

**S0300 Gibson, George Miles, Jr. (1896-1980)**  
**Papers, 1913-1996**  
**138 Folders**

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The papers of George Miles Gibson, pastor, professor, and author, were given to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection by Dr. Gibson's son, Morgan Gibson, on August 15, 1996.

George M. Gibson was born in Macon, Missouri, in 1896. His father, George M. Gibson, Sr., a Methodist minister, moved his family to north Texas where George Jr. grew up. Gibson received his bachelor of arts degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He served as an officer in France in World War I. After the war Gibson had a brief career as a businessman and as a reporter for the Dallas Dispatch, and then he returned to Southern Methodist University to study theology.

Gibson married Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Leeper in Coleman, Texas, in 1921. He served as pastor of Methodist Churches in Pilot Point, Texas, in Mesquite, Texas, and of a Congregational Church in Cleveland, Ohio. His son, George Morgan (Morgan) Gibson, was born in Cleveland in 1929.

George Gibson served as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Webster Groves, Missouri, from 1930 to 1938. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves in 1938. He left St. Louis to become pastor of the great United Church of Hyde Park in Chicago, Illinois, which he served from 1938 to 1946. The United Church of Hyde Park was both Congregational and Presbyterian.

Gibson was editor-in-chief of Pilgrim Press in Boston from 1946 to 1948. He then returned to Chicago where he became Professor of Homiletics (preaching) at McCormick Theological Seminary. He taught at McCormick for 17 years, and Westminster Press in Philadelphia published his textbook, called Planned Preaching, in 1954.

In 1965 Gibson retired from McCormick Theological Seminary to become an associate pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He also served as an adjunct professor at San Francisco Theological Seminary, beginning in 1968. He retired from preaching in 1971 and from teaching in 1972.

Gibson was a dynamic speaker and a prolific writer. He was an ardent pacifist and promoted liberal causes. During the Depression, while supplying the Congregational Church in Webster Groves, Dr. Gibson was an active member of the Metropolitan Church Federation of St. Louis and served on the Interracial Task Force. He promoted integration and better conditions for labor. Gibson wrote and spoke about Socialism and advocated many of the social reforms that became part of Roosevelt's New Deal.

In Chicago Dr. Gibson gave generously of his time to the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, and in the 1940s he led a crusade to reform the Chicago School Board and the Chicago city aldermen responsible for corruption in the Chicago public school administration. In the 1960s Gibson supported the Civil Rights Movement and in the 1970s he opposed the war in Viet Nam.

The Gibsons spent their summers at the Congregational Assembly on Crystal Lake in Frankfort, Michigan. Dr. Gibson served as president of the Assembly, designed its meetinghouse, and wrote a hymn, "Christ of the Pilgrim Way," which was a favorite there.

Dr. Gibson wrote *The Story of the Christian Year* in 1945, and it is still available in most libraries. He wrote many articles which were published by *The Christian Century*, *The Christian Century Pullitzer*, *The Journal of Bible and Religion*, *The McCormick Quarterly*, *Crossroads*, and *Social Progress*. His papers include several full length manuscripts which have not been published, including "Conversations on Socialism," "The Drama of Preaching," "The Final Octave," "George Miles Gibson (Sr.), Liberal of the Old Order," "These Things I Remember," and "By the Rivers of My Memory."

Gibson's son, Morgan, became a professor of creative writing and a published poet, a member and literary critic of the beat generation.

Betty Gibson died in 1977, and George Gibson died in 1980.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The George Miles Gibson Papers contain published and unpublished books, articles, sermons, manuscripts, journals, and correspondence of George Miles Gibson, Jr. They contain class outlines for teaching homiletics and literature and notes and quotes for sermons. They contain newspaper clippings about Gibson, and they contain books written by Gibson and books in which Gibson is mentioned. And they contain biographical and autobiographical writings and other genealogical materials about George Miles Gibson, Sr., George Miles, Jr., and Betty Leeper Gibson. The papers also contain correspondence and some of the published poetry of Morgan Gibson.

Gibson collected his sermons, articles, clippings, journal entries, class outlines sermon notes and ideas, and quotations in small, black, three-ring notebooks. The materials have been removed from those notebooks. The original order of the pages has been preserved and the titles of the notebooks have been retained as the folder titles. The Gibson Papers are organized into 14 series and arranged chronologically within each series.

