

IRWIN ST. JOHN TUCKER - PAPERS

Irwin St. John Tucker was born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1886, and began his career as a reporter for the New Orleans Daily Picayune. After several years of newspaper experience he entered the General Theological Seminary (Episcopal) in New York City, and was ordained in 1913. Throughout most of his life Tucker worked as both priest and journalist, while maintaining an active interest in political and cultural affairs.

Tucker joined the Socialist Party in 1912, the same year he was ordained. Believing strongly that the Church should become involved in the social issues of the day, he organized the Socialist Pulpit at St. Mark's Church in the Bowery, N. Y., as a forum for radical spokesmen of all creeds. In 1914 Tucker came to Chicago as managing editor of The Christian Socialist. His vocal opposition to America's entry into the first World War cost him that position, and he worked for a short time as a literature director of the National Office of the Socialist Party (Chicago) in the summer of 1917. Tucker not only distributed Socialist material, he also wrote such pieces as "Have We Made Good After 141 Years of Democracy?" and "Why You Should Fight," in which he explained:

Fight, sons of the people, for the pigs of Serbia. For the pigs of Serbia, being shut out of the Austrian markets, desired to gain exit to the markets of the world through the port of Durazzo. Hence, the beginning of this war.¹

The National Office was raided by the Post Office Department in September, 1917, and Tucker, Victor Berger, Adolph Germer, William F. Kruse, and J. Louis Engdahl were indicted the following February for violation of the Espionage Act. The government contended that the defendants had conspired to obstruct the draft and encourage insubordination in the armed forces, and that they were "hiding disloyalty to the United States behind a screen of specious and evasive phrases."² Convicted and sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment, the defendants appealed and won a reversal in the Supreme Court in 1921. The trial made Tucker something of a national celebrity, and he made a number of lecture tours, including a trip with Lincoln Steffens on behalf of the Red Star league for aid to Russia.

Tucker was a member of the Illinois delegation to the Socialist Party Congress of 1920 which nominated Eugene V. Debs for President. Led by J. Louis Engdahl, the Illinois delegation fought unsuccessfully for a more radical party platform endorsing the dictatorship of the proletariat. However, Tucker himself broke with the left wing of the party about 1922 and withdrew from active political involvement. Nonetheless, in 1934 Elizabeth Dilling listed him, together with such persons as Jane Addams and Paul Douglas, as part of The Red Network, and in 1953 the House Un-American Activities Committee named Tucker as an example of the "Communist infiltration of the clergy," a charge he flatly denied.

¹Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker

²Socialist Party - Conspiracy Trial Transcript, p. 5

Tucker's association with Jane Addams began with his arrest in the "Hull-House Riot" of January 18, 1915. On his way to a meeting of the IWW in Bowen Hall, Tucker joined a hunger march of the unemployed on Halsted Street, led by Lucy Parsons. The marchers were charged by mounted police and in the melee twenty-one persons were arrested and numerous others injured. Jane Addams and Sophonisba Breckinridge came to the defense of the prisoners, and the city charges were eventually dropped. Tucker also worked with James Eads How, the "millionaire hobo," in establishing the Hobo College in Chicago. There the unemployed, migrant laborers, and tramps of all varieties were offered lectures, classes, and cultural activities. The college also served as a meeting place for many of the prominent radicals of the Midwest, such as Ben Reitman, Jack Jones, and Nina Van Zandt Spies.

In 1927, after serving as temporary priest for a number of mission congregations, Tucker took charge of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3533 N. Albany Avenue, Chicago. While maintaining his position as copy editor of the Chicago Herald-American, Tucker built St. Stephen's into a shrine to writers and artists, popularly known as "The Little Church at the End of the Road." A sculptor and poet himself, Tucker believed that the Church should foster and encourage the arts.

To be intelligible, art must be the expression of a profound conviction shared by many. Any such conviction, deeply held by a number of people, is religious. Our faith is that anything God made has a right to representation in the Church.³

Tucker also organized a series of Indian festivals at St. Stephen's where legends were dramatized and Indian forms of worship incorporated into the service. His own appreciation for religious drama inspired a number of performances by the Cathedral Players of an original work, "The Sangreal," a reinterpretation of the Arthurian romances. The Order of the Sangreal was created at St. Stephen's to honor those who were giving heroic service to the cause of God and humanity, and an attempt was made to start a community in the South based on the principles of this order.

An Aramic scholar and student of the Near Eastern origins of Christianity, Tucker has been a member of the Patriarchal Council of the Nestorian Church. He organized the Aramic Institute, now called the Friends of the Language of Jesus, to promote more accurate Biblical translations. After his conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1954, he became a member of the Society for Vernacular Liturgy and edited its publication, "Amen." He has published widely in religious magazines and currently writes a newsletter of religious and social commentary, "Sunrise."

