

**Collection #
M 1388**

**EDGAR A. TOWNE PAPERS
CA. 1983–2011**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Series Contents	4

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 1 folder color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1983–2011

PROVENANCE: Edgar A. Towne, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: Items listed as being in Cold Storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 1393, Indianapolis Baptist Temple/Greg Dixon Materials, ca.1979–2007

M 1388, Marian K. Towne Papers, ca. 1974–1996

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0040, 2013.0166

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edgar A. Towne was born on 27 February 1928 to Arthur B. and Margaret Shug Towne in Albany, New York. Towne was raised in Dunkirk, New York, where he joined the Eagle Scouts and attended Dunkirk High School.

Towne later attended the College of Wooster, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and the University of Chicago. He became an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church. He was a pastor at Mountaineer Mining Mission in West Virginia and Hyde Park Union Church in Chicago. Throughout his life, Towne was a member of several religious groups and organizations including the American Theological Society (Midwest Division), where he also served as president; the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought; The Society of Christian Ethics; the American Academy of Religion; and the Reformed Roundtable of the Synod of Lincoln Trails. He authored one book and numerous articles and book reviews.

Towne eventually came to Indianapolis where he became Professor of Theology at the Christian Theological Seminary in 1975. Towne stayed in Indianapolis until his death in April 2018 and served as a board member of the Damien Center, the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center, and the Indiana Information Center on the Abolition of Capital Punishment (ICACP). In 2002, he received the Robert Risk Award from the Indiana ACLU.

Edgar married his first wife, Sarah Jean Wright, in 1950. He later married Marian Kleinsesser Kaufman. In total, Towne had four children (Mary, Stephen, Jonathan, and Nathan) and one stepson (Karl Kaufman).

Sources:

Information in collection.

Ancestry, Library Edition, Accessed 5 June, 2018.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains materials related to Towne's affiliation to local causes and organizations. The first series consists of materials that pertain to general religion and public issues, such as religion's role in public education. The majority of materials in this series involve Towne's advocacy against capital punishment and involvement with the Indiana Citizens to Abolish Capital Punishment (ICACP), such as agendas, correspondence, newsletters, notes, and reports. ICACP was incorporated in 1998, but in 2002 became a 501(c)(3) after evolving into a new organization called the Indiana Information Center on the Abolition of Capital Punishment. The mission was to educate citizens about the death penalty and increase awareness of alternatives to capital punishment. Additionally located in this series are general materials about death penalty laws, pamphlets, brochures, related articles, and literature on capital punishment.

The second series contains materials pertaining to the AIDS crisis in Indianapolis. A majority of these materials are related to a Christian outlook on AIDS that was supportive, which include programs, brochures, newsletters, and research papers. Many of these materials come from the Metropolitan Indianapolis Campus Ministry (MICM) and the Indiana AIDS Pastoral Care Network (IAPCN). These local organizations advocated for education about AIDS and a non-discriminatory approach, with affiliations to groups like the Indiana Civil Liberties Union. Also located in this series are articles that chronicle prominent topics of the time such as Ryan White.

The third series contains materials predominantly from the Alliance of Crown Hill Neighbors (ACHN), such as meeting minutes and agendas. ACHN was a neighborhood association that formed in 2006 in response to concern over a parcel of wooded land at Crown Hill that was sold in 2005. ACHN worked to preserve the Crown Hill land by petitioning a zoning change that would have allowed for commercial and residential development.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Church and Public Issues/Capital Punishment

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Church & Public Issues, 1978–1994, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 1
Indiana Council of Churches, 1983–1984	Box 1, Folder 2
Citizens for Decency Thru Law, 1984–1986	Box 1, Folder 3
Christian Theological Seminary, 2006, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 4
ICACP Board Meetings, Minutes, & Notes, 2001–2008	Box 1, Folder 5
ICACP Monthly & Miscellaneous Minutes and Notes, 2001–2010	Box 1, Folder 6
ICACP Membership Meetings, & Notes, 2004–2008	Box 1, Folder 7
ICACP Annual Meetings, Minutes, & Notes, 2002–2009	Box 1, Folder 8
ICACP Strategic Plan & Bylaws, Members, 2002–2018	Box 1, Folder 9
Correspondence, 1995–2011	Box 1, Folder 10
ICACP Email Correspondence, 2005–2010	Box 1, Folder 11
ICACP Materials & Literature, 2001–2008, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 12
ICACP Sponsored Programs, 2003–2009	Box 1, Folder 13
Miscellaneous ICACP & Related Materials, 2007, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 14
Indiana and the Death Penalty, 2002–2010, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 15
ACLU and the Death Penalty, 2001	Box 1, Folder 16
News Clippings, 1985–2018, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 17
News Clippings, 2001–2011	Box 1, Folder 18
Zolo Anzania, 2002–2010, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 19

General Death Penalty Information, 2003–2008, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 20
Death Penalty Related Publications, 2004–2007	Box 1, Folder 21
Indianapolis Metro Police, 2006–2007	Box 1, Folder 22
Amnesty International, 2001, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 23
Murder Victims’ Families for Reconciliation, 2001–2008	Box 1, Folder 24
“Indiana Abolitionist,” 2002–2009	Box 1, Folder 25
”The Vision,” 2003–2004	Box 2, Folder 1
“I Dream a World...”, N.D.	Box 2, Folder 2
Protest Outside Statehouse, N.D.	Color Photos, Folder 1 of 1

Series 2: Local HIV/AIDS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
News Clippings, 1986–1990	Box 2, Folder 3
Indiana and AIDS, 1986–1993	Box 2, Folder 4
Metropolitan Indianapolis Campus Ministry, 1987–1988	Box 2, Folder 5
Christianity and AIDS, 1987–1992, N.D.	Box 2, Folder 6
“Caring for Human Life,” ca. 1989	Box 2, Folder 7

Series 3: Alliance of Crown Hill Neighbors

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Alliance of Crown Hill Neighbors Agendas, 2006–2007	Box 2, Folder 8
Crown Hill Materials, 2006–2007	Box 2, Folder 9
Correspondence, 2006–2008	Box 2, Folder 10
Butler–Tarkington, 2006–2007	Box 2, Folder 11