To find materials on specific topics, such as Webster Groves, World War II, the Depression, or McCormick Theological Seminary, look through Sermons, Correspondence, Scrapbooks, Sermon Notes, and journals for the appropriate years.

### **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

Series 1: Personal Life, 1913-1986. Folders 1-10.

Diplomas, certificates, miscellaneous correspondence, clippings, and church brochures, bulletins, directories, and histories. Arranged chronologically.

Series 2: Sermons and Papers, 1936-1961. Folders 11-16.

Typescripts for sermons, speeches, funeral services, radio broadcasts, and published articles. Arranged chronologically, with a table of contents at the beginning of each folder. Series 3: Correspondence, 1946-1970. Folders 17-20.

Correspondence, mostly to George Gibson, on leaving Chicago for Pilgrim Press and then on returning to Chicago; also correspondence to George Gibson regarding the publication of his writings and in response to his published work. Arranged chronologically.

Series 4: Small Scrapbooks, 1887-1970. Folders 21-23.

Small Scrapbook pages containing newspaper clippings written by George Gibson for the Dallas Dispatch; newspaper clippings about George Gibson and George Gibson, Sr.; clippings about sermons; clippings from church bulletins; and clippings of articles and sermons by Gibson published in various religious publications. Arranged somewhat chronologically.

Series 5: Manuscripts, 1932-1966. Folders 33-49.

Typed manuscripts, all unpublished, except for Planned Preaching which was published by Westminster Press in Philadelphia, in 1954. "The Story of Preaching" and "The Timeline of Greek Literature" are both long, horizontal, multicolored timelines. "The Drama of Preaching" is a history of preaching and of great preachers from biblical times completed through the Reformation and outlined from the Reformation through the twentieth century. "Final Octave" is a Drama of Holy Week and the Easter Faith. The manuscripts are arranged chronologically.

Series 6: Sermon Notes and Ideas, 1932-1972. Folders 50-68.

Sermon Notes are the short outlines for sermons, or quotations or reflections used in sermons, giving the date used, but arranged alphabetically by title or subject. Table Talk Notes are random ideas for sermons, classes on preaching, articles, and books. The Parts of Worship include Calls, Invocations, Assurances, Collects, Offering Prayers, Creeds, Covenants, Benedictions, Prayers, and Hymns, arranged in that order. The Sermon Notes that are dated are brief outlines from sermons.

Series 7: Published and Unpublished Writings, 1955-1967. Folders 69-72.

Typescripts for articles, speeches, editorials, and lectures. Similar to Series 2, but later chronologically. Includes materials from McCormick Theological Seminary and First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Series 8: Journals, 1938-1978. Folders 73-102.

Diary entries, some typed, some handwritten. Reflections on personal, local, and world events. Arranged chronologically.

Series 9: Autobiographical Writings, 1974. Folders 103-105.

Unpublished memoirs of George Gibson from his youth through his pastorate at Mesquite, Texas (about 1896-1926). Both memoirs are the same, although they have different titles.

Series 10: Family Matters, 1887-1974. Folders 106-124.

A biography of George M. Gibson, Sr. by George M. Gibson, Jr. Scrapbooks, correspondence, and published writings of George M. Gibson, Sr. Correspondence between

father and son, Sr. and Jr., and between George Gibson Jr. and his son, Morgan. Correspondence regarding publication of books by George Gibson. Miscellaneous correspondence, poetry, and genealogy of George Gibson. And family memoirs of Betty Leeper Gibson.

Series 11: Books by Gorge M. Gibson, 1926-1954. Folders 125-129.  
Published books and booklets.

Series 12: Art by George M. Gibson, mostly undated. Folders 130-132.  
Sketches, cartoons, and tempera.

Series 13: Books Containing Mention of George M. Gibson, 1931-1972. Folders 133-137.

Books on religion which mention George Gibson, except Fortitude by Hugh Walpole which contains handwritten notes by George Gibson and a young woman parishioner.

Series 14: Morgan Gibson, 1965-1996. Folder 138.  
Booklets containing poetry and critical essays by Morgan Gibson.

