

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

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Richard Terrill Baker Papers, 1938 - 1941

Finding Aid prepared by: Lisa Fishman 1997; Ruth Tonkiss Cameron 2008

Summary Information

Creator: Richard Terrill Baker, 1913 - 1981
Title: Richard Terrill Baker Papers, 1938-1941
Inclusive dates: 1938-1941
Bulk dates: 1939-1941
Abstract: UTS Alumnus of 1941, Methodist Deacon, journalist, editor and war correspondent, Columbia University Professor of Journalism: UTS Course lecture notes, term papers and examination.
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:** These papers were donated to The Burke Library by Richard Terrill Baker's widow, Mrs Marjorie Baker (née Coleman) in September 1985.
- 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: Richard Terrill Baker Papers, 1938-1941, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Richard Terrill [Dick] Baker was born in Coggan, Iowa, on March 27, 1913, and graduated from Cornell College (Iowa) in 1934. Combining journalism and religion, he studied for one year at the Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Ill, became assistant editor of the *Northwestern Christian Advocate* in Chicago (1935-36) and obtained a Masters from the School of Journalism at Columbia University from 1936-37. Under a Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship he visited 32 countries in the Far East, Africa and the Middle East.

Baker attended Union Theological Seminary from 1938-1941 and received his BD magna cum laude. In 1940 he was ordained in Iowa as a deacon and in 1941 as a minister in the Methodist church. Baker was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity by Cornell College (Iowa) in 1946. In 1940-46 he became the assistant editor of *World Outlook*. When the Chinese Nationalist Government established a joint journalism school with Columbia University, he served in China as one of five faculty members and acting dean, 1943-1945.

For the following two years he wrote as a war correspondent for the *Religious News Services* and *World Outlook*. In 1947, at the age of 34, he became an associate professor at the Columbia University School of Journalism and full professor from 1952 to 1981. In 1950 he served as religious journalism advisor to West Germany on behalf of the U.S. State Department. In 1953-54 he took this year's absence from teaching to work as a reporter on the *New York Times*.

In 1961 he was appointed Associate Dean of the School of Journalism and became Acting Dean in the difficult 1968 - 1970 period. In 1976 Baker was elected secretary of the Pulitzer Prize Board.

Professor Richard Baker died at his home in Manhattan on September 4, 1981.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This single-series collection consists of detailed course, lecture, and discussion notes as well as syllabi, course outlines, reading lists, papers and examinations during Richard Baker's B.D. course at Union Theological Seminary, 1938 - 1941.

Material is organized alphabetically by professor. Course titles, with dates when available, are also provided.

The main archival collection of [Richard Terrill Baker Papers 1930-1981](#) covering his life and career outside of Union Theological Seminary is to be found at Columbia University Library's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library.

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.

Contents list

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Julius A. Bewer: Old Testament, 1940
1	1	2	Henry Sloane Coffin and Jellife-Practical Theology Lectures, [1940-1941?]
1	1	3	Harrison S. Elliot, Frank W. Herriot, Arthur L. Swift- Christian Leadership I, 1938
1	1	4	Daniel J. Fleming- Missions, 1940
1	1	5	Frederick C. Grant: New Testament, 1940-1941
1	1	6	Arthur Jeffrey-Old Testament Psalms [194?]
1	1	7	Eugene W. Lyman and David E. Roberts- Philosophy of Religion [194?]
1	1	8