

# Guide to the Alexander Stevenson Twombly Papers

MS 1163



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

August 1980

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1163

**CREATOR:** Twombly, Alexander S. (Alexander Stevenson), 1832-1907

**TITLE:** Alexander Stevenson Twombly papers

**DATES:** 1843-1907

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters from personal friends and famous people concerning Twombly's work as minister, author, president of the Yale Alumni Association of Boston.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1163>

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## Requesting Instructions

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To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

Purchased in 1947.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Alexander Stevenson Twombly Papers (MS 1163). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

ALEXANDER STEVENSON TWOMBLY, son of Alexander Hamilton and Mary (Perley) Twombly, was born March 14, 1832, in Boston, Mass. Before fitting for college he spent two years in a store, and after preparation in the school of Lewis J. Dudley (Y.C. 1838) in Northampton, Mass., he joined the class at the beginning of Sophomore year.

After graduation he entered the Andover Theological Seminary and finished his course in 1858, having meantime spent part of the years 1856-1857 in travel and study at Heidelberg, Germany. He was ordained February 10, 1859, and was pastor of the Presbyterian church in Cherry Valley, N.Y., for three years. In 1862 he accepted a call as the first pastor of the State Street Presbyterian Church of Albany, N.Y., where he remained five years. From the spring of 1867 to 1872 he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, Conn., and then for nineteen years of the Winthrop (Congregational) Church, in Charlestown, Mass. (now Bunker Hill District of Boston). He remained with this church, admired and beloved, until his retirement from pastoral service in 1891, when he bought a home in Newton, Mass. He spent the year 1886-1887 abroad. During four months of the winter and spring of 1894 he was the acting pastor of the Central Union Church at Honolulu. As the result of his sojourn there he wrote "Hawaii and its People" and "Kelea, the Surf Rider: a Story," both published in 1900.

He often contributed to the religious and secular press and for a time in 1891 was editorially connected with the *Boston Traveler*. From 1896 to 1898 he was Literary Editor for the publishing house of Silver, Burdett & Co., issuing during that time "The Silver Series of English Classics," in ten volumes. Besides this work he was the author of "Merry Maple Leaves," 1872; "The Choir Boy of York Cathedral, and other Christmas Stories," 1890; "Masterpieces of Michelangelo and Milton"; and "Life of Dr. John Lord," 1896.

In 1883 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Yale, and from 1881 to 1885 was President of the Yale Alumni Association of Boston. He was for five years Vice-President of the Associated Charities of Newton and President from 1902 to 1908.

Dr. Twombly died after a brief illness at his home in Newton, November 19, 1907, at the age of 75 years.

He married, December 23, 1858, Abby, daughter of Jacob Bancroft, of Boston, and had five sons, all of whom with Mrs. Twombly survive him. Four of the sons graduated from the Academical Department of Yale, in 1881, 1884, 1891, and 1896, respectively, and the other from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1887.

*Yale Obituary Record*, 1900-1910.

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## Scope and Contents

The Alexander S. Twombly Papers consist mainly of letters to Twombly from famous people and personal friends. There are also clippings about the correspondents and a small number of drawings, photographs,

and writings. Most of the letters are mounted in three scrapbooks (numbered 1, 2, and 4), which are the entire contents of Box 1. Box 2 contains the remaining papers, including loose letters, some of which were originally in scrapbook 3. The following pages contain an index to the correspondence.

These papers were purchased by Yale University in 1947.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1843-1907

b. 1, f. 1	Scrapbook, vol. 1	
b. 1, f. 2	Scrapbook, vol. 2	
b. 1, f. 3	Scrapbook, vol. 3 (introductory pages only)	
b. 1, f. 4	Scrapbook, vol. 4	
b. 2, f. 5-33	Loose letters, A-W	
b. 2, f. 34	Loose letters, unidentified	
	Miscellaneous	
b. 2, f. 35	Calling cards and invitations	undated
b. 2, f. 36	"How I came to be a minister..." and other writings English	undated
b. 2, f. 37	A.S. Twombly: deed to Jacob Bancroft	1833
b. 2, f. 38	Photographs and engravings	[ca. 1845], undated
b. 2, f. 39-40	Newspaper clippings re: people whose letters are in the collection	undated
b. 2, f. 41	Miscellaneous printed matter	undated

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## Index of Correspondents

Note: Most of the letters are mounted in three scrapbooks (numbered vols. 1, 2, and 4), which are the entire contents of Box 1. Box 2 contains the remaining papers, including loose letters, some of which were originally in scrapbook vol. 3.

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Armstrong, William N.	vol 1	p. 66
Bacon, Leon	vol 2	p. 98
Bancroft, Cecil Franklin P.	vol 4	p. 109
Barbour, William M.	vol 1	p. 45
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Barton, William E.		
Beckwith, E.G.	vol. 2	p. 4
Bertrand, L.J.	vol. 2	pp. 88-89
Bingham, Hiram	vol. 2	p. 3
Birnie, Douglas P.	vol. 4	p. 33
Bischoff, Alice (Colby)		

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Boynton, Nehemiah	vol. 2	p. 71
Brewer, William H.	vol. 4	p. 97
Bridgman, C. DeWitt	vol. 2	p. 39
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Brown, Charles R.		
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Churchill, Mary (Donald	vol. 2	p. 35
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Crane, Winthrop M.		
Cruikshank, James	vol. 2	p. 119
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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

Clergy  
Clergy as authors

### Names

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