

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

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

**Finding Aid for
Paul Tillich Papers, 1940 – 1965**



Paul Tillich Portrait from The Burke Archives: Union Records Series 18

Image Credit to The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries at Union Theological Seminary, NYC

Finding Aid prepared by: Maksim Astashinskiy, 2012 and Rebecca Nieto, 2018 with financial support from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Paul Tillich, 1886 – 1965
Title: Paul Tillich Papers, 1940 – 2002
Inclusive dates: 1940 - 2002
Bulk dates: 1940 - 1953
Abstract: Leaving his chair at Frankfurt am Main through the political upheaval in Germany, Tillich taught at UTS from 1933 until 1955. Recognized for his existential explanation of human estrangement/alienation, his publications include [The Courage To Be](#) (1952) and [Dynamics of Faith](#) (1957). Collection includes Tillich's sermons, lecture notes and student annotations on a preliminary draft of his [Systematic Theology](#) [Vol.1]. Please note: The major collection of Paul Tillich's Papers is to be found at the Andover-Harvard Theological Library: <http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~div00649>

Size: 4 boxes, 1.75 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-851-5612
Fax: 212-851-5613
Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** There is evidence in the collection (Series 1 Box 1 Folder 2) of Tillich's stated intention to place a copy of his *Systematic Theology*, preliminary draft in 5 parts, in the Union library (1954).
On June 14, 2005 Rae Finley (Series 4 Box 4 Folder 4), wife of Eric Gault Finley, donated her husband's material to the UTS Archive.
David Arndt (Series 4 Box 4 Folder 4) donated alumnus Jacob Frederick Arndt's materials on September 8, 2008.
UTS Alumnus Peter Hanna John is assumed to be the source of the [1953 stenographic transcription](#) of Tillich's lecture notes.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email burkespecial@library.columbia.edu, as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS1: Paul Tillich, 1886 – 1965 Series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library Archives at Union Theological Seminary, New York

Biography

Paulus Johannes Oskar was born on August, 20th 1886, to parents Johannes Oskar Tillich and Wilhelmina Mathilde Dürselen, in Starzeddel, Germany. In 1902, the year of his confirmation in the Lutheran Church, at the ripe age of sixteen Paul decided that he would immerse himself in philosophy. Tillich attended three institutions between 1904 and 1907: studying in Berlin, Tübingen and Halle before earning his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Breslau (1911) and subsequently returning to the University of Halle (1912) to complete his Licentiate of Theology degree. Having held appointments at the faculties of Marburg, Dresden and Leipzig, Tillich was dismissed in 1933 from his chaired professorship in philosophy at Frankfurt am Main as a reprisal for his speaking out against the National Socialist Party. Fortunately for Tillich, his personal and academic history was of great interest to H. Richard Niebuhr of Yale University and his brother Reinhold of Union Theological Seminary. In consultation with the Niebuhr brothers and the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars, Henry Sloane Coffin (Union's president between 1926 and 1946) recruited Tillich to the Seminary. In spite of the enduring Depression, together with apportioning a modest living stipend and on-campus housing for the Tillich family, the Seminary's Board of Directors approved a lectureship for Paul in philosophy of religion and systematic theology.

Thanks in part to Union seminarians and others lobbying on his behalf, Tillich was made an associate professor by 1937. A short three years later he was promoted to the rank of full professor in the area of philosophical theology. Although Tillich's scholarship was seen as overly theological in nature and thus not squaring well with the methodologies employed by the Department of Philosophy at neighboring Columbia University, his ideas were well received at Union once students grew accustomed to Tillich's Germanisms and the new terminology he coined to better express himself in the English language. In his [A Half Century of Union Theological Seminary](#), President Coffin recalls Tillich describing "himself as 'a border figure'—on the frontier between philosophy and theology and between history and philosophy" (137). Tillich's tenure at Union culminated with the publication of the first installment of his 1951

[Systematic Theology](#), which was followed by the popularly acclaimed 1952 work titled [The Courage To Be](#).

