

Guide to
C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson) Scofield Papers
1889-1909 and undated, bulk 1889-1892

.04 linear feet

Accession Number: 2004-3
Collection Number: CN 001

Prepared by Lolana Thompson
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Abstract: Pastor, theologian, and author. Correspondence with another pastor.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of the Item], C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson) Scofield Papers, CN 001, Folder 1, Archives,
Dallas Theological Seminary.

Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary, 3909 Swiss Ave., Dallas, TX 75204

Biographical Sketch:

Cyrus Ingerson Scofield was born August 19, 1843 in Michigan, the seventh child of Elias and Abigail Scofield. He served in the Confederate Army. In 1866, Scofield married Leontine Cerré in St. Louis, Missouri. They settled in Atchison, Kansas, where he practiced law and was elected to the lower house of the Kansas legislature in 1871 and 1872. He served as U.S. District Attorney of Kansas in 1873. Undisclosed problems caused Scofield to resign his post within six months. Cyrus and Leontine had three children, Abigail, Helene (sometimes shortened to Helen), and Guy. Guy died when he was still a child. Scofield's wife obtained a legal separation in 1877, and they were eventually divorced in 1883. Scofield returned to St. Louis in 1879, where he drank heavily until he became a Christian later that year. Scofield worked in the evangelistic campaign of D. L. Moody in St. Louis, 1879-80. Scofield served as acting secretary of the YMCA in the city, and was licensed to preach in 1880. Scofield accepted a call to pastor a small mission, First Congregational Church in Dallas, Texas, and was ordained by the North Texas Congregational Association in 1883. In 1884 he married Hettie Hall van Wart. Other variations on Hettie's maiden name include Wartz, von Wartz, Wark, van Wark, and van Hart. C. I. and Hettie's only child, Noel Paul, was born in 1888. Scofield served as secretary of the Department of Texas and Louisiana of the American Home Missionary Society. In 1890, he helped found the denominational Lake Charles College in Louisiana, then served as chairman of its board of trustees. He also developed a Bible correspondence course and edited the periodical *The Believer*. In 1888, he wrote the book *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*, defending dispensational premillennialism. Scofield's church in Dallas grew from fourteen to over eight hundred members by the time he left in 1895 to become pastor of D. L. Moody's church, the Trinitarian Congregational Church of East Northfield, Massachusetts. Scofield returned to pastor his church in Dallas in 1903, but was often absent preparing a Bible with study notes. Oxford University Press published this very popular *Scofield Reference Bible* in 1909, and a revised edition in 1917. In 1908 the First Congregational Church in Dallas withdrew from the local Congregational association citing increased liberalism as the reason. Scofield resigned from the Dallas church in 1909 and moved to New York, where he remained active although his health was poor. In 1914 he helped found the Philadelphia School of the Bible. Over the years he was a regular speaker at Bible conferences, such as Niagra and Northfield. Scofield died July 24, 1921. Scofield had a great impact on evangelical fundamentalism and became a leading defender of dispensational premillennialism.

Sources:

Be Vier, William A. "A Biographical Sketch of C. I. Scofield." M.A. thesis, Southern Methodist University, 1960.

Goss, Glenn R. "Cyrus Ingerson Scofield and the Scofield Reference Bible." 2003. Online. Scofield Memorial Church. Available: <http://www.scofield.org/visitors/history.asp>. September 22, 2003.

Hannah, John D., "Cyrus Ingerson Scofield" in *American National Biography*, ed. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes, v.19, 480-481. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

System of Arrangement:

This collection is in one series, correspondence arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of fifteen letters, on 46 leaves, written by C. I. Scofield to Frank W. Boyle, who was apparently the pastor of a church in Sherman, TX. Scofield mentions other pastors in the area, discusses theological questions, comments about his activities and poor health, and offers encouragement to Boyle.

Selected Search Terms:

Scofield, C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson), 1843-1921

Donor/Source:

These letters were donated to Dallas Theological Seminary by Mr. Joshue Durant in May 2002.

Custodial History:

Mr. Joshue Durant inherited the letters from Mrs. Mary B. DeRoos, the daughter of Frank W. Boyle. (Mrs. DeRoos helped found the children's home where Mr. Durant was raised.)

Literary Rights:

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Related Material:

Additional information concerning C. I. Scofield may be found in the following collection in the Archives of Dallas Theological Seminary: CN 003 C. I. Scofield Papers, 1909, 1918. Check the library catalog for books by and about C. I. Scofield.

Note to the Researcher:

The papers are fragile and already have a few corners missing. They must be handled very carefully.

Container List

Series I. Correspondence 1898-1909 and undated

Folder# Title, Dates, Description

1	Frank W. Boyle 1898-1909 and undated 15 letters on various topics including Christ as man and God, salvation, baptism, marriage of a believer to an unbeliever, sin, eternal life, election, Central American Mission (CAM), YMCA, "Simpson folks," the publication "The Believer," Lake Orion Conference, and sending a Bible to Bro. DeRoos in Managua.
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