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## Henry Boynton Smith papers4492492

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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>	Smith, Henry Boynton, 1815-1877
<b>Title:</b>	Henry Boynton Smith papers
<b>ID:</b>	4492492
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1834 -- 1890
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 linear feet 7.0 linear feet; 15 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English , German .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Henry Boynton Smith (1815-1877) was a Congregational Presbyterian minister, theologian, and Union Theological Seminary professor and librarian. The collection contains correspondence, clippings and scrapbooks, notebooks from his studies in Germany, notes for his courses as well as student notes, and sermons.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Henry Boynton Smith papers, 1834-1890, 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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Henry Boynton Smith was professor and librarian at Union Theological Seminary from 1850 to 1874. He was born in Portland, Maine on November 21, 1815, entering nearby Bowdoin College at the age of 15 and graduating in 1834. In five of the next seven years (1834-1841), he pursued further education, first at Andover Theological Seminary (1834-1835) and at Bangor Theological Seminary (1835-1836), and then overseas in Paris, Halle, and Berlin (1837-1840), where he studied both theology and philosophy with a number of prominent European scholars. His studies included two interludes as tutor at Bowdoin (1836-1837 and 1840-1841). On December 29, 1842, he was ordained by the Congregational Council, serving as pastor to a community in Merrimac, MA, (also known as West Amesbury) from 1842-1847.

This was followed by three years as a professor of philosophy at Amherst College (1847-1850). His time in New England ended with his earning a divinity doctorate at the University of Vermont (1850). In 1850, Smith started his academic career at Union Theological Seminary in New York as professor of church history (1850-1854) and then professor of systematic theology (1854-1874). In 1857, he was named Roosevelt Professor of systematic theology. Failing health in the 1870s led to his gradual retirement from his work as both teacher and librarian, and in 1874 he was named Professor Emeritus. He continued as sometime lecturer in apologetics until his death in New York City on February 7, 1877, aged 62. In addition to his first D.D., from the University of Vermont (1850), Smith earned another from Harvard University (1858). He also received two honorary degrees in his career, one from Western Reserve University (LL.D., 1864) and one from the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University; LL.D., 1869). Beyond his academic recognition, Smith was a noted essayist and translator, including of Geiseler's Textbook of Church History (1855-1879) and Hagenbach's Textbook of the History of Doctrines (1861-1862). He also served as the founding editor of the American Theological Review (from 1859, subsequently known as the American and Presbyterian Theological Review). His theological teaching was also edited and published posthumously in three volumes (Apologetics, 1882; Introduction to Christian Theology, 1883; System of Christian Theology, 1884) by his wife and two sons in collaboration with some of his students. Smith is perhaps best remembered for his role in the reunion of the Old and New Schools of the Presbyterian Church, a goal he pursued at a national level beginning with his election as moderator of the General Assembly of the New School denomination in 1863 and continuing up to the official reunion of the two schools in 1869.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains a sampling of Henry Boynton Smith's academic work at Union; correspondence; newspaper clippings and scrapbooks by H.B. Smith; notebooks and notes; and sermons seemingly written and delivered by C.E. Griggs. Particularly significant in this collection are the series of notes and lectures used by his students and his sons to publish three posthumous books: Apologetics (1882 and reprints) Introduction to Christian Theology (1883 and reprints); and System of Christian Theology (1884 and reprints). Also of importance are Smith's notebooks from his studies in Europe, largely kept in German, which provide details of the philosophical education for which he was known among American theologians.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in eight series: Series 1A: Correspondence to H.B. Smith; Series 1B: Correspondence to E.L. Smith; Series 1C: Correspondence of others; Series 2: Clippings; Series 3: European University notebooks; Series 4A: Scholarship, H.B. Smith notes; Series 4B: Scholarship, Student notes; and Series 5: C.E. Griggs's sermons and speeches.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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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>

### Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2024-05-13

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Access

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

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

There is no single accession document for these papers, but they were gathered at the Burke Library as part of a larger effort to preserve Smith's papers. A number of the items are labeled as having been given by Smith himself (e.g., some of the notebooks in series 3). Some of the items were given by H.B. Smith's son, Henry Goodwin Smith (e.g., the anonymous book of student notes, series 4B, box 2, folder 1). Some of the personal letters (series 1A, box 1, folder 70) were sent from Bryant University. It may have been the

disjointed nature of the accession of the documents which led to the inclusion of the papers comprising series 5, the sermons of C.E. Griggs (d. 1891).

