



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Albert Schweitzer papers9503422

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

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements	6
Burke Library record group:	6
Collection Inventory	6
Albert Schweitzer papers	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Schweitzer, Albert, 1875-1965
Title:	Albert Schweitzer papers
ID:	9503422
Date [inclusive]:	1949; 1966
Physical Description:	1.75 linear feet 1.75 linear feet; 1 OS box and 1 manuscript box
Language of the Material:	English , German .
Abstract:	Albert Schweitzer was a medical missionary in Lambaréné, Africa and was renowned for his ideas on theology, philosophy, music, ethics, and nuclear war. The collection contains Schweitzer's lecture on Goethe given at the International Goethe Convocation in 1949 (on two vinyl records), as well as a record booklet of the Albert Schweitzer International Convocation in 1966.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL1: Albert Schweitzer papers, 1949; 1966, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Albert Schweitzer was born to Louis and Adele Schillinger Schweitzer on January 14, 1875 in Kaysersberg, Alsace, then part of Germany. From an early age, he was an accomplished organist. He obtained his D. Philosophy in 1899 from the University of Strasbourg and was licensed in theology in 1900. Schweitzer endeavored to be a medical missionary, and began the study of medicine in 1905 at the University of Strasbourg. He received his medical degree in 1911. In 1912, Schweitzer married H el ene Bresslau. Together they went to Africa and established a hospital in Lambar en e, Gabon in 1913. H el ene and Albert became prisoners of war in 1914 during World War One and returned to Europe in 1918. Albert resumed work

in Africa in 1924 and spent the majority of the rest of his life there. In 1952, Albert was awarded the Nobel Prize. He used the money received with the prize to expand the hospital and establish a leper colony in Lambaréné. Along with medicine, theology, philosophy and music, Schweitzer was also outspoken against the dangers of nuclear war and nuclear testing, and was also a prolific writer. Notable works include *Geschichte der Leben-Jesu-Forschung* (The Quest of the Historical Jesus); a study on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach; *The Decay and Restoration of Civilization*; and *Civilization and Ethics*. Albert Schweitzer died in 1965 and is buried in Lambaréné.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains a lecture in German titled "Goethe: His Personality and Work" given by Schweitzer in July 1949 at the International Goethe Convocation in Aspen, Colorado (this was the only time Schweitzer ever visited the United States). The lecture is recorded on two vinyl 78rpm records, with an introduction by G. A. Borgese and translation by Thornton Wilder. This collection also contains a booklet from the Albert Schweitzer International Convocation held in Aspen in May 1966. The convocation continued the work that began with Schweitzer's visit to the United States in 1949, and was divided into seven sessions with multiple scholars discussing topics including Schweitzer's humanitarian contributions, his contributions to music and the arts, and his contributions to theology and philosophy.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one chronological series.

[^ 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. 2020-08-21

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Formerly part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), the lecture records were accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976. The convocation booklet was donated by Laura Person in January 1976.

Processing Information

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Brigitte C. Kamsler in 2011, reviewed and updated by Kamsler in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce 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

Albert Schweitzer Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries.

Related Materials

The Albert Schweitzer collection, 1905-1983, Princeton University Library Manuscript Division, Princeton, New Jersey.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Missions -- Africa
- Missionaries
- Schweitzer, Albert, 1875-1965
- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, 1749-1832

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection contains materials to which access may be limited depending on availability of appropriate equipment. Please consult the detailed contents list and contact the archives for details.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL1, Africa

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Albert Schweitzer papers, 1949; 1966

Physical Description: 1.75 linear feet 1.75 linear feet; 1 OS box and 1 manuscript box

Language of the Material: English, German.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This series contains materials to which access may be limited depending on availability of appropriate equipment. Please consult the detailed contents list and contact the archives for details.

Scope and Contents

This series contains a lecture in German titled "Goethe: His Personality and Work" given by Schweitzer in July 1949 at the International Goethe Convocation in Aspen, Colorado (this was the only time Schweitzer ever visited the United States). The lecture is recorded on two vinyl 78rpm records, with an introduction by G. A. Borgese and translation by Thornton Wilder. This series also contains a booklet from the Albert Schweitzer International Convocation held in Aspen in May 1966. The convocation continued the work that began with Schweitzer's visit to the United States in 1949, and was divided into seven sessions with multiple scholars discussing topics including Schweitzer's humanitarian contributions, his contributions to music and the arts, and his contributions to theology and philosophy.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>"Goethe: His Personality and Work" lecture, 1949 <u>Language of the Material:</u> German.</p>	<p>box 1 OS</p>
<p>Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements</p>	
<p>Lecture recorded on two vinyl 78rpm records. Access to these materials may be limited depending on availability of appropriate equipment. Please contact the archives for details.</p>	
<p>Albert Schweitzer International Convocation record booklet, 1966</p>	<p>box 2</p>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)