

Phil Teigen North American churches postcard collection

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1904-2010



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0317

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/505

Unit Date

1904-2010

Language

English Swedish

Abstract

This collection contains postcards of churches of many Christian denominations from the United States and Canada.

Creator

Teigen, Philip M.

Extent

4.5 Linear Feet 13 boxes

Physical Location

R 54, C 3, S 3-4 R 54, C 4, S 3

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated. (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Donated by Phil Teigen in September 2018.

Additional materials donated by Phil Teigen in July 2019.

Processing Information

Processing completed by Elizabeth Beckman in October 2018. EAD markup completed by Elizabeth Beckman in October 2018. Additional processing completed and finding aid updated by Meghan Glasbrenner from April-May 2025.

Preferred Citation

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Biographical and Historical Information

Philip M. Teigen (b. 1941) is a trained historian of science and medicine, having received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1976, and spent his professional life working as a historian at McGill University in Montréal, Canada and the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland. Additionally, he completed many projects surrounding the history of religious congregations, primarily Lutheran, in both Washington, D.C. and throughout North America, including identifying and researching the history of thirty-three Lutheran congregations in the District and photographing forty-fifty buildings that represent current or past Lutheran congregations.

Immigrants from Europe and Asia brought a wide variety of Christian beliefs to North America. As Peter Williams notes, "The pluralism of America's religious experience is a given from the beginnings, first for the colonial settlements in aggregate, then later in virtually every town, city, and state" ("Houses of God", xii). He goes on to describe how these many religious groups impacted the built environment as they came "in succeeding waves of immigration, each bringing with them and/or adapting for their own purposes a wide variety of types of houses of worship and other sacred sites and structures" ("Houses of God," xii). This diversity of religious architecture is reflected in material commemorative culture, including through postcards.

Scope and Content

This collection contains postcards from churches of many denominations across the United States and Canada. The postcards date from 1904-2010, although many are undated. The processor included undated in the date range for a series or box if it seemed likely that some of the postcards in the group date from outside the given range. More than half of the postcards depict Lutheran churches; there are also many

postcards of Roman Catholic churches and Episcopal churches, as well as other Christian denominations. Many of the postcards contained mailed correspondence on the back from a mix of senders and recipients, but the number and location of these has not been noted in the finding aid. The postcards are organized by denomination and alphabetically by state (sometimes city), as well as whether they depict church interiors or exteriors. The collections contains five series.

Series 1: Lutheran churches, 1904-2010 (Boxes 1-7) includes postcards of Lutheran churches from the United States and Canada. It is divided into two subseries. Sub-series 1: Lutheran church exteriors and Sub-series 2: Lutheran church interiors.

Series 2: Roman Catholic churches, 1907-1995 (Boxes 8-10) includes postcards of Roman Catholic churches across the United States and Canada.

Series 3: Episcopal churches, 1908-1983, undated (Boxes 10-11) includes postcards of Episcopal churches across the United States and Canada.

Series 4: Other denominations, 1908-2000 (Boxes 11-12) is the smallest series, and includes postcards of a variety of churches, including Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Orthodox, and other denominations, as well as non-denominational.

Series 5: Additional postcards, circa 1910s-2000s (Box 13) includes additional postcards donated in 2019. Dates for postcards in this series were determined based on stamps where possible and were otherwise estimated based on style and design. It is divided into four subseries. Sub-series 1: Additional Lutheran churches (circa 1910s-2000s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Lutheran churches. Postcards are arranged by size and then alphabetically by state, with oversized items at the end. One postcard depicts a church in Ontario, Canada which has been placed at the end of the state arrangement before the oversized. Sub-series 2: Additional Roman Catholic churches (circa 1950s-2000s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Roman Catholic churches. Postcards are arranged by size and then alphabetically by state, with oversized items at the end. Sub-series 3: Additional Episcopal churches (circa 1950s-1980s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Episcopal churches. Postcards are arranged alphabetically by state. Sub-series 4: Additional other denominations (circa 1950s-1990s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of churches for a variety of other denominations and uses. Postcards are arranged alphabetically by use or denomination and then alphabetically by state.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other postcard collections, including the Gustav Klemp World War I collection, Randolph Lytton historic Washington, D.C. postcards and photographs collection, and Lavinia Scott papers.

The DC History Center holds the Philip Teigen papers, which includes Teigen's decade-long research on the Lutheran churches of Washington, D.C., along with original photographs of local Lutheran churches.

Keywords

Catholic church buildings
Church buildings
Lutheran church buildings
Postcards
Anglican church buildings
Correspondence

Bibliography

"MS 0960 - Philip Teigen Papers." 2024. DC History Center. 2024.
<https://dchistory.catalogaccess.com/archives/109847>.

Williams, Peter W. *Houses of God: Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States*. Urbana/Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1997.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into five series by denomination and then chronologically.

- Series 1: Lutheran churches

- Series 2: Roman Catholic churches
- Series 3: Episcopal churches
- Series 4: Other denominations
- Series 5: Additional postcards

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Lutheran churches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117158

Unit Date 1904-2010

Mixed Materials 1-7 (box)

Scope and Content

Series 1: Lutheran churches, 1904-2010 (Boxes 1-7) includes postcards of Lutheran churches from the United States and Canada. It is divided into two subseries. Sub-series 1: Lutheran church exteriors and Sub-series 2: Lutheran church interiors.

