

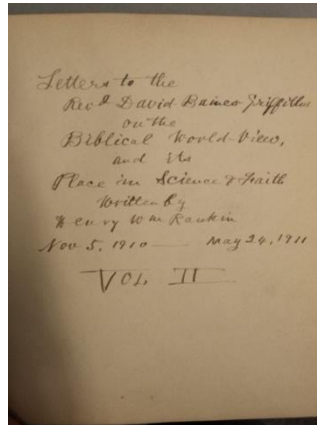
UTS1: Henry William Rankin Papers, 1897-1958

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

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Henry William Rankin Papers, 1897 – 1958



Title page to Vol. II of "The Bible and the Universe".

Image Credit: UTS1: Henry William Rankin Papers, 1897-1958, Series 1A, box 1, folder 2, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Kevin Windhauser and Rebecca Nieto, April 2018
With financial support from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Henry William Rankin, 1851-1937
 Title: Henry William Rankin Papers
 Inclusive dates: 1897 – 1958
 Bulk dates: 1910 – 1914
 Abstract: Librarian at Northfield Mount Hermon School, theologian, philosopher, and author of a series of works on theology and biblical exegesis. This collection contains collected correspondence between several colleagues, including the correspondence with David Baines Griffiths that became the foundational material for Rankin's *The Bible and the Universe*. The collection also contains later correspondence related to the archival material.
 Size: 1 boxes, 0.5 linear feet
 Storage: Onsite storage
 Repository: The Burke Library
 Union Theological Seminary
 3041 Broadway
 New York, NY 10027
 Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Windhauser, Kevin; Nieto, Rebecca 04/14/18

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Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The Henry William Rankin 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 2018 with the support of 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 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: Henry William Rankin Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Henry William Rankin was born in China, in 1851, to Presbyterian missionary parents. Raised in China, Rankin there made the acquaintance of the missionary and theologian John Livingston Nevius, whose work on demonic possession Rankin would later see through publication.

Upon returning to the United States, Rankin became librarian at Northfield Mount Hermon School, a position he held for most of his adult life. While there, Rankin composed numerous articles on theology, religious studies, and cultural studies, although he is perhaps best remembered today for his correspondence with American psychologist and theologian William James. Beginning in the late 19th century, Rankin provided James with a series of texts of theology, psychology, and metaphysics (including the work of Nevius), and James acknowledged Rankin's contribution in the preface to *Varieties of Religious Experience*.

Henry William Rankin lived the last portion of his life in East Northfield, Massachusetts, and passed away in 1937.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This series contains correspondence between Rankin and a number of correspondents, with the bulk of the collection devoted to letters to Charles Shields and David Baines Griffiths. Letters include analyses and reflections on the relationship between theology and science, and discussions of biblical exegesis. Also included in this collection are later correspondence related to the Rankin archive between doctoral students and faculty at Union, relating to a dispute over

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Rankin's authorship (or non-authorship) of a biography of D.L. Moody. This collection is divided into one series with two subseries:

- **Series 1: Correspondence, 1897-1914 (x boxes, xx.xx lin. ft.)**

This series contains correspondence between Rankin and a number of correspondents, with the bulk of the collection devoted to letters to Charles Shields and David Baines Griffiths. Also included are later correspondence related to the Rankin archive between doctoral students and faculty at Union. This collection is divided into two subseries:

- **Subseries 1A: *The Bible and the Universe*, Vol. 1 and 2**

This subseries contains two bound volumes of correspondence between Rankin and David Baines Griffiths, which Rankin titled *The Bible and the Universe*

- **Subseries 1B: Uncollected correspondence, 1897-1958**

This subseries contains uncollected correspondence between Rankin and friends and colleagues, as well as later correspondence related to the Rankin archive.

Processing

All folded items were flattened. Materials were removed from previous folders and placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

Further Henry William Rankin papers are housed at Princeton Theological Seminary. For more see: <http://manuscripts.ptsem.edu/collection/271>. Additional collections, including most of the Rankin-James correspondence, are housed at Harvard University: <http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~hou01648>

The papers of the Rankin family, featuring information related to Henry William Rankin, are housed at the Presbyterian Historical Society. For more see: <https://www.history.pcusa.org/collections/research-tools/guides-archival-collections/rg-176>

UTS1: Henry William Rankin Papers, 1897-1958

Contents list

Series 1: Correspondence, 1897-1958

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			The Bible and the Universe, Vol. 1 and 2
1	1	1	<i>The Bible and the Universe, Vol. 1</i>
1	1	2	<i>The Bible and the Universe, Vol. 2</i>
			Uncollected correspondence, 1897-1958
1	1	3	Rankin correspondence, 1897-1914
1	1	4	Collection correspondence, 1958