

The Archive of Women in Theological Scholarship  
The Burke Library, Columbia University Libraries  
at Union Theological Seminary

Finding Aid for

**Mary C. Boys Papers, 1973-2001**



Finding Aid prepared by: Leslie Reyman, June 2001  
Additional processing and revision: Elizabeth Russey, February 2003

**Summary Information**

Creator: Mary C. Boys, 1947-  
Title: Mary C. Boys Papers  
Inclusive dates: 1973 - 2001  
Bulk dates: 1973 - 76, 1991 - 94  
Abstract: Mary Boys, a Roman Catholic, is the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Lectures, notes, drafts, manuscripts relating to her publications; planning material, notes, correspondence, and grant material related to her involvement in the Catholic-Jewish Colloquium; and notes and minutes from the Union Practical Theology committee.  
Size: 2.75 linear feet, 7 boxes  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

## Administrative Information

- Provenance: Mary C. Boys donated her papers to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 2001.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. [Burke Library staff](#) is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access restrictions: This collection is unrestricted.
- Preferred Citation: item, folder title, box number, Mary C. Boys Papers, Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, the Burke Library, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

## Biography

Mary C. Boys was born on November 4, 1947 in Seattle, Washington.

Boys received her B.A. in 1969 from Fort Wright College in Spokane, Washington. From 1969 to 1974, she taught at Holy Names Academy in Spokane, Washington, teaching courses in religion and English and serving as the dean of students and chair of the Religion Department. In 1975 she received a M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University and in 1978 graduated with an Ed.D. from Teachers College, Columbia University, conferred jointly with Union Theological Seminary. Her academic career began at Boston College in 1977, where she taught theology and religious education. In 1994, Boys began teaching at Union Theological Seminary as the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology. Boys has also taught as a visiting lecturer at numerous colleges, universities and seminaries.

Boys has given workshops and lectures throughout the United States, as well as Europe. In 1990, she took part in a lecture tour of Australia and did the same thing again in 1997. She has conducted parish renewal weekends and has preached all over the country. In addition to her extensive speaking schedule, Boys also has served as a consultant for numerous educational institutions.

Boys is a member of five professional organizations including the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education (APRRE) where she was past president (1994-95). She is also a board member of six organizations, including the Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum Foundation, and the Association for Religion and the Intellectual Life.

Her research interests include the intersection of biblical study and pedagogy and the educational implications of Jewish-Christian dialogue.

She is the author of four books, including *Has God only One Blessing?* (1999), *Jewish-Christian Dialogue: One Woman's Experience* (1997), *Educating in Faith: Maps and Visions* (1993) and *Biblical Interpretation in Religious Education* (1980). Boys is editor of two books; *Education for Citizenship and Discipleship* (1989) and *Ministry and Education in Conversation* (1981). Boys

has also contributed chapters to twelve different books and written over fifty journal articles, in addition to numerous book reviews.

Boys, a Roman Catholic, has been a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (in the province of Washington State) for over 30 years, taking her profession of vows in 1968.

## Collection Scope and Content Note

The Mary C. Boys Papers contain minutes, memos, and other documents relating to Mary C. Boys' activities in the Practical Field Program of Union Theological Seminary; notes, grant material, and correspondence from the Catholic-Jewish Colloquium; and manuscripts of articles and her book, *Has God Only One Blessing?: Judaism as a Source of Christian Self-Understanding* (Paulist Press, 2000). The bulk of the material in this collection spans her academic career in the 1990s.

The collection is divided into three series:

- **Series 1: Practical Field Education Program - Union Theological Seminary, 1994-1997 (0.5 linear ft.)**  
This series consists of meeting minutes, agendas, memos, program descriptions, and budgets relating to the Practical Field committee at Union Theological Seminary. Boys is a member of the Practical Field Committee. The Practical Field Program of the Masters of Divinity course of study at Union Theological Seminary includes courses in communication, arts and worship, psychiatry, education and religion. Arrangement is chronological.
- **Series 2: Publications and Lectures, 1973, 2000-2001 and undated (1.75 linear ft.)**  
Series 2 contains research material, drafts, and manuscripts of books and articles published by Boys, including *Has God Only One Blessing?* (Paulist Press, 2000). Folders containing early drafts of *Has God Only One Blessing* also include research material for the chapter intermixed with the revisions and drafts. The arrangement of the draft chapters reflects Boys' writing process and chapter numbers may be contradictory, as she changed the order of her manuscript. This series also includes drafts of lectures delivered by Boys. The arrangement of Series II is chronological by publication date of the final manuscript.
- **Series 3: Conferences, 1993-1997 and undated (0.75 linear ft.)**  
This series concerns Boys' participation in various conferences. The bulk of the material is from her work with the Catholic-Jewish Colloquium, a Lilly grant-funded project that brought Jewish and Catholic educators together

## Processing

When the Burke Library acquired Boys' papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order she imposed throughout the course of her career.

Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied on acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

## Contents List

### Series 1: Practical Field Education Program – Union Theological Seminary

#### Box 1

Budget [1994-1996] (2f)  
Curriculum [1994-1997]  
Minutes [1994-1996] (2f)

### Series 2: Publications and Lectures

#### Box 1

Articles – published  
    “I Want to Be a Priest” [1976]  
    “Supervision in Religious Education” [1976]  
Articles – unpublished  
    Seminary course papers [1973-1976 and undated] (2f)  
Books  
    *Has God Only One Blessing?*  
        Book Proposal [n.d.]  
        Correspondence [1998 and undated]  
        Notes [n.d.]  
        Drafts [1998-1999 and undated] (6f)

#### Box 2

Books (cont'd)  
    *Has God Only One Blessing?* (cont'd)  
        Drafts [1998-1999 and undated] (cont'd) (11f)

#### Box 3

Books (cont'd)  
    *Has God Only One Blessing?* (cont'd)  
        Drafts [1998-1999 and undated] (cont'd) (5f)  
        Paulist Press draft [2000] (2f)

#### Box 4

Books (cont'd)  
    *Has God Only One Blessing?* (cont'd)  
        Paulist Press draft [2000] (cont'd)  
Lectures  
    “The Covenant and the Jewish-Christian Dialogue” [2001]  
    “Educating Christians So That Even Strangers Become Our Neighbors” [2001]

**Series 3: Conferences**

Box 1

- Catholic-Jewish Colloquium
  - I-VI [1993-1995] (6f)
  - Correspondence [1994 and undated]
  - Evaluations [1994 and undated]
  - Journal of Religious Education* [1996]
  - Lilly Foundation Grant
    - Budget [1993-1994]
    - Correspondence [1992-1997]
    - Program Reports [1993-1996]
    - Project Proposal [n.d.]

Box 2

- Catholic-Jewish Colloquium (cont'd)
  - Participant journals [n.d.]
  - Publicity [1993]
  - Transcripts [1993 and undated]
- Educating for Religious Dialogue (Auburn Theological Seminary) [1995 and undated]