Having served at Union with distinction, Tillich retired from the Seminary as the Charles A. Briggs Graduate Professor of Philosophical Theology in 1955. Tillich went on to spend another ten years in the academy: seven as University Professor at Harvard and three as the Nuveen Professor of Theology at the University of Chicago, up until his death on October, 22nd 1965 at the age of seventy-nine. Paul was survived by his second wife Hannah Werner-Gottschow, whom he married in 1924, and their two children: son René Descartes and daughter Christante Farris.

Well past the age of retirement, Paul continued teaching, lecturing widely and writing. He published the third and final installment of his renowned [Systematic Theology](#) in 1963, just two years ahead of his passing. Much like his aforementioned bestseller [The Courage To Be](#), Tillich's 1957 [Dynamics of Faith](#) strove to introduce existential religiosity to a broader audience. Both works advance the idea that human beings respond to the finitude of their existence in transcendent ways. Tillich saw Jesus as a willing participant in human existence and, therefore, a model for how alienated people can transcend their alienation from existence and be reconciled with God. More so than any of his emigrant contemporaries, Tillich served as a conduit for American theologians looking to integrate their scholarship with theological currents flowing across continental Europe.

Sources

Bowden, Henry Warner. "Tillich, Paul Johannes." [Dictionary of American Religious Biography](#) 2nd edition (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1993), 552-554.

Coffin, Henry Sloane. [Half Century of Union Theological Seminary: 1896-1945: An Informal History](#) (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954), 134-140.

Handy, Robert T. [A History of Union Theological Seminary in New York](#) (New York: Columbia University Press, 1987), 180-182, 231-232.

"Paul Tillich Dies; Theologian was 79." New York Times, October 23, 1965.

Paul Tillich Papers: 1894-1974. Andover-Harvard Theological Library Finding Aid, Harvard Divinity School, Call No.: bMS 649, <http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~div00649>.

Unhjem, Arne. "Paul Tillich." [Encyclopædia Britannica Online](#), <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/595850/Paul-Tillich>.

Union Presidential Records Carton 58, The Burke Library Archives at Union Theological Seminary, New York

Wildman, Wesley J. "Paul Tillich Resources." Boston University, <http://people.bu.edu/wwildman/tillich/index.htm>.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This small, but diverse, collection contains typescripts of Tillich's professional correspondence, public lectures and presentations along with his sermons, several of which were preached at Union Theological Seminary's [James Memorial Chapel](#). The UTS archive owns four stenographic transcriptions, one of which is incomplete, of Tillich's course lecture notes from 1953 and several preliminary drafts of his *Systematic Theology*, including copies with annotations by Elmer Jacob Frederick Arndt (STM 1931) as well as extensive notes and

commentaries on this work by Eric Gault Finley, a former Master's degree student at Teachers College, Columbia University.

The main collection of Paul Tillich's papers is housed at Andover-Harvard Theological Library: <http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~div00649>

The collection is organized in 4 series:

