

# Guide to the Morgan Phelps Noyes Papers

RG 198



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409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 198

**CREATOR:** Noyes, Morgan Phelps, 1891-

**TITLE:** Morgan Phelps Noyes Papers

**DATES:** 1913-1972

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Sermons, writings, and memorabilia document the life and work of prominent Presbyterian minister Morgan Phelps Noyes. Noyes was a 1914 graduate of Yale University, received an honorary D.D. from Yale in 1938, and was a member of the Yale University Corporation from 1945 to 1959. He served served churches in New York and New Jersey from 1920 to 1957 and was Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York from 1945 to 1951.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.198>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.198>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Merrill Mead-Fox, 2013

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Morgan Phelps Noyes Papers (RG 198), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Morgan Phelps Noyes was born in Warren, Pennsylvania on March 29, 1891. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1910, from Yale University in 1914, from Union Theological Seminary in 1920, and received an M.A. from Columbia University in 1922. Noyes married Marjorie Clarke in 1926 and they had two children. He received an honorary doctorate from Yale University in 1938. He was a member of the Corporation of Yale University from 1945 to 1959. Rev. Noyes was a direct descendant of James Noyes (1640-1719), Senior Fellow of Yale University's original Board of Trustees.

Rev. Noyes was ordained in 1917 prior to his service with the YMCA in Russia. He served as Assistant Minister at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City from 1919 to 1920. He then served the Presbyterian Church of Dobbs Ferry, NY from 1920 to 1925, First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, NY from 1925 to 1932 and Central Presbyterian Church in Montclair, NJ from 1932 to 1957. Following his retirement he served in various interim pastorates in New Jersey and Connecticut. He was a member of the faculty at The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry from 1921 to 1925 and was Associate Professor Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary from 1945 to 1951.

Noyes died on June 20, 1972. For additional biographical information, see Series III, Biographical Documentation.

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## Scope and Contents

The sermons, writings, and biographical documentation in this collection provide insight into the life and work of prominent minister and civic leader Morgan Phelps Noyes. As noted in the memorial tribute of Yale Chaplain Sidney Lovett, Noyes was a "scholar and teacher, churchman and community leader, author and preacher."

Series I, Sermons, contains typescript and printed sermons from the years 1929 to 1971. The chronologically arranged sermons are followed by undated sermons arranged by title and scriptural text.

Series II, Writings and Notes, provides a flavor of the writings Noyes published in magazines and newspapers, as well as his booklength works and prayers. Notes from his days as a Yale student and as a minister are also available.

Series III, Biographical Documentation, includes documents, clippings, certificates, and tributes to Noyes' work for the church and community. Of particular interest are a set of 44 colored glass lantern slides that document the period when Noyes was serving with the YMCA in Russia, working with the Russian and Czechoslovakian armies during World War I. The slides show everyday life, street scenes, and military personnel in Russia during this era.

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## Arrangement

- I. Sermons, 1929-1971, no date
- II. Writings and Notes, 1913-1965, no date
- III. Biographical Documentation, 1918-1972, no date

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Sermons, 1929-1971, no date

b. 1, f. 1	Printed and typescript sermons, primarily preached at First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, including "The Reality of God" and "The Christian and his Country"	1928-1929
b. 1, f. 2	Printed sermons preached at First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn and Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "This Generation Seeketh After a Sign", "Puppets or Citizens"; published sermon "Our Debt to Seamen"	1930-1937
b. 1, f. 3	Typescript sermons, including "Conforming and Transforming", "Twenty-third Psalm"	1940-1943
b. 1, f. 4	Typescript sermons, including "So I Send You", "God's New Deed"; printed sermon "Everybody Has a Hard Fight"	1944-1946
b. 1, f. 5	Printed and typescript sermons, including "The Simplicity That Is In Christ (in memory of Dr. Grenfell)", "Isn't One Religion As Good As Another"	1947
b. 1, f. 6	Printed booklet: "Questions People Ask" - A series of sermons preached during the Lenten season 1947 in the Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, by The Reverend Morgan Phelps Noyes, D.D., Minister	1947
b. 1, f. 7	Printed and typescript sermons preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "Does the Church Have a Man's Job", "What is Freedom For?"	1948
b. 1, f. 8	Printed and typescript sermons preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "A Sane View of One's Self", "Thanksgiving - For What?"	1949
b. 1, f. 9	Printed and typescript sermons preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "Where the Light Shines", sermon preached at Yale University "The Goodness and Severity of God"	1950
b. 1, f. 10	Printed and typescript sermons preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "The Fact that Ends Fear", "Now Thank We All Our God"	1951
b. 1, f. 11	Printed and typescript sermons preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "Light For Our Times", "The Lord's Prayer"	1952
b. 2, f. 1	Printed and typescript sermons, primarily preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "The Golden Calf", "For an Age of Anxiety"	1953-1954
b. 4, f. 1	Printed and typescript sermons primarily preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "The Beatitudes", "Questions Men Asked Jesus"	1954
b. 4, f. 2	Printed and typescript sermons primarily preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "The Marks of Discipleship", "The Layman and the Church"	1955
b. 4, f. 3	Printed and typescript sermons primarily preached at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, New Jersey, including "Books That Changed the World", "The Reformation Faith"	1956-1957

