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Mary Ely Lyman papers4492468

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Description is written in: English.

apm

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Lyman, Mary Redington Ely, 1887-1975
Title:	Mary Ely Lyman papers
ID:	4492468
Date [inclusive]:	1916 -- 1996
Physical Description:	0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 2 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Mary Ely Lyman was the Jesup Professor of English Bible and Dean of Women Students at UTS, the first woman to hold a full professorship and endowed chair and first woman dean at UTS, as well as an author and wife of UTS professor Eugene W. Lyman. The collection contains correspondence, lectures, news clippings, UTS publicity releases, UTS alumna records, photographs, and other materials.

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Mary Ely Lyman papers, 1916-1996, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Known affectionately by family and students as Merrily, Mary Redington Ely Lyman was born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont on November 24, 1887 and died in Claremont, California on January 9, 1975. Lyman received her B.A. from Mt. Holyoke College in 1911 and graduated with a B.D. from Union Theological Seminary in 1919. She was also was the first woman to receive the Traveling Fellowship for the highest academic honors in the graduating class that year. This award sent her to Cambridge, England for one year. The work she did there was applied toward a Ph.D. in New Testament, which she received from the University of Chicago in 1924. Lyman became the first of two women (with Sophia Lyon Fahs) to teach on the faculty at UTS in 1927. In 1937, Mt. Holyoke College awarded Lyman an honorary

Litt.D. She 'retired' from her position on Union faculty in the 1940s when her husband and professor of the philosophy of religion, Eugene William Lyman, retired. She then became dean of Sweet Briar College for Women in Virginia, until her appointment to Union in 1950 as Jesup Professor of English Bible. Dr. Lyman was the first woman to hold a full professorship and an endowed chair at Union. She also held the inaugural deanship for women students until her resignation from both positions in 1955. She remained in close contact with Union until her death in 1975. Lyman was a meticulous exegete whose focus was interpretation of biblical texts in their contexts and the relevance of biblical texts for contemporary lives and communities. An ordained Congregational minister (1949), she also wrote many articles in support of the Social Gospel movement and women's inclusion in church leadership.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains Lyman's UTS alumna records, including correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and other materials documenting her early coursework at Union, her graduate studies at Cambridge and University of Chicago, as well as her teaching career at UTS. The collection also includes correspondence between Lyman and UTS Presidents Henry Sloane Coffin, Henry Pitney Van Dusen, and John Bennett; papers regarding her UTS faculty appointment and ordination; and memorial and biographical information, as well as personal correspondence with husband Eugene Lyman and with secretary and friend Helen Wells.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series: UTS and student files, and Correspondence and other files.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-02-04

Conditions Governing Access

This collection contains some restricted material. Restrictions related to specific material are listed in the detailed contents list.

Conditions Governing Access

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was formed from Lyman's UTS President's Office faculty file and from her UTS Alumni Office records file. Accession UTS1-2021-009 was donated by Paul Wells and added to the collection in 2021.

Processing Information

Some material was 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 photocopied on acid-free paper and/or separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. In 2015, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. At this time, the collection was split into two boxes. In 2021, accession UTS1-2021-009, Lyman's correspondence with Helen Wells, was added to the collection by Leah Edelman. The finding aid was created by Alexis Waller in 2009, updated by Brigette Kamsler in 2015 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and updated and edited by Leah Edelman in 2021.

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

- Death
- Women theologians
- College teachers
- Lyman, Mary Redington Ely, 1887-1975
- Union Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.) -- : Archives -- : Faculty

Burke Library record group:

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

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Collection Inventory

UTS and student files, 1916 -- 1996

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

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series contains some restricted material. Restrictions related to specific material are listed in the detailed contents list.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains Lyman's UTS alumna records, including correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and other materials documenting her early coursework at Union, her graduate studies at Cambridge and University of Chicago, as well as her teaching career at UTS.

Title/Description	Instances	
UTS student and alumna records, 1916 -- 1975	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence, fellowships, and teaching positions, 1919 -- 1939	box 1	folder 2
Correspondence, 1920 -- 1969	box 1	folder 3

UTS Publicity Releases and Biographical Sketches, 1940 -- 1975	box 1	folder 4
News clippings, 1940 -- 1975	box 1	folder 5-7
Photographs: M. E. Lyman, husband, house, circa 1916 -- 1975	box 1	folder 8
UTS Inaugural Address and lectures, 1950 -- 1959	box 1	folder 9
UTS Publicity Office correspondence, 1950 -- 1960	box 1	folder 10
Correspondence with Rebecca Lyman, UTS student, 1954	box 1	folder 11
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
This file is restricted for 75 years from the date of creation.		
Magazine articles by Lyman, 1955 -- 1959	box 1	folder 12
Notable American Women correspondence, 1978 -- 1996	box 1	folder 13
Eugene W. Lyman memorial service pamphlet, 1948	box 1	folder 14

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Correspondence and other files, 1919 -- 1975

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

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by format.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence between Lyman and UTS Presidents Henry Sloane Coffin, Henry Pitney Van Dusen, and John Bennett; papers regarding her UTS faculty appointment and ordination; and memorial and biographical information. This series also includes personal correspondence with her husband Eugene Lyman, with secretary and friend Helen Wells, and letters written during her world travels.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence: Teaching at Vassar, 1919 -- 1920	box 2	folder 1
Correspondence: with Eugene W. Lyman, 1926	box 2	folder 2
Correspondence: Adoption, 1926 -- 1927	box 2	folder 3

Correspondence: Teaching assignments and petitions, 1927 -- 1930	box 2	folder 4
Correspondence: Mount Holyoke presidency, 1935 -- 1936	box 2	folder 5
Correspondence, 1948 -- 1949	box 2	folder 6
Correspondence, 1950 -- 1951	box 2	folder 7
Correspondence, 1952 -- 1955	box 2	folder 8
Correspondence: Travels, 1955 -- 1956	box 2	folder 9
Correspondence, 1956 -- 1967	box 2	folder 10
Jesus Announcement-WHN Broadcast Agreement, 1938	box 2	folder 11
Sweet Briar College Conference, 1948	box 2	folder 12
UTS faculty appointment, 1949 -- 1950	box 2	folder 13
Inauguration, 1950	box 2	folder 14
Bible as Resource-Monday morning lectures, 1952	box 2	folder 15
Memorial by Paul Hoon, circa 1975	box 2	folder 16
Biographical information, circa 1919 -- 1975	box 2	folder 17
Correspondence: Travels, and personal correspondence with Helen Wells, 1955 -- 1956	box 2	folder 18

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Paul Wells, 2019, accession
UTS1-2021-009.

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