

Ambrose University

Finding Aid - A. W. Tozer fonds (auc-1)

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Language of description: English

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A. W. Tozer fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Ambrose University
Title:	A. W. Tozer fonds
ID:	auc-1
Date:	1908-1983, predominant 1958-1963 (date of creation)
Physical description:	36 cm textual records. -- 10 photographs.
Language:	The material is in English.
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [generalNote]:	Record No. 98-02

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

A. W. (Aiden Wilson) Tozer is perhaps the most widely-known and influential member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA). He was born on 21 April 1897 in La Jose (now Newburg) Pa., and died in Toronto, Ont. on 13 May 1963. He was ordained as a minister in the C&MA in 1920 and served pastorates in Toledo, Oh. (1921-23); Indianapolis, Ind. (1923-1928); Chicago, Ill (1928-1959); and Toronto, Ont. (1959-1963). He also served as vice-president of the C&MA (1946-1950) and, most significantly, as editor of the denomination's official organ *The Alliance Weekly* (1950-1957) and its successor *The Alliance Witness* (1958-1963). Tozer was a convinced evangelical and a staunch supporter of the ideals of the C&MA. His first book, *Wingspread: Albert B. Simpson, a Study in Spiritual Altitude* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Christian Publications, 1943) was a spiritual biography of the founder of the Alliance. Although loyal to the Alliance, Tozer had an ecumenical spirit. He felt a sense of spiritual community with all true Christians, regardless of their denominational affiliation. Regarded by many of his admirers as a prophet, Tozer exerted an influence that extended beyond evangelicalism and beyond North America through his insightful books and editorials on the spiritual life. His writings reveal a mystical approach to the Christian life that was founded on his love of the Christian spiritual classics. He was in great demand as a speaker, and during the 1950's many of his sermons were broadcast over Chicago's WMBI radio. Tozer wrote nine books during his lifetime, the most influential of which were *The Pursuit of God* (1948) and *The Knowledge of the Holy* (1961). An additional twenty volumes of his sermons and editorials have been published since his death. For further biographical information see Fant, David J. *A. W. Tozer: A Twentieth Century Prophet* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Christian Publications, 1964).

Custodial history

The documents in this fonds were originally collected by Tozer's associate Anita M. Bailey, who served as managing editor of The Alliance Witness during Tozer's term as editor. She passed them on to John Sawin, archivist at the A. B. Simpson Memorial Library at the U. S. headquarters of the C&MA in 1983, who, in turn donated them to the Canadian Bible College Canadian Theological Seminary Archives in 1992.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of correspondence and manuscripts generated by Tozer during his Toronto pastorate as well as selected writings, correspondence, and biographical materials that were evidently assembled by Anita M. Bailey for the use of Tozer's biographer, David J. Fant. The material has been maintained in its original order. Records are arranged in series as follows: correspondence, writings, memorials, administrative documents, other.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of the fonds.

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on access.

Finding aids

An inventory to the records is available.

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Tozer, A.W. (subject)

- Religions (subject)

Series descriptions
