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## A guide to the Zelotes Coombs papers

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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# MS 28 Zelotes Coombs

## MS 28 Zelotes Coombs Papers

MS 28

Manuscript

### ABSTRACT

The Zelotes Coombs Papers (1915-1928) contain drafts and finished writing for his unpublished book "The History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute." The history he describes ends by the late 1920s.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Note: Most of this information is taken from WPI Journals.

Zelotes Wood Coombs was born in 1865 in Worcester. He graduated from Amherst College in 1888, and studied law and taught Physical Education at the University of Virginia. In 1890, he became assistant in languages and clerk to President Homer T. Fuller at WPI. In 1892 he became instructor and in 1895 Assistant Professor of Modern Languages. From 1903 to 1913 he served as head of the Department of English and Modern Languages. When the department was divided in 1913, he became head of the Department of English, and served in this capacity for twenty-four years. Beginning in 1910 and until his retirement in 1937, he was secretary of the faculty. He was chairman of the admissions committee from 1916 until his appointment as Dean in 1935. He was interested in WPI's athletics programs, and served for several years as treasurer of the Athletic Association.

Professor Coombs wrote several small published books, including a biography of Homer Taylor Fuller. Most of these books are on specific topics, including the Worcester Art Society, Worcester and Worcester Common, and the Blackstone Canal.

Professor Coombs retired from WPI in 1937. He died in 1946.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

All of the materials in this collection appear to be drafts and finished writing for his unpublished book *The History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute*. Materials are not dated, but the history he describes generally ends by the late 1920s.

Most of Box 1 contains the typewritten manuscript. There are two copies, and the first has been divided into several folders containing sections of the manuscript. A large part of the manuscript is the section titled "History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute," which includes history of the founding of the school, its land and buildings, and other information about its early history until about 1927.

Beginning at the end of Box 1, with Folder 16, are handwritten drafts of the many sections of the manuscript. Some handwritten sections do not appear to have been included in the typed manuscript, and these are at the end of the collection.

Before the collection was processed, all the handwritten sections were together in a box. Because there seemed to be some order, folders were numbered in the order they were found. These numbers, which do not correspond to the final arrangement, are on the right side of the folders. The final arrangement of the handwritten materials corresponds to the typewritten draft.

Folder 1 in Box 1 contains an index of the sections of the manuscript.

**Container List**

Container	Folder	Date	Title
None			

**Series I: Index and Typewritten Manuscripts of "History of WPI"**

MS 28\_01

Manuscript

**Container List**

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 01		Index to "History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute"
Box 01	Folder 02		Typed manuscript - "Degrees"
Box 01	Folder 03		Typed manuscript - "Scholarships"
Box 01	Folder 04		Typed manuscript - "Young Men's Christian Association" & "Musical Organizations"
Box 01	Folder 05		Typed manuscript
			<i>"Boynton Hall"</i>
			<i>"Institute Colors"</i>
			<i>"Property at Chaffin, Holden"</i>
			<i>"Boynton Street Wall"</i>
			<i>"Student Troubles"</i>
			<i>"Athletics"</i>
Box 01	Folder 06		Typed manuscript
			<i>"Periodicals"</i>
			<i>"Newton Hall"</i>
			<i>"State Aid"</i>
			<i>"Washburn Engineering Society"</i>
			<i>"Funds of the Institute"</i>
Box 01	Folder 07		Typed manuscript
			<i>"Architecture Course"</i>
			<i>"Course in Economics, Political Science and History"</i>
			<i>"Rights to Institute Park"</i>
			<i>"Magnetic Laboratory"</i>
			<i>"Pictures"</i>
			<i>"Examining Committees"</i>
			<i>"Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration"</i>
			<i>"Preliminary Sketch of Technical Education"</i>
Box 01	Folder 08		Typed manuscript - "The History of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute"
Box 01	Folder 09		Typed manuscript
			<i>"Chapel exercises"</i>
			<i>"Lectures"</i>
			<i>"Commencements"</i>
			<i>"Commencement exercises"</i>
			<i>"Baccalaureate services"</i>

