowa,
1962-1969

Association of International Relations Clubs, 1963-1966

Central College, Doctor of Humanities Degree, 1977

Correspondence between Margaret Lubbers and Maude Van Drezer, 1963-1964

Death of Irwin J. Lubbers, 1985

Des Moines, Iowa

Home at 3401 Melanie Dr., to 1973

Service Men's Club, 1970-1975

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1964, 1967, 1971

Educational Consultant

Alderson-Broadus College, 1969

Parsons College, 1959, 1964-1967 (3 folders)

Fabunmi, L. A., Correspondence, 1975, 1981

Grandchildren, 1965-1986

Guest Book, 1972

Health of Dr. Lubbers, 1966
Higher Education Facilities Commission of Iowa, 1964-1971
Holland, Michigan
 Home Owned by Lubbers at 645 Goldenrod Ave., 1961-1965
 Home Owned by Lubbers at 192 West 12th Street, 1962-1967
Hope College
 Book, *Round the World in Ninety Days* by Jiro Takenaka, 1966
 Correspondence, 1963-1968, 1973, 1977
 Ketema Yifru and Sons Mulugetta and Yohannes Ketema, 1980-1981
 President Emeritus of Hope College, 1963-1977
 Proposal for a New Study of College Organization and Administration
 Correspondence and Notes, 1976-1977
 Grant Application Materials, 1976-1977
 Van Vleck Hall Renovation Project, Correspondence, 1979-1980
India, Correspondence, 1964-1966, 1979
Institute of European Studies, 1963-1966
Memberships, 1968, 1982
Memorial for Irwin J. Lubbers, September 15, 1985
National Council of the Churches of Christ, 1963
North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, 1963-1977
Pella, Iowa, 1967
Personal Correspondence, 1963-1982 (2 folders)
Personal Pocket Engagement Calendar Books, 1963-1964, July 1965-Sept. 1967, 1968,
 Sept. 1973-1975, 1979-1982
Presbyterian Church Synod of Iowa, College Development, 1970

Box 5

LATER YEARS, 1963-1985

Reformed Church in America, Permanent Committee on Theological Education, Irwin J.
Lubbers member, 1964-1969

PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, SERMONS AND OTHER WRITINGS (See Also: Office of the
President Collection, H90-1088)

Articles, 1931-1955 (one folder containing :)

The Reformed Church Educational Program, 1930s

The College President's Status on the Board of Trustees, ca. 1931 (Manuscript,
publication information unknown)

Who Controls the Liberal Arts College? 1931

Are College Endowments Safe? 1933

The Church and the College, 1933

Shall the Colleges be Closed? 1934

Dollars and the New Deal, 1935

Youth, the Source of Christian Emphasis, 1941

Colleges are Expendable, 1942

The Church College After the War, 1946

- The Emergency Fund and the Colleges*, 1946
My Hope for Christian Education in the Reformed Church, 1946
Universal Military Training – Do We Want It? 1952
What our Colleges Hope for from the Church, 1950
Commencement, 1955, 1955 (Manuscript, publication information unknown)
- Article, 1966, *The Church College*, Submitted for Publication
- Book Chapter, “The College Presidency,” written while President of Hope College
- Book Outlines (proposed books)
- “Before Life Begins at Forty,” ca. 1935 (autobiographical)
 - “The Spirit of a Time,” ca. 1935
- Correspondence with Publishers and Editors, 1946, 1958
- Eulogies and Tributes (one folder containing eulogies and tributes for :)
- Marjorie D. DenUyl, 1976
 - Chris A. De Young, ca. 1971
 - Edward D. Dimnent, 1959
 - Milton Hinga, 1960
 - G. John Kooiker
 - Bertha Kronemeyer
 - Anthony Pennings, 1940
 - Henry W. Pietenpol, 1971
 - John H. L. Schouten, 1978
 - H. J. Vanden Berg, 1944
 - Walter Van Saun, Ph.D., 1950
 - Thomas E. Welmars, D.D., 1947
- Graduate Study
- Papers on Christianity, 1929
 - Papers on Education, 1923, n.d.
- Letters to the Editor, Prayers and Other Short Contributions for Publication, 1947-1950
- Memoirs
- “Brief Encounter” (Irwin Lubbers’ Near Death Experience, 1947)
 - “The Homestead” (Irwin Lubbers’ Boyhood in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin)
 - Draft by Lubbers, 1984
 - Photocopy of Draft and Published Excerpts, 1984
- Notebook, ca. 1916-1920
- Papers
- On Humor and Wit, n.d., Socialism, 1911, and Woodrow Wilson, n.d.
 - Social Progress Club of Holland, 1950s
- Poems (one folder containing:)
- “On Receiving Birthday Greetings November 15, 1969”
 - “To Isla on Reaching Seventy,” 1969
- Retirement Years Writings, Miscellaneous, 1970-1971, 1977
- Sermons
- Sermon Outlines and Presentation Notes (by topic) (For Semi-Extemporaneous Presentations)
 - Christian Living
 - The Church

Dykstra, John
Education
Good Friday and Holy Week
Prayer
What is Needed Now?

