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WILLIAM BACON OLIVER COLLECTION
MSS.0017

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Date Span: 1852-1947

Collection Size: 11 cubic feet

Description: The William Bacon Oliver Collection consists of approximately 11 cubic feet of books, papers, memorabilia, and clothing from United States Representative from Alabama, William Bacon Oliver. Born in Eutaw, Alabama, on May 23, 1867, Oliver received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Alabama in 1889 and later distinguished himself in many areas including: solicitor for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Alabama (1898-1909); Dean of the University of Alabama School of Law (1901-1913); member of the United States House of Representatives from the Sixth District of Alabama (1915-1937); and special assistant to the Attorney General at Washington, D.C. (1939-1944). Oliver died on May 27, 1948, and is buried in Eutaw, Alabama.
Memorabilia

Clothing, etc., owned by William Bacon Oliver

- Gold-headed cane (broken).
- Loving Cup (plated silver) given to Oliver by the law class of 1910.
- Round box, with W.B.O. monograph, containing smaller boxes and containers as follows:
  - Leather pouch containing crucifix and beads, possibly rosary.
  - Shield-shaped box labeled "Krementz," containing studs, etc.
  - Small blue jewelry box, empty.
  - Square blue box labeled (inside) "The Carlton Evening Set," containing studs, etc.
  - Small white box labeled "Fincher and Ozment Jewelry Co., Tuscaloosa, Ala.," empty.
  - Square blue box labeled (inside) "Bromberg & Co. Jewelers, Birmingham, Alabama," containing studs, political badges, fraternal badges, hatpins, etc.
  - Oval green box containing ivory and silver brooch of Chinese motif.
  - Rectangular green box containing a brooch of amber (sardonyx?) and silver, and a gold ladies' watch.

Round box and contents have been returned to Mr. Fred Perry

- One clothes-brush.
- One leather case containing a handkerchief with "Wm. B. Oliver" written on it; one patterned handkerchief; and three neckties of various patterns.

Books Owned By William Bacon Oliver

- Acceptance of the Statue of Huey P. Long Presented by the State of Louisiana, Proceedings in the Congress and in Statuary Hall (1941).
- Alabama Official and Statistical Register 1943. (inscribed to Congressman Oliver by Marie Bankhead Owen).
- Alabama Reports, Volume 127 (1900; signed by Henry B. Foster; very poor condition).
- *Congressional Record*. May 27, 1948. (contains tributes to Congressman Oliver after his death; copy laid in of "Final Speech of William B. (Buck) Oliver in the U.S. Congress . . ." [1936?])
- *Connecticut State Register and Manual 1932*. (inscribed to Congressman Oliver)
- Daniels, Josephus. *Tar Heel Editor*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina Press, 1939. (inscribed by author; John Temple Graves’s review pasted in; another review laid in)
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- *Memorial Services Held in the House of Representatives of the United States, Together with Remarks Presented in Eulogy of Nicholas Longworth, Late Representative from Ohio, Seventy-Second Congress, First Session*. Washington: U.S.G.P.O., 1932. (newspaper clipping of a recent date laid in)
- Miller, J.R. *Making the Most of Life*. New York: T.Y. Crowell, 18910 (inscribed to a member of the Oliver family)
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-school work, 1894. (signed by Oliver's mother, Lizzie Oliver, in 1897; title on spine: Confession of Faith)


- Readjustment of Service Pay: Hearings Before a Special Committee, Congress of the United States. Washington: U.S.G.P.O., 1921. ("W.B. Oliver" stamped in gold on the cover)


- Strode, Hudson. The Story of Bermuda. New York: Harrison Smith and Robert Haas, 1932. (signed by author; paste-down and end-sheets stained)

- Tharp, Paul Madison. Looking Into Life. Chicago: Bible Institute Colportage Association, 1936. (signed by Oliver)


- Walker, Anne Kendrick. Russell County in Retrospect: An Epic of the Far Southeast. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1950. (inscribed by Mrs. Oliver [Beryl Dana McCann Oliver]; contains mention of Congressman Oliver)


**Papers**

- The Buck Oliver Testimonial Banquet (1936). A scrapbook of speeches, letters, telegrams, and other information on the career of Congressman Oliver, compiled after a dinner honoring his retirement from Congress.
- Congressional envelope with Congressman Oliver's frank, containing a number of sheets which appear to contain writing in braille.
- Copy of Mrs. Oliver's *That You May Know Him Better* pamphlet with many papers, clippings, letters, etc., laid in. Some of these pertain to Congressman Oliver's career; most appear to pertain to Mrs. Oliver's political and personal concerns.
- Taylor, Leila May, compiler. *The Alabaster Box (Containing Truth and Treasure and The Poetry of Life)* (1925); handmade book; typescript; in small three-ring binder (spine of binder torn; illustrations hand-pasted; includes index)

**Photographs**

- Framed photograph of Oliver in cadet uniform.
- Framed photograph of Oliver as a young man; photograph marked "C. W. Motes, 34 Whitehall Street, Atlanta, Georgia."
- Photograph of Oliver mounted on wooden plaque. Poor condition.
- Large photograph in cardboard frame; Oliver standing with arms folded. Signed by photographer; three copies.
- Large photograph in cardboard frame of Oliver surrounded by young women at what appears to be the christening of a ship.
- Large framed photograph of Congressman Oliver and others on steps of what is probably a building in Washington, D.C. Various officials of the Wilson administration, including Josephus Daniels and Franklin D. Roosevelt are in the group. The people in the photograph are identified in a legend below the image.

**Other Objects**

- One black top hat in a "Supernatural" brand hatbox; hatbox in poor condition.
- Plaque reading "First in Citizenship/ Tuscaloosa/ Citizenship Award. 1937/ Presented to William B. "Buck" Oliver/ By the Civitan Club."