Tucker was married in 1914 to Ellen Dorothy O'Reilly, an illustrator for the Daily Socialist, and sister of Mary O'Reilly, one of the founders of the Chicago Teachers Federation. Ellen also wrote poetry published in various Chicago newspapers, collaborated with Tucker on many of his dramatic works, and produced a play, "The Hunger Striker," at Hull-House in 1924. Since her death in 1954, Tucker has resided with one of his sons in Chicago. [now trans. on]

The Irwin St. John Tucker Papers comprise 5.5 ft. of material including correspondence, 1903-1969; clippings, 1906-1968; a diary, 1902-1908, and 1953-1969; legal records, 1918-1919; broadsides, pamphlets, articles, books, and miscellaneous published material by and about Irwin St. John Tucker, 1905-1969. Subjects

³St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Writings by Tucker

included are Hull-House, Chicago, Illinois; the Hobo College, Chicago, Illinois; the Industrial Workers of the World; the Socialist Party of the United States, 1914-1920; the "Palmer Raids" and the "Red Scare," 1917-1920; the trial of Victor Berger et al. for violation of the Espionage Act, 1918-1921; the imprisonment of Eugene V. Debs, 1918-1921; the American Citizens Association, Chicago, Illinois, 1937-1940; and the Chicago Press Veterans Association, 1943-1968.

When received, the collection was unarranged, and many of the clippings were pasted into miscellaneous scrapbooks. After interviewing Tucker, the cataloger adopted a subject classification and filed material first by subject, then chronologically. Scrapbooks were separated into loose sheets, and all clippings were filed by subject. Writings by Tucker, a major portion of the collection, were handled in two ways. If an item pertained to a specific subject, it was filed as a subheading of the appropriate series. For example, Tucker's pamphlets on Socialism appear in chronological order under the title:

Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker

The remainder of Tucker's miscellaneous writings were grouped together according to type of work - drama, poetry, essays, etc., - and filed chronologically. Thus the entry for poetry appears:

Poetry - "The City of Dreams" - 1909
Poetry - "Friar Tuck's Breviary" - 1938
Poetry - A Minstrel Friar, 1949
Poetry - "A Dream of Many Colors" - 1965
Poetry - Miscellaneous, 1903-1964

This collection has three major divisions. PERSONAL PAPERS includes the items classified by subject, the correspondence between Tucker and various family members, published articles about Tucker, his diary, and miscellaneous photographs. PUBLISHED WRITINGS includes all Tucker's general writings, including numerous religious pieces plus various unpublished articles and essays. OVERSIZE NEWSPAPERS BY AND ABOUT TUCKER are primarily Socialist Party newspapers, 1914-1921.

The Irwin St. John Tucker Papers were received in an original deposit and three supplements (67-91; 69-37; 69-62), the gift of Mr. Tucker. The material was combined and treated as a single collection. A number of newspapers collected by Tucker and unrelated to the main portion of the Tucker papers were removed and filed separately as the Irwin St. John Tucker Collection of Historic Newspapers.

The Irwin St. John Tucker Papers are filed under the following titles:

OVERSIZE NEWSPAPERS - BY AND ABOUT TUCKER: F.149

"City of Dreams" - New Orleans Picayune, 1909.
The Christian Socialist - March, October, 1914 (2 copies)
"Riot at Hull-House" - Chicago Tribune, Jan. 18, 1915 (Fragment)
 Conspiracy Trial Articles - Misc.: Chicago Socialist, Jan. 18, 1919; Feb. 22, 1919.
The Bulletin, Jan. 18, 1919.
The Eye Opener - Jan., 1919.

Socialist Party Articles

"Congress Gags Lone Socialist" - The Bulletin, May 30, 1919.
 "Debs Nominated by Socialist" - New York Times, May 14, 1920.
 "Lincoln Steffens Lecture on Russia" - Oregon Labor Press, Feb. 18, 1921.
 "Cunnea Rips Mask Off Red Plots" - Chicago Socialist, Feb. 17, 1923.

