Joseph Pomeroy Widney Papers: Finding Aid

Stephanie E. Clayton, April 15, 2011.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
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URL: http://www.huntington.org
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Overview of the Collection
Title: Joseph Pomeroy Widney Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1880-1937
Bulk dates: 1392-1937
Collection Number: mssWidney papers
Extent: 42 items in 1 oversize box.
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection contains 32 manuscripts of Los Angeles physician and writer Joseph P. Widney (1841-1939), chiefly consisting of chapter drafts from Widney’s book, The Three Americas: Their Racial Past (ca. 1930s), as well as a few pieces of ephemera and photographs.

Language: English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation

Provenance
On permanent deposit from the Los Angeles County Medical Association, 1992. In 1992, the Los Angeles County Medical Association put several collections on permanent deposit here at the Huntington Library.

Biographical Note
Joseph Pomeroy Widney (1841-1938) was an American physician. He served, briefly after he graduated from college, in the Civil War for the Union and sailed to California after he was discharged for frail health. He travelled all throughout the state and was especially interested in the Spanish and Mexican populations.

Widney went back to school in 1865 and earned his medical degree in 1866 from Toland Medical College. He moved to Los Angeles in 1868, where he began his medical career. Widney was the second president of the University of Southern California, a founding dean of that university’s medical school, and a founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. In 1935 he published his book The Three Americas: Their Racial Past. He helped establish the journal Southern California Practitioner, speculated in land in Los Angeles and was a prolific writer.

Scope and Content
The collection contains 32 manuscripts by Dr. Joseph P. Widney (1841-1939). The bulk of the manuscripts are chapter drafts from Widney’s book, The Three Americas: Their Racial Past. These manuscripts are arranged in chapter order. The text describes migration to North and South America, their racial makeup, and asserts that the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa form a federation based upon their common Anglo-Saxon ancestry. There are two manuscripts from Widney’s book, The Genesis and Evolution of Islam and Judeo-Christianity, also in the Rare Books Department. The remaining manuscripts include a poem by Widney and excerpts from a speech. The collection also includes 10 items of ephemera: five photographs of Widney and five photographs of a bust of his likeness installed in the Auditorium Room of the Los Angeles County Medical Association building in 1937.

Arrangement
Manuscripts arranged in chronological order, followed by photographs.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Subjects**
Ethnology -- America.
Physicians -- California -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
Physicians -- California -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
Religions.

**Forms/Genres**
Manuscripts -- California -- 20th century.

**Additional Contributors**
Los Angeles County Medical Association, former owner.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Manuscripts and photographs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>The Genesis and Evolution of Islam and Judeo-Christianity: [draft] [before 1932]. 2 items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Front Matter: [draft] [before 1935]. 2 items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 1: [draft] [before 1935]. 1 item.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 3: [draft] [before 1935]. 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 5: [draft] [before 1935]. 2 items.</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 6: [draft] [before 1935]. 2 items.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 7: [draft] [before 1935]. 4 items.</td>
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<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 8: [draft] [before 1935]. 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 9: [draft] [before 1935]. 5 items.</td>
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<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 10: [draft] [before 1935]. 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 11: [draft] [before 1935]. 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 13</td>
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<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>The Three Americas: Chapter 14: [draft] [before 1935]. 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>The Three Americas: [draft] [before 1935]. 2 items.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>Excerpts from Address of Doctor Widney: [speech] (1937, May 11). 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>Tithonos: [poem] [undated]. 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 19</td>
<td>Photographs (1880-1937). 10 items.</td>
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</tbody>
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