### **Processing Information**

Correspondence, scrapbook, lecture notebooks, and lectures were cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-13. Metal clips 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. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes. The finding aid was created by Thea Pratt in 1996-1997, revised by Ruth Tonkiss Cameron in 2007, and Andrew McLaren in 2017 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2024.

### **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**

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- Scrapbooks
- Letters (correspondence)
- Clergy
- Theologians
- College teachers
- Librarians
- Smith, Henry Boynton, 1815-1877
- Smith, Henry Boynton, Mrs
- Union Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.)

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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 1A: Correspondence to H.B. Smith, circa 1834 -- 1877

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 alphabetically by correspondent.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence addressed to Smith and covers a number of different topics, including UTS business and publication matters. There are also a number of personal letters from Smith's friends and colleagues, including his teachers and classmates in Europe. One letter is in French, and several are in German (including those from his teachers, Tholuck and Ulrici).

Custodial History:

**Custodial History**

Legacy PDF finding aid with names of correspondents available; please contact [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkespecial@library.columbia.edu)

Title/Description	Instances
A-W, circa 1834 -- 1877	box 1A: 1

#### Scope and Contents

Includes unknown senders, materials found with letters, and calling cards and ephemera.

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### Series 1B: Correspondence to E.L. Smith, circa 1872 -- 1886

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 alphabetically by correspondent.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains letters to E.L. Smith largely in response to the death of H.B. Smith, and a great many of them are comments on Elizabeth Smith's biography of H.B. Smith, which was published in 1880.

Custodial History:**Custodial History**

Legacy PDF finding aid with names of correspondents available; please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Title/Description	Instances	
A-W, circa 1872 -- 1886	box 1B-1C:	folder 1-52
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	1	
Includes unknown senders.		

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**Series 1C: Correspondence to others, 1873 -- 1890**

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 in chronological order.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains two letters on the publication of Smith's works: Hall, G.L. to L. Atwater, 1873 and Goodwin, D.R. to H.G. Smith re: 2nd edition of System, 1890.

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters on publication of Smith's works, 1873 -- 1890	box 1B-1C:	folder 53-54
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	1	
Hall, G.L. to L. Atwater, 1873; Goodwin, D.R. to H.G. Smith re: 2nd edition of System, 1890		

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**Series 2: Clippings, circa 1852 -- 1883**

Physical Description: 1.75 linear feet 1.75 linear feet; 4 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:



**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in original order.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains H.B. Smith's newspaper scrapbooks; Smith cut out many articles and pasted them over the pages of pamphlets and brochures to create miniature scrapbooks. Also included in this series is a collection of reviews of Smith's posthumous works on theology and a scrapbook of reviews of Elizabeth L. Smith's biography of Smith.

Title/Description	Instances
News; Statistics; Literature; Hymns, Poems; Anecdotes; Sac. Poetry; Theol.; Church Property; Preaching; Bible, 1853 -- 1863	box 2: 1
Civil War; Poetry; Lang., Philology; Church Hist; Contemp. Theol.; Church Issues; Belg. Conf.; Euro. Scholarship; Bible, 1852 -- 1863	box 2: 2
Archaeology; Sac. Poetry; Sci. and Art; Jews; Annual Summaries; Gen. Lit.; Church; Hymns; Religion; Atonement; Reviews, circa 1856 -- 1868	box 2: 3
Scrapbook of reviews of E.L. Smith's biography, circa 1883	box 2: 4

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**Series 3: European University notebooks, 1836 -- 1839**

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 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 lecture notes by Smith from his student days in Europe, 1838-1839 (in German), to his classes at UTS. Included are one volume of notes from Bangor in 1836 and a volume containing broad documentation of his studies in Germany, consisting of course lists, registration documents, certificates, etc.

