

Lynn Harold Hough (1877-1971) Papers, 1919-1955

Series 3/14

Box 1

Biography

Lynn Harold Hough, Northwestern University president (1919-1920), was born on September 10, 1877, in Cadiz, Ohio, son of Franklin M. and Eunice Richey (Giles) Hough. Hough received a B.A. degree from Scio College, Alliance, Ohio, in 1898, and a B.D. from Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, New Jersey, in 1905. In 1919 Drew University granted him a Doctor of Theology degree.

Hough held several pastorates in the Methodist Church: From 1898 to 1904, Methodist Church, Arcola, New Jersey; First Methodist Church, Cranford, New Jersey, 1904 to 1906; Methodist Church, Kings Park, New York, 1906 to 1907; and Third Methodist Church, Long Island City, New York, 1907 to 1909. In 1908 Hough was ordained an elder in the Methodist Episcopal ministry. Hough became pastor of the Summerfield Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York, in 1909, a position he held until 1912. He then moved to Baltimore as pastor of the Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church (1912-1914).

Hough left the role of an active pastor in 1914 to become professor of historical theology at the Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois. On May 27, 1919, the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University elected Hough as the fourteenth president of the University. Northwestern had been under the leadership of acting president Thomas Holgate for almost three years and the Board was deeply split over Hough's appointment. The final vote was 24 for Hough, 8 opposed, 1 for another individual, and 2 for postponement. Although he officially assumed office on July 1, 1919, Hough did not begin his presidential duties until September, after he had returned from a preaching engagement in London.

During the middle of January, 1920, Hough spent a week in the east. From January 29 through March 2, he toured the west for the Greater Northwestern University Campaign, speaking to alumni groups. During much of the spring of 1920 Hough was confined to his home with a severe cold and fatigue. Hough's inability to shake the effects of this cold and fatigue combined with the heavy work required by the presidency forced him on July 1, 1920, to send a formal letter of resignation to Oliver T. Wilson, President of the Board of Trustees, effective October 1. During the summer Hough traveled and preached in England and Scotland.

Hough's brief tenure as president of Northwestern saw the establishment of a School of Education (headed by a Director) within the College of Liberal Arts. The School could grant award certificates but formal degrees in education were still given by the College. A graduate division, awarding the M.B.A. degree, was established in the School of Commerce. A major financial campaign was initiated. Of most importance to the University as a whole was the final decision on June 15, 1920, to purchase a tract of land on the north side of Chicago to serve as a campus for the schools of medicine, dentistry, commerce, and law.

After leaving Northwestern, Hough returned to the active ministry, taking charge of the Central Methodist Church in Detroit. In 1928 he became pastor of the American Presbyterian Church in Montreal. In 1930 Hough was appointed professor of homiletics and Christian criticism of life at the Theological School of Drew University, a post he held until 1947 when he retired. He also served as dean of the School from 1934 to 1947. Hough did much to improve the academic program at Drew and greatly expanded the university's outlook.

A prolific writer, Hough wrote over 40 books - primarily sermons and essays. He was a

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popular public speaker on religious, patriotic, and historical topics, and the recipient of ten honorary degrees.

For much of his adult life Hough lived with his mother. He married Blanche Horton Troubridge in Warren, Pennsylvania on October 13, 1936. They had no children. Hough dies in New York City on July 14, 1971.

Description of the Series

The Lynn Harold Hough Papers are arranged in two major categories: biographical material and material pertaining to Hough's term as Northwestern's President, July 1, 1919, to October 1, 1920. The material in each folder is arranged chronologically by date.

The biographical material includes articles and notes, clippings, a published address, "The University and the Remaking of the World"; and a three-page holographic draft, "Finding a Purpose," for the *Daily Northwestern*.

The bulk of the material pertaining to Hough's presidency is comprised of folders of general correspondence. Matters discussed in the correspondence include the proposed Chicago Campus (need for funds and completion of purchase), problems concerning Wesley Hospital and Northwestern's possible affiliation with Passavant Hospital, faculty protests about low salaries; whether or not the University should hire a full-time football coach and what the role of the team should be; and whether Northwestern should have a School (rather than just a Department) of Education.

In addition to the correspondence there are thin folders of alumni lists and minutes and reports from various university meetings and groups.

Provenance: The Hough materials were transferred to the University Archives at an unknown date prior to June 1, 1974; the series incorporates material separated during the processing of the Walter Dill Scott Papers (Series 3/15).

Restrictions: None

Processor: William K. Beatty September, 1980

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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title, Dates</u>
1	1	Biographical - Articles and Notes, May 27, 1919 - April 7, 1955
	2	Clippings, January 23 - February 28, 1920
	3	Writings, 1919, 1939
	4	President's Office - Correspondence, July 1 - October 30, 1919
	5	Correspondence, November 1 - 29, 1919
	6	Correspondence, December 1 - 29, 1919
	7	Correspondence, January 2 - February 27, 1920:
	8	Correspondence, March 1 - .31, 1920
	9	Correspondence, April 1 - 30, 1920
	10	Correspondence, May 1 - 31, 1920
	11	Correspondence, June 1 - 30, 1920
	12	Correspondence, July 1 - September 29, 1920
	13	Alumni Lists, 1919
	14	Minutes, June 30, 1919 - May 31, 1920
	15	Reports, March 17, 1919 - June 30, 1920
	16	Statistical Reports, 1919