



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Henry William Rankin papers4492482

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

appm

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>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Burke Library record group:	6
Collection Inventory	6
Henry William Rankin papers	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Rankin, Henry William, 1851-1937
Title:	Henry William Rankin papers
ID:	4492482
Date [inclusive]:	1897 -- 1958
Physical Description:	0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Henry William Rankin was a librarian at the Northfield Mount Hermon School, a theologian, philosopher, and author of a series of works on theology and biblical exegesis. This collection contains Rankin's correspondence, including correspondence with David Baines Griffiths related to "The Bible and the Universe," as well as correspondence with other friends and colleagues and later correspondence related to the Rankin archive.

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Henry William Rankin Papers, 1897-1958, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Henry William Rankin was born in 1851 in China to Presbyterian missionary parents. Raised in China, Rankin there made the acquaintance of the missionary and theologian John Livingston Nevius, whose work on demonic possession Rankin would later see through publication. In the United States, Rankin became librarian at Northfield Mount Hermon School, a position he held for most of his adult life. While there, Rankin composed numerous articles on theology, religious studies, and cultural studies, although he is perhaps best remembered for his correspondence with American psychologist and theologian William James. Beginning in the

late 19th century, Rankin provided James with a series of texts of theology, psychology, and metaphysics (including the work of Nevius), and James acknowledged Rankin's contribution in the preface to *Varieties of Religious Experience*. Henry William Rankin lived the last years of his life in East Northfield, Massachusetts, and died in 1937.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains Rankin's correspondence, including two bound volumes of correspondence between Rankin and David Baines Griffiths, which Rankin titled "The Bible and the Universe." Letters include analyses and reflections on the relationship between theology and science, and discussions of biblical exegesis. Also included is correspondence between Rankin and friends and colleagues, as well as later correspondence related to the Rankin archive between doctoral students and faculty at Union.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series in rough chronological order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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>

Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2020-12-14

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1. 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

The Henry William Rankin 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 2018 with the support of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Processing Information

Material was cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-13. All folded items were flattened. Materials were removed from previous folders and placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Kevin Windhauser and Rebecca Nieto in 2018 with the support of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2020.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Henry William Rankin Manuscript Collection, SCM271, Princeton Theological Seminary Library. Special Collections Repository.

Related Materials

Rankin Family Papers, 1842-1935, RG176, Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516 USA.

Related Materials

Henry William Rankin letters from William and Henry James, 1895-1921, hou01648, Houghton Library, Harvard College Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Theologians
- Rankin, Henry William, 1851-1937 -- : Correspondence
- Baines-Griffiths, David, 1868-1919 -- : Correspondence

Burke Library record group:

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Henry William Rankin papers, 1897 -- 1958

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 arranged in rough chronological order.

Scope and Contents

This series contains Rankin's correspondence, including two bound volumes of correspondence between Rankin and David Baines Griffiths, which Rankin titled "The Bible and the Universe." Letters include analyses and reflections on the relationship between theology and science, and discussions of biblical exegesis. Also included is correspondence between Rankin and friends and colleagues, as well as later correspondence related to the Rankin archive between doctoral students and faculty at Union.

Title/Description	Instances	
The Bible and the Universe correspondence, Vol. 1 , circa 1897 -- 1937	box 1	folder 1
The Bible and the Universe correspondence, Vol. 2, circa 1897 -- 1937	box 1	folder 2
Rankin correspondence, 1897 -- 1914	box 1	folder 3
Collection correspondence, 1958	box 1	folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)