

A Guide to the Collections: Frank W. Gunsaulus

Overview

Frank W. Gunsaulus, 1856 – 1921, noted preacher, educator, and pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church delivered the “Million Dollar Sermon” which inspired Philip Armour to found Armour Institute of Technology. Gunsaulus then served as the school’s president for 27 years. He was inducted into IIT’s Hall of Fame in 2001. Note that alternate spellings “Wakley” and “Wakeley” are used for his middle name.

Gunsaulus received his B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1875, and later earned a D.D. and L.L.D. He was the pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church from 1877- 1899, pastor of Central Church (independent) from 1899- 1919, and president of Armour Institute of Technology from 1893-1921. He was also the Chairman of the Board of Emerson School of Oratory (later Columbia College.)

Gunsaulus was the author of numerous sermons, poetry, biographies, and fiction including titles such as: *Metamorphoses of a Creed; November at Eastwood; Paths to the City of God; Monk and Knight; William Ewart Gladstone; Songs of Night and Day; Man of Galilee; Josef Israels; Phidias, and Other Poems*. He also edited a ten-volume set of textbooks for the American School of Correspondence titled *Modern Engineering Practice: Steam, Electricity, Mechanics* (Chicago, 1903) and delivered a series of Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School, published as *The Minister and the Spiritual Life* in 1911.

Little comprehensive research has been done into Gunsaulus’ life, and many personal biographical details are not available. His papers suggest he was devoted to his family. He was also an avid collection of books and art, and an authority on both Wedgwood Pottery and rare manuscripts. Gunsaulus’ life was dominated by public speaking engagements on radio programs like “30 Good Minutes,” and in person across the country. He continued to preach Sunday morning sermons at his own church until only months before his death at the age of 65.

His obituary read: “London had its Spurgeon, Brooklyn its Henry Ward Beecher and Chicago its Gunsaulus....Frank W. Gunsaulus, whose death is deplored by all classes of his Chicago fellow citizens, [was known for] his pulpit fame world-wide, but to those who knew him best such fame was only incidental to other tremendous achievements on humanitarian and sociological lines....Every large reform movement in this growing city had his active support, and in many fields he was one of the driving forces that turned idealism into practical effort.”

(Source: Obituary commentary, *Herald-Examiner*, March 18, 1921)

Significance to IIT

Gunsaulus shaped the history of Chicago through his guidance of many educational and religious institutions, numerous arts and cultural organizations, and unknown humanitarian programs. His support was more than just verbal, his oratorical powers were such that his voice alone appears to have been sufficient to insure success. In addition, Gunsaulus provided financial support

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through gifts of artwork and books to many Chicago area institutions. His service on boards and committees reassured such groups that their programs were in safe hands.

IIT was one of the religious and educational institutions that benefited from Gunsaulus' support. His "Million Dollar Sermon" in 1890 is credited for motivating Philip D. Armour to provide funding for the Armour Institute of Technology, one of the predecessors of IIT. Gunsaulus remained at AIT as the first president, and continued to build financial and social support for the institution, as well as donating materials to the library and special collections.

Materials in UASC

Processed Collections

- 1998.024 *Frank W. Gunsaulus Papers*
Correspondence to and from Gunsaulus, but does not appear to be the bulk of his administrative correspondence regarding the operation of Armour Institute of Technology. Lesser amounts of materials related to Gunsaulus' role as a preacher and author, and obituary materials
- 1998.027 *Anita Anderson Papers*
Framed 8x8½" monochrome reproduction of 1920 portrait of Frank W. Gunsaulus by Arvid Nyholm. (Copies of this image in Acc. No. 1998.199/Box DD-2/Gunsaulus. The original oil is in Galvin Library as of Sept. 2007.)
- 1998.057 *Frank W. Gunsaulus Papers*
Letter to his sister concerning letter from William Gladstone.
- 1998.060 *Frank W. Gunsaulus Papers*
Manuscripts of working copies of Frank W. Gunsaulus' poems. Publications by or about Gunsaulus. Letters from Gunsaulus to Dr. Frank Webster Jay.
- 2003.030 *Gunsaulus Rare Books Collection*
Materials concerning the Frank W. Gunsaulus Rare Books Collection which he gifted to Armour Institute of Technology. Note the rare books themselves are no longer held at IIT.

