Finding Aid for

Samuel Macauley Jackson Papers, 1871-1972

Selection of Rev. Hitchcock Lecture Notes at UTS. UTS1: Samuel Macauley Jackson Papers, 1871-1972, 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: Rebecca Nieto, May 2017
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

Summary Information
Creator: Samuel Macauley Jackson, 1851-1912
Title: Samuel Macauley Jackson Papers, 1871-1972
Inclusive dates: 1871-1972
Bulk dates: 1871-189?
Abstract: Presbyterian minister and church historian; UTS M.Div. 1973; mentee and editorial assistant to Phillip Schaff; edited the New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge; Phillip Schaff Chair of Church History at New York University, 1895-1912. Materials consist of bound lecture notes taken while Jackson was a student at Union, Jackson’s translation notebooks, and correspondence.

Size: 3 boxes, 1.25 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: Part of the Samuel Macauley Jackson Papers was donated and is now housed at the New York University Archives. This piece of collection was donated to the library at Union Theological Seminary in the decades following Jackson’s death, and was first added to the collection in 1940. These materials were part of a large group of unprocessed material that was organized in 2017 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

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, UTS1: Samuel Macauley Jackson Papers, 1871-1972, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Samuel Macauley Jackson was an American church historian, Presbyterian minister and philanthropist. He was born in New York City on June 19, 1851 to George T. Jackson and Letitia Jane Aiken Macauley. Jackson came from an affluent, educated family, a background that positioned him for a career in academia. He graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1870, followed by a brief time studying at Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1871 he transferred to Union Theological Seminary, where he earned his Bachelor of Divinity in 1873. At Union, Jackson met Phillip Schaff, a distinctive theologian whose thinking would impact Jackson’s own theological career. After Union, Jackson spent a brief period abroad at the Universities of Leipzig and Berlin, respectively, before becoming ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1876, the same time as he also received his A.M. from the College of the City of New York.

Jackson served as a Presbyterian pastor in Norwood, New Jersey between 1876 and 1880. At that point, his priorities shifted from pastoral service to academia. Since his first introduction to Schaff, Jackson was deeply invested in his mentor’s work, often contributing uncredited writing and editorial support to Schaff’s scholarship. In 1880, Jackson left full-time ministerial work to work as Schaff’s assistant editor on his Bible Dictionary. The encyclopedic nature of Schaff’s work within church history resonated with Jackson’s own burgeoning approach to the discipline, which led to his pursuit of further editorial opportunities in religious historical scholarship. After Schaff’s dictionary, Jackson led the writing and editing of the thirteen-volume The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge (1908-1914), as well as the Encyclopedia of Living Divines (1887), The Encyclopaedia of Missions (1890), and served as joint editor of the American Church History series, “a thirteen-volume study of denominations in this country that
inaugurated modern historical scholarship regarding American churches” (Bowden, 2000). Jackson’s interests in church history were primarily situated in the Protestant Reformation, with particular emphasis on the works of Swiss reformer Huldreich Zwingli. Jackson worked a biography and various editions of Zwingli’s works. Translated portions of Zwingli’s works, potentially by Jackson himself, are included in the papers described here.

In addition to his editorial and writing work, Jackson performed a number of administrative and teaching roles. He served as secretary of the American Society of Church History beginning in 1888, and later became president of the Society. He was engaged in philanthropic activities with the Charity Organization Society and the Prison Associations in New York City. He taught as a professor at New York University beginning in 1895, and was named Philip Schaff Chair of Church History at New York University until his death in 1912. Jackson was remembered as a vocal figure in the cultivation of modern church history as a discipline, and his scrupulous work in the field and in service to his peers and mentors is evidenced in his prolific (if often uncredited) writing and editing credentials. He died in Washington, Connecticut on August 2, 1912.

Collection Scope and Content Note
This collection consists solely of textual materials created by Jackson during and after his time as a student at Union. The Samuel Macauley Jackson Papers consist of Jackson’s lecture notes and preaching notes taken while studying under Robert Hitchcock and Henry Boynton Smith at Union Theological Seminary, as well as manuscripts of Jackson’s translations, particularly with Swiss thinker Huldreich Zwingli.

The collection is organized as follows:

- **Series 1: Writings – Sermons, Translations and Correspondence, 1871-1972**
  Since there was little apparent original order to materials, these manuscript writings are organized according to courses Jackson was sitting when he wrote his notes followed by undated sermons and preaching notes taken as a student. Boxes 2 and 3 contain Jackson’s translation work on Zwingli’s writings from the original Latin to English. These manuscript transcriptions culminate with a letter from Union biographer Robert T. Handy regarding an index of Jackson’s interpretive work with Zwingli’s writings.

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
Samuel Macauley Jackson’s papers also exist in part at the New York University Archives, where he was professor and Phillip Schaff Chair of Church History.

A rich biographical sketch on Jackson is available online through the American National Biography.
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**Series 1: Writings – Sermons, Translations and Correspondence, 1871-1972**

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