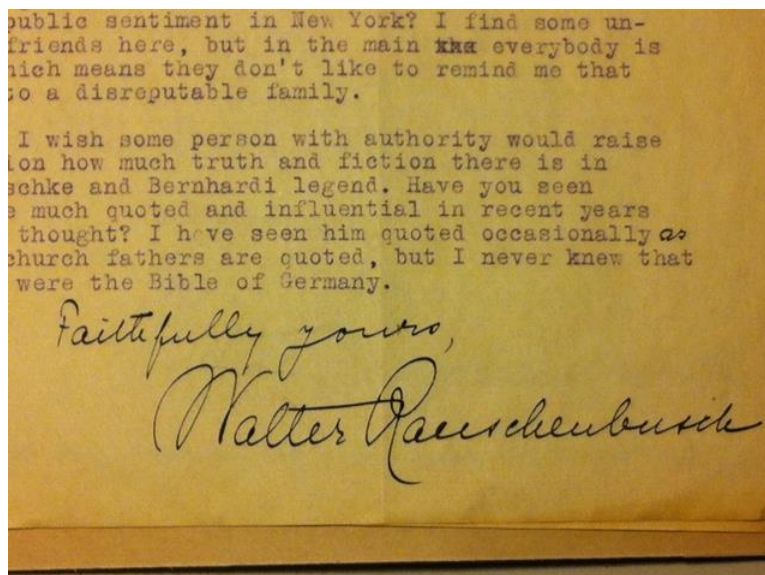


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Walter Rauschenbusch Papers, 1913 – 1914



Credit to: UTS 1: Walter Rauschenbusch Papers, box 1, and folder 1,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Margaret Kaczorowski, February 2015
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Walter Rauschenbusch, 1861-1918
Title: Walter Rauschenbusch Papers
Dates: 1913-1914
Abstract: This collection consists of two letters written by Professor Walter Rauschenbusch to Dr. Thomas C. Hall, Professor at Union Theological Seminary. Walter Rauschenbusch was a leading scholar of the Social Concern Movement and the church in America, and taught at the Rochester Theological Seminary.
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: Walter Rauschenbusch Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Professor Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918) was born on Oct. 4, 1861, in Rochester, N.Y., the son of a German missionary, and reared in a pietistic environment. Professor Rauschenbusch had an influential impact on the world of theology, and published several books that continue to inspire current students of theology and social movements. He is known as the father of the Social Concern Movement in America, and among those he influenced was Dr. Martin Luther King. Professor Rauschenbusch was educated at the University of Rochester and the Rochester Theological Seminary, where his father was a teacher. From 1891-1892, Rauschenbusch studied economics and theology at the University of Berlin and industrial relations in England, where he became acquainted with the Fabian Society, a British socialist organization.

In 1885 Rauschenbusch became pastor of the Second German Baptist Church in New York City in Hell's Kitchen and it was here that he witnessed the stark conditions at the times, such as unemployment, poverty, malnutrition, and disease that would inspire him "as a minister and student of Christ to act with love by trying to improve social conditions." In 1902 he was appointed Professor of Church History at Rochester Theological Seminary. Rauschenbusch combined his evangelical passion with his new social awareness. His newfound thinking led him to publish his most famous work in 1907 entitled, *Christianity and Social Class*, which sold about 50,000 copies and had a huge impact in theology that "ushered in a new era in Christian thought and action." Rauschenbusch believed that it was the Church's role to end the injustices of the world, such as poverty, greed, racial pride, exploitation, and war.

Rauschenbusch's work "broke the complacency and conservatism of late-19th-century American Protestantism, propounding a Social Gospel capable of responding to the challenges

of an industrial, urban era.” His works were widely translated, reaching hundreds of thousands of people. When WW1 started, Rauschenbusch struggled with the anti-German sentiments that had arisen and the sadness over the anti-German sentiment may have contributed to his death in 1918.

Sources:

Christianity Today. “Walter Rauschenbusch.” Last modified August 8, 2008.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/131christians/activists/rauschenbusch.html>

“Heinrich von Treitschke.” In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. 2015. Retrieved from

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/604103/Heinrich-von-Treitschke>.

Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals. “Walter Rauschenbusch.” Accessed February 16, 2015. <http://www.wheaton.edu/ISAE/Hall-of-Biography/Walter-Rauschenbusch>.

The Reformed Reader. “Walter Rauschenbusch.” Accessed February 16, 2015.

<http://www.reformedreader.org/rauschenbusch.htm>.

“Walter Rauschenbusch.” *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. 2004. *Encyclopedia.com*.

(February 16, 2015). <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3404705376.html>.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection contains two letters from Professor Rauschenbusch to Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Hall, a professor at Union Theological Seminary. The first letter is dated April 19, 1913, wherein Professor Walter Rauschenbusch writes to Dr. Hall informing the latter that Prof. Rauschenbusch would like to give a course in the fall that delves into social movements that had an important impact on the Church throughout history. Among these Prof. Rauschenbusch suggests “the communistic ingredients in monastic life, the influence of the agrarian system on the life of the church, and the Christian socialistic group of the Victorian era.” Prof. Rauschenbusch asks if Dr. Hall can give him some recommendations on social movements in church history, and points out a book, *Social Meaning of Modern Religious Movements in England* that would assist him in his research. The mission of the Union Theological Seminary is to “preserve for the future information in the field of theology and contextually related areas of study.” Researchers may find this a valuable source for those studying social movements of the Church, or studying Rauschenbusch’s influence in theology and social movements. The creator had written that he had enclosed a list of topics, however, that is not included with these letters. One also gets the sense from this letter that Rauschenbusch with a sense of humor, as he ends his letter complimenting Dr. Hall for all the letters of thanks he has received from Union Theological Seminary students, and does so in a quite endearing manner.

The second letter, dated November 10, 1914, discusses the growing anti-German feelings as a result of WW1. Prof. Rauschenbusch mentions an enclosed article printed in the *Congregationalist* October 15, 1915 and reprinted in current *Literary Digest*. This article is not included with the papers. He also asks Dr. Hall about the public sentiment in New York regarding German feelings, and makes mention of belonging to a “disreputable family.” Rauschenbusch was of German background, and loved Germany. A researcher would find this interesting if he or she were studying the events surrounding WW1, and the Church’s role during that time. The letter also mentions Heinrich von Treitschke (born Sept. 15, 1834- April 28, 1896) a German historian and political writer whose advocacy of power politics was influential at home and contributed to distrust of Germany abroad. This information could be useful to those

studying 19th century German politics. Given Professor Rauschenbusch's important place in the Church and his strong belief in social causes, one understands the significance of these letters.

Processing

The letters was placed into a new acid free folder and box.

Further Sources

Rauschenbusch, Walter. *A Theology for the Social Gospel*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917

Rauschenbusch, Walter. *Christianity and the Social Crisis*. New York: Harper and Row, 1964

Rauschenbusch, Walter. *The social principles of Jesus* [microform]. New York : Association Press, 1916. <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/bibid/884200>

Rauschenbusch, Walter. *Christianizing the social order*. New York : The Macmillan Company, 1914, c1912.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Correspondence, 1913-1914