Unprocessed Collections

- 1991.010 *Gunsaulus Family Scrapbook*

Yearbooks

Integral 1899 (Armour Institute of Technology yearbook); Chicago, 1899; pg. 24.

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Photographs/Pictures

Numerous images appear in the Armour Institute of Technology yearbooks, 1896 – 1921.
Portrait (oil on canvas) by Arvid Nyholm in Paul V. Galvin Library, Donnelley Room.
IIT Archives/1998.199/Unprocessed Photos/Boxes DD, FF, HH, RR.
Portrait (oil on canvas) at University of Chicago Library, Special Collections main hallway.

Processed Collections with secondary materials

024.05.04 John T. Rettaliata Enrollment Figures

036.04.07 Dan Ryan Slides-2

036.04.06 Dan Ryan Slides-1

1998.026 American School of Correspondence Collection

1998.033 Biographical Files Collection

1998.130 Non-serial publications

1998.134 Vision Collection

1998.145 Julia Beveridge Award Collection

1998.149 News Releases Collection

1998.160 James C. Peebles Papers/A History of Armour Institute of Technology

1999.035 Buildings and Grounds Collection

1999.036 Henry Knepler Papers

2000.010 Armour Scientific Academy Records

2000.013 Harold Bretz Collection

2000.023 Vincent Golden Collection

2000.041 Edward Mochel Papers

2000.053 Frank W. Gunsaulus Collection

2001.017 Armour Institute of Technology Records

2001.032 Institutional Chronologies Collection

2002.006 W Ronald Johnson Papers

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2002.061 Edward V. Mochel Collection

2003.052 Slides

2004.011 Posters & Art Work Collections

Additional External Materials

Family Collections

Original Gunsaulus Family Scrapbook is held by Gunsaulus' great-graughter Chelsey Spring as of 1991 (photocopy in Archives)

Other Chicago Area Repositories

Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago

In *University Record* (new series), Memorial of Dr. F.W.G (vol. 7, pg 15), and F.W. Gunsaulus (vol.7, pg.182-3)

In *University Record* (old series) "Lectures on English Poetry" (vol.3, p 39.)

Gunsaulus appears in the Board of Trustees Minutes, 1891- 1943, William Rainey Harper Papers, and President's Paper. An oil-on-canvas portrait of Gunsaulus, similar to the one owned by IIT, hangs in the Regenstein Library, Special Collections reading room.

Special Collections, Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania

Correspondence with Theodore Dreiser

Ohio Wesleyan University Archives

Art Institute of Chicago

University of Illinois at Chicago

Museum of Science and Industry

Further Reading: Publications by Frank W Gunsaulus

The Metamorphoses of a Creed: An Essay in Present Day Theology. Chillicothe, Ohio: Gould & Kello, c1879.

November at Eastwood: Sermons. Columbus, Ohio: A. H. Smythe, c1880.

Mormonism and Jesuitism: Addresses at the Annual Meeting of the New West Education Commission, Held October 14, 1890, in the First Congregational Church, Chicago by FWG, Henry E. Gordon, and William Frederick Slocum. Chicago, 1890.

Monk and Knight: An Historical Study in Fiction. Chicago: A. C. McClurg, c1893. [1891?]

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Phidias, And Other Poems. Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company, c1891.

“‘Saint’ to ‘sinner:’ Lines read at the funeral services of Eugene Field,” Nov. 6, 1895.

A Warning to Voters by FWG and George D. Boulton. Chicago: M.A. Fountain, 1896.

Songs of Night And Day. Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company, c1896.

William Ewart Gladstone: A Biographical Study [Cover title: Gladstone, the Man and His Work].
Chicago; Philadelphia: Monarch Book Co., c1898.

