



# ArchivesSpace

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## Byung Hun Choi papers10423624

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	Ch'oe, Pyöng-hön, 1858-1927
<b>Title:</b>	Byung Hun Choi papers
<b>ID:</b>	10423624
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1908 -- 2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.50 linear feet 1.50 linear feet; 4 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English , Korean .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Byung Hun Choi, also referred to as Taksa, was a Korean philosopher and theologian and one of the first Methodist ministers in Korea, who assisted in translating the New Testament and the Book of Genesis to Korean. The collection contains primary and secondary source materials on the biographical history of Choi, his theological philosophies and writings, correspondence, as well as detailed descriptions of the Methodist movement in Korea.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL8: Byung Hun Choi papers, 1908-2008, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Byung Hun Choi, also referred to as Taksa, was a Korean philosopher and theologian born in 1858. Choi was originally a Confucian scholar who was educated in Hanja. Hanja is a Korean written language form that adapts Mandarin Chinese characters conveying the spoken language of Korea. Many scholars at this time used Hanja, rather than Hangul which was considered a commoner's written language, even though most of the population of Korea at this time was illiterate. Choi was an advocate for Korean independence, and was also a proponent of stopping the corruption that was taking place in the royal court during this time period. In 1888, Choi became a language teacher to United States missionary George Heber

Jones, who was working in Korea to convert the native population to Protestant Christianity. By teaching Jones Korean, Choi learned how to speak English. In 1893, Choi was baptized and began to assist Henry G. Appenzeller, a missionary from the United States, with his ministerial work in the Chungdong Cheil Church. In 1900, Choi, as well as a panel of other Korean scholars, assisted Jones as well as another United States missionary, Henry G. Appenzeller in translating the New Testament. In 1902, he was ordained a minister by the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church. Choi began editing publications, such as *The Christian Advocate*, *The Theological World*, and *Biblical and Church Monthly*. Choi retired from his position as pastor of the Chungdong Cheil Church in 1922, and lectured at Union Methodist Theological Seminary. In 1925, Choi published *The Book of Genesis*, thus beginning the Korean-Chinese Bible translation for the Old Testament. Byung Hun Choi is considered Korea's first theologian and one of Korea's first ordained Methodist ministers. Choi examined and tried to understand the Bible in the way he studied the Confucian sacred texts. He also strove to understand the place that Christianity held in the religious pluralistic environment of Korea. In 1901, an article written by Choi was published, marking the first theological writing that was created by a Korean. Choi followed the Culturopan-religious form of theology, in which the preexisting Korean culture could be accommodated. Some of the characteristics of this form of theology are the ability of the theologian to recognize the traditional Korean religious cultures, such as the Confucian culture, and correlate them with the imported Western theology. Also, this form of theology could recognize other religious cultures as legitimate religious forms in which one could experience the Christian notion of God. Choi would publish over sixty volumes in Chinese and Korean, as well as numerous articles in theological journals. Byung Hun Choi died in 1927.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains primary and secondary source materials on the biographical history of Choi, his theological philosophies and writings, as well as detailed descriptions of the Methodist movement in Korea. The Choi papers include photocopies of Byung Hun Choi's original writings, written in Hanja. The subject of his writings are often theological in matter, some examining Protestant Christianity in relation to Catholicism, while other writings display his efforts to integrate Confucian philosophies with Christian theology. His publications reveal an interest in both Buddhism and Christianity. Other materials in the Choi papers are modern playbills, memorial service pamphlets, and other various leaflets that show Choi's influence on the Methodist culture in Korea today. Box 1 and box 2 contain copies of original manuscripts written by Choi written in Hanja. Two copies of manuscripts are not written by Choi, but were written by anonymous authors. The first is contained in box 1, folder 9 and is entitled "Biography of Choi Byung Hun Choi-Byung-HunSeon-Saeng-Yak-Jun," 1930. The second manuscript copy written by an anonymous author can be found in box 2, folder 1 and is entitled "Dr. Taksa Biography" [19??]. Box 3 contains published secondary sources materials

that are written in either Korean or English, and Box 4 contains personal correspondence and pamphlets.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized in one series roughly arranged by material type: Primary Source Materials, Copies of Manuscripts; Secondary Source Materials, Published Books; and Correspondence and Pamphlets.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2022-03-21

