

**Title:** College Collection

**Dates:** 1830-2023

**Creator/Collector:** Whittier College

**Extent:** 150 boxes (633.5 linear feet)

**Repository:** Wardman Library-Whittier College. Whittier, California 90602

**Abstract:** Whittier College was founded in 1887 as Friends' College by a group of Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends. In 1895, the first classes were taught under the official name "Whittier College", and the College was accredited in 1900. In 1904 the first commencement was held. The College Collection consists of a wide variety of materials, including object artifacts, photographs, papers, and more, covering a period of time beginning just before the founding of the school and continuing until the present day; the collection is continuously being developed.

**Language of Material:** English

**Access:** Open for research, with the exception of papers in the Smith, Upton, and O'Brien Collections that contain personal information about library staff and staff candidates, which are restricted until 40 years after their date of production.

**Publication Rights:** Authorization to publish, quote, or reproduce must be obtained from Wardman Library, Whittier College.

**Preferred Citation:** College Collection. Wardman Library-Whittier College.

**Acquisition Information:** Acquisition information not available.

**Biographical and Administrative History:** Whittier College was founded in 1887 as Friends' College by a group of Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, who had recently established the town of Whittier. Dr. Samuel D. Coffin was elected as the first President of the College. Unfortunately, the lean years and end of the population boom in the neighborhood prevented the new College from matriculating its first class. Instead, a combination secondary and collegiate preparatory school was established under the name Whittier Academy, creating an opportunity for Quaker students to continue their education past the secondary level and participate in such college activities as the football team and *The Acropolis* student publication.

In 1895, the first classes were taught under the official name “Whittier College”: three freshman students and three sophomores. The College was accredited in 1900 under the leadership of President Charles Tebbetts. In 1904 the first commencement was held. From the beginning, the College was a co-ed school. In the 1940s the College voted to officially identify as a secular liberal arts institution while continuing to honor the Quaker values, if not the Quaker religion, upon which it was founded.

This finding aid was created by Paige Harris in 2023.

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The College Collection consists of a wide variety of materials, including object artifacts, photographs, papers, and more. It covers a period of time beginning just before the founding of the school and continuing until the present day; the collection is continuously being developed. The Collection contains four sub-series: the Wang Luyan Collection, the Albert Upton Papers, the Paul S. Smith Papers, and the Phil O’Brien Papers; Each sub-series has its own, more detailed container list.

## Sub-series A: General materials

### Container List:

Digitized materials can be found [here](#).

Filing cabinet papers and photos- accessible for search here:

<https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/finding/11/>

- Boxes 1-2, 5- Dramalum Cues newsletters
- Boxes 3-4- Alpha Psi Omega playbills, library diagrams
- Boxes 6-9- Production photos and materials, 1962-2001
- Box 10- Music department tapes
- Box 11- Vinyl records, including choir performances
- Boxes 12-24- Choir/Drama papers
- Box 27, 133, 143- general memorabilia
- Box 28- graduation robes, photos from events held in the late 1980's and 1990's, Commission on Industrial Relations microfilm
- Boxes 29-31, 34- Uncatalogued papers, postcards
- Boxes 32, 132- newspaper clippings
- Box 33- Jan de Hartog papers
- Box 35- uncatalogued cassettes and VHS tapes
- Boxes 36-38- Student theses
- Boxes 39-47, 52-53- The Acropolis
- Boxes 48-51- The Rock, Pebbles from the Rock, College calendars
- Box 54- Class schedules, pamphlets for summer and evening programs
- Box 55- Poet Handbooks
- Boxes 56-58- miscellaneous booklets
- Boxes 59-61, 65-113- Quaker Campus
- Boxes 62-64- College-branded clothing
- Box 114- Scrapbook of alumna Gertrude Cox
- Boxes 115-121- uncatalogued student life photos

- Box 122- Cap and Gown scrapbooks and sign-in sheets
- Box 124- Student life photos, 2000-2002
- Box 125-126- Women's Auxiliary scrapbooks and memorabilia
- Box 127- Overseas Tour scrapbook, 1920's
- Box 128- Scrapbook of alum Horace Haworth, class of 1915
- Box 129- College pennants
- Boxes 130-131- Papers of the Institute of Constitutional Governance
- Boxes 134-136- regalia
- Box 137- Football programs, 1920's-1930's
- Box 138- 1965 newspaper and sports banner
- Box 139- Miscellany from Cora Snyder, class of 1915, and Austin Marshburn, class of 1910
- Box 140- Chapel vestments
- Box 141- Unknown garments
- Box 142- Scrapbook, 1906
- Box 144- Letterman jacket
- Box 145- Diplomas and certificates from 1910-1926
- Box 146- unknown Asian-style artifacts
- Box 147- Memorial Chapel bible
- Box 148- Alumni relations photos
- Box 149- Events photos
- Box 150- Photos from events held in the 1980's
- Box 151- Aubrey Wardman's hat, hat signed by the Glee Club of 1932
- Box 152- Miscellaneous alumni news

