

WATTS, ISAAC, 1674-1748.

Isaac Watts collection, 1735, 1748

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Watts, Isaac, 1674-1748.
Title: Isaac Watts collection, 1735, 1748
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 288
Extent: 0.01 cubic ft. (1 folder)
Abstract: Contains one letter written by Isaac Watts in February of 1735 and a collection of Watts' obituaries.
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.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Isaac Watts Collection, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Cindy Bunch, 2003.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Isaac Watts, hymn writer and author of devotional poetry and prose, was born in Southampton in 1674. He was educated at Southampton Grammar School until he chose to attend the non-conformist academy of Stoke Newington from 1690 to 1694. Watts was almost a Unitarian in his religious outlook. In 1699 he became an assistant pastor of an independent chapel in London,

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where he became pastor in 1702. He retired in 1712 due to poor health. He received an honorary D.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1728. Isaac Watts died at Stoke Newington in 1748.

Watts is best known for his hymn writing. Some famous hymns include “O God our help in ages past,” and “When I survey the wondrous cross.” He is also known for writing “Divine Songs for Children.” Outside the realm hymns and poetry, Watts’ prose work reflected his liberal social and religious views by critiquing the civil establishment of a national church.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of two items. One item is a letter written by Isaac Watts in February of 1735. It refers to a book Watts wrote to correct what he saw as detrimental to the faith. The other item is a collection of Watts' obituaries.

