

AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON COLLECTION  
1923-1986

FINDING AID

The David Allan Hubbard Library



Alyson Thomas  
August 2024  
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## **Administrative Information**

**Title:**

Aimee Semple McPherson Collection, 1923-1986

**Creator(s):**

Gage, Alice

Bahr, Robert

**Collection Identifier:**

CFT000006

**Extent:**

3 Boxes, 0.84 linear feet

**Repository:**

David Allan Hubbard Library

Fuller Theological Seminary

135 N Oakland Ave

Pasadena, CA 91182

**Acquisition Information:**

Scrapbook gifted by Alice Gage. Additional materials donated by Alice Bahr, 2023.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

**Language:**

English

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of Item], Aimee Semple McPherson Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

**Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:**

Collection cataloged by Nancy Sanders Gower.

Revised by Andrew Wong on June 2018. Revised by Esther Park, April 2024.

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## Biographical History

Aimee Semple McPherson (October 9, 1890 – September 27, 1944) was a Canadian-American Pentecostal evangelist, faith healer, and founder of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (known as the Foursquare Church). Her use of popular media forms for publicity and within weekly sermons made her the most publicized Protestant evangelist of her day. McPherson's popularity enabled her contribution to the construction of Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, CA.

McPherson and her husband Robert Semple (m. Aug 12, 1908) became part of William Durham's Full Gospel Assembly, where Durham taught and applied principles from the Azusa Street Revival. William Durham ordained Aimee McPherson in 1909. The couple traveled to China to participate in an evangelistic crusade. She returned to the United States with her daughter after Robert's death. In 1911, she married Harold McPherson; Harold became the advance man in organizing the evangelistic campaigns. The couple divorced in 1921. McPherson married David Hutton on September 13, 1931 and divorced on March 1, 1934.

In 1917, McPherson began to publish *The Bridal Call*, a magazine of her sermons that particularly discussed women's religious roles and Pentecostalism. She also published the weekly *Foursquare Crusader* and became the first woman to preach a sermon over the radio. By 1918-1919, McPherson settled in Los Angeles, CA and constructed the Angelus Temple, one of the first megachurches, to enable her national audience to come to her. The Angeles Temple became known for its capacity to serve the social welfare of the Los Angeles community with a "first serve, investigate second" philosophy. It also hosted one of the few long-lasting commissaries during the United States' Great Depression.

## Related Collections

*The Bridal Call*, Archives and Special Collections, Fuller Theological Seminary

*The Foursquare Crusader*, Archives and Special Collections, Fuller Theological Seminary

## Scope and Content

The McPherson collection consisted originally of a scrapbook, full of clippings from magazines and newspapers on the celebrated comings and goings of Aimee Semple McPherson. It included collected ephemera such as a postcard and a photo signed by McPherson.

The scrapbook emphasizes McPherson's use of the media, beginning with a clipping announcing her starring role in a "talkie," and ending with a publicized trip to the Holy Land by McPherson and her daughter. The scrapbook also includes the entire June 1930 issue of *Bridal Call* and a sacred opera written, *Regem Adorate* (Worship the King). Additional materials consist of McPherson's books, pamphlets, and other published works related to her ministry.

Later additions include research materials gathered by author Robert Bahr for his book, *Least of All Saints: The Story of Aimee Semple McPherson*. The research materials include

correspondence, photos, and interviews with members of McPherson's family. The items are arranged in alphabetical order.

### **Subjects**

Celebrities

California Los Angeles Hollywood

Evangelists

International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

Pentecostalism

Social welfare

Spiritual healings

**Container List****Box 1: Books**

Item	Title	Author	Date/Note
1	<i>Bogard-McPherson Debate</i> , Dallas: Rock of Ages	Bogard, Ben & Aimee Semple McPherson Stenographer for the debate: J.E. Rhodes, 1934	1955
2	<i>Tabernacle Revivalist</i> , Los Angeles: Echo Park Evangelistic Association	Aimee Semple McPherson	c.1923
3	<i>The Personal Testimony of Aimee Semple McPherson</i> , Los Angeles: Starling Press reprint	Aimee Semple McPherson	1986 (1928)
4	<i>Lost &amp; Restored</i> , Los Angeles: The Foursquare Bookshop	Aimee Semple McPherson	1976
5	<i>Correspondence Courses of the L.I.F.E. Bible College, volume III</i> , Los Angeles: L.I.F.E. Bible College	Aimee Semple McPherson	1928
6	<i>Correspondence Courses of the L.I.F.E. Bible College, volume V</i> , Los Angeles: L.I.F.E. Bible College	Aimee Semple McPherson	1928
7	<i>This We Believe: Declaration of Faith</i> , International Church of the Foursquare Gospel	Compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson	2 copies
8	<i>We Believe in Divine Healing</i> , Los Angeles: Foursquare Publications		
9	<i>We Believe in Salvation Through Jesus Christ</i> , Los Angeles: Foursquare Publications		
10	<i>We Believe in The Second Coming of Jesus Christ</i> , Los Angeles: Foursquare Publications		
11	<i>Fishers of Men</i> , Montrose, Cal. : Rusthoi Publications Inc., n.d.	Aimee Semple McPherson	Photocopy

**Scope and Content Note:**

The items in Boxes 2 – 3 concern Robert Bahr's book, *Least of All Saints: The Story of Aimee Semple McPherson*. The items include the author's research materials – resources, correspondence, interviews, and photos – used for the book.

**Box 2: Papers**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Correspondence from Aimee Semple McPherson to William Jennings Bryan	1925
2	Correspondence from Ida E. Kent to Harriet W. Hankin	193_?

3	Correspondence from Robert Bahr to Mrs. Harry Salter (Roberta Semple Salter)	1973
4	Correspondence from Robert Bahr to Lately Thomas (Robert Steele)	1973-1978
5	Correspondence from Roberta _____? to Arlene (Beverly A. Hess)	1977
6	Correspondence from Roberta _____? to Arlene (Beverly A. Hess) and Pearl	Undated
7	Correspondence with Barbara Brigner	1979-1980
8	Correspondence with Beverly A. Hess (also known as Arlene, Paddy, and Mom #2)	1977-1982
9	Interview with Byron Jenvey	1973
10	Interview with Ethel Page	1973
11	Interview with George and Gladys Quinn	1973
12	Interview with Harold (Mack) McPherson and Beverly Hess (Harold's Stepdaughter)	1977
13	Interview with Mrs. Roberta Semple Salter (Aimee's daughter)	1964-1973
14	Ingersoll 1900 – Bahr's book Chapter, Draft	Undated
15	Olive Cooksey	1938
16	Research Assistant (Bahr)	1977
17	Research Materials – Aimee Semple McPherson	1921-1978
18	Research Materials – Annotations – Articles, Book Chapters, Papers	1921-1978
19	Research Materials – Booklets, Notecards, Programs, Newspaper Articles	1925-1973
20	Research Materials – “More Lies and Errors” (Annotations)	1926-1978
21	Research Materials – Photos	1915-1979

**Box 3: Book and Audio Material**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	7 ½” Audio Reel - Aimee Semple McPherson	Undated
2	<i>Least of All Saints: The Story of Aimee Semple McPherson</i>	1979, book