Inventory of the
Southern Baptist Convention. Mason Study Collection

AR 825

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
Prepared by Michelle Herr
October 2011
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Summary
Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Mason Study Collection

Date Span: 1992 – 1993

Abstract: Collection includes correspondence, articles, pamphlets and books related to the Southern Baptist Convention’s study of Freemasonry. The study focused on Freemasonry’s compatibility with the Southern Baptist faith and the acceptability of members of Baptist churches to be Masons.

Size: 3 linear ft. (7 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 825

Historical Sketch
At 1992 annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, James L. Holly proposed a resolution recommending a study of Freemasonry. Holly believed that the principles and rituals of Freemasonry made it incompatible with the Southern Baptist faith. The messengers of the convention approved an amended version of the resolution, which directed the Interfaith Witness Department of the Home Mission Board to “study the compatibility with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine of the organization known variously as the Masonic Lodge, Masonry, Freemasonry, and or Ancient and Accepted Right of Freemasonry.”

In addition to consulting numerous articles, books and publications regarding Freemasonry, the Interfaith Witness Department received hundreds of letters from Masons from across the country and across numerous faiths. At the conclusion of the study, the Interfaith Witness Department concluded that membership in Masonic Lodges should be an individual choice, in concurrence with Baptist principles.

Scope and Content Note
The Mason Study Collection (3 linear ft.) consists of correspondence, articles, pamphlets and books related to the study of Freemasonry conducted by the Southern Baptist Convention from 1992 – 1993.

The major topics and issues included in the papers are: Freemasonry, its relation and compatibility to the Southern Baptist faith, religious liberty, and masonry’s compatibility
to other Christian faiths.

**Arrangement**
The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

**Provenance**
Donated by Mark Coppenger, 2000.

**Preferred Citation**
Southern Baptist Convention. Mason Study Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Access Restrictions**
None

**Subject Terms**
Coppenger, Mark T.
Freemasonry.
Freemasonry – Controversial literature.
Freemasonry – Moral and ethical aspects.
Freemasonry – Religious aspects – Christianity.
Freemasons.
Holly, James L.
Secret societies.

**Related Materials**
Leazer, Gary H. *A closer look at Freemasonry and religion*. Pam 6621
Leazer, Gary H. *Fundamentalism & Freemasonry: the Southern Baptist investigation of the fraternal order*. BX6462.3 .L43 1995
Southern Baptist Convention Proceedings [videorecording], R60vt SBC 1991 – 1993
Morris Chapman Papers, AR 780
H. Edwin Young Papers, AR 798

**Container List**
Box 1

1.1 American Masons
1.2 Anglican – Catholic Relations
1.3 Articles – Allen, Fred E. – Learning to Read: Second Chances
1.4 Articles – Another Word on the Baptist vs. Masonry Controversy
1.5 Articles – Brotherhood Commission Report on the Book *What You Need to Know About Masons*
1.6 Articles – Clausen, Henry C. – Your Amazing Mystic Powers
1.7 Articles – Commentary on the February 1993 Special Issue of the Scottish Rite Journal
1.8 Articles – Critique of “A Study of Freemasonry”
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2.9  Correspondence – E

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3.3  Correspondence – H
3.4  Correspondence – Holly, James L.
3.5  Correspondence – I – J
3.6  Correspondence – K

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4.5  Correspondence – R

Box 5

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5.4  Correspondence – T
5.5  Correspondence – V
5.6  Correspondence – W
5.7  Correspondence – Y – Z
5.8  Masonic Views – Atheists
5.9  Masonic Views – Baptist Union of Scotland
5.10 Masonic Views – Catholic Church

Box 6

6.1  Masonic Views – Christian Reformed Church in America
6.2  Masonic Views – Church of England
6.3  Masonic Views – Church of the Assemblies of God
6.4  Masonic Views – Church of the Nazarene
6.5  Masonic Views – Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
6.6  Masonic Views – General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
6.7  Masonic Views – Judaism
6.8  Masonic Views – Lutheran Church
6.9  Masonic Views – Methodist Church
6.10 Masonic Views – Orthodox Presbyterian Church
6.11 Masonic Views – Presbyterian Church in America
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