Young Men in History – New York, 1899

The Man of Galilee – Cambridge, Mass. 1899

The Man of Galilee: A Biographical Study of the Life of Jesus Christ. Chicago, Philadelphia:
Monarch Book Co., 1899.

Lessons From The Rainbow by FWG. # 5 in “Today's Best Thought: A Series of Addresses by
Foremost Speakers in North America.” Chicago, Munsell Pub. Co., 1900 – 1987.

Modern Engineering Practice: Steam, Electricity, Mechanics ..., Editor-in-chief FWG. Chicago:
American School of Correspondence, 1903.

Paths to Power: Central Church Sermons. New York; Chicago [etc.]: Fleming H. Revell Company,
c1905.

Paths to the City of God. New York ; Chicago: Fleming H. Revell Company, c1906.

Modern Engineering Practice: A Reference Library... (10 volumes), editor-in-chief FWG. Chicago:
American School of Correspondence, 1906.

Transfiguration of Christ, 1907.

The Higher Ministries of Recent English Poetry. New York: F.H. Revell, c1907.

“The Bible vs. Infidelity” in *The World’s Great Sermons*, Vol. X, Kleiser, Grenville (ed) – New
York, 1908.

“The wealth of friendship”, comp. by Wallace and Frances Rice; with a homily on friendship, 1909.

The Minister and the Spiritual Life – New York, 1911.

“Josef Israels: An Address Delivered at the Opening of the Exhibition of Josef Israels' Paintings,
Toledo Museum of Art.” Chicago: Press of Review Printing & Embossing Co., c1912.

Truths Leaf by Leaf by David Swing; introduction by FWG; Chicago: The Lakeside Press, R.R.
Donnelley & Sons Co., 1905.

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The minister and the spiritual life microform, 1911, pp. 397

Modern Masters of Pulpit Discourse by William Cleaver Wilkinson; with chapter by/about FWG.
New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1905. [Also: Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1922.]

Martin Luther and the Morning Hour – Chicago, 1917

Prayers of Frank W. Gunsaulus. New York; Chicago [etc.]: Fleming H. Revell Company, c1922.

In *Christian World Pulpit*

- “Babel and Pentecost” Vol. LXII (1902) p. 120
- “Chains Worth Wearing” Vol. XLI (1892) p.174
- “Delusions of Unrighteousness” Vol. XXXVIII (1890) p. 346
- “The Face of the Father” LXXI (1902) p. 180
- “The Kingdom and the Cross” XLII (1902) p. 107
- “Liberalism in Christian Theology” LXXIV (1908) p. 384
- “Man’s Double Life” LXXXV (1916) p. 383
- “Nicodemus’ Lost Opportunity” LXXVIII (1910) p. 104

In *Homiletic Review*

- “Andrew and Simon” LIX (1910) p. 54
- “Correspondence Instruction in Religious Life” XLIX (1905) p. 329
- “Significance of the Ministry” XLVIII (1904) p. 4

In *Biblical World* – Vol. VI (1895) p. 54 – Gunsaulus “Christ in Poetry”

Further Reading: Biographical

“Frank Wakeley Gunsaulus” in *The University Record*. University of Chicago, July 1921; pp. 182-3.

“Frank Wakely Gunsaulus, D.D., L.L.D., 1856 – 1921.” from the address of Charles L. Hutchinson, read at the Memorial Service. The Art Institute of Chicago, April 24, 1921; pp. 18, 19 & 20.

“In Memoriam: Frank Wakeley Gunsaulus” by various speakers April 3, 1921, pp. 1 – 134.

Obituaries in Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Daily News, Herald-Examiner, March 17 -18, 1921.

“Chicago Firsts: The Million Dollar Sermon,” cartoon in *The Chicago American*. Fri., Dec. 20, 1957

“The Story of the ‘Million Dollar Sermon,’” *IIT Alumni News*. (Spring 1988), Vol. 6, No. 3.