- **Series 1: Speeches and Sermons, 1952 - 1965 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**
In addition to his 1952 James W. Richard Lecture, eventually published as [Biblical Religion and the Search for Ultimate Reality](#) [Chicago: University of Chicago Press, c1955], this series contains a typescript of Tillich's 1954 personal correspondence in German dealing with a forwarded question concerning his theology. In this document Tillich, as well as describing his travels, mentions his intention to place a copy of his theses in Union's library. Further, the series includes typescripts of a 1943 Letter to Thomas Mann in English, a 1955 presentation titled "Church and Contemporary Culture", a [1965 address](#) before the Pacem in Terris Convocation and a compilation of sermons delivered between 1955 and 1964. A number of sermons do not have any original date annotation.
- **Series 2: Course Lecture Notes, 1953 - 1956 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**
This series contains a [1953 stenographic transcription](#) in 4 copies, one of which is incomplete, of Tillich's lecture notes for his Spring 1953 course, Church History/Systematic Theology 108-*Introduction to the History of Christianity*; the stenographer was Peter Hanna John (BD 1957) who also edited [History of Christian Thought](#) [Providence?: 1956].
- **Series 3: Systematic Theology, 1940-1952 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**
This series contains a photocopy and a bound copy of Tillich's [Systematic Theology](#) [Vol.1], the preliminary draft meant for his students' private use, in five parts. The fifth part is stamped with the date of May 1940. There is also a loose-leaf record, which may be verbatim, of parts III and IV of Tillich's Spring of 1952 Systematic Theology 338: *Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology* course with an extensive index and a fragmented variant of *Systematic Theology* parts three, four and five.
- **Series 4: Eric Gault Finley's Annotations on Systematic Theology, 1950-2002 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**
This series includes a separately sourced preliminary draft of Tillich's *Systematic Theology* [Vol.1] annotated by Eric Gault Finley who was a visiting student from Teachers College, Columbia University, and attended Tillich's courses between 1949 and 1951. The series includes Finley's transcription of a compilation of Propositions in the form of a spiral bound copy titled "The Underlying Propositions to Paul Tillich's Theology," and miscellaneous supplemental material in folder 3. This was distributed to all students enrolled in Tillich's Systematic Theology 337 and 338 courses.

In addition, this series includes the partially annotated personal copy of *Systematic Theology* draft part 3 and a non-annotated copy of part 5 from Elmer Jacob Frederick Arndt's, STM 1931.

Professor Paul Tillich's Courses at Union Theological Seminary, New York, 1933-1955

Semester	Course Number	Course Name
Spring 1933	Philosophy of Religion 32	Some Problems in Philosophy of Religion
Fall 1934	Philosophy of Religion 35	Modern Trends in the European Philosophy of Religion
Fall 1934	Systematic Theology 17	Doctrine of Man
Fall 1935	Philosophy of Religion 33	Religious Interpretation of History
Fall 1935	Systematic Theology 17	Doctrine of Man
Fall 1936	Philosophy of Religion 25	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Greek Development
Fall 1936	Systematic Theology 51	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology I. Revelation and Reason
Spring 1937	Philosophy of Religion 26	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Medieval Development
Spring 1937	Systematic Theology 52	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology II. God and the World
Fall 1937	Philosophy of Religion 27	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Modern Development
Fall 1937	Systematic Theology 53	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology I. Christology and Human Existence
Spring 1938	Philosophy of Religion 28	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Recent Developments in Europe
Spring 1938	Systematic Theology 54	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology II. Kingdom of God and History
Fall 1938	Philosophy of Religion 25	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Greek Development
Fall 1938	Systematic Theology 93	Yearlong Seminar: Doctrine of the Church through History Co-taught with Cyril Charles Richardson
Spring 1939	Philosophy of Religion 26	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Medieval Development
Spring 1939	Systematic Theology 94	Yearlong Seminar: Doctrine of the Church through History Co-taught with Cyril Charles Richardson
Fall 1939	Church History 91	Yearlong Seminar: Christian Mystics through Church History
Fall 1939	Systematic Theology 53	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology I. Human Existence and the Christ, Theological Anthropology
Spring 1940	Church History 92	Yearlong Seminar: Christian Mystics through Church History