**FOLDER LIST**  
**BOX 1 (103517)**

Series 1: Personal Life

1. George M. Gibson, Personal Materials from Texas, 1913-1971.
2. First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 1937-1979.
3. Hyde Park Church, Chicago, 1941-1967.
4. The Pilgrim Press, 1946-1948.
5. Congregational Assembly, 1952-1980.
6. McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, 1953-1975.
7. Politics, Communism, and Civil Rights, 1952-1977.
8. First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1964-1986.
9. Scenario Slide Show Text, 1969.
10. San Francisco Theological Seminary, 1968-1972.

Series 2: Sermons and Papers

11. The Seven Teachings and Seven Rules, 1936.
12. Sermons, 1938-1942.
13. Sermons and Papers, 1943-1946.
14. Sermons and Papers, 1947-1951.

15. Sermons and Papers, 1952-1956.

16. Sermons and Papers, 1954-1961.

Series 3: Correspondence

17. Boston Correspondence while at Pilgrim Press, 1946-1949.

18. Editorial Correspondence, 1949-1954.

19. Editorial Correspondence, 1955-1959.

20. Editorial Correspondence, 1960-1970.

**BOX 2 (103518)**

Series 4: Small Scrapbooks

21. Clippings Scrapbook, Stories by Gibson, 1921-1923; Stories about Gibson, 1923-1941.

22. Clippings Notebook, Genealogy, Father's Death, Texas, Webster Groves, 1887-1938.

23. Clippings Notebook, Chicago, 1938-1945.

24. Clippings Notebook, Chicago, 1946.

25. Published Articles and Sermons, 1915-1928.

26. Published Articles and Sermons, 1930-1938.

27. Published Articles and Sermons, 1938-1941.

28. Published Articles and Sermons, 1942-1948.

29. Published Articles and Sermons, 1949-1952.

30. Published Articles and Sermons, 1953-1955.

31. Published Articles and Sermons, 1956-1958.

32. Published Articles And Sermons, 1959-1970.

Series 5: Manuscripts

33. Conversations on Socialism, 1932.

34. Realism and Reality, 1941.

35. The Strait Gate, 1943.

36. No Other Foundation, 1949.

37. Sermon Design, 1950.

38. The Story of Preaching (Chart), 1952.

39. Timeline of Greek Literature, 1952.

40. Planned Preaching, 1953.

41. The Drama of Preaching, 1960.

**BOX 3 (103519)**

42. The Drama of Preaching, Draft, pp.1-131, 1960.

43. The Drama of Preaching, Draft, pp. 132-285, 1960.

44. The Drama of Preaching, Draft, Part 2, 1960.

45. Principles of Preaching, Class Outline, Part 1, 1949-1963.

46. Principles of Preaching, Class Outline, Part 2, 1949-1963.

47. Final Octave, 1962.

48. Literature and Life, Class Outline, Part 1, 1966.

49. Literature and Life, Class Outline, Part 2, 1966.

Series 6: Sermon Notes and Ideas

50. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, A-C, 1938-1964.

51. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, D-F, 1938-1964.

52. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, G-L, 1938-1964.

53. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, M-N, 1938-1964.

54. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, O-R, 1938-1964.

55. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, S-U, 1938-1964.

56. Sermon Notes, Alphabetically by Subject, V-Z, 1938-1964.

57. Table Talk Notes, no date.

58. Table Talk Notes, no date.

59. The Parts of Worship, Calls - Benedictions, no date.

60. The Parts of Worship, Prayers, no date.

61. Quotations, no date.

**BOX 4 (103520)**

62. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1932-1966.

63. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1938-1966.

64. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1938-1968.

65. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1953-1969.

66. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1941-1969.

