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Henry Smith Leiper papers4492465

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Description is written in: English.

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Leiper, Henry Smith, 1891-1975
Title:	Henry Smith Leiper papers
ID:	4492465
Date [inclusive]:	1921 -- 1949
Physical Description:	4.75 linear feet 4.75 linear feet; 10 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Henry Smith Leiper (1891-1975) was a Congregational minister, church official, and UTS student from 1914-1917. The collection contains materials related to Leiper's work against Nazism in Germany before, during, and after World War II, including correspondence, news clippings, and publications. The bulk of the records were created when Leiper was Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches (FCC).

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Henry Smith Leiper papers, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Henry Smith Leiper was born in Belmar, New Jersey in 1891, the son of Joseph McCarrell Leiper and Fanny Smith Leiper. Joseph Leiper worked for the Dodd, Mead publishing company, but left his job to attend Union Theological Seminary. Fanny Leiper was a music and arts teacher and the daughter of a Massachusetts legislator. Leiper's parents moved in 1889 to what would become Oklahoma to do mission work, and Joseph Leiper was eventually ordained in the Territory. Fanny Leiper died in 1895, and Leiper and his two brothers were raised by other members of the family including several aunts. Leiper moved frequently, but settled for some years with his grandmother in Worcester, Massachusetts. He studied at Maryville College in 1905, a preparatory school in Knoxville, Tennessee, and from there went to Blair Academy

in New Jersey, where he spent three years. Leiper earned a B.A. from Amherst College in Massachusetts in 1913, where he got deeply involved in the Student Volunteer Movement (SVM). He planned for a career as a missionary, and moved to Union Theological Seminary in 1913. He withdrew to work for the SVM, drumming up support around the country, but he returned to Union in 1914 to prepare for the ministry. He studied under Harry Emerson Fosdick. Leiper eventually transferred his credits to Columbia towards an M.A. in Philosophy and Ethics, which he received in 1917. Leiper began his missionary work in China in 1918, where he and his family (which by now included a wife and two young children) settled into the missionary routine of preaching, teaching, and community service. Leiper's work took him beyond China, and he spent some time traveling elsewhere in Asia, including Japan and Siberian Russia. Leiper spent much of his time working with students in China, a continuation of his own interest in the SVM. In 1921, Leiper was elected by the North China Mission as Mission Auditor, Chairman of the Mission Property Committee, and as a delegate to the Japan Mission meeting. His work in Japan particularly disturbed some members of the Mission, who felt Leiper was too critical of the performance of the Japanese Mission. The Leipers returned to the United States in 1922 when Mrs. Leiper became too ill to remain overseas. The bulk of Leiper's professional career was spent working in various organizations. He served as secretary for numerous groups including the Congregational Commission on Missions from 1923-1930, the American Missionary Association from 1924 to 1927, and the Federal Council of Churches from 1930 to 1945. Leiper was also active in movements that did not necessarily have official organizations. He was an outspoken critic of the Nazis in Germany, and preached against Germany's aggression in churches around the world. Leiper concentrated particularly on Nazi tactics against religion and religious figures. Leiper's activities were often dangerous, and he had to resort to circumspect arrangements to avoid attracting attention. He was part of a group that attempted (unsuccessfully, as it turned out) to initiate a U.S. boycott of the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin. Among Leiper's other great accomplishments was his involvement in the creation of the World Council of Churches (WCC), an outgrowth of looser international ecumenical ties of the 1930's. The group began at the Utrecht Conference of 1938, and Leiper was elected Associate General Secretary. The war interrupted the earliest plans of the group, but after 1945 the WCC was able to expand its activities throughout the world. Leiper worked on refugee projects, Bible distribution, and a great deal of speaking in the name of Christian unity. His major contribution, however, was in the area of fundraising. He was responsible for the bulk of the funds raised in the U.S., especially the money raised for the WCC Conference in Amsterdam in 1948. Personal conflicts with the head of the WCC, W.A. Visser 't Hooft, and other members of the organization eventually led to Leiper's leaving the international job for a purely American post with the New York office in 1948. Tensions continued, however, and Leiper left the WCC for good in 1952. Leiper went back to work for the Congregational Church for the next several years, serving as Executive Secretary of the Missions Council. He held that post until 1959, when he retired from activity in organizations. Leiper did not remain inactive, however, as he took the post of Director of the Religion Department at Chautauqua College in New York. He moved from Chautauqua in 1967 to the American Bible Society, where he served as an advisor. Leiper's family was small but well-knit. He married Eleanor Lansing Cory in 1915, and the couple had two children, Juliet McCarell (known as Carell) in 1916 and Henry Martyn (known as Hal) in 1918. Eleanor Leiper shared her husband's interest in the missionary movement (the two met at an SVM summer Bible camp) and worked on projects of her own, particularly in China. The illnesses that forced the family's return to the U.S. in 1923 eventually took their toll, however, and she died in 1935. Leiper was remarried that same year