**Sub-series B:** Wang Luyan Collection

**Dates:** 2019

**Creator/Collector:** Wang, Xinsheng

**Extent:** 2 boxes (3 linear feet)

**Preferred Citation:** Wang Luyan Collection, College Collection. Wardman Library-Whittier College.

**Biographical and Administrative History:** Wang Luyan, a Chinese contemporary artist creates oversized sketches, drawings, murals, paintings, sculptures and installations in Beijing, China. The art installment at Whittier College was donated by Wang Luyan in honor of his brother, Wang Xinsheng, who attended Whittier College in the study abroad program. The artwork consists of ten identical, human-like sculptures, each measuring over six and a half feet tall, which seems to be walking in both directions simultaneously. The collection was compiled by Whittier College Professor Robert Marks (b. 1950)

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The Wang Luyan Collection is part of an art installment at Whittier College, The Walkers by the artist, Wang Luyan. The collection consists of photo albums, photos, administrative records, correspondence, flyers, programs, monograph, USB, pin (button), and an original contemporary art piece (56 in x 39 in).

**Container List:**

- Boxes B1-2- uncatalogued papers

**Sub-series C:** Paul S. Smith Papers

**Dates:** 1922-1970

**Creator/Collector:** Smith, Paul S.

**Extent:** 4.4 linear feet

**Preferred Citation:** Paul S. Smith Papers, College Collection. Wardman Library-Whittier College.

**Biographical and Administrative History:** Paul Smith was born in 1897 to a Quaker family and lived his early years in New England and the Midwest. Smith joined the faculty of Whittier College as a history professor in 1922 and was a highly invested, widely liked teacher

with whom students felt they could connect and frequently soothed tensions between faculty and students as well as between faculty and administrators. He participated in the Curriculum Committee and the 1925 Joint Council of Control, which sought to set new standards of conduct for the student body, and established a summer school at the College in 1939. Eventually, Smith became the head of the History Department and taught both there and in the Department of Political Science and International Relations. Paul Smith was known as a skilled and empathetic orator, and mentored both future U.S. President Richard Nixon and playwright Jessamyn West McPherson while they were students at Whittier. Nixon and Smith were so close, in fact, that Smith sat with the Nixon family during Nixon's inauguration as Vice President of the U.S. in 1953, and Nixon spoke in Smith's honor on several occasions.

He was seriously considered as a candidate for President of the College in 1943 and 1944 and became the President in 1951 during a time of low College enrollment and low income. Smith oversaw incredible growth for the college in terms of both the student body and physical buildings; under his direction, the Johnson, Ball, and Stauffer Residence Halls, a new Student Union and space for the Campus Inn, Stauffer Lecture Hall and Laboratory, Memorial Chapel and Music Building, and Wardman Library were all constructed, in addition to the completion of the Memorial Stadium and overall campus site development. He was generally admired for honoring the College's Quaker roots while also overseeing a general secularization of the college in order to draw new students and meet the needs of existing ones. In 1962 the Whittier College School of Law awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws, and Smith retired in 1969.

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The Smith Papers are a collection of personal and administrative documents created and collected by Paul S. Smith and his office during his 29 years of teaching.

**Container List:**

Filing cabinet papers and photos- accessible for search here:

<https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/finding/11/>

**Sub-series D:** Albert Upton Papers

**Dates:** 1929-1986

**Creator/Collector:** Upton, Albert

**Extent:** 1.5 linear feet

**Preferred Citation:** Albert Upton Papers, College Collection. Wardman Library-Whittier College.

**Administrative and Biographical History:** Dr. Albert Upton taught English at Whittier College, as well as mentoring the drama department and student theatre productions. He was heavily involved with the 1936 effort to modernize the curriculum, taking a “whole man” philosophy of pedagogy. Despite or perhaps because of his modern and occasionally controversial leadership, Upton was nominated as the Chairman of the English Department in 1936 and was invited to coordinate the College’s General Studies program in 1958 and direct it in 1963. Upton was well-liked by the student body and frequently contributed to the Quaker Campus newspaper. In his capacity with the Drama Department, he mentored future U.S. President Richard Nixon.

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The Upton Collection consists of personal and administrative documents produced by Dr. Upton during his time as a teacher and leader at Whittier College.

**Container List:**

Filing cabinet papers and photos- accessible for search here:

<https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/finding/11/>

**Sub-series E:** Phil O’Brien Papers

**Dates:** 1961-2006

**Creator/Collector:** O’Brien, Phillip

**Extent:** 6 linear feet

**Preferred Citation:** Phil O'Brien Papers, College Collection. Wardman Library-Whittier College.

**Administrative and Biographical History:** O'Brien received a Bachelor's degree from Whittier College in 1961 and began working as an assistant librarian for Wardman Library shortly afterwards. In 1974 he became the Director of the library and brought about many exciting developments, including acquisition of the historic Columbian printing press. He was also highly involved in the community and in a larger, state-wide network of academic librarians seeking better ways to serve their students in the changing world of the 1980's. After retiring from work as a librarian, O'Brien donated the contents of his filing cabinets to the Special Collections.

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The O'Brien Papers consists of personal and administrative documents produced by Dr. O'Brien during his time as a librarian and leader at Whittier College.

**Container List:**

Filing cabinet papers and photos- accessible for search here:

<https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/finding/11/>