1. American Citizens Association - Feb., 1937 - May, 1940
2. American Citizens Association - pamphlets, n.d.
3. American Citizens Association - photograph, n.d.
4. Chicago Press Veterans Association - April, 1943 - April, 1968
5. Hobo College, Chicago, Illinois - n. d.
6. Hobo College, Chicago, Illinois - clippings, Jan., 1916 - July, 1930
7. House UnAmerican Activities Committee - clippings, Sept., 1953
8. Hull-House, Chicago, Illinois - Personal Recollections, [Sept., 1969]
9. "Hull-House Riot" - clippings, Jan. 18-19, 1915
10. "Hull-House Riot" - clippings, Jan. 18-19, 1915
11. "Hull-House Riot" - clippings, Jan. 19 - Feb. 21, 1915
12. Miscellaneous - 1919 - 1969
13. O'Reilly, Edward S. ("Tex") - clippings, Dec., 1903 - Dec., 1946
14. Republican National Convention, 1944 - June 26, 28, 1944
15. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois - Clippings, June, 1928 - June, 1936
16. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois, May, 1937 - June, 1955
17. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois, n. d.
18. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois - Order of the Sangreal, July, 1928 - Feb., 1933
19. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois - writings by Tucker
20. Socialist Party - Bomb plot, Sept., 1918 - Oct., 1923
21. Socialist Party - clippings, 1915 - 1939
22. Socialist Party - Conspiracy Trial - broadsides, 1919
23. Socialist Party - Conspiracy Trial - clippings, Mar., 1918 - Jan., 1921
24. Socialist Party - Conspiracy Trial - "100 Years for What?", 1919
25. Socialist Party - Conspiracy Trial - photograph
26. Socialist Party - Conspiracy Trial - transcript, Jan., 1920 - Sept., 1927
27. Socialist Party - Conspiracy Trial - Eugene V. Debs, Jan., 1920 - Sept., 1922
28. Socialist Party - "Palmer Raids", Nov., 1919 - June, 1920
29. Socialist Party - Personal Recollections, n. d.
30. Socialist Party - Publications - "Proclamation and War Program", May, 1917
31. Socialist Party - Publications - War, What For?, 1910
32. Socialist Party - Publications - Workers in American History, 1912
33. Socialist Party - Lincoln Steffens/Tucker Tour, Feb., 1921
34. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "Religion of a Socialist", 1912
35. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "Poems of a Socialist Priest", 1915
36. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "Conferences on Democracy & Peace, 1917
37. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "Have We Made Good After 141 Years of Democracy?", 1917
38. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "The Price We Pay" - 1917
39. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "Why You Should Fight" - July, 1917
40. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "The Chosen Nation" - 1919
41. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "Internationalism: The Problem of the Hour" - [1919?]
42. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "The Martyr Peoples" - [1919?]
43. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "A History of Imperialism" - 1920
44. Socialist Party - Writings by Tucker: "Now It Must Be Done" - 1920
45. Tucker, Ellen O'Reilly - "Hobo Sketches", n. d.
- *46. Tucker, Ellen O'Reilly - Illustrations [oversize], n. d.
47. Tucker, Ellen O'Reilly - Poetry, Nov., 1918 - Dec., 1938
48. Tucker, Ellen O'Reilly - "Madonna of the Plains", n. d.
49. Tucker, Irwin - articles about, Feb., 1926 - Mar., 1928
50. Tucker, Irwin - articles about, n. d.

*Returned to Irwin St. John Tucker, April 12, 1976 *mlk*

51. Tucker, Irwin - Biography (Radio and TV Scripts), 1938, 1966
52. Tucker, Irwin - Book References - Chicago Welcomes You, 1933
53. Tucker, Irwin - Book References: Chicago Medium Rare, 1949
54. Tucker, Irwin - Book References: Hobohemia, 1956
55. Tucker, Irwin - Book References: "Let No Man Write My Epitaph!" 1958
56. Tucker, Irwin - Book Reviews, 1921-1956
57. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, Nov., 1896 - Dec., 1897
58. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1903
59. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1904
60. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1905
61. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1906
62. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1907
63. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1908
64. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1909
65. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1910
66. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1911
67. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1912
68. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1913
69. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1914
70. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1915
71. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1916
72. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1917
73. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1918
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86. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1931
87. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1932
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89. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1934
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91. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1936
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93. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1938
94. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1939
95. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1940
96. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1941
97. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1942
98. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1943
99. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1944
100. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1945
101. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1946
102. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1947
103. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1948
104. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1949

105. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1950
106. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1951
107. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1952
108. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1953
109. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1954
110. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, 1955
111. Tucker, Irwin - Correspondence, Aug., 1956 - Oct., 1969 - n.d.
112. Tucker, Irwin - Diary, July, 1902 - Nov., 1908; Aug., 1953 - June, 1971 *ov HF*
113. Tucker, Irwin - Photographs *ov E 2512e*

