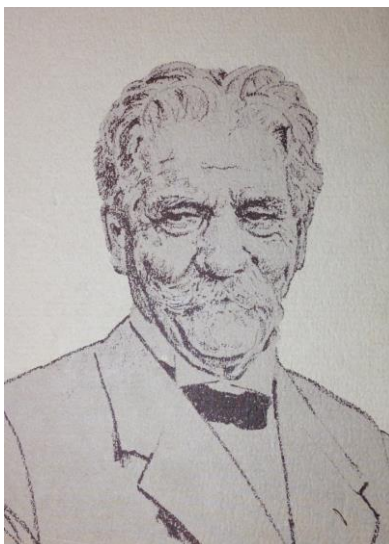


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 1

Finding Aid for

Albert Schweitzer Records, 1949; 1966



Convocation Record, May 1966. Credit to: MRL1: Albert Schweitzer Records, box 2, folder 1, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, December 2011. Updated April 2013
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Albert Schweitzer, 1875 – 1965
Title: Albert Schweitzer Records
Dates: 1949; 1966
Abstract: Medical Missionary in Lambaréné, Africa; renowned for ideas on theology, philosophy, music, ethics and nuclear war. Contains lecture on Goethe given at International Goethe Convocation, Aspen, Colorado, July, 1949 and International Convocation Record from 1966. Lecture in German, 2 vinyl records 78rpm.
Size: 1 OS box and 1 Manuscript Box, 1.75 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. The Convocation Record from 1966 was donated by Mrs. Laura Person in January 1976. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to 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:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 1: Albert Schweitzer Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Albert Schweitzer was born to Louis and Adele Schillinger Schweitzer on January 14, 1875 in Kaisersberg, 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. Schweitzer continued to expand the hospital and served thousands of Africans at the location.

Throughout his life, Schweitzer was 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*.

Schweitzer adhered to the philosophy of *Reverence for Life* ("*Ehrfurcht vor dem Leben*"). Author James Brabazon summed up this philosophy:

"Reverence for Life says that the only thing we are really sure of is that we live and want to go on living. This is something that we share with everything else that lives, from elephants to blades of grass—and, of course, every human being. So we are brothers and sisters to all living things, and owe to all of them the same care and respect, that we wish for ourselves."

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.

Albert Schweitzer died in 1965 and is buried in Lambaréné.

Sources:

Brabazon, James. *Albert Schweitzer: A Biography*. 2nd edition. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000.

Schweitzer, Albert. *Out of My Life and Thought: An Autobiography*. Translated by A. B. Lemke. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1990.

Collection Scope and Content Note

Collection contains two vinyl 78rpm records containing a lecture given by Schweitzer in July 1949 at the International Goethe Convocation, Aspen, Colorado. This was the only time Schweitzer ever visited the United States. The topic of the lecture, given in German, discussed Goethe's personality and work. Introduction by G. A. Borgese with translation by Thornton Wilder; the translation can be found online and read in its entirety here:

<http://www.tennesseeplayers.org/goethebyschweitz.html> [accessed December 29, 2011].

The collection also contains a booklet from an 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. The convocation was divided into seven sessions with multiple scholars dealing with the following topics:

1. First General Session: Introductory
2. Second General Session: Albert Schweitzer's Humanitarian Contributions
3. Third General Session: Albert Schweitzer's Contributions to Music and the Arts
4. Fourth General Session: The Living Works of Albert Schweitzer
5. Fifth General Session: Albert Schweitzer's Contribution to Theology and Philosophy
6. Sixth General Session: Convocation Dialogue – Open Panel Discussion
7. Seventh General Session: Albert Schweitzer's Life and Work

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

Many resources relating to Albert Schweitzer exist throughout the world. Various institutes also exist which are dedicated to following the ideals set by Schweitzer.

In the United States, Stephens College offers a large Schweitzer Collection of books and recordings. Information can be found on their website:

<http://www.stephens.edu/library/catalogs/schweitzer/>. Princeton University Library's Manuscript Division offers an Albert Schweitzer Collection:

<http://findingaids.princeton.edu/getEad?id=ark:/88435/z316q158z>. Syracuse University purchased many original items from the Schweitzer family and copied other items which can be researched online at: http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/s/schweitzer_a.htm. The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Records are also available at Syracuse: <http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/a/asfr.htm>.

Internationally, the National University Library of Strasbourg (BNU) offers Schweitzer materials which can be located by searching their online catalog: <http://www.bnu.fr/en>. The International Albert Schweitzer Association located in Gunsbach, France can be researched here: <http://www.schweitzer.org/>. A museum and archive are available here as well.

A list of organizations dedicated to furthering Dr. Schweitzer's legacy can be found listed on the website for The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship:

<http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org/features/about/org.aspx>.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
10S	1	Two Records – Goethe: His Personality and Work
2	1	The Albert Schweitzer International Convocation Record Booklet, Aspen, Colorado, May 1966