Box 01	Folder 10	<i>"Baccalaureate preachers"</i> <i>"Class day exercises"</i> <i>"Commencement speakers"</i> <i>"Dramatics"</i>	Typed manuscript
Box 01	Folder 11	<i>"Acquisition of real estate"</i> <i>"Theses"</i> <i>"Laboratory Fees"</i> <i>"Fraternities and clubs"</i> <i>"Presentation of the flag"</i>	Typed manuscript
Box 01	Folder 12	<i>"Publications"</i> <i>"Conditions of admission"</i> <i>"Alumni Association"</i> <i>"Tuition"</i> <i>"Examinations"</i> <i>"Summer school"</i> <i>"Lunch room"</i> <i>"Special students"</i>	Typed manuscript - Biographical sketches
Box 01	Folder 13	<i>Emory P. Aldrich</i> <i>Seth Sweetser</i> <i>Hiram Kallock Pervear</i> <i>Stephen Salisbury, 2nd</i> <i>Charles O. Thompson</i> <i>Charles Hill Morgan</i> <i>Milton Prince Higgins</i> <i>Stephen Salisbury, 3rd</i>	Typed manuscript - "The Washburn Shops"
Box 01	Folder 14	<i>"Magnetic Station"</i> <i>"Institute seal"</i> <i>"Institute at expositions"</i> <i>"Student customs"</i> <i>"Dept. of Chemistry"</i> <i>"John Boynton"</i>	Typed manuscript
Box 01	Folder 15		Typed manuscript - Copy 2 of "History of Worcester Polytechnic Institute"

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**Series II: Handwritten Drafts of Sections and Notes for  
"History of WPI"**

MS 28\_02

Manuscript

**Container List**

Container	Folder	Date	Title
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Box 01	Folder 16	Handwritten draft - "Degrees"
Box 01	Folder 17	Handwritten draft - "Scholarships"
Box 01	Folder 18	Handwritten draft - "The Young Men's Christian Association"
Box 01	Folder 19	Handwritten draft - "Musical Organizations"
Box 01	Folder 20	Handwritten draft - "Boynton Hall"
Box 02	Folder 01	Handwritten draft - "The Institute Colors"
Box 02	Folder 02	Handwritten draft - "The Property at Chaffins, Holden"
Box 02	Folder 03	Handwritten draft - "The Boynton Wall"
Box 02	Folder 04	Handwritten draft - "Student Troubles"
Box 02	Folder 05	Handwritten draft - "Athletics"
Box 02	Folder 06	Handwritten draft - "Periodicals"
Box 02	Folder 07	Handwritten draft - "Newton Hall"
Box 02	Folder 08	Handwritten draft - "State Aid"
Box 02	Folder 09	Handwritten draft - "The Washburn Engineering Society"
Box 02	Folder 10	Handwritten draft - "Funds of the Institute"
Box 02	Folder 11	Handwritten draft - "Architecture"
Box 02	Folder 12	Handwritten draft - "The Course in Economics, Political Science and History"
Box 02	Folder 13	Handwritten draft - "The Rights of the Institute in Institute Park"
Box 02	Folder 14	Handwritten draft - "The Magnetic Laboratory"
Box 02	Folder 15	Handwritten draft - "The Pictures"
Box 02	Folder 16	Handwritten draft - "Examining Committees"
Box 02	Folder 17	Handwritten draft - "The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration"
Box 02	Folder 18	Handwritten draft - "Preliminary Sketch of Technical Education"
Box 02	Folder 19	Handwritten draft - "History of WPI," pages 1-68
Box 02	Folder 20	Handwritten draft - "History of WPI," pages 69-102
Box 02	Folder 21	Handwritten draft - "History of WPI," pages 103-296
Box 02	Folder 22	Handwritten draft - "Chapel Exercises"
Box 02	Folder 23	Handwritten draft - "Lectures"
Box 02	Folder 24	Handwritten draft - "Commencements"
Box 02	Folder 25	Handwritten draft - "Commencement Exercises"

Box 02	Folder 26	Handwritten draft - "Baccalaureate Sermons"
Box 02	Folder 27	Handwritten draft - "Class Day Exercises"
Box 02	Folder 28	Handwritten draft - "Commencement Speakers"
Box 02	Folder 29	Handwritten draft - "Dramatics"
Box 02	Folder 30	Handwritten draft - "A Record of Acquisition of Real Estate by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute"
Box 02	Folder 31	Handwritten draft - "Attendance"
Box 03	Folder 01	Handwritten draft - Written copies of land records giving land to the Institute
Box 03	Folder 02	Notes re. land and other matters
Box 03	Folder 03	Handwritten draft
		<i>"Salisbury Second Land Gift"</i>
		<i>"Boynton Street Purchase"</i>
		<i>"Mr. Salisbury's Third Gift"</i>
		<i>"The Lot for the President's House"</i>
		<i>"Gift of the Hill Estate"</i>
		<i>"The Gift of the Howe Estate"</i>
Box 03	Folder 04	Handwritten draft - "The Lot for the President's House"
Box 03	Folder 05	Handwritten draft - "Theses"
Box 03	Folder 06	Handwritten draft - "Laboratory Fees"
Box 03	Folder 07	Handwritten draft - "Fraternities"
Box 03	Folder 08	Handwritten draft - "The Scholarship Fraternities"
Box 03	Folder 09	Handwritten draft - "The Cosmopolitan Club"
Box 03	Folder 10	Handwritten draft - "The Tech Council"
Box 03	Folder 11	Handwritten draft - "The Camera Club"
Box 03	Folder 12	Handwritten draft - "The Evening Drawing Classes"
Box 03	Folder 13	Handwritten draft - "The Presentation of the Flag" [Class of 1902]
Box 03	Folder 14	Handwritten draft - "Publications"
Box 03	Folder 15	Handwritten draft - "Conditions of Admission"
Box 03	Folder 16	Handwritten draft - "The Alumni Association"
Box 03	Folder 17	Handwritten draft - "Tuition"
Box 03	Folder 18	Handwritten draft - "Examinations"
Box 03	Folder 19	Handwritten draft - "The Summer School"
Box 03	Folder 20	Handwritten draft - "The Lunch Room"

