

GRADY COTHEN PAPERS

AR 795 – 373



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

March, 2009

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Grady Cothen Papers

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Summary

Main Entry: Grady Cothen Papers

Date Span: 1948 – 1984

Abstract: Grady Cothen was a Southern Baptist pastor, denominational leader, and president of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. This collection contains articles, clippings, programs, and publications related to Cothen's career.

Size: 3 linear ft. in two boxes.

Collection #: AR 795 – 373

Biographical Sketch

Grady Cothen was born August 2, 1920 in Poplarville, Pearl River County, Mississippi. The son of Rev. Joseph H. Cothen and Mamie Coulter Cothen, Grady graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 1938 and Mississippi College in 1941. He received the M.C.T. degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1944 and honorary doctorates from California Baptist College, Mississippi College, and William Jewel College.

Cothen served as pastor of the White Oak Baptist Church in Chattanooga (1946 – 1948), Olivet Baptist Church, Oklahoma City (1948 – 1955), and First Baptist Birmingham (1959 – 1961). From 1961 – 1966, he was Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. Cothen became President of Oklahoma Baptist University and served from 1966 – 1970. He was selected as President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1970. In May, 1974, he came to the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as President-elect. In February, 1975, he was inaugurated as the sixth executive of the Board.

Dr. Cothen married the former Bettye Major June 11, 1941, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Scope and Content Note

The Grady Cothen Collection includes three linear feet of material in two records center boxes. The majority of the collection consists of articles and addresses Cothen presented as President of the Sunday School Board. The collection also includes copies of programs, of which Dr. Cothen was a participant, newspaper clippings, and information on Cothen's selection as BSSB President and his retirement.

Official files of Dr. Cothen are located in the records of the Executive Office, AR 354. See also a series of oral history interviews conducted with Dr. Cothen, R5379. The Special Collections at Samford University has 12 linear ft. of Grady Cothen personal papers.

Arrangement

Alphabetically by folder title

Provenance

Transferred from the E.C. Dargan Library, LifeWay Christian Resources, 1995.

Preferred Citation

Grady Cothen Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Cothen, Grady

Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board – History.

Related Materials

Cothen, Grady C. What happened to the Southern Baptist Convention? : a memoir of the controversy, 1993. BX6462.3.C67 1993

Cothen, Grady C. The New SBC : a moderate looks at Fundamentalism , 1995. BX6462.3.C66 1995

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Articles – Anniversary, SSB, 1983
- 1.2 Articles – *Baptist History and Heritage*
- 1.3 Articles – "Baptists in the Lunar Age"
- 1.4 Articles – "Bringing the Bible to Man"
- 1.5 Articles – "Christian Higher Education's Finest Hour"
- 1.6 Articles – "Christian Theology and Hope"
- 1.7 Articles – "Christian Theology Looks at Man"
- 1.8 Articles – "Cogitations"
- 1.9 Articles – "Condition of Human Existence"
- 1.10 Articles – Dobbins' Book Forward
- 1.11 Articles – Educator Interview
- 1.12 Articles – "From Dream to Reality"
- 1.13 Articles – "God's Book and My Church in Bold Missions," SBC, 1978
- 1.14 Articles – "Higher Education and Christian Faith"
- 1.15 Articles – "Implications of the Doctrine of Christology"
- 1.16 Articles – "Inundation by Society"

- 1.17 Articles – “Leadership Training for Evangelism and Christian Education”
- 1.18 Articles – “Lectures on Christian Theology,” Stetson University, 1976
- 1.19 Articles – “Mission in the Context of Reality”
- 1.20 Articles – “New Pathways in Denominational Understanding”
- 1.21 Articles – “Now I’m Scared”
- 1.22 Articles – State of the Board, 1983
- 1.23 Articles – State Office Workers, address, 1983
- 1.24 Articles – “Them and Us”
- 1.25 Articles – “Toward a Philosophy of Christian Higher Education”
- 1.26 Articles – “View from the 11th floor,” 90th Anniversary
- 1.27 Articles – “What is the Christian Dimension?”
- 1.28 Articles – “What Price Credibility”
- 1.29 Articles – “Working Model of a Christian College”
- 1.30 Christmas Cards / Invitations
- 1.31 Clippings
- 1.32 Cothen, Bettye
- 1.33 Installation / Selection
- 1.34 Periodical Art and Content Guidelines
- 1.35 Programs, 1975
- 1.36 Programs, 1976
- 1.37 Programs, 1977
- 1.38 Programs, 1978
- 1.39 Programs, 1979
- 1.40 Programs, 1979 – Nigeria
- 1.41 Programs, 1980
- 1.42 Programs, 1981
- 1.43 Programs, 1982
- 1.44 Programs, 1983
- 1.45 Retirement – Sunday School Board
- 1.46 Retirement – Lesch Article
- 1.47 Retirement – Program
- 1.48 Shurder, Walter – “Relating to the Diversity of Southern Baptists,” Sunday School Board 90th Anniversary
- 1.49 White Oak Baptist Church – clipping

Box 2

Sunday School Board publication with final tribute to Dr. Cothen, many with color photographs of Dr. and Mrs. Cothen.