Subseries 1.1: Lutheran church exteriors

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117162

Unit Date 1904-2010

Mixed Materials 1-7 (box)

Scope and Content

Series 1: Lutheran churches, 1904-2010 (Boxes 1-7) includes postcards of Lutheran churches from the United States and Canada. It is divided into two subseries. Sub-series 1: Lutheran church exteriors and Sub-series 2: Lutheran church interiors.

Alabama-Indiana

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117188

Unit Date 1905-2001

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Iowa-Minnesota

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117189

Unit Date 1904-1988

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Minnesota

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117190

Unit Date 1907-1986

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Mississippi-Ohio

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117191

Unit Date 1906-1977, undated

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Ohio-South Carolina

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117192

Unit Date 1905-2010

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

South Dakota-Wisconsin**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117193**Unit Date** 1906-1999**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)**Wisconsin-Wyoming****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117194**Unit Date** 1907-1967, undated**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)**Subseries 1.2: Lutheran church interiors****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117163**Unit Date** 1906-2000**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)**Scope and Content**

Series 1: Lutheran churches, 1904-2010 (Boxes 1-7) includes postcards of Lutheran churches from the United States and Canada. It is divided into two subseries. Sub-series 1: Lutheran church exteriors and Sub-series 2: Lutheran church interiors.

Alabama-Wisconsin**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117195**Unit Date** 1906-2000**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)**Series 2: Roman Catholic churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117159**Unit Date** 1907-1995**Mixed Materials** 8-10 (box)**Scope and Content**

Series 2: Roman Catholic churches, 1907-1995 (Boxes 8-10) includes postcards of Roman Catholic churches across the United States and Canada.

Alabama-Massachusetts**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117164**Unit Date** 1907-1986**Mixed Materials** 8 (Box)**Scope and Contents**

Also includes unknown at beginning

Michigan-Pennsylvania**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117165**Unit Date** 1907-1989**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)**Prince Edward Island - Wyoming****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117166**Unit Date** 1907-1995**Mixed Materials** 10 (Box)**Series 3: Episcopal churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117160**Unit Date** 1908-1983, undated

Mixed Materials 10-11 (box)

Scope and Content

Series 3: Episcopal churches, 1908-1983, undated (Boxes 10-11) includes postcards of Episcopal churches across the United States and Canada.

Alabama-New York

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117167

Unit Date 1908-1983, undated

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

North Carolina-Wyoming

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117168

Unit Date 1910-1976, undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Series 4: Other denominations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117161

Unit Date 1908-2000

Mixed Materials 11-12 (box)

Scope and Content

Series 4: Other denominations, 1908-2000 (Boxes 11-12) is the smallest series, and includes postcards of a variety of churches, including Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Orthodox, and other denominations, as well as non-denominational.

African Methodist Episcopal churches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117169

Unit Date circa 1960s-1970s

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Baptist churches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117170

Unit Date 1953-1983, undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Churches of the Brethren

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117171

Unit Date circa 1950s-1983

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Christian churches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117172

Unit Date 1957-1977, undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Christian Science churches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/117173

Unit Date 1934-1962

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

College and university non-denominational churches**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117174**Unit Date** circa 1960s-1970s**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Community churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117175**Unit Date** circa 1950s-1970s**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Congregational churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117176**Unit Date** 1908-1986**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Evangelical and Reformed churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117177**Unit Date** 1910-1974, undated**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Mennonite churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117178**Unit Date** 1964**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Methodist churches - Alabama-Missouri****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117179**Unit Date** 1920-1990**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Methodist churches - Montana-Wyoming****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117180**Unit Date** 1908-circa 1970s, undated**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Military churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117181**Unit Date** 1953-1977, undated**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Assemblies of God, Nazarene, Moravian, etc. churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117182**Unit Date** 1952-1954, undated**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Non-denominational churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117183**Unit Date** 1908-1990**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)

Orthodox churches**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117184**Unit Date** 1959-1973, undated**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Presbyterian churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117185**Unit Date** 1908-2000**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Unitarian/Universalist churches****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117186**Unit Date** 1936-1970, undated**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**United Church of Christ****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/117187**Unit Date** 1956-1992, undated**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Series 5: Additional postcards****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388345**Unit Date** circa 1910s-2000s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Scope and Content**

Series 5: Additional postcards, circa 1910s-2000s (Box 13) includes additional postcards donated in 2019. Dates for postcards in this series were determined based on stamps where possible and were otherwise estimated based on style and design. It is divided into four subseries. Sub-series 1: Additional Lutheran churches (circa 1910s-2000s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Lutheran churches. Postcards are arranged by size and then alphabetically by state, with oversized items at the end. One postcard depicts a church in Ontario, Canada which has been placed at the end of the state arrangement before the oversized. Sub-series 2: Additional Roman Catholic churches (circa 1950s-2000s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Roman Catholic churches. Postcards are arranged by size and then alphabetically by state, with oversized items at the end. Sub-series 3: Additional Episcopal churches (circa 1950s-1980s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Episcopal churches. Postcards are arranged alphabetically by state. Sub-series 4: Additional other denominations (circa 1950s-1990s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of churches for a variety of other denominations and uses. Postcards are arranged alphabetically by use or denomination and then alphabetically by state.

