

# Inventory to the Baptist Young People's Union of America Collection

## AR 46

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### I. Historical Sketch

The Baptist Young People's Union of America (BYPUA) was an organization designed to foster Christian growth and loyalty, and was a successor to the 1887 Loyalist Movement led by O. W. Van Osdel. The objectives of the BYPUA were six fold: unification of Baptist young people, increased spirituality, stimulation in Christian service, edification in Scripture knowledge, instruction in Baptist doctrine and history, and enlistment in missionary activity through existing denominational organization. The national organization encouraged weekly meetings, daily Bible readings, and study courses for local groups using literature published alternately between the BYPUA and the American Baptist Publication Society. Titles included the *Loyalist* (1890), *Young People's Work* (1890), *Young People's Union* (1891), *Baptist Union* (1893), *Service* (1904), *The Junior Baptist Union* (1898), and *Our Juniors* (1904).

Started in as an ecumenical body, the Baptist Young People's Union of America became an organization mainly of the Northern Baptist Convention by 1909. Other denominations such as the Southern Baptist Convention continued to maintain their own Baptist Young People's Union, but as a separate entity from the BYPUA. The SBC's BYPU operated as an auxiliary to the Convention until an annual committee took over the agency's work in 1909. By 1934 the movement had developed into a fully graded church training program and the Baptist Young People's Union within became the Baptist Training Union.

### II. Scope and Content Note

The Baptist Young People's Union of America Collection contains one linear foot of materials, and contents are arranged alphabetically. Materials include annuals, programs, and yearbooks with annuals forming the majority of the collection.

The BYPUA annuals document the proceedings of the international conventions and include the text of addresses, reports, and other events from the proceedings. Topics

covered relate primarily to the organization's six objectives: unification of Baptist young people, increased spirituality, stimulation in Christian service, edification in Scripture knowledge, instruction in Baptist doctrine and history, and enlistment in missionary activity through existing denominational organization. The yearbook contains an outline of daily Bible readings for 1936 and 1937.

Researchers should note that the New York State Archives also holds a Baptist Young People's Union of America Collection (1891-1941) that contains proceedings, minutes of the executive committee, and publication files.

### **III. Folder Listing**

#### Box 1

- 1.1 Annuals – 1891-1893
- 1.2 Annuals – 1894
- 1.3 Annuals – 1896-1897
- 1.4 Annuals – 1898-1899

#### Box 2

- 2.1 Annuals – 1900-1901
- 2.2 Annuals – 1903
- 2.3 Annuals – 1904
- 2.4 Annuals – 1906
- 2.5 Annuals – 1907
- 2.6 Annuals – 1914
- 2.7 Programs – 1933
- 2.8 Yearbooks – 1935-1936 (1936-1937)