HARMON, NOLAN B. (NOLAN BAILEY), 1892-.
Nolan B. Harmon papers, 1933-1993

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-4166

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Harmon, Nolan B. (Nolan Bailey), 1892-.
Title: Nolan B. Harmon papers, 1933-1993
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 134
Extent: 4.2 cubic ft. (13 boxes)
Abstract: Contains biographical material, sermons, and addresses from Nolan Harmon, as well as reports and committee files from the Methodist Church.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.
The copyright to the Harmon papers is maintained by the Estate of Bishop Nolan B. Harmon.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Nolan B. Harmon Papers, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Collection Description

Biographical Note
The Bishop Nolan Harmon was born in Meridian, Mississippi, on July 14, 1892. He was the son, grandson, and great grandson of Methodist Ministers. Harmon attended Milsaps College in Mississippi and was a member of the first class of the Candler School of Theology in 1914.
He then received his Master of Arts at Princeton University in 1920. Harmon received honorary degrees from Millsaps College, Hamline University, Western Maryland, Mt. Union and Wofford Colleges. He also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Emory University in 1958.

In 1940 Harmon was elected book editor of the re-united Methodist Churches, editing documents of the Abington Press, and the journal Religion in Life. He was also general editor of the twelve volume Interpreters Bible. In his retirement, he edited the Encyclopedia of World Methodism. Bishop Harmon was elected to the Episcopacy in 1956. From 1956 to 1964, Harmon was bishop of churches in many of the states in the Southeast. Between 1960 and 1964, Harmon was a member of Methodist committees that revised Methodist Hymn books. He retired from the ministry in 1964.

Bishop Harmon wrote many books including Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette, his autobiography Ninety Years and Counting, and The Famous Case of Myra Clark Gaines. Bishop Harmon made civil rights history in April 1963 when he along with eight other ministers released a statement calling on African Americans to stop taking part in demonstrations initiated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The statement called the Atlanta-born King's actions "unwise and untimely" and stated that only "slow, slow, slow" change should bring about equal rights. It was this statement that inflamed Dr. King and caused him to write the famous "Letter From the Birmingham Jail."

Bishop Harmon in his 1983 biography referred to the letter as a "propaganda move."

After his retirement, Bishop Harmon joined the Emory University faculty as a visiting professor but he continued there into his 96th year. He taught two classes, government, and the history of Methodism. Harmon died in June 1993.

**Scope and Content Note**

The first series of this collection is composed of biographical material concerning Bishop Harmon.

The second series, and by far the largest series, is composed of Literary Works Bishop Harmon. This series is comprised of three sub-series: Sermons: this material is maintained in its original order and can be accessed by using the "Index to Sermons" prepared by the Bishop himself. The sermons cover the years 1933 through 1968; Addresses: which is divided into dated and undated addresses; articles: which is likewise divided into dated and undated materials; a small file which Bishop Harmon had entitled lectures; some book reviews; four poems by the bishop; and a collection of manuscripts.

Series Three is composed of material dealing with the Methodist Church and contains reports, material on race relations from the early 1960's, and committee files.

Series Four contains teaching material used by Bishop Harmon and is comprised almost entirely of copies of exams for the various courses he taught at Candler School of Theology.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into 4 series: (1) Biographical Information, (2) Literary Works, (3) Methodist Church Materials, and (4) Candler School of Theology.
Description of Series

Series I: Biographical Information, 1966-1993
Series II: Literary Works, 1922-1980, undated
Series IV: Candler School of Theology, 1986-1988, undated
Series I
Biographical Information, 1966-1993
Boxes 1, 13

Scope and Content Note
This series contains biographical material concerning Bishop Harmon.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by file type.

Memorial Service, 1993 June 12
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Awards, Certificates, etc.
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Series II
Literary Works, 1922-1980, undated
Boxes 1-10

Scope and Content Note
Contains sermons and addresses by Bishop Harmon, as well as articles, book reviews, poems, and a collection of manuscripts.

Arrangement Note
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Early sermons

"Book G"; new sermons, etc., 1963-1968

"Book H"; sermons, addresses, etc., 1965-1968

Sermon Preached at the General Conference; Trinity Methodist Church; Denver, Colorado, 1960 April 28

Sermon for General Conference, 1960

"The True Prosperity" First Methodist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, 1961 March 5

"Many Churches - One Church," Sermon delivered to Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, circa 1962

"We Owe So Much," Myers Park Presbyterian Church, 1963 November 28

Ordination sermon for bishops, 1964 July 12

Sermon notes

Radio sermons, 1933-1939

Radio sermons, 1935-1939

"Book A," Sermons

"Book B," Annual Conference prayers, sermons, talks, & programs

"Book C," sermons & addresses

"Book D," sermons, prayers, etc. for conference ministerial meetings

"Book E," sermons, lectures

"Book F"

"Book I"

"Book J"

"Book K"

Unbound sermons

I Corinthians, 6-2 "Do you not know that the saints are to judge the earth"; Hansen Memorial Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1943 April 9