Sub-series 1: Additional Lutheran churches**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388346**Unit Date** circa 1910s-2000s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Scope and Content**

Sub-series 1: Additional Lutheran churches (circa 1910s-2000s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Lutheran churches. Postcards are arranged by size and then alphabetically by state, with oversized items at the end. One postcard depicts a church in Ontario, Canada which has been placed at the end of the state arrangement before the oversized.

Florida and Georgia**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388347**Unit Date** circa 1960s-1970s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 1 (Page)

Iowa and Illinois

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388348

Unit Date circa 1910s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 2 (Page)

Minnesota

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388349

Unit Date circa 1960s-1980s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 3 (Page)

Nebraska, New York, and Nevada

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388350

Unit Date circa 1950s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 4 (Page)

North Carolina and Pennsylvania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388351

Unit Date circa 1940s-1960s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 5 (Page)

Pennsylvania and South Carolina

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388352

Unit Date circa 1940s-1960s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 6 (Page)

South Carolina, West Virginia, and Ontario, Canada

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388353

Unit Date circa 1960s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 7 (Page)

Oversized Illinois and Pennsylvania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388354

Unit Date circa 1990s-2000s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 8 (Page)

Sub-series 2: Additional Roman Catholic churches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388356

Unit Date circa 1950s-2000s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Scope and Content

Sub-series 2: Additional Roman Catholic churches (circa 1950s-2000s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Roman Catholic churches. Postcards are arranged by size and then alphabetically by state, with oversized items at the end.

Alabama, Arkansas, and California**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388357**Unit Date** circa 1960s-1990s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 9 (Page)**Colorado, Florida, and Georgia****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388358**Unit Date** circa 1960s-1990s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 10 (Page)**Georgia, Idaho, and Illinois****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388359**Unit Date** circa 1960s-1990s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 11 (Page)**Illinois****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388360**Unit Date** circa 1960s-1990s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 12 (Page)**Illinois and Indiana****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388361**Unit Date** circa 1960s-1990s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 13 (Page)**Indiana, Louisiana, and Maine****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388362**Unit Date** circa 1950s-1980s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 14 (Page)**Maryland, Massachusetts, and Michigan****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388363**Unit Date** 1950s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 15 (Page)**Mississippi and Missouri****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/388364**Unit Date** circa 1950s-1980s**Mixed Materials** 13 (box)**Container** 16 (Page)

Montana and New Hampshire

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388365

Unit Date circa 1950s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 17 (Page)

New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New York

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388366

Unit Date circa 1960s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 18 (Page)

New York

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388367

Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 19 (Page)

Pennsylvania and Texas

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388368

Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 20 (Page)

Texas

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388369

Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 21 (Page)

Scope and Contents

No specific church identified

Oversized Pennsylvania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388370

Unit Date 1970s-2000s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 22 (Page)

Sub-series 3: Additional Episcopal churches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388371

Unit Date circa 1950s-1980s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Scope and Content

Sub-series 3: Additional Episcopal churches (circa 1950s-1980s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of Episcopal churches. Postcards are arranged alphabetically by state.

Illinois and Louisiana

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388372

Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 21 (Page)

Massachusetts and Nevada

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388373

Unit Date circa 1950s-1980s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 23 (Page)

Texas

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388374

Unit Date circa 1960s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 24 (Page)

Sub-series 4: Additional other denominations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388375

Unit Date circa 1950s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Scope and Content

Sub-series 4: Additional other denominations (circa 1950s-1990s) includes postcards depicting both exterior and interior images of churches for a variety of other denominations and uses. Postcards are arranged alphabetically by use or denomination and then alphabetically by state.

Airport chapel, Massachusetts

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388376

Unit Date 1968

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 24 (Page)

Baptist church, Florida

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388377

Unit Date circa 1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 24 (Page)

Christian churches, California, Georgia, and Tennessee

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388378

Unit Date circa 1960s-1980s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 25 (Page)

Congregational church, Connecticut

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388379

Unit Date circa 1960s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 26 (Page)

Early Christian Meeting House, Maine

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388380

Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 26 (Page)

Methodist church, California

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388381

Unit Date circa 1970s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 26 (Page)

Methodist churches, Kansas, Massachusetts, and New Jersey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388382

Unit Date circa 1960s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 27 (Page)

Methodist churches, New Mexico, New York, and Pennsylvania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388383

Unit Date circa 1950s-1990s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 28 (Page)

Military chapels, Georgia, and Wisconsin

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388384

Unit Date circa 1960s-1980s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 29 (Page)

Presbyterian church, Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388385

Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 29 (Page)

Universalist church, New York

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388386

Unit Date 1964

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 30 (page)

Young Men's Christian Association chapel, New York

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/388387

Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 13 (box)

Container 30 (Page)