PUBLISHED WRITINGS - MISCELLANEOUS

114. Autobiography - Out of the Hell-Box, 1945
115. Biography - "Forty Years at Hull-House: The Story of Jane Addams" - Sept., 1929
116. Biography - "Economist of Tomorrow: The Story of Paul Douglas" - Dec., 1929
117. Biography - "Ambassador to the Court of St. Frances: The Story of Vida D. Scudder" - Aug., 1930
118. Biography - "Justice First: The Story of John A. Lapp" - Dec., 1930
119. Biography - "Father Gibson's Twenty Years" [David E. Gibson], Oct., 1939
120. Biography - "Unto My Life's End-An Appreciation of the Life of the Rev. Gardiner C. Tucker" - Dec., 1941
121. Drama - "The Sangreal" - 1919
122. Drama - Lake Geneva Historical Pageant, 1922
123. Drama - Indian Legends, n.d.
124. Drama - "The Lord's Table" - n.d.
125. Drama - "The Spirit Well" - n.d.
126. News Stories - Clippings, Feb., 1960 - Nov., 1947
127. Personal Essays - Clippings (Chicago), n.d.
128. Personal Essays - England: Canterbury Pilgrim, 1958
129. Personal Essays - England: The Grail of Glastenbury, 1965
130. Personal Essays - "Oxcart and Airplane" - [1950]
131. Personal Essays - "To Jerusalem-With Love" - 1968
132. Personal Essays - "Washington Fought a Blind Man" - n.d.
133. Poetry - "The City of Dreams" - 1909
134. Poetry - "Friar Tuck's Breviary" - 1938
135. Poetry - A Minstrel Friar, 1949
136. Poetry - "A Dream of Many Colors" - 1965
137. Poetry - Miscellaneous, 1903 - 1964
138. Religious Writings - "The Geography of the Gods" - 1912
139. Religious Writings - "Meditations at Mass" - 1915
140. Religious Writings - Hymns, 1948, 1965
141. Religious Writings - "The Liturgy of Life" - 1969
142. Religious Writings - Miscellaneous, Feb., 1916 - 1938
143. Religious Writings - Miscellaneous, Feb., 1940 - July, 1959
144. Religious Writings - Miscellaneous, Mar., 1960 - Dec., 1969
145. Religious Writings - Miscellaneous, n.d.

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COLLECTION OF HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS

146. [Dec. 12, 1936 - Dec. 10, 1944] 147. [Dec. 11, 1944 - May 7, 1945] 148. [May 8, 1945 - Dec. 9, 1945]

- Herald Examiner - Dec., 12, 1936 -- "Without the Woman I Love I Couldn't Rule!"
says Edward
- Chicago Daily Tribune - composite of WW II front pages, Sept., 1939 - Aug., 1945
- Chicago Sunday Tribune - Nov., 3, 1940 - "The Burning of London" - color sketch
- Chicago Herald American - Feb., 17, 1941 - "Roosevelt's Lend Bill--What It Means"
- Chicago Herald American - Dec., 8, 1941 - "U.S. Declares War on Japan"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Dec., 8, 1941 - "Japs and U.S. at War"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Dec., 10, 1941 - "Japs Invade Near Manila..."
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Dec., 11, 1941 - "Philippine Battle Grows"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Dec., 15, 1941 - "Nazi on the Run" ...Reds say
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Dec., 16, 1941 - "2,897 Killed in Hawaii Raid"
- Chicago Sunday Tribune - July 5, 1942 - "How We Saved Europe the First Time"
- New York Herald Tribune - June 11, 1944 - "American Troops 15 Miles from Cherbourg"
- Chicago Herald American - Oct., 20, 1944 - "Revolt! MacArthur to Philippines"
- Chicago Herald American - Feb., 5, 1945 - "Drive to Trap 10,000 Japs"
- Chicago Herald American - Feb., 28, 1945 - "Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Apr., 13, 1945 - "THE PRESIDENT DIES"
- Chicago Herald American - May 7, 1945 - "Germany Surrenders" (2 copies)
- Chicago Herald American - May 8, 1945 - "Victory in Europe"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Aug., 9, 1945 - "Drop Second Atomic Bomb"
- Chicago Herald American - Aug., 11, 1945 - "Accept Jap Peace Bid--If"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Aug., 13, 1945 - "Tokyo Mum on Surrender"
- Chicago Herald American - Aug., 13, 1945 - "Just Got Terms", Japs Reports
- Chicago Herald American - Aug., 14, 1945 - "We Accept Peace Terms"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Aug., 15, 1945 - "The War Is Over"
- Chicago Daily Tribune - Aug., 15, 1945 - "Great War Ends"
- Chicago Herald American - Aug., 15, 1945 - "Peace"
- Chicago Sunday Tribune - Dec., 9, 1945 - "Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the Rumor Mongers"

Chicago Sunday Tribune - May 13, 1945 - "7th War Loan Drive Starts Tomorrow!"

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