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Preliminary Inventory to the Helen Topping Papers 1917-1962



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.TOPPINGH

Title Topping, Helen. Papers

Date 1917-1962

Size 4.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

Repository Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center

University of Chicago Library

1100 East 57th Street

Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract This collection consists of correspondence belonging to Helen Topping

(1889-1981) who was the English secretary and interpreter of Toyohiko

Kagawa (1888-1960).

Information on Use

Access

This collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Topping, Helen. Papers, Acc #, Box #, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Helen Topping (1889-1981) was the English secretary and interpreter of Toyohiko Kagawa (1888-1960), a Japanese evangelist and social reform advocate. Topping was the daughter of American Baptist missionaries who worked in Japan. In the 1920s, she joined Kagawa's mission as his secretary during his "Kingdom of God Movement," an evangelistic campaign with the additional goals of education and supporting "Christianizing economics" through Christian cooperative societies. Topping worked with Kagawa along with her parents who edited and distributed Kagawa's "Friends of Jesus" English-language publication and the Kagawa calendar. During the early 1930s, Topping visited the United States in support of Kagawa's "Million Souls for Christ Movement," spreading Kagawa's life story, work, and gospel, and supporting the existing "Kagawa Fellowships" that were in some US cities.

This collection contains correspondence from the 1930s regarding Topping's visit to the US. It was organized by state/city and date, presumably the dates of her visit to each location. These letters are primarily speaking engagement requests to Topping from Universities, women's organizations, and Christian groups. It also includes correspondence regarding Kagawa's travels,

including his visit to Australia in the 1930s. Also in this collection is correspondence from the 1950s, which relates to Topping's teaching work in the Philippines.

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