Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace, Golden Gate International Exposition Scrapbook

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Treasure Island was built between 1937 and 1938 for the exposition. In 1941, the island was obtained from the City and County of San Francisco for use as a base during the war. Nearly all of the buildings used for the exposition were taken down. However, some of sculptures and art survived.

The scrapbook was collected by Fred D. Parr (1885-1964) a native Californian and Methodist layman. He was founder of the Dodge Steamship Company, organizer of the Parr-McCormick Steamship line, Parr-Richmond Terminal Company and the Parr-Richmond Industrial Corporation. He served on several charitable boards and commissions. In 1938, Parr became president of the Temple of Religion Committee coordinating all efforts to include the Temple and Tower in the 1939 Golden Gate International Exhibition.

Work included planning and constructing the buildings, coordinating exhibits and art work, and scheduling programs and events throughout the exposition. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, President of Mills College, gave speeches during the Exhibition. The artist, Franz W. Bergmann, painted the religion themed murals on the buildings.

Stanley Armstrong Hunter, long-time minister of Saint John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, authored two accounts of the Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace: one containing activities through 1939; the other, from 1939 through 1940. President Robert Gordon Sproul of University of California wrote: “the book will have historical significance as an accounting of one of our earliest efforts to bring people of faith together, regardless of their religions.”

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection includes the scrapbook of the event and the two books by Stanley Armstrong Hunter, Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition. The scrapbook includes formal documents by the Hall of Religion committee, various pamphlets and most of the locally published clippings on the Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace in 1938 and 1939. Besides the activities of local religious organizations, there were several controversies. One mural met with great concern. The depiction of Jesus by Austrian artist Franz Bergmann seemed too dark and appeared “lacking in spirituality and kindness” by many clergymen. Moses seemed too stern and, in a departure from usual form, mostly bald. Bergmann agreed to soften both figures. Among the exhibits were archeological artifacts from the Palestine Institute (now Bade Institute of Biblical Archaeology) of Pacific School of Religion, a Marcus Whitman exhibit from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and the John Howell exhibit of Bibles, of which a portion was later donated to PSR.

**Arrangement**

The collection is in chronological order.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Parr, Fred D.
Reinhardt, Aurelia Henry, 1877-1948.
Bergmann, Frank W. (Frank Walter), 1898-1977.
Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace, Inc.
Golden Gate International Exposition, (1939-1940: San Francisco, Calif.)
Religion -- Museums
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Religion

**Related Material**

*Pamphlets on religion and democracy, 16th to 19th centuries / Sutro Library project, Work projects administration (July 4, 1940). From the collection of Adolph Sutro, these eight pamphlets represent the development of ideals of religious tolerance and democracy. The publication was sponsored by the Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace.*