Spring 1940	Systematic Theology 54	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology II. History and the Kingdom of God, Theological Historiology
Fall 1940	Philosophy of Religion 91	Yearlong Seminar: Christian Doctrine of Man Co-taught with Henry Pitney van Dusen and David Everett Roberts
Fall, 1940	Systematic Theology 51	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology I. Reason and Revelation, Theological Epistemology
Spring 1941	Philosophy of Religion 92	Yearlong Seminar: Christian Doctrine of Man Co-taught with Henry Pitney van Dusen and David Everett Roberts
Spring 1941	Systematic Theology 52	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology II. World and God, Theological Cosmology
Fall 1941	Philosophy of Religion 27	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Renaissance and Humanism
Fall 1941	Systematic Theology 53	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology I. Existence and the Christ
Fall 1941	Systematic Theology 93	Yearlong Seminar: Theology of the Reformers
Spring 1942	Philosophy of Religion 28	History of the Philosophy of Religion: European Enlightenment
Spring 1942	Systematic Theology 54	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology II. Life and the Spirit
Spring 1942	Systematic Theology 94	Yearlong Seminar: Theology of the Reformers
Fall 1942	Philosophy of Religion 25	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Greek Development
Fall 1942	Systematic Theology 51	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology 1. Introduction to Systematic Theology. Reason and Revelation
Spring 1943	Philosophy of Religion 26	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Medieval Development
Spring 1943	Systematic Theology 52	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology 2. Being and God
Fall 1943	Philosophy of Religion 27	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Renaissance and Humanism
Fall 1943	Systematic Theology 53	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology 1. Existence and the Christ
Fall 1943	Systematic Theology 93	Theology of the Reformers 1: Luther's Theology
Accelerated Program 1943	Christian Ethics j253	Christian Philosophy of History
Spring 1944	Philosophy of Religion 28	History of the Philosophy of Religion: European Enlightenment
Spring 1944	Systematic Theology 54	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology 2. Life and the Spirit

Spring 1944	Systematic Theology 94	Theology of the Reformers 2: Zwingli and Calvin
Fall 1944	Philosophy of Religion 25	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Greek Development
Fall 1944	Systematic Theology 3	Development of Christian Theology: Christian Thought to the Reformation
Fall 1944	Systematic Theology 51	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology I. Reason Revelation
Spring 1945	Philosophy of Religion 26	History of the Philosophy of Religion: Medieval Development
Spring 1945	Systematic Theology 52	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology II. Being and God
Spring 1945	Systematic Theology 94	Seminar: Luther's Theology
Fall 1945	Church History/Systematic Theology 107	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Fall 1945	Systematic Theology 337	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Fall 1945	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Theology of the Reformers:Luther's Theology
Spring 1946	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Spring 1946	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1946	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Theology of the Reformers: Theology of Zwingli and Calvin
Fall 1946	Church History/Systematic Theology 107-	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Fall 1946	Systematic Theology 337	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Fall 1946	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Theology of the Reformers: Luther's Theology
Spring 1947	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Spring 1947	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1947	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Theology of the Reformers: Theology of Zwingli and Calvin
Fall 1947	Church History/Systematic Theology 107	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Fall 1947	Systematic Theology 337	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Fall 1947	Systematic Theology 420	Yearlong Seminar: Theology of the Reformers
Spring 1948	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Spring 1948	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1948	Systematic Theology 420	Yearlong Seminar: Theology of the Reformers
Fall 1948	Church History/Systematic Theology 107	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Fall 1948	Systematic Theology 337	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Fall 1948	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Theology of the Reformers: Luther's Theology

Spring 1949	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity Co-taught with John Thomas McNeill
Spring 1949	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1949	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Theology of the Reformers: Theology of Zwingli and Calvin
Fall 1949	Systematic Theology 337	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Fall 1949	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Luther's Theology
Spring 1950	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity Tillich taught second semester only from Spring 1950 onwards of this yearlong survey course
Spring 1950	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1950	Systematic Theology 420	Seminar: Theology of Christian Mystics
Fall 1950	GS Religion 126	Formative Motifs in Protestant Thought Taught at Columbia University
Fall 1950	Systematic Theology 337	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Fall 1950	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Luther's Theology
Spring 1951	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity
Spring 1951	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1951	Systematic Theology 420	Seminar: Calvin's Theology
Spring 1952	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity
Spring 1952	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1952	Systematic Theology 422	Seminar: Theology of Christian Mystics
Fall 1952	GS Religion 126	Protestantism and Culture Taught at Columbia University
Fall 1952	Systematic Theology 337	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Fall 1952	Systematic Theology 419	Seminar: Luther's Theology
Spring 1953	Church History/Systematic Theology 108	Introduction to the History of Christianity
Spring 1953	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1953	Systematic Theology 420	Seminar: Calvin's Theology
Fall 1953	GS Religion 126	Protestantism and Culture Taught at Columbia University
Fall 1953	Philosophy 220	Cognitive and Religious Use of Myth and Symbol Co-taught with John Herman Randall at Columbia University
Spring 1954	Systematic Theology 274	Philosophical Theology in Ancient Greece and the Renaissance
Spring 1954	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1954	Systematic Theology 424	Seminar: Christian Interpretation of History
Fall 1954	GS Religion 126	Protestantism and Culture Taught at Columbia University
Spring 1955	Systematic Theology 252	Nineteenth-Century Theology and Contemporary Theological Problems

