

# **Finding Aid for the Papers of President Orrin R. Jenks**

**Doris K. Colby Memorial Archives,  
Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois**

**Prepared by Caroline Waddell  
Final Course Project  
HIS 482**

**Doris K. Colby Memorial Archives, Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois**

*Records of the President's Office, 1911-1933*

*Orrin Roe Jenks (1868-1951)*

Series 2.7.1-2.7.9

Boxes 1-9

Biography

Orrin Roe Jenks was born in Rockford, Minnesota on January 1, 1868. At the age of sixteen, he was baptized in the Fox River in St. Charles, Illinois and in 1885 was ordained a minister in the Church of God. At the age of seventeen, he was a high school student, pastor, and schoolteacher in rural areas. He became a pastor of the Advent Christian Church in 1888, and spent the next decade preaching in the farmlands of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. Jenks was an early proponent of establishing an Advent Christian college for the purpose of education future pastors. Opponents of the idea believed anyone with a bible and a will to preach could be a preacher. However, Jenks and others like him believed that a more formalized education system would only help the denomination.

On March 1, 1900, he became a pastor of the Advent Christian Church in Chicago and then enrolled in the University of Chicago Theological Seminary, specializing in the Old Testament, Hebrew, and other Biblical languages. He received a B.D degree and graduated at the head of his class. While a student, he continued ministering in Chicago and began lecturing at Bible Training classes at Mendota College, in Mendota, Illinois where in 1904 he was appointed head of the department. His efforts made the department one of the best theological seminaries in the region. As a teacher, he continued his schooling and received an A.B. degree from Mendota College in 1906.

In 1908, he began to fundraise full-time in a campaign to pay for the move of Mendota College to Aurora, Illinois, where it would become Aurora College. He became president in 1911 and spent the next twenty years as president, administering the college while also performing a significant role in the Advent Christian Church. While president he oversaw the move of the college from Mendota to Aurora, was an active pastor and missionary traveling throughout the United States of America, who continually promoted the importance of Aurora College within the Advent Christian Church. As a professor and pastor in the Advent Christian Church, his sermons and/or class lectures would have been given in class settings, college chapel services, or church services located off campus. In 1916, he became president of the Advent Christian General Conference of America, and further promoted the importance of the college by pushing reforms that required every church to donate annually, a prescribed sum to the denomination, of which a portion would go to Aurora College.

During his tenure as President of Aurora College, Jenks had an active role in every aspect of the institution, from helping to decide the new location, fundraising for building and expansion costs, preaching sermons on and off campus, and lecturing to seminary students. He received and reviewed student applications for admission, hired faculty, and staff, and ran the day-to-day business affairs of the college. These included overseeing the routine maintenance of the buildings and ordering supplies and furniture that filled them. He retired from the presidency of Aurora College in 1933 and became President Emeritus. He passed away in 1951.

### Description of Series

This series consists of the general files created by the president's office, and fills nine Hollinger boxes. It contains church sermons and/or class lectures; correspondence to and from Jenks about the college and the Advent Christian Church; faculty records; students entrance records; and records on financial endowments, construction, and administration of the buildings on campus. The collection spans the years 1896-1940, roughly ten years before Jenks became president and ten years after his retirement. During this time, he was also a pastor in the Advent Christian Church. The records of his term as president reflect these various activities. The records on finance are arranged chronologically, while all other are arranged alphabetically. Where no title or subject was apparent on a document, the first line is used to place it in order. Because the majority of the sermon/lectures are undated and untitled, they are housed within the same category under Denominational Relations. Other than the records for the endowment campaigns and those of the building construction, none were in a particular order. Due to the span of years of the collection, the lack of dates on a variety of records, and the absence of titles on the majority of documents, order was imposed on the remaining documents modeled on the *Records of the President's Office, 1933-1972, Theodore Pierson Stephens (1912 -1963)*. An itemized list of folder contents is located within the file that further clarifies the contents of the collection.

### Cross Reference

Located on the campus of Aurora College is the Jenks Memorial Collection of Adventual Materials. This archive consists of materials collected by Jenks throughout his life that relate to the Advent Christian Church. Included in this archive collection are correspondences between members of the Advent Christian Church, including letters to and from William Miller, founder of the movement. There are books and pamphlets on the founding of the church and religious banners and tracts from the many revivals held throughout the United States of America. This collection also holds personal materials relating to Orrin Roe Jencks including his journals.

### Provenance

These were the files created by the President's office of Aurora College and Mendota College while Orrin Roe Jenks held the office. There is no date as to when these records were transferred to the archives.

### Restrictions

None

### Separations

The majority of collections in the Doris K. Colby Archives are unprocessed; therefore, no items were separated from this collection. Further appraisal may alter this status.