67. Sermon Notes, most dated, 1970-1972.

68. Sermons, 1965-1972.

Series 7: Published and Unpublished Writings

69. Published Articles, 1962-1967.

70. Lectures, 1955-1968.

71. Chicago Voices, (Preachers), 1964.

72. Presbyterian Confession of Faith Controversy, 1967.

Series 8: journals

73. Journal, 1938.

74. Journal, 1938-1940.

75. Journal, Jan.-May, 1941.

76. Journal, May-Dec., 1941.

77. Journal, 1942.

78. Journal, 1943.

79. Journal, 1944.

80. Journal, 1945-1947.

81. Journal, 1948-1951.

82. Journal, 1951-1952.

83. Journal, Jan.-Apr., 1953.

84. Journal, Apr.-Dec., 1953.

85. Journal, Jan.-June, 1954.

86. Journal, June-Dec., 1954.

87. Journal, 1955.

**BOX 5 (103521)**

88. Journal, Jan.-Oct., 1956.

89. Journal, Oct.-Dec., 1956.

90. Journal, 1957.

91. Journal, 1958.

92. Journal, 1959.

93. Journal, 1960-1961.

94. Journal, 1962-1963.

95. Journal, 1964-1965.

96. Journal Index, 1938-1965.

97. Green Leaves journal, Jan.-Mar., 1971.

98. Green Leaves journal, Apr.-Dec., 1971.

99. Green Leaves journal, 1972.

100. Green Leaves journal, 1973-1977.

101. Leaves from the Days journal, July, 1977-Jan., 1978.

102. Leaves from the Owl's Roost journal, 1978.

Series 9: Autobiographical Writings

103. These Things I Remember, pp.1-112, 1973.

104. These Things I Remember, pp.113-225, 1973.

105. By the Rivers of My Memory, 1974.

Series 10: Family Matters

106. George Miles Gibson (Sr.), Liberal of the Old Order, 1932

107. The Evangelization of Children, George M. Gibson Sr., n.d.

108. Scrapbook of George M. Gibson Sr., 1887-1923.

**BOX 6 (103522)**



109. Scrapbook of George M. Gibson Sr., 1924-1930.
110. A History of New Testament Times, George M. Gibson Sr, 1927.
111. Correspondence of George M. Gibson Sr., 1847-1913.
112. Correspondence of George M. Gibson Sr. and Jr., 1914-1931.
113. Correspondence of George M. Gibson Sr. and Jr., 1924-1932.
114. Correspondence, Morgan Gibson to George Gibson, 1949-1960.
115. Correspondence, Morgan Gibson to George Gibson, 1960-1968.
116. Correspondence, Morgan Gibson to George Gibson, 1968-1972.
117. Correspondence, The Story of the Christian Year, 1945-1963.
118. Correspondence, The Final Octave, 1950-1962.
119. Correspondence, Planned Preaching, 1953-1955.
120. Correspondence, The Drama of Preaching, 1958-1961.
121. Correspondence, 1949-1974.
122. Poetry and Personal, 1961-1979.
123. Genealogy, Gibson and Leeper, 1963-1973.
124. Blue Northers, Black-eyed Pease and Roses in December, by Betty Gibson, 1974.

**BOX 7 (103523)**

Series 11: Books by George M. Gibson

125. The Forgotten Document, 1926.
126. I Believe in the Bible, Pilgrim Press, n.d.
127. The Story of the Christian Year, 1945.
128. The Story of the Christian Year, (paperback), 1945.
129. Planned Preaching, 1954.

Series 12: Art by George M. Gibson

130. Sketchbook, n.d.
131. Miss Lola and Other Sketches, n.d.
132. The Seven Lamps of Theology, Satires in Tempera, 1950.

Series 13: Books Containing Mention of George M. Gibson

133. There is This About Letters, A Collection of Letters Delivered Before the Six O'Clock Club, 1931.

134. America Prigs, by Norman Nygaard, 1946. (GMG on p.352).

135. Detroit Annual National joint Conference on Church Architecture and Church Building, 1958. (GMG on p.17).

136. Methodism Moves Across North Texas, by Walter M. Vernon, 1967. (GMG Sr. and GMG Jr. in index).

137. Fortitude, by Hugh Walpole, book with notes, 1972.

Series 14: Morgan Gibson

138. Published Writings of Morgan Gibson, 1965-1996.

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Chicago Public Schools Reform, 1945-1946.

Civil Rights Movement.

Communism.

Congregational Summer Assembly, Pilgrim, Michigan.

Congregationalism.

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Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri.

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves.

Gibson, George Miles, Sr.

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Gibson, George Morgan.

Gibson, Mary Elizabeth Leeper.

McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.

Methodism.

Pacifism.

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Presbyterianism.

Sermons.

Slavery in Virginia, f.106, 111, 124.

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United Church of Hyde Park, Chicago.

Viet Nam War.

Webster Groves, Missouri.

World War II.