"Easter Hope," 1961

"The True Prosperity," First Methodist Church, Birmingham, AL, 1961 March 5

"Meditation Upon the Seventh Word," Good Friday, 1962 April 20

"The Living of These Days," Ovens Auditorium, Charlotte N.C., 1963 January 13

Ordination Sermon for North Alabama Conference, Birmingham, 1972 June 5

Sermon preached in Hansen Memorial Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.; text I Corinthians, 6-2, undated

Addresses

"The Preacher as a Student," 1922 February 20

"The Broader Knowledge," speech at Millsaps College, circa 1929
"For Such a Time as This," address to the New York Conference at Newburgh, New York, 1943 May 8

"Our Faith in Prayer," The Methodist Hour, 1949 November 13

Devotional Address to the Ecumenical Conference of World Methodism, 1951 September 3

"Man and Measures," Emory University, 1952 June 7

"Perpetual Pentecost," Lynchburg, Virginia, 1953 May 24

"Toward What Unity?" Sigma Chi, 1954 November 3

"A Prayer of Dedication" at the dedication of the new School Building at Samarcand, N.C., 1956 October 17


"Address Given by Bishop Nolan B. Harmon at the Funeral of J. Ernest Yountz," 1960 June 7

Address to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Washington, D.C., 1960 June 17

Dedicatory Invocation by Bishop Nolan B. Harmon at the Wylie Station of the Duke Power Company, 1960 October 3

Invocation by Bishop Nolan B. Harmon on the Occasion of the Visit of Vice President Nix, Charlotte Coliseum; address, 1960 October 3

"God's Open Door - A New Year's Meditation," 1961 January 1

"Distinctive Emphases of Methodism," Talk on WBT radio, 1961 May 24


Statement on Race, Birmingham North Alabama Conference, 1961

Methodism and Practical Ecumenicity," Dallas, 1961

"Call Them to Preach," address, 1962 May

"The Nature of the Church - Unity in Diversity," South Carolina Methodist Advocate, 1963 January 17

"Aldersgate and Organization," Southeastern Jurisdictional Convocation, Memphis, Tenn, 1963 March 5-7


"Save the Order of Deacons," 1964 March 12

"The Episcopacy Speaks Through Particular Men," address delivered ex tempore to the newly elected Bishops, Gatlinburg, Tenn, 1964 October 5

Conference Historical Address - 1965, Florida Historical Society & North Georgia Conference meeting, 1965 June
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<td>&quot;Devotions for College of Bishops,&quot; 1973 January 10</td>
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**Gems for Thought; Morning Radio Talk, American Broadcasting Co.**

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<td>&quot;The Importance of the Important,&quot; No. 2, 1949 September 8</td>
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**Articles and Papers**

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<td>&quot;Have Faith in God,&quot; Baltimore Southern Methodist, 1937 February 18</td>
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<td>&quot;Christianity, Capitalism and Collectivism,&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Church's Debt to the Model T,&quot;</td>
<td>Virginia Methodist Advocate, 1947 May 15</td>
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<td>&quot;The Communion Service and Present Day Methodism,&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Jurisdictional System Re-Studied,&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Ordination and the Sacrament,&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Apostles Creed and Prominent Methodist Doctrines,&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Threat of Formalism,&quot;</td>
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<td>Adult Teacher, 1962 January</td>
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<td>Christian Advocate, 1960 March 31</td>
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<td>[Alabama Advocate], Christmas 1961</td>
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<td>Together, 1962 April 15</td>
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<td>&quot;Laymen Electing Laymen for General Conference,&quot;</td>
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**Articles About Church and State Involvement**

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**Lectures**

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Blueprints of Things to Come, undated
Address on Evangelism to the Newark Conference, 1941 May 12
Evangelism for the Newark Conference, [1941 May 13]
Address: "These are not Dull Times," undated
Coercion and Christianity, talk to New York Preachers, 1941 February 24
"New Currents in Old Waters," Address to Louisville Pastor's School, 1936 June 16
Lecture on Present Trends in Christian Thought, undated
Junaluska Lectures: Introduction, undated
Untitled Lecture, undated
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"Time and the Christian," Duke University, 1962 March 7
ILIFF Lectures:"The Minister and his Reading" & "Methodist Ritual," undated
"Lectures on Life and Letters of St. Paul," undated

Book Reviews
"The Doctrine of the Trinity" by Cyril C. Richardson
"Lake Ponchartain" by Adolphe Roberts
"A Study of History" by Arnold J. Toynbee

Poems
"And There Shall be No More Sea," 1971
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Untitled poem, undated

Manuscripts
"This Methodism," undated
Ninety Years and Counting, undated
Chapter 6 of untitled book on World War I
"Notes on Books I would like to write"
Research material for book on the Myra Clark Grimes Case
Series III
Methodist Church Materials, 1960-1998, undated
Boxes 10-11

Scope and Content Note
Contains reports, material on race relations from the early 1960s, and committee files.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by file type.

Race Relations

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<td>Open letter to the Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church, 1963 November 8</td>
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Reports

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Miscellaneous

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Series IV  
Candler School of Theology, 1986-1988, undated  
Boxes 11-12

**Scope and Content Note**  
Contains teaching material including copies of exams for the various courses he taught at Candler School of Theology.

**Arrangement Note**  
Arranged by file type.

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