Timothy Brosnahan, SJ, President's Office Records
1897-1929
BC.2013.022

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### Summary Information

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<td>Title</td>
<td>Timothy Brosnahan, SJ, President's Office records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1897-1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.1 Linear feet (8 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The Timothy Brosnahan, SJ, President's Office records contain correspondence, clippings, and writings documenting the life and work of Timothy Brosnahan, SJ, the tenth president of Boston College.</td>
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### Preferred Citation note

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Timothy Brosnahan, SJ, President's Office Records, BC.2013.022, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Administrative Information

Publication Information
Processed by Stephanie Bennett, July 2013. This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit.

Restrictions on access
Collection is open for research.

Restrictions on use
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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note
President's Office Records, University Archives, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Biographical/Historical note

Timothy Brosnahan was born in Alexandria, Virginia, on January 8, 1865. He attended private and parochial schools in Washington, DC, and then enrolled at Gonzaga College preparatory school in the same city in September 1869. Three years later, he applied for admission to the Society of Jesus and entered the novitiate at Frederick, Maryland. He attended Woodstock College for his course in philosophy and, in 1879, was sent to Boston College to complete his teaching period and remained there until 1883, when he was transferred to Georgetown. He finally returned to Woodstock to complete his theology training and was ordained in 1887. While teaching at Boston College, Brosnahan helped to establish the college magazine the *Stylus*.

Brosnahan returned to Boston College as a professor of philosophy in 1892. In 1894, he was chosen as the tenth president of Boston College. One of Brosnahan’s lasting achievements during his time as Boston College president was his essay, "System of Education." This essay appeared as the introduction to Boston College’s annual course catalog during his tenure, and remained part of the catalog for 57 years. In addition, Brosnahan’s essay was taken up and adapted for use by a number of other Jesuit colleges.

Following his departure from Boston College in 1898, Brosnahan came to national prominence in Catholic circles with his response to Harvard University president Charles Eliot’s criticism of Jesuit education, which had been published in *The Atlantic Monthly*. Brosnahan’s defense of Jesuit education, published in *The Sacred Heart Review*, was widely admired and sometimes taught in rhetoric classes.

After leaving Boston College, Brosnahan taught at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland; he died in 1915, at the age of fifty-nine, at Georgetown University hospital.

Sources


Scope and Contents note

The Timothy Brosnahan, SJ, President's Office Records contain correspondence, clippings, and writings documenting the life and work of Timothy Brosnahan, SJ, the tenth president of Boston College. Correspondents include James Barr Ames, dean of Harvard Law School and party to a controversy over Boston College students' acceptance to Harvard; and J. Havens Richards, SJ, president of Georgetown University. Brosnahan was also involved in a 1900 controversy over an article in the Atlantic Monthly by Harvard University president Charles Eliot about the lack of change in Jesuit education. Dr. Francis Barnes of Cambridge, a Boston College alumni, gave a speech in the Jesuits' defense that was then published, and Father Brosnahan published a rebuttal article to President Eliot's in The Sacred Heart Journal. Clippings in this collection reflect these men's positions in the debate. Also included are clippings regarding a sermon about "unrecognized saints" given by Reverend Robert Walker, an Episcopalian pastor who was involved in the criminal justice system.

This collection's materials share a box with two other presidential collections: Edward V. Boursaud, SJ, President's Office records and Edward I. Devitt, SJ, President's Office records.

Arrangement note

Items are arranged in alphabetical order.
## Collection Inventory

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<td>Ames, James Barr, 1898</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 6</td>
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<td>Boundaries of St. Ignatius Parish, clipping, 1926</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 7</td>
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<td>Brosnahan, Timothy. <em>President Eliot and Jesuit Colleges: A Defense,</em> pamphlet, circa 1900-1901</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 8</td>
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<td>Brosnahan, Timothy. <em>The Courses Leading to the Baccalaureate in Harvard College and Boston College</em>, pamphlet, 1900</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 10</td>
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<td>Brosnahan, Timothy. <em>The Word Made Flesh</em>, pamphlet, 1929</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 11</td>
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<td>Charles Eliot and Francis Barnes controversy regarding Jesuit education, clippings, 1900-1901</td>
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<td>Folder 12</td>
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<td>Four generations of Boston College teachers, clipping, circa 1915</td>
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<td>Folder 13</td>
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<td>Richards, Joseph Havens to Timothy Brosnahan, 1897-1898</td>
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<td>Folder 14</td>
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