Spring 1955	Systematic Theology 338	Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology
Spring 1955	Systematic Theology 424	Seminar: Christian Interpretation of History

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.

Contents list**Series 1: Speeches and Sermons, 1952-1965****Series Box Folder Contents'**

			Speeches:
1	1	1	James W. Richard Lecture, 1952 UTS Correspondence regarding Tillich Paper European Discussion of the Problem of Demythologization of New Testament, Auburn Lecture, November 1952
1	1	2	Correspondence Tillich-Frazer-Werner, English-German, 1954 Church and Contemporary Culture-Presentation, 1955 Address to Pacem in Terris Convocation, 1965
1	1	3	Letter to Thomas Mann, 1943
1	1	4	Retirement lecture announcement, <i>Chicago Daily News</i> , Jan 27, 1955 <i>New York Times</i> Obituary, Oct 24, 1965, clippings and photocopies
			Sermons:
1	1	5	Do Not Be Conformed, [19??] Eternal Now, 1955 On Wisdom, [19??] In Everything Give Thanks, 1956, 2 copies
1	1	6	God's Pursuit of Man, 1957, Riddle of Inequality, 1958, 2 copies Good I Will, I Do Not, 1958-59, 2 copies
1	1	7	Divine Name, 1960, 2 copies Forgetting and Being Forgotten, 1960, 2 copies
1	1	8	Spiritual Presence, 1961, 2 copies Man and Earth, 1962, 2 copies Salvation, 1963
1	1	9	That They May Have life, 1964, 2 copies Right to Hope, [19??], 2 copies

Series 2: Course Lecture Notes, 1953 - 1956

2	2	1-4	History of Christian Thought - Stenographic Transcription of Church History/Systematic Theology 108- <i>Introduction to History of Christianity</i> Course Lecture Notes, 3 copies, 1 incomplete copy, 1953
2	2	5	<i>History of Christian Thought</i> , Recorded and Edited by Peter H. John, 2 nd Edition, 1 volume, 1956

Series 3: Systematic Theology Course Notes Drafts, 1940-1952

3	1	1	Systematic Theology, 5 th Part of Preliminary Draft in 5 parts, May 1940,
3	4	1	Systematic Theology, 5 th Part of Preliminary Draft in 5 parts, 1 volume, May 1940
3	3	1	Systematic Theology, Preliminary Draft, Parts 3-5, Part 4 in 2 copies (variant of box 3 folder 1) [193?4?]
3	2	1	Systematic Theology 338-Advanced Problems in Systematic Theology, Indexed Course Lecture Notes Transcribed by Peter H. John, Spring 1952, Parts 3-4

Series 4: Eric Gault Finley's Annotations on Systematic Theology, 1950-2002**Series Box Folder Contents'**

4	4	1	<i>Systematic Theology</i> Preliminary Draft in 5 parts, Typescript Annotated, 1950-51
4	4	2	Underlying Propositions to Paul Tillich's Theology, Transcribed and Appended by Eric Gault Finley, 2002
4	4	3	Notes Supporting Underlying Propositions to Paul Tillich's Theology by E.G. Finley, 1997-98
4	4	4	<i>Systematic Theology</i> , Part 3-Preliminary Draft annotated by Elmer Jacob Frederick Arndt, Typescript
4	4	5	<i>Systematic Theology</i> , Part 5-Preliminary Draft, Typescript