



MS 49 Dwight Goddard

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Personal Papers

ABSTRACT

Dwight Goddard graduated from WPI in 1881 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a successful inventor and manager of a manufacturing company. He became a Buddhist and compiled an anthology of translations, *A Buddhist Bible*.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dwight Goddard was born in Worcester in 1861. He graduated from WPI with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1881. He held responsible engineering positions at Crompton & Knowles Loom Works, Massachusetts Screw Co., Washburn & Moen Co., Goddard Machine Co., Wyman-Gordon Co., and Park Drop Forge Co., Cleveland. In 1906 he published a book of biographical essays titled *Eminent Engineers*. He sold an invention to the U.S. Government which was used during World War I. This apparently made him a wealthy man and allowed him to retire from industry in 1913.

He spent most of his adult life as a Buddhist and writer about Buddhism. He had received a degree from Hartford Seminary in 1894, and became a missionary in China. In China he converted to Buddhism. Goddard was married three times, and had two sons. He spent many years in Thetford, Vermont and lived a spartan life with much time spent in contemplation.

Mr. Goddard sought to interpret Buddhist teachings for the Western world. In his foreword for the 1993 edition of Mr. Goddard's *A Buddhist Bible*, Robert Aitken wrote: "Students of Zen Buddhism come to me with a variety of 'first books' in their past and among them, with some frequency, is Dwight Goddard's durable anthology of translations, *A Buddhist Bible*, first published in 1932 and then republished in its present, enlarged form in 1938."

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials by and about Dwight Goddard, between 1896 and 1993. It includes some of Goddard's writings, both on engineering and Buddhism (more can be found in the library's collections), an engineering notebook, photocopies of letters to family, biographical information and tributes to Goddard, and genealogical information.

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 01	1902-1907	Notebook of Dwight Goddard, containing engineering drawings and figures
Box 01	Folder 02	1912	Publication - <i>A Memoir of the Goddards of North Wilts</i> compiled by Richard Jefferies <i>Reprinted by Dwight Goddard, with additional notes</i>
Box 01	Folder 03	1938-1996	Photocopies of letters to family from Mr. Goddard [to sisters Gertrude and Mary, niece Alice]
Box 01	Folder 04		Testimonial to Goddard on 50 years of service since graduation & letter from Goddard to Herb Taylor
Box 01	Folder 05	September 11, 1938, n.d. and 1938 Pamphlet - "Prospectus of a Buddhist Bible - Fellowship Following Buddha," Number 3 <i>Published by Dwight Goddard, plus review in New York Times of A Buddhist Bible</i>	

Box 01	Folder 06	c. 1939, 1940	Tributes to Dwight Goddard, by Miriam Salanave and by Chas. R. Cummings
Box 01	Folder 07	1988	Timelines of Goddard's life and career [from Russell Lovell]
Box 01	Folder 08	1993	Copy of new introduction to Goddard's A Buddhist Bible and letter from Robert Aitken <i>Aitken wrote the introduction</i> <i>Letter from Aitken to Lora Breuck</i>
Box 01	Folder 09	2006, 2007	Article about Dwight Goddard and letters [article by Charles Latham, Thetford, VT <i>And copy of letter from him to Russell Lovell and one to WPI Archives from Russell Lovell</i>
Box 01	Folder 10		The Samuel Goddard Families by Charles Austin Goddard
Box 01	Folder 11	1974, 1993	Some Goddard family history: Descendents of Dorrance Goddard [compiled by Russell Lovell] <i>And excerpt from Family Narrative of Milton T. Stauffer, nephew of Dwight Goddard</i>
Box 01	Folder 12		Photocopies from Moment of Light, Photographs by Clara Siprell <i>[Ms. Siprell also photographed Dwight Goddard]</i>
		1881	Diploma - Dwight Goddard, 1881 from Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science [WPI] <i>Stored separately</i> <i>See also: Alumni Files - Class of 1881 - Dwight Goddard</i>