Title/Description	Instances
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Tholuck's Lectures: Christliche Sittenlehre [Christian Ethics], circa 1838	box 3: 1	folder 1
K.L. Michelet's Lectures: Geschichte der Philosophie von Kant zu Hegel <sup>2</sup> and Trendelenburg's Lectures: Kritik des Hegelische Systems, circa 1838 -- 1839	box 3: 1	folder 2
Gabler's Lectures: Logik und Metaphysik, 1v., [1838-1839? 4 ] and Erdmann's Lectures: Psychologie und Anthropologie [1838? 5 ], circa 1838 -- 1839	box 3: 1	folder 3
Gesenius's Einleitung ins Alte Testament (nach dem Hefte v. A.G. Böhme) with Hengstenberg's <sup>6</sup> Einleitung ins A[lte] T[estament], circa 1838 -- 1839	box 3: 1	folder 4
Hengstenberg's Lectures on Hiob [Job], circa 1838 -- 1839	box 3: 1	folder 5
Notes on the New Testament using Newcome's Harmony and Knapp's Gk. text of the NT, Bangor Theological Seminary, 1836	box 3: 2	folder 1
Synopsis von Harless [Study of the Synoptic Gospels, in German ms, not HBS], circa 1836	box 3: 2	folder 2
Tholuck's Lectures on Einleitung i.d. Paulischen Briefen and Tholuck's Lectures on Encyclopedia, circa 1838 -- 1839	box 3: 2	folder 3
Tholuck's Lectures on Dogmatik, 1838	box 3: 2	folder 4
Tholuck's Encyclopaedie with Genesius on Genesis, circa 1838 -- 1839	box 3: 2	folder 5
Tholuck's Lectures on Morals, circa 1838 -- 1839	box 3: 3	folder 1
Ulrici's Vorlesung über Religionsphilosophie <sup>11</sup> (1839 <sup>12</sup> ) and Ulrici's lectures on Begriff der Sünde (Concept of Sin), circa 1839	box 3: 3	folder 2
Neander's Dogmengeschichte and Erklärung der Apostelgeschichte, circa 1839	box 3: 3	folder 3
Collection of university records from Europe, circa 1839	box 3: 3	folder 4

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#### **Series 4A: Scholarship, H.B. Smith's notes, 1847 -- 1880**

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 notes from an entire course of lectures from Smith's class, Systematic Theology. Also included in this series are notes and texts for a number of other sermons and speeches given by Smith. For instance, an autograph manuscript copy of his famous address to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1864 appears here.

**Title/Description****Instances**

H.B. Smith's Lecture and Publication Papers , 1847 -- 1880

box 4A: 1

**Scope and Contents**

Systematic Theology, Lectures 1-81, circa 1857; 'Division 2nd of Part 3rd of Lectures,' Senior Year, 1859-1860; Other Lecture Notes, 1847-1854 and Undated; Materials for System of Theology (2nd edition); Photocopy of P. Schaff's Intro to HBS translation of Gieseler, 1880; MS Copy of HBS Address, General Assem. of Presb. Church, 1864

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**Series 4B: Scholarship, Student notes, 1849 -- 1866**

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains five student notebooks from classes taken with H.B. Smith, including both his course on church history and his course on systematic theology. A notebook from a joint course of "senior lectures" with F.L. Skinner is also included.

**Title/Description****Instances**

Church History and History of Doctrine; Ecclesiastical History; Systematic Theology, 1849 -- 1856

box 4B: 1

**Scope and Contents**

Church History and History of Doctrine, 1849-1851:  
T.S. Hastings; Ecclesiastical History, 1851-1852:  
J. Edwin Roy; Systematic Theology, 1855-1856: J.  
Quick, vol. 1-2

Systematic Theology; Senior Lectures; The Being of God, 1857 -- 1866

box 4B: 2

## Scope and Contents

Systematic Theology, 1857-c. 1860: Anon., vol. 1-3;  
Senior Lectures by Skinner and Smith, 1859-1860:  
F.M. Bird; The Being of God 1866: Anonymous

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### Series 5: C.E. Griggs's sermons and speeches, 1850 -- 1890

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

#### Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by bible book title.

Custodial History:

#### Custodial History

Legacy PDF finding aid with sermon verses and dates available; please contact  
burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Custodial History:

#### Custodial History

Although it was initially thought that they were H.B. Smith's sermons, a closer examination of the manuscripts reveals that their dates and locations match very closely with the known details of C.E. Griggs' preaching. A more detailed explanation can be found in the accession file.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains sermons and a handful of other speeches, all likely written by Charles Edwin Griggs (d. 1891), a UTS alum (B.Div. 1859) and part-time preacher in Connecticut in the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s.

Title/Description	Instances
Sermons Acts - Job, 1850 -- 1890	box 5: 1
Sermons John - Matthew, 1858 -- 1885	box 5: 2
Sermons Matthew - Zechariah; other speeches, 1860 -- 1883	box 5: 3

#### Scope and Contents

Other speeches include Chaplain [CT] Celebration, 1861; Relation of the Church to Sunday School, 1883;

"Point in Preaching," undated; "Spiritual Acrostic,"  
signed by Mary Jane Griggs, undated

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