to a family friend, Elizabeth Glover Olyphant. Misfortune struck the family again in 1960, when son Hal died of cancer. Besides his work, Leiper was fascinated with both music and mechanical objects. He played piano and organ for many years, occasionally professionally. He designed the family's house in China, and spent several of his transatlantic crossings in the mechanical rooms of the ships. Henry Smith Leiper died in 1975 at the age of 83.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains correspondence and related materials including reports, clippings, and telegrams on the following: the German Evangelical Church, "Kulturkampf," the Nazi Party seizing Church property, Nazi Party attacks on Jews, Catholics, and other citizens of Europe, as well as letters regarding anti-Semitism in America and Europe; writings by Leiper including articles and radio speeches on Nazi propaganda and terrorism against German people and churches, and what Leiper called "The New Paganism in Germany;" and publications of interest to Leiper, including pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and reports on German Churches and their destruction under the Third Reich, as well as materials on relief provided to German churches, and human rights efforts.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series: Series 1: Correspondence; Series 2: Writings; and Series 3: Publications.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2023-01-09

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Series 1 Box 1-4, Series 2 Box 1, Series 3 Box 1-5. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The exact provenance of this collection is unknown.

Custodial History

Series 1, Box 1 and possibly also box 2 were previously assigned a Burke Library call number: Cage LG 46 L531. The papers are part of the Union Theological Seminary Archives, which comprises institutional and administrative records of the Seminary, combined with the papers of many organizations, scholars, pastors, laypersons, and others connected with the school. The materials in this collection were part of a large group of unprocessed material that was organized in 2015.

Processing Information

Correspondence, pamphlets, papers, and scrapbook were cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-12. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. 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. Fragile items marked in finding aid. The finding aid was created by Daniel Sokolow in 1996, OCR Scanned from typescript in 2006, updated by Margaret Kaczorowski in 2015 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2023.

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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Controlled Access Headings

- National socialism -- History -- Sources
- Germany -- History -- 1933-1945 -- Sources
- Germany -- Religious life and customs
- Scrapbooks
- Leiper, Henry Smith, 1891-1975 -- : Archives
- Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America -- : Archives

Burke Library record group:

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

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Correspondence, 1932 -- 1949

Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 4 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence and related materials including reports, clippings, and telegrams on the following: the German Evangelical Church, "Kulturkampf," the Nazi Party seizing Church property, Nazi Party attacks on Jews, Catholics, and other citizens of Europe, as well as letters regarding anti-Semitism in America and Europe. Of note are telegram appeals to Hitler to release Pastor Martin Niemoeller, extracts of Hitler's Public Speeches 1933-1939, a copy of the Nuremberg Laws in Box 4

Folder 7, and the Notes and Information on the Project for Immigration of Displaced Persons in the American Occupied Zones of Germany and Austria in Box 5 Folder 6.

Title/Description	Instances	
Anti-Semitism, 1932 -- 1941	box Series 1 Box 1	folder 1-2
Telegram Appeals and Declaration of Christian Truth, 1938	box Series 1 Box 1	folder 3
Chaplains, November-December, 1937	box Series 1 Box 1	folder 4
Catholic Church in Hitler Germany, 1933 -- 1941	box Series 1 Box 1	folder 5
Universal Christian Council Form Letters, 1934 -- 1942	box Series 1 Box 1	folder 6
Federal Council of Churches, 1933 -- 1939	box Series 1 Box 1	folder 7-8
Kulturkampf, 1938 -- 1943	box Series 1 Box 1	folder 9-10
ReichsbishopLudwig Muller, 1933	box Series 1 Box 2	folder 1
Adolf Hitler Public Speeches, 1933 -- 1939	box Series 1 Box 2	folder 2
German Evangelical Church, 1934 -- 1939	box Series 1 Box 2	folder 3
Office of War Information, 1942	box Series 1 Box 2	folder 4
Dr. Hans Schoenfeld, 1936 -- 1939	box Series 1 Box 2	folder 5
Sword of the Spirit, 1940 -- 1943	box Series 1 Box 2	folder 6
A-L on German Church Situation, 1933 -- 1938	box Series 1 Box 2	folder 7-9
M-Z on German Church Situation, 1933 -- 1940	box Series 1 Box 3	folder 1-4
General on German Situation, 1933 -- 1935	box Series 1 Box 3	folder 5-6
Church Struggle in Nazi Germany, 1936 -- 1937	box Series 1 Box 3	folder 7
Religious and Political Situation under Nazi Aggression, 1938 -- 1939	box Series 1 Box 3	folder 8-9
German Religion under Hitler, 1940 -- 1942		

