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## Frederic Mayer Bird papers4492427

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Description is written in: English.

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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>	Bird, Frederic Mayer, 1838-1908
<b>Title:</b>	Frederic Mayer Bird papers
<b>ID:</b>	4492427
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1846 -- 1910
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.25 linear feet 1.25 linear feet; 3 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Frederic Mayer Bird (1838-1908) was an Episcopal priest, army chaplain, college professor, UTS alumnus, and editor from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The collection contains correspondence and writings related to hymnology and hymnody.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Frederic Mayer Bird papers, 1846-1910, series #, 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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Frederic Mayer Bird, whose first name is sometimes spelled "Frederick," was born on June 28, 1838 to Mary Elizabeth Mayer (1809-1868) and Robert Montgomery Bird (1806-1854) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bird's maternal grandfather was a Lutheran pastor. Bird's father was a successful dramatist and novelist. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania (B.A., 1857) and Union Theological Seminary (A.M., 1860), Bird was ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1860. His first position was as pastor in Rhinebeck, New York. He served as chaplain to the 103rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment from October 1862 to February 1863. His pastorship in Valatie, New York began in 1866 and ended in 1888. After taking orders as a deacon in the Episcopal Church in 1868, he advanced to the priesthood in 1869. From 1870 to 1874, he was rector in Spottswood, New Jersey. It was there that he met Frances

Palmer Snowhill (1858-1941), whom he married in 1877. They had one child, a son, survive to adulthood, Robert Montgomery Bird (1882-1942). After spending some years as a rector in Indianapolis, Indiana, Hightstown, New Jersey, Iowa City, Iowa and Waterloo, Iowa, Bird was appointed Chaplain and Professor of Psychology, Christian Evidences, and Rhetoric at Lehigh University in 1881. He held that position until his retirement in 1887. Bird was also a contributor to the secular press, including the New York Independent and The Nation, and the religious press, including The Lutheran and Missionary. From 1893 to 1898, he was editor of Lippincott's Magazine. Bird died on April 2, 1908 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Some of his publications include Charles Wesley Seen in his Finer and Less Familiar Poems (1866) and The Story of Our Christianity (1893). By the order of the Lutheran General Council, Bird co-edited Hymns for the Use of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (1865) with Beale Melancthon Schmucker (1827-1888). He also co-edited Songs of the Spirit (1871) with William Henry Odenheimer (1817-1879). In addition to his editorial work, Bird contributed multiple entries to John Julian's Dictionary of Hymnology (1892), one of which remarked that "his library of hymnological works is the largest in the United States." That library, which numbered over 3,000 volumes, came to Union Theological Seminary as a gift from Henry Day, a member of the Board of Directors, in 1888. Bird also wrote two novels: A Pessimist in Theory and Practice (1888) and An Alien from the Commonwealth (1889). In 1889, he published A Belated Revenge, a novel based on a manuscript that his father left unfinished before his death.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains correspondence sent to Bird over the course of his career; many of his correspondents are other clergymen involved in the study and publication of hymns. Topics common to the correspondence include establishing a hymn's authentic text or identifying its author, as well as the buying, selling, and trading of hymnbooks. This collection also contains writings by and about Bird and writings by and about others. The former includes unbound galley proof copies of Hymns for the Use of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and Songs of the Spirit, as well as some of his newspaper publications. The latter includes samples of publications and research into the work of other scholars and practitioners of hymns. There are also many clippings from newspapers and hymnals, some of which have been annotated.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized in two series: Series 1: Correspondence; and Series 2: Writings.

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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. 2022-08-04

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Frederic Mayer Bird, UTS Alumnus of 1860, in 1891. See correspondence with Thomas S. Hastings, then President of Union, in Series 1, box 1, folder 6.

### Processing Information

Some material was cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-07. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration, in particular the large amount of newspaper clippings, were placed in Mylar sleeves. The finding aid was created by Alex W. Black in 2015 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

Frederick Mayer Bird Scrapbook, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Hymns
- Clergy
- Bird, Frederic Mayer, 1838-1908
- Episcopal Church -- : Clergy
- Union Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.). Class of 1860

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## Burke Library record group:

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Union Theological Seminary Archives: UTS 1, papers of faculty and students

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series 1: Correspondence, 1862 -- 1902