Processor

Caroline Waddell, April 2005

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Series 2.7.1

Boxes 1-9

Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	1	Associations and Colleges	n.d.
	2	College Events and Functions	1912, n.d.
	3	College Events and Functions —Moncrief Lectures	1919, n.d.
	4	Denominational Relations—Articles to Advent Christian Publications—Correspondence	c. 1913-1927
	5	Denominational Relations— General Conference	n.d.
	6	Denominational Relations—Sermons and Lectures A-M	1929, n.d.
	7	Denominational Relations—Sermons and Lectures P-W	n.d.
	8	Finance—Endowment Campaign of 1917	
	9	Finance—Endowment Campaign of 1922, 1924	
	10	Finance—Endowment Campaign of 1925	
	11	Finance—Endowment Campaign of 1926	
	12	Finance—Endowment Campaign of 1926	
	13	Finance—Endowment Literature from Other Colleges, 1920 —Miscellaneous	
2		Finance—Endowment Campaign of 1917 (two scrapbooks)	
3	1	Finance—Endowment Campaign of 1930	
	1	Building Construction—Eckhart Hall A	1911-1915
	2	Building Construction—Eckhart Hall B	“
	3	Building Construction—Eckhart Hall C-F	“
	4	Building Construction—Eckhart Hall G-R	“
	5	Building Construction—Eckhart Hall S	“
	6	Building Construction—Eckhart Hall T-Z	“
	7	Building Construction—Davis Hall	1911-1912
	8	Building Construction—Wilkinson Hall	1924-1925
	9	Building Administration—Davis and Wilkinson Halls	1911-1925
4	10	Building Administration—Correspondence on the Davis will	1914-1915
	1	Staff—C, D, F, M, S, Hierarchy	1912-1929
4	2	Staff—C, S, Conferral of Honorary Degree	n.d.
	3	Students—Entrance Credits <u>Mendota</u> A-J	1896-1911
	4	Students—Entrance Credits <u>Mendota</u> K-7	1896-1911
	5	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College A	c. 1912-1932
	6	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College B	“
	7	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College C-E	“
	8	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College F-H	“

	9	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College	J-M	“
5	1	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College	N-R	“
	2	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College	S-T	“
	3	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College	V-Y	“
	4	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College	Li, Peter	1911-1930
	5	Students—Entrance Credits Aurora College	Yang, David	1925-1927
	6	Students—Clubs Union League Club		n.d.
	7	Students—Courses Philosophy		n.d.
		—Course Number Chart		1920-1921
	8	Students—Dissertation Keena, Elra Earl		1916
	9	Personal—Jenks Education		n.d.
	10	Miscellaneous		n.d., 1924
	11	Miscellaneous		n.d., c. 1928-1931
6	1	Miscellaneous		n.d., 1924, 1930
	2	Miscellaneous—Potomac University		1913-1918
	3	Miscellaneous		n.d., 1914
	4	Miscellaneous		n.d.
	5	Miscellaneous		
7		Two Scrapbooks (Aurora College History)		1918-1926
8		Banner—Orrin Roe Jenks Speaks Here Tonight		n.d.
9		Memorial Tribute to ORJ by TPS		1951

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Catalog List    More detail than container list.

**Box 1**

Folder 1

Associations and Colleges—  
Illinois Federation of Illinois Colleges  
North Dakota State School of Science

Folder 2

College Events and Functions—  
Assembly  
Chapel Service “The Priest in Question” “Educational Freedom” by Dr. B.J. Cigrand  
Commencements Summary  
Dedication of Bldg. 1912  
Faculty Banquet  
Presidential Address 1912  
Prison  
Speeches “An Adequate Education” and Religious Atmosphere at College”  
Welcome Address

Folder 3

College Functions and Events—  
Moncrief Lectures-Correspondence, “The Golden Mean” by Dr. J.W. Moncrief, and “English Church History from the Tudors to the Present” 1919

Folder 4

Denominational Relations—  
Articles from Interstate News, 1927, Our House, 1924  
Correspondence--I.P. Olsen, 1913, W.A. Burch, 1918, R.G. Patterson, 1922, D.H., Woodard, 1921

Folder 5

Denominational Relations—  
General Conference-Retirement of O.R.J. as President, and “Our Educational Work: How Strengthened...”

Folder 6        Most are not titled, are listed under first sentence

Denominational Relations—  
Sermons and Lectures A-M  
“Civil War”  
“Educational Atmosphere”  
“Immorality”

“In My Father’s House are Many Mansions”  
“The Larger Live”  
“The Language of a Country..”  
Map of South America  
Map of Subject Nationalities of the German Alliance  
“Message of Bethlehem” 12-25-29  
“Moral Condition of England”  
“World Service the Program of God”

Folder 7  
Denominational Relations—  
Sermons and Lectures P-W  
“Paul at Ephesus”  
“The Practical Solution”  
“Probation and Mediation”  
“The Return of the Rausoruod to Zion”  
“Some Fundamental Principles of Hebrew Education”  
“The Third Period: Brief Reign of Jehoiachin”  
“Translations of Hebrew Psalmy”  
Lecture on Vice (Tobacco)