Written Sermons

“God-Fearing Leaders,” Awarded Freedoms Foundation Award,
1953-1959
Miscellaneous (one folder containing :)
“The Ants at Work and at Play,” 1920s
“The Forward Look,” 1960
“In the Spring a Young Man’s Fancy --,” 1950s
“This Is War,” ca. 1940s
“The Reality of Sin,” ca. 1920s
“Rice Turned to Gold,” ca. 1920s
“The Tragedy of Selfishness,” 1920s
Untitled, Sermon on World Missions, ca. 1920s
“Why Search Among the Dead for the One Who Lives?” n.d.

Speeches

Newspaper Report on Speech, “Workmen Approved of God,” June 7, 1951
Speech Outlines and Presentation Notes (by topic) (for Semi-Extemporaneous
Presentations)
Business and Work
Current Affairs
Education
Hope College
Humor Speech
India
Special Events
Speeches to Students

Written Speeches

Current Affairs (one folder containing:)
“America’s Declaration of Interdependence,” 1917
“The Battle for the Minds of Men,” ca. 1950s
“Conditioning for Crisis,” 1958
“History’s Battered Doors,” 1945
“Liberal of Conservative,” ca. 1960
“Mobilizing Manpower,” ca. 1950
“The New Civilization in the New Age,” ca. 1930s
“Can Democracy Survive in a Technological Age,” 1968
“The Road Away from Revolution,” 1970
Education (one folder containing:)
“An Educated Person,” 1956
“Christian Education for Such A Time As This,” ca. 1950s
“The Church College,” 1966
“Education For Crisis,” ca. 1957

“Grinnell College Inaugural Luncheon,” 1966
“How to Build a Program of Current Support for a College,” 1950
“Imperatives of the Hour,” ca. 1940s
“The Roll of the Faculty in a Church-Related College,” ca. 1962
Hope College (one folder containing:
“Hope College as a Factor in the Assimilation of Netherlanders in
American Life,” May 10, 1952, Published in *Netherland-
American University League Bulletin*, November 1952

Source Materials and Source Notes

Christian Faith
Christian Living
Current Events and American Culture

Box 6

PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, SERMONS AND OTHER WRITINGS (cont.)

Education (3 folders)
First Ladies of the United States
Franklin, Benjamin, Autobiography
Humor
Iowa
Natural World and the Environment
Prayer
Quotations

BIOGRAPHICAL (Oversized)

Lubbers, Irwin J., Awards and Citations, 1941-1970
Van Donselaar, Peter and Tannetje (Margaret Lubbers' Parents)
Dutch Documents, Estate, 1921-1944

PHOTOGRAPHIC(Oversized)

Hope College Student Days, 1913-1917, Photo Album /Scrapbook (98 images)
India, Layman's Evangelical Fellowship, Vellore, 1955 (1 image)

EARLY YEARS, 1895-1934 (Oversized)

India, Mission Service in India, 1919-1922, General, Folder II, 1921-1922

CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL YEARS, 1934-1945 (Oversized)

Lubbers Family, Sons, Irwin Jr. and Arend Don, Correspondence, Art Work, n.d.

HOPE COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL YEARS, 1945-1962 (Oversized)

Personal Correspondence, Ghandi Poster from D. V. Gokhale, 1953
Lubbers, Irwin J., Jr. “Bob” (son of Irwin J. Lubbers), 2005
Cartoons, Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert), n.d.
Correspondence, Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert), 1938-1939, 1942-1948, 1954-1962, 1989 or

1990 (8 folders)

Correspondence, Irwin J. Lubbers regarding Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert), 1941-1960

Correspondence, Jean Snow (wife of Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert)), 1954-1960

Correspondence, Margaret Van Donselaar (Lubbers) to Robert, 1936-1957

Financial Records, Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert), 1938-1960

Medical and Veterans Administration papers, Irwin Lubbers Jr., 1963-1965, 1978

Newspaper clippings, Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert), 1949, 1954

Personal Papers, Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert), 1941-1960s

Photographs and birthday cards, Irwin Lubbers Jr. (Robert), n.d.

Box 7

Freedoms Foundation Medal awarded Irwin J. Lubbers in 1954 Honoring his Sermon
“God-Fearing Leaders”