	box Series 1 Box 4	folder 1
German Ecumenical Movement and Relief to Germany, 1943 -- 1946	box Series 1 Box 4	folder 2-3
Church in Pre-and Post-World War II Germany, 1943 -- 1946	box Series 1 Box 4	folder 4-5
German Church Situation, 1945	box Series 1 Box 4	folder 6-7
Post-War Germany, 1946 -- 1949	box Series 1 Box 4	folder 8-9

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Series 2: Writings, 1933 -- 1942

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains writings by Leiper including articles and radio speeches given by Leiper on Nazi propaganda and terrorism against German people and churches, and what Leiper called "The New Paganism in Germany." Of note is the radio speech which discusses Pastor Martin Niemoeller held prisoner by Hitler in Folder 3.

Title/Description	Instances	
German Church Facing Crisis, 1933 -- 1937	box Series 2 Box 1	folder 1-4
German Church Facing Crisis and Nazi Terrorism, 1938 -- 1942	box Series 2 Box 1	folder 5

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Series 3: Publications, 1921 -- 1944

Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet 2.5 linear feet; 5 boxes

Language of the Material: English, German.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series contains publications of interest to Leiper, including pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and reports on German Churches and their destruction under the Third Reich. Also included are materials on relief provided to German churches, and human rights efforts. Of note is the Program for The Baptist World Congress, held in Berlin in October 1934 in Folder 5. Materials are in both English and German.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church Struggle in Germany--Pamphlets - A-C, 1933 -- 1937	box Series 3 Box 1	folder 1
European Situation and Relief Efforts--Pamphlets - D-F, 1938 -- 1941	box Series 3 Box 1	folder 2
German Churches under Third Reich--Pamphlets-G, 1933 -- 1937	box Series 3 Box 1	folder 3
Pamphlets H-N, 1921 -- 1941	box Series 3 Box 1	folder 4-5
Over There with the Churches of Christ Pamphlets, 1932 -- 1942	box Series 3 Box 2	folder 1-2
Pamphlets--P-U, 1930 -- 1941	box Series 3 Box 2	folder 3-4
War Conditions in European/Continental Churches, 1939 -- 1944	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 1
Watchman What of the Night Pamphlets, circa 1939 -- 1944	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 2
Leaflets on Relief Efforts, 1936 -- 1937	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 3
Press Releases from Various Christian Councils, 1933 -- 1938	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 4
Clippings including The Churches in Germany Now, 1932 -- 1943	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 5
Clippings on Church under Nazi Rule, 1932 -- 1943	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 6-7
German Rundbrief Series, 1934 -- 1935	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 8
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access		
Fragile; please handle with care.		
Kulturkampf Series, 1936 -- 1939		

	box Series 3 Box 3	folder 9
Reports on German Religious Conflict, 1937 -- 1940	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 1
Reports on Destruction of Churches in Germany, 1944	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 2
Correspondence and reports in French and German, 1934 -- 1938	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 3
Minutes in German of Meeting in Berlin-Hermsdorf, 1934	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 4
Reports about German Evangelical Church, 1934 -- 1935	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 5
Minutes of German-European Agency for Religious Relief, 1938	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 6
Reports in German on the German Church Situation, 1933 -- 1941	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 7-8
Scrapbook of Various German Newspapers Fall DEHN U.S.W., 1932	box Series 3 Box 4	folder 9
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Fragile; please handle with care.		
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings relating to religious conditions in Nazi Germany, circa 1934	box Series 3 Box 5	folder 1
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Fragile; please use copies in Folder 2.		
Copies of newspaper clippings from scrapbook, circa 1934	box Series 3 Box 5	folder 2

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