Folder 8  
Finance—  
Endowment Campaign of 1917

Folder 9  
Finance—  
Endowment Campaign of 1922, 1924

Folder 10  
Finance—  
Endowment Campaign of 1925

Folder 11  
Finance—  
Endowment Campaign of 1926

Folder 12  
Finance—  
Endowment Campaign of 1926

Folder 13  
Finance—  
Endowment Literature from Other Colleges, 1920  
Miscellaneous



**Box 2**

Finance—  
Endowment Campaign of 1917 (two scrapbooks)

Folder 1  
Endowment Campaign of 1930

**Box 3**

Eckhart Hall folders consist of correspondence with Eckhart and Davis about funding of the new buildings, with construction and furnishing companies, brochures, clippings, and some summary descriptions about construction progress and site surveys. There could be other information, but did not look into thoroughly--time constraints.

Folder 1  
Building Construction—  
Eckhart Hall A

Folder 2  
Building Construction—  
Eckhart Hall B

Folder 3  
Building Construction—  
Eckhart Hall C-F

Folder 4  
Building Construction—  
Eckhart Hall G-R

Folder 5  
Building Construction—  
Eckhart Hall S

Folder 6  
Building Construction—  
Eckhart Hall T-Z

Folder 7  
Building Construction—  
Davis Hall 1911-1912  
Correspondence with D.A. and Mary Davis

Folder 8  
Building Construction—  
Wilkinson Hall

Annex, plans and correspondence about  
Hall Fund 1924-1925

Folder 9  
Building Administration—  
Davis and Wilkinson Halls  
Regulations on Fees and Inhabitation

Folder 10  
Building Administration—  
Correspondence on Davis Will 1914-1915

**Box 4**

Folder 1  
Staff—  
C, D, F, M, S, Hierarchy 1912-1929 Letter from Crouse on influenza epidemic  
Entrance credit for Crouse, Singleterry, Stephens

Folder 2  
Staff—  
C, S, Conferral of Honorary Degrees Entrance credits, letters/notes on Singleterry's mission  
work

Folder 3  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Mendota A-J Entrance Credits are transcripts from high schools, normal  
schools, seminary, and other colleges and universities for future AC students. For Aurora College,  
they are separated by decade.

Folder 4  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Mendota K-Y

Folder 5  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College A

Folder 6  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College B

Folder 7  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College C-E

Folder 8

Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College F-H

Folder 9  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College J-M

**Box 5**

Folder 1  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College N-R

Folder 2  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College S-T

Folder 3  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Aurora College V-Y

Folder 4  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Li, Peter (Li Tsing-han)  
Graduate certificates from schools in China, including WuHu and Nanking, and letter of recommendation to graduate schools.

Folder 5  
Students—  
Entrance Credits Yang, David  
Information pertaining to Advent Christian Mission in China

Folder 6  
Students—Clubs  
Union League Club Warren Gong, a Chinese student address the club.

Folder 7  
Students—Courses Philosophy  
Shull, C “A Review of Pellingell’s Theological Trilemma” with notes from ORJ.

Folder 8  
Students—Dissertation  
Keena, Elra Earl, class of 1916, “The Utility of Waste.”

Folder 9  
Personal—Education and Finances,

Notebooks and handwritten notes

Folder 10

Miscellaneous

Abbott, Lymon "Eternal Death"

Annable, E.W. "Some New Testament Parallels"

Beck, James M. "Spirit of Lawlessness"

Carter, Linda J. Statistics in Advent Christian Church 1924

Griffiths, Edward

Jedsonkibby, William "You"

Norton, E.C. "Bingen on the Rhine"

Folder 11

Miscellaneous

Todd, John "The World of Change"

Newspaper Clippings 1928

Harrison, Norman B. "His Peace"

Kuno, Yoshi S. Educational Institutions in the Orient with Special Reference to Colleges and Universities in the U.S. Part II 1928

**Box 6**

Folder 1

Miscellaneous

English literature, The Bulletin: Yearbook and Citizens Manuel of Philadelphia, 1924

Passing of Fred Gibson Ward

Folder 2

Miscellaneous

J.J. Bennett of Potomac University, Boston Bible School and the Ransom Institute  
Correspondence and transcripts

Folder 3

Miscellaneous

Sample Ordination Certificate 1914

Correspondence with C. Eckhart

Notes on China, sarcasm, quotations

Folder 4

Miscellaneous

Notebooks with lists of names, jokes and Obituaries of family members

**Box 7 NEEDS a larger box**

Scrapbooks on Aurora College history that include newspaper clippings, college announcements and bulletins, information on rooming policies, and Advent Christian Publications

**Box 8**

Banner Orrin Roe Jenks Speaks Here Tonight

**Box 9**

Memorial Tribute to Orrin Roe Jenks by Theodore Pierson Stephens