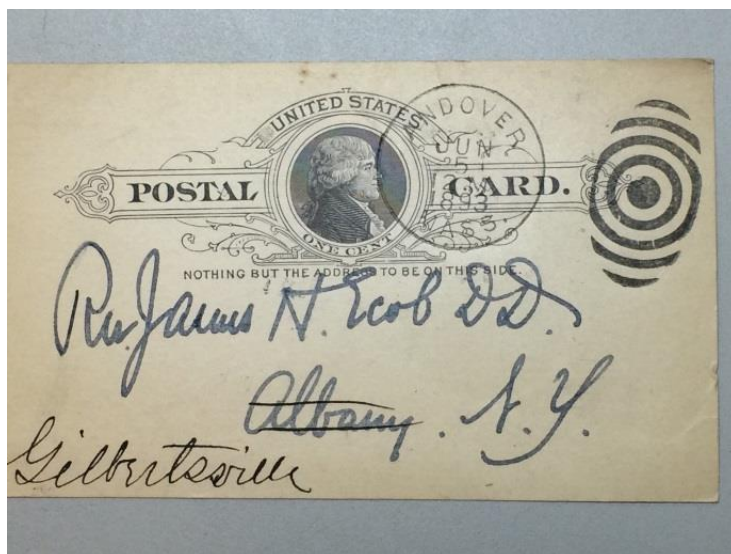


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

James H. Ecob Papers, 1892 – 1894



Credit to UTS1: James H. Ecob Papers, box 1, folder 3,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

Finding Aid prepared by: David Mucz, April, 2015
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: James Henry Ecob, 1844 – 1921
Title: James H. Ecob Papers
Inclusive dates: 1892 – 1894
Bulk dates: 1893
Abstract: Contains 42 letters written to former Presbyterian minister James H. Ecob, the majority concerning his resignation from the church after the heresy trial of Charles Augusts Briggs.
Size: 1 box, 0.25 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:** The 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. The materials in this collection were part of a large group of unprocessed material that was organized in 2015
- 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, UTS 1: James H. Ecob Papers, 1892-1894, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Dr. James Henry Ecob was born September 17, 1844 and died November 6, 1921. He began preaching in Augusta, GA before subsequently moving to Albany, NY in 1881 where he was a Presbyterian minister for fourteen years.

It was during this period that he became connected to Charles Augustus Briggs, a noteworthy religious scholar and theologian. Briggs' trial for heresy and subsequent acquittal influenced Ecob to resign from the Presbyterian Church on doctrinal grounds. As an open supporter of Briggs, Ecob strongly advocated a liberal stance and the establishment of the Free Church of America. Such an institution it was hoped would have a more open doctrine acceptable to any Christian denomination.

Sources

American Unitarian Association. *The Unitarian Register, Volume 101*. Boston, American Unitarian Association, 1922.

The Christian Register. "Church News and Notes." Boston, The Christian Register, 1922.

"Dr. Ecob to Abandon the Church." *Chicago Daily Tribune*, June 5, 1893.

Howell, George Rogers, and Jonathan Tenney. *Bi-Centennial History of Albany: History of the County of Albany Volume 2*. New York: W.W. Munsell and Company Publishers, 1886.

Theta Delta Chi, *The Shield: Official Publication of the Theta Delta Chi Fraternity, Volume 13*. Menasha, WI: 1897.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection is made of up letters sent to James H. Ecob in regards to his resignation in protest from the Presbyterian Church in protest over the heresy trial of Charles Augustus Briggs. It provides insight into how Ecob's decision to resign was received by his congregation, associations and strangers.

It consists of 42 letters to Ecob from 1892-94. The letters are from a diverse range of people, and reveal their reactions to Ecob's decision including those of three individuals, Francis Brown, Henry Preserved Smith and Josiah Stone who also have collections in the Union Theological Seminary Archives.

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.

The numbers at the end of the contents list indicate the number of letters within the folder.

Further Sources

The Burke Library Archives also has a number of sermons written by James Ecob which could provide context to the letters. These include "Meeting God on the Fields of Eternal Life," "The Bible: an Unveiling of that which is Eternal," and "Only Jesus of Nazareth." Additional sermons by Ecob can be found at Godfrey Memorial Library, New York State Library, Oberlin College Library, Harvard University and Cincinnati Christian University. For more detailed information please see the WorldCat entry for [James H. Ecob](#).

The Burke Library Archives' also has the [Charles Augustus Briggs Papers, 1841–1913](#) which consists of 85.25 linear feet of correspondence, writings, personal documents, and heresy trial coverage. Other individuals who corresponded with Ecob include F. Palmer, J.F. Tufts, W.S. Wanley, Newman Manning, E.T. Hillard and K.F. Norris. For more information please see the [Burke Library Archives Website](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	July 1892 (1)
1	2	March, May 1893 (4)
1	3	June 4-8 1893 (16)
1	4	June 9-29 1893 (11)
1	5	July 1893 (5)
1	6	August, October 1893 (2)
1	7	November, February 1894 (2)
1	8	[189?] (2)