
Amos Alonzo Stagg Collection

Processed by Don Walker, George Yagi, Harrison Inefuku

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Amos Alonzo Stagg Collection

Collection number: MSS 072

Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University of the Pacific Library
Stockton, California

Processed by:

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Michael Wurtz

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Amos Alonzo Stagg collection

Dates: 1869-1989

Collection number: MSS 072

Creator: Stagg, Amos Alonzo, 1862-1965

Collection Size: 17 feet

Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Dept. of Special Collections
Stockton, California 95211

Abstract: The Stagg Collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, clippings, writings by and about Stagg, photographs and memorabilia.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research. A detailed 82 page finding aid/inventory of materials is available upon request.

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Preferred Citation

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Biography / Administrative History

Amos Alonzo Stagg, the "Grand Old Man of Football" was born on Aug 16, 1862, in West Orange County, N. J. during the American Civil War, and seven years before the first intercollegiate football game was played. When it was time for Amos to decide whether or not he should go to college, he asked for the advice of one of his teachers and after being greatly inspired by his talk, he decided to go. After attending Philips Exeter Academy, Stagg went on to Yale to become a minister, but while there Stagg found another calling in life, to promote Athletics. While at Yale, Stagg became one of Yale's greatest baseball pitchers of all time, and later he was chosen to be a member of Walter Camp's first All America Team in 1889. After graduating from Yale Stagg decided that he was not ministerial material and thus began the career of one of football's greatest legends. In 1890, Stagg began coaching football at Springfield College, and by 1892 he was a coach at the University of Chicago. Stagg stayed at Chicago for 41 years until his retirement in 1933. After which, Stagg traveled by train to the Pacific Coast to what was then a tiny college that would someday become the University of the Pacific. While coaching at Pacific, Coach Stagg had such an impressive impact on the school's team that he was voted coach of the year for 1943. In 1946, he left Pacific to join his son at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, and there Stagg continued to coach until 1953, when his beloved wife Stella began to suffer from declining health and he decided to return to Stockton for her sake. Even then, Coach Stagg continued to coach, and until 1959 he coached the Stockton Junior College Football Team, now Delta College. Stagg's influence on football included more than his activity on the field. Since its founding, Stagg was an active member of the NCAA and played an important role in the development of football as well as many other

sports.

Throughout his life, Coach Stagg believed that football provided young men with high ideals, and a good strong character. While Coach Stagg coached his teams, he forbid his players to smoke, drink, or commit other vices under penalty of being thrown off the team. A strong advocate of prohibition, and a witness to the saddening effects of alcohol abuse, Stagg strongly spoke against alcohol on many occasions. His belief was that he could shape the young men he coached by giving them a strong character, enhanced by good morals and leadership qualities, and by doing so he could improve society. Coach Stagg died peacefully at the age of 102.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Stagg Collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, clippings, writings by and about Stagg, photographs and memorabilia. A detailed 82 page finding aid/inventory of materials is available upon request.

Indexing Terms

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

College of the Pacific - Football

University of Chicago - Football

Coaching (Athletics) - Study and teaching

Coaches (Athletics) - Correspondence

Coaches (Athletics) - History

Football - History

Stagg, Paul

Other Finding Aids

A detailed 82 page finding aid/inventory of materials is available upon request.

Series I: Biographical Material

Box 1A: General Biographical Material

Box 1B: General Biographical Material

Box 2: Articles, 1889-1955

Box 3: Articles, 1956-1989

Box 4: Correspondence, 1885-1924

Box 5A: Correspondence, 1925-1949

Box 5B: Correspondence 1950-1965

Box 6: Scrapbooks

Box 7A: Scrapbooks

Box 7B: Scrapbooks

Box 8: Manuscripts of Books Written About Stagg

Box 9: Personal Papers: Misc./Movie

Box 10: Periodicals

Box 11A: Memorabilia

Box 11B: Memorabilia

Box 12: Books

Series II: Football

Box 1: Rule Books, 1876-1963

Box 2: NCAA Business, 1887-1963

Box 3: Early Years

Box 4: University of Chicago

Box 5A: College of the Pacific

Box 5B: College of the Pacific

Box 6: Susquehanna University

Box 7: Contributions to Football

Series III: Writings

Box 1: Speeches/Stories

Box 2: Narrative Writings

Series IV: Other

Box 1: Post Mortem Miscellany

Box 2A: Photographs
Box 2B: Negatives
Box 3A: Oversize Photographs
Box 3B: Oversize Album
Box 4: Audio/Video Materials