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in alphabetical order by correspondent.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains correspondence sent to Bird over the course of his career. Many of his correspondents are other clergymen involved in the study and publication of hymns. Topics common to the correspondence include establishing a hymn's authentic text or identifying its author, as well as the buying, selling, and trading of hymnbooks.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Benton, A.A. (Angelo Ames), 1883 -- 1884	box 1	folder 1
Burrage, Henry S. (Henry Sweetser) and F.M. Bird, 1886 -- 1889	box 1	folder 2
Colesworthy, Daniel Clement, 1880	box 1	folder 3
Coxe, A. Cleveland (Arthur Cleveland), 1880	box 1	folder 4
Eddy, Zachary, 1871 -- 1880	box 1	folder 5
Hastings, Thomas S. (Thomas Samuel) and F.M. Bird, 1891	box 1	folder 6
Hatfield, Edwin F. (Edwin Francis), 1864 -- 1867	box 1	folder 7
Hitchcock, Roswell D. (Roswell Dwight), 1880 -- 1884	box 1	folder 8
Horder, W. Garrett (William Garrett), 1887 -- 1888	box 1	folder 9
Jackson, Samuel M. (Samuel Macauley), 1882 -- 1883	box 1	folder 10
Jennings, Francis, 1867 -- 1868	box 1	folder 11
McLean, Mary D., 1893 -- 1894	box 1	folder 12
Mearns, James, 1883 -- 1886	box 1	folder 13
Murray, J.O., 1867 -- 1868	box 1	folder 14
Nason, Elias, 1880	box 1	folder 15
Nutter, C.S. (Charles Sumner), 1888 -- 1889	box 1	folder 16
Odenheimer, W.H. (William Henry), 1871	box 1	folder 17
Palmer, Ray, 1881	box 1	folder 18
Park, Edwards A. (Edwards Amasa), 1862 -- 1863	box 1	folder 19
Putnam, A.P. (Alfred Porter), 1880 -- 1881	box 1	folder 20
Raff, George W., 1865 -- 1867	box 1	folder 21
Randall, William H., 1880	box 1	folder 22
Schenck, N.H. (Noah Hunt), 1865 -- 1868	box 1	folder 23
Schmucker, B.M. (Beale Melancthon), 1871 -- 1885	box 1	folder 24
Sedgwick, Daniel, 1864 -- 1878	box 1	folder 25-26

Smith, M.B. (Marshall B.), 1867	box 1	folder 27
Stoever, M.L. (Martin Luther), 1865	box 1	folder 28
Thin, James, 1886 -- 1887	box 1	folder 29
Thompson, A.C. (Augustus Charles), 1863 -- 1869	box 1	folder 30
Washburn, E.A. (Edward Abiel), 1867 -- 1871	box 1	folder 31
White, William O. (William Orne), 1873 -- 1874	box 1	folder 32
Whittingham, W.R. (William Rollinson), 1865 -- 1868	box 1	folder 33
Wolcott, Samuel, 1880 -- 1882	box 1	folder 34
Publishers, 1863 -- 1902	box 2	folder 1
General, 1865 -- 1902	box 2	folder 2

### Scope and Contents

Index of General Correspondents : Andrews, W.G.  
 Anketell, John Benedict, S. (Samuel), Camp, H.C.  
 Chute, William E. Diehl, George Duffield, Samuel  
 W. (Samuel Willoughby) Hills, E.M. Howe, M.A.  
 De Wolfe (Mark Anthony De Wolfe) Kellogg, Alfred  
 H. Krotel, G.F. (Gottlob Frederick) Lamberton, J.P.  
 Lorenz. E.S. (Edmund Simon) Loy, M. Marseilles,  
 Charles Martens, D.M. Nelson, H.W., Jr. Paine, Silas  
 H. Palmer, Anna Maria D. Roth, H.W. Schaff, Daniel I.  
 Schaff, Philip Schaeffer, C.W. Sheeleigh, M. Spofford,  
 A.R. (Ainsworth Rand) Wilkins, J.J.

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## Series 2: Writings, 1846 -- 1910

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

### Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

### Scope and Contents

This series contains writings by and about Bird and writings by and about others. The former includes unbound galley proof copies of Hymns for the Use of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and Songs of the Spirit, as well as some of his newspaper publications. The latter includes samples of publications and



research into the work of other scholars and practitioners of hymns. There are also many clippings from newspapers and hymnals, some of which have been annotated.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Songs of the Spirit uncorrected galley proofs, 1871	box 3	folder 1
Hymns for the Use of the Evangelical Lutheran Church corrected galley proofs, 1865	box 3	folder 2
Newspaper Article and Book Notes by Bird, circa 1865	box 3	folder 3
Reviews of Bird's Work, 1865 -- 1886	box 3	folder 4
Hatfield, Edwin F. (Francis), 1863 -- 1864	box 3	folder 5
Muhlenberg, William Augustus, 1859 -- 1881	box 3	folder 6
Rankin, Jeremiah Eaves, 1881 -- 1886	box 3	folder 7
Russell, William, 1880	box 3	folder 8
Washburn, Henry Stevenson, 1870 -- 1881	box 3	folder 9
Whitcher, Frances Miriam, 1882	box 3	folder 10
Concert Programs, circa 1882	box 3	folder 11
Newspaper Clippings of Articles on Hymnology, circa 1882	box 3	folder 12
Hymnal Clippings with notes, circa 1882	box 3	folder 13
General, 1846 -- 1910	box 3	folder 14

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