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Many of the items in the collection are copies of original manuscripts by Byung Hun Choi; the originals were destroyed in Korea during the 1950's when Choi's house was destroyed. The papers were donated in 2012 by Aiyoung Choi, former board member of Union Theological Seminary and great grand-daughter of Byung Hun Choi.

## Processing Information

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Jessica Patterson and Brigette C. Kamsler in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

## Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

MRL8: George Heber Jones papers, 1898-1918, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Related Materials

MRL8: Henry Gerhard Appenzeller papers, 1883-1902, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Korea
- Methodists
- Ch'oe, Pyöng-hön, 1858-1927

## Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL8, Korea

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## Collection Inventory

### Byung Hun Choi papers, 1908 -- 2008

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Title/Description	Instances	
Christian Apologetics on Bible, Pope, Communion, 1908	box 1	folder 1
Official Report to Gvmt about Activity as Royal Commissioner on Chung Cheong Province and Work to Settle the Peasant Revolt, 1908	box 1	folder 2

Introducing World Religions. Sung-Sahn-Myung-Kyung, 1910	box 1	folder 3
Speeches, 1910	box 1	folder 4
Missionary Report, Korean Methodist Church: Ge-Chuk Mission, 1912 -- 1917	box 1	folder 5
Apologetics on Religion, 1916	box 1	folder 6
Introducing Philosophies of the World Han-Chul-Jip-Yo, 1922	box 1	folder 7
The World of Religion, 1922	box 1	folder 8
Biography, Choi Byung Hun Choi-Byung-Hun-Seon-Saeng-Yak-Jun, 1930	box 1	folder 9
Published Lectures, Taksa, Choi Byung Hun Collection of Lectures, 1999	box 1	folder 10
Dr. Taksa Biography, circa 1908 -- 1999	box 2	folder 1
Apologetics for Christianity Shin-Chun-Ohng, circa 1908 -- 1999	box 2	folder 2
Outside of the Gate Chang-eui, circa 1908 -- 1909	box 2	folder 3
Writings for Mission, Articles, circa 1908 -- 1909	box 2	folder 4
Korean Independence Movement: March 1st Movement the Historical Record, 2001	box 3	folder 1
Methodist History in Korea, 2001	box 3	folder 2
Symposium on the Life and Thought of Taksa- Articles, 2002	box 3	folder 3
Lecture on Taksa's Life and Thought, 2003	box 3	folder 4
Basic Research for Building the Memorial of Taksa Choi Byung Hun, 2008	box 3	folder 5
Christian Novel Consisting of an Original Series, Published as One Unit, 2008	box 3	folder 6
Taksa, Reverend Byung Hun Choi's Life and Thoughts, 2008	box 3	folder 7
Personal Correspondence, Grace Choi and Charles and Dinah Choi, 1969-06-24	box 4	folder 1
Pamphlet, Historical Legacy and Theological Thought of Taksa Choi Byung Hun, 1995	box 4	folder 2
Pamphlet, Service Program for the 74th Memorial Service Worship Ceremony, Chung-Ahng Church, Seoul, 2001	box 4	folder 3
Pamphlet, Symposium on the Life and Thought of Taksa, 2002	box 4	folder 4
Pamphlet, Lecture on Taksa's Life and Thought, Seoul Park Hotel, JeChun, 2003	box 4	folder 5



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Pamphlet, Memorial Service- Birthday Celebration Appenzeller and Choi Byung Hun, Shinwol Church, 2004	box 4	folder 6
Pamphlet, Taksa, the Echo of the Peninsula, Je-Chun Theater/ City Cultural Center, 2004	box 4	folder 7

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