Box 03	Folder 21	Handwritten draft - "Special Students"
Box 03	Folder 22	Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - Judge P. Emory Aldrich
Box 03	Folder 23	Handwritten draft - Biographical sketches
		<i>Rev. Hiram Pervear</i>
		<i>Hon. Stephen Salisbury</i>
		<i>Principal Charles O. Thompson</i>
Box 03	Folder 24	Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Charles H. Morgan"
Box 03	Folder 25	Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Milton Prince Higgins"
Box 03	Folder 26	Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Stephen Salisbury, the third"
Box 03	Folder 27	Handwritten draft - "The Washburn Shops"
Box 03	Folder 28	Written copies of records re. how/whether Shops fit as part of the Institute
Box 03	Folder 29	Handwritten draft - "The Foundry"
Box 03	Folder 30	Handwritten draft - "The Magnetic Station"
Box 03	Folder 31	Handwritten draft - "The Institute Seal"
Box 03	Folder 32	Handwritten draft - "The Institute at Expositions"
Box 03	Folder 33	Handwritten draft - "Student Customs"
Box 03	Folder 34	Handwritten draft - "The Department of Chemistry"

**Series III: Handwritten Drafts of Sections not included  
in Typed Manuscript**

MS 28\_03

Manuscript

**Container List**

<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
Box 03	Folder 35		Handwritten draft - "The Course in Metallurgy"
Box 03	Folder 36		Handwritten draft - "Other Organizations"
Box 03	Folder 37		Handwritten draft - "The Catalogue"
Box 03	Folder 38		Handwritten draft - "The Institute Year"
Box 03	Folder 39		Handwritten draft - "The Name"
Box 03	Folder 40		Typewritten chronology - Important WPI decisions/events, 1890-1905
Box 03	Folder 41		Handwritten draft - "The Mechanical Engineering Building"
Box 03	Folder 42		Handwritten draft - "The Power Laboratory"
Box 03	Folder 43		Handwritten draft - "The Electrical Engineering Building"

Box 03	Folder 44	Handwritten draft - "The Salisbury Laboratories"
Box 03	Folder 45	Handwritten draft - "The President's House"
Box 03	Folder 46	Handwritten draft - "The Institute in the Spanish War"
Box 03	Folder 47	Handwritten draft - "The Courses"
Box 03	Folder 48	Handwritten draft - "Courses of Study"
Box 04	Folder 01	Handwritten draft - "The Department of Mechanical Engineering"
Box 04	Folder 02	Handwritten draft - "The Department of Electrical Engineering"
Box 04	Folder 03	Handwritten draft - "The Department of Physics"
Box 04	Folder 04	Handwritten draft - "The Department of Mathematics"
Box 04	Folder 05	Handwritten draft - "Drawing and Design"
Box 04	Folder 06	Handwritten draft - "Department of Civil Engineering"
Box 04	Folder 07	Handwritten draft - "Course in Physical and Political Science"
Box 04	Folder 08	Handwritten draft - "The Department of Language"
Box 04	Folder 09	Handwritten draft - "The Course in Geology"
Box 04	Folder 10	Handwritten draft - "Descriptive Geometry"
Box 04	Folder 11	Handwritten draft - "The Course in Elementary Mechanics"
Box 04	Folder 12	Handwritten draft - "Business Law"
Box 04	Folder 13	Handwritten draft - "Mineralogy"
Box 04	Folder 14	Handwritten draft - "Graduate Courses"
Box 04	Folder 15	Handwritten draft - "Apparatus"
Box 04	Folder 16	Handwritten draft - Biographical sketch - "Rev. Seth Sweetser"
Box 04	Folder 17	Handwritten draft - "Libraries"
Box 04	Folder 18	Handwritten draft - "Branch Alumni Associations"
Box 04	Folder 19	Notes - written by someone other than Prof. Coombs probably - mostly concerning land and buildings