Bancroft , Edgar Addison. *Doctor Gunsaulus, The Citizen* with addresses by various people.
Chicago, 1921.

Bitzer, Judge George B. “Frank W. Gunsaulus, ’[18]75” *Ohio Wesleyan Magazine*. Oct. 1942, pp. 7 & 32.

Bridgman , Howard A. “What Armour Institute Has Done for Dr. Gunsaulus.” *The Congregationalist and Christian World*, Aug. 9, 1902; pp. 195.

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- Chandler, Joseph Hayes. "Dr. Gunsaulus and the Higher Life of Chicago." *Congregationalist & Christian World*, April 20, 1912; pp. 538 & 540.
- Davis, George T.B. "A Prince of Preachers." *Our Day* (Vol. XVII, No. 12), December, 1898; pp. 503-512.
- Dobson, Margaret Cecilia. *The Use of Literary Allusions in the Sermons of Frank W. Gunsaulus*. dissertation for Northwestern University, 1931.
- Gunsaulus, Mrs. F. W., Editor. *In Memoriam: Frank Wakely Gunsaulus*. Columbus, Ohio 1921.
- Gunsaulus, Helen C. *Japanese Collections (Frank W. Gunsaulus Hall)*. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology, Leaflet Number 3, 1922, pp. 1, 2 & 3.
- Hill, Napoleon. *Think and Grow Rich*. New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc.
- Jones, Edgar DeWitt. "Frank Wakeley Gunsaulus" in *The Royalty of the Pulpit*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers; pp. 74 – 75.
- MacFarlane, Peter Clark. "Frank Wakely Gunsaulus: The Premier Pulpiteer of Chicago – a Man of Many Manifestations." *Collier's Magazine*, (Vol. 49), Aug. 3, 1912; pp. 16, 17, & 25.
- Newton, Joseph Fort. *Some Living Masters of the Pulpit: Studies in Religious Personality*. New York: George H. Doran Co., 1923. [Also: Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Press, 1971.]
- Parlette, Ralph Albert. "A Glimpse of Gunsaulus" in *The University of Hard Knocks, the School that Completes Our Education*. Chicago: Parlette-Padget Co., 1917.
- Sarles, Phillip William. *Frank Wakely Gunsaulus, Preacher and Citizen*, thesis for Chicago Theological Seminary, 1937.
- Synder, Edward. "Million Dollar Sermon." *Chicago Daily News*, Jan.19, 1952.
- Thwing, Charles Franklin. "Frank Wakely Gunsaulus" in *Guides, Philosophers and Friends*. New York, September 23, 1927, pp. 209-219.
- Periodicals Containing Articles on Frank W. Gunsaulus:*
- Alumni Quarterly* – Ohio Wesleyan, Delaware, Ohio, October, 1921
- Armour Engineer* – Published by Armour Institute, Chicago, May, 1921
- Biblical World* – Hanley, E. A., "Review of Paths to Power" Vol. XXIX (1907) p. 474
- Homiletic Review* – Wilkinson C. W., "Frank Wakely Gunsaulus", XLIX (1905) p. 185
- The New York Christian Advocate* – 1921, pp. 372, 386, 570

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Further Reading: General Reference

Dictionary of American Biography; original series, pg. 52-54.

National Dictionary of Biography; pg. 53

Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Vol. II, Chicago, 1912

National Encyclopedia of American Biography – Vol. VII, New York, 1897

Who's Who in America – Vol. XI, Chicago, 1920 – 1921

Who's Who in Chicago, The Book of Chicagoans – Chicago, 1926

www.newchurchspecialties.org/university.html

Biographical entry in *Encyclopedia Americana Online* at <http://go.grolier.com/gol>

http://www.cpsart.org/pdfs/portrait_exhibi2t.pdf

For more information, contact archives@itt.edu or visit UASC, Galvin Library, 35 W 33rd St, Chicago, IL, Monday- Friday, 1pm-5pm.

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