

**The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,
Columbia University in the City of New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Arthur Mason Brown, 1921-1984



Portrait of Arthur Mason Brown. Arthur Mason Brown Papers, 1921-1984, Series 1, box 1, folder 1. The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Paul Paulson, December, 2016

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Summary Information

Creator: Arthur Mason Brown, 1921-1989
Title: Arthur Mason Brown Papers, 1921-1984
Inclusive dates: 1921 – 1984
Bulk dates: 1938 – 1984
Abstract: Ordained minister, UTS Assistant Dean of Students,
Professor at the University of Cairo, Egypt, professor at Converse College,
Professor at Bates College, and professor at American University of
Beirut
Size: 4 boxes, 2 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Rebecca Nieto 12/13/16

Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The Arthur Mason Brown papers were donated by Nancy Brown Strump in 2012. These 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.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkespecial@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, UTS: Arthur Mason Papers 1921-1984, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Arthur Mason Brown was born in Beirut, Lebanon on March 16, 1921. The son of Julius and Helen Brown, Brown was also the grandson of Francis Brown, the 7th President of Union Theological Seminary. As a child, Brown attended the American Community School (ACS) in Lebanon and later the Tabor Academy in Marion, Massachusetts. From 1939 to 1943, he attended Dartmouth College and thereafter became a Lieutenant in the US Navy through the final years of WWII. He married in 1947, and in the same year began studies at Union Theological Seminary, receiving his Bachelor of Divinity in 1949.

Brown was ordained in 1951 by the congregation of the Fairfield Congressional Association while pursuing his Ph.D. at Union. From 1950 to 1955, he was professor of religion and philosophy at the American University of Cairo (AUC) in Egypt and preached at the Maadi Community Church in Maadi, Egypt. Upon returning to United States, Brown first settled in the South, working as a minister in Tryon, North Carolina and later teaching at Converse College in South Carolina before turning back north to serve as a minister in Montpelier, Vermont. While in Vermont, he taught at Goddard College and preached at various parishes throughout the state. After finishing his Ph.D. thesis, he left Vermont to teach at Bates College in Maine from 1964 to 1978. He returned to Lebanon during a sabbatical year (1970-1971) in which he taught at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

In 1978, Arthur Mason Brown suffered a debilitating stroke which required him to learn to walk again and write with his non-dominant hand. This event led to a crisis of faith which drew him to theological discourses such as those exemplified by Paul Tillich's rejection of theism. In many

writings completed during the period following his stroke, Brown would replace the name God with 'Truth' or 'Love'. This period also marks the beginning of Brown's more consistent poetic practice, of which there are two volumes available titled, *Thru Haiku Seeds* (1982) and *In, Out & Through* (1983). Arthur Mason Brown died in Auburn, Maine on Oct. 26, 1989 and was survived by his daughter and two sons.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Arthur Mason Brown Papers are divided into two series. The first series is comprised of one folder of pictures, while the rest consists of sermons arranged chronologically along with other materials related to Brown's ministry. Note that an itemized inventory of Brown's sermons is available for consultation upon request. Documents related to the specific places where Brown preached such as the Maadi Church in Cairo are included, as are documents pertaining to the schools where he was teaching including American University in Cairo (AUC), American University in Beirut (AUB), and Bates College.

Series 2 contains personal material including a CD with photographs and selections of writings and poetry pieces spanning Brown's life.

The collection is organized in two series:

- **Series 1: Sermons and Bulletins, 1944-1975 (3 boxes, 1.5 lin. ft.)**

This series contains Arthur Mason Brown's sermons arranged in chronological order. Note that there is significant overlap in many of the years. Many sermons are annotated and were likely given at different times and occasions as annotations sometimes identifying multiple locations and dates.

- **Series 2: Personal, 1921-1984 (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**

This series contains photographs, photographs on CD, poetry and biographical materials.

Processing

Metal clips and staples 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.

Further Sources

http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/uts/ldpd_4492433.pdf

Contents list**Series 1: Sermons, Bulletins, Papers 1944-1975**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Sermons, Church Bulletins and Articles, 1944-1960
1	1	2	Sermons, Notes and Letters, 1950-1954
1	1	3	Sermons, Church Bulletins and Clippings, 1951-1967
1	1	4	Sermons, Church Bulletins and Notes, 1951-1961
1	1	5	Cairo Sermons, Bulletins and Notes, 1952-1957
1	1	6	Sermons and Notes, 1953-1961
1	1	7	Sermons, 1953-1967
1	1	8	Sermons, 1953-1967
1	2	1	Sermons, Notes, bulletins, jottings, 1953-1975
1	2	2	Sermons, notes, jottings, clippings, 1954-1955
1	2	3	Cairo Sermons and Church Bulletins, 1954-1959
1	2	4	Sermons, 1957-1967
1	2	5	Sermons, Address and Clippings, 1957-1969
1	2	6	Sermons, 1958-1960
1	2	7	Sermons, 1958-1961
1	2	8	Sermons, 1958-1968
1	3	1	Sermons, 1958-1970
1	3	2	Sermons, 1959-1961
1	3	3	Sermons, 1959-1967
1	3	4	Sermons, 1959-1973
1	3	5	Sermons, 1960-1966
1	3	6	Sermons, 1960-1966
1	3	7	Sermons, 1960-1968
1	3	8	Sermons, 1960-1961
1	3	9	Sermons, 1962

Series 2: Personal, 1921-1984

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	1	Photographs [1930-1940]
2	1	2	Letters, Notes, Clippings, 1921-1969
2	1	3	Chapel Notes, 1934-1935
2	1	4	Tabor Academy Diploma, 1939
2	1	5	The Composition of the Pentateuch [1950]
2	1	6	Notes from a Minister's Memo [1960]
2	1	7	Bates College Bulletin, 1969
2	1	4	Poetry Notebooks, 1983-1984