b. 4, f. 4	Typescript sermons, primarily preached at First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio, including "The Redeeming Gospel", "I Have Found the Book"	1959-1960
b. 4, f. 5	Printed and typescript sermons, including "His Dying - Our Living", "The Cup of the New Covenant"	1961-1971
b. 2, f. 2	Undated sermons by title: "Can Christianity Be Practiced in Today's World" - "Freedom and Education"	no date
b. 2, f. 3	Undated sermons by title: "Gateways to God" - "Is Belief in God Superstition?"	no date
b. 2, f. 4	Undated sermons by title: "The Law of Liberty" - "Workmen Not Ashamed"	no date
b. 2, f. 5	Undated sermons by scriptural citation: Old Testament	no date
b. 2, f. 6	Undated sermons by scriptural citation: Gospels	no date
b. 2, f. 7	Undated sermons by scriptural citation: Epistles	no date
b. 5, f. 1	Addendum: Typescript sermon on I. Corinthians 2:6, printed sermon "Time to Trust"; handwritten notes for sermons	1945-1957
b. 5, f. 2	Addendum: Printed sermons, including series on the Lord's Prayer preached at First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio	1947-1960

**Series II: Writings and Notes, 1913-1965, no date**

b. 2, f. 9	Typescript talks and essays, including "Religious Tolerance in a Democracy", "The Christian Family";	1940-1960
b. 4, f. 6	Typescript talks and essays, including "Some Reflections on the Theistic Problem", "Why Doesn't the Church Take a Stand?", "The Mysticism of Thomas à Kempis"	no date
b. 2, f. 10	Address: "The Role of the Private Citizen in Relation to the Social Services of the State"; published book reviews by Noyes; reviews of "Preaching the Word of God" by Noyes	1930s-ca. 1965
b. 2, f. 11	Book: <i>Henry Sloane Coffin, the Man and his Ministry</i> (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964)	1964
b. 4, f. 7	Reviews and publicity for <i>Henry Sloane Coffin, the Man and his Ministry</i>	1964
b. 4, f. 8	Letters regarding <i>Henry Sloane Coffin, the Man and his Ministry</i> , including from William Sloane Coffin	1963 Jul - 1964 May
b. 4, f. 9	Letters regarding <i>Henry Sloane Coffin, the Man and his Ministry</i> , including from Mrs. Henry Sloane Coffin	1964 Jun - 1965 Dec, no date
b. 4, f. 10	Pamphlet: <i>Louis F. Benson, Hymnologist</i> , published by Hymn Society of America	1955
b. 3, f. 1	Prayers	1935-1961, no date
b. 5, f. 3-4	Prayers	1919-1970
b. 3, f. 2	Notebook: Notes taken for Philosophy class at Yale	1913-1914
b. 3, f. 3	2 Notebooks: notes and quotes	1930s-1960s

**Series III: Biographical Documentation, 1918-1972, no date**

b. 3, f. 4	Correspondence, including from Henry Sloane Coffin, Sidney Lovett	1918-1967
b. 3, f. 5	CV, biographical documents, citations and tributes	1920-1970, no date
b. 3, f. 6	Biographical newspaper clippings	1929-1948
b. 3, f. 7	Biographical newspaper clippings, interview with Noyes in <i>The Christian Ministry</i>	1950-1971
b. 3, f. 8	Miscellaneous orders of service	
b. 3, f. 9	Memorial service program, tributes, obituaries for Noyes	1972
b. 3, f. 10	Photographs, including of Yale Corporation	1955-1959
b. 6, item 1-22b. 7, item 23-44	<a href="#">44 lantern slides taken when Noyes was serving with the YMCA in Russia during World War I</a>	circa 1917-1918



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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Sermons, American

### **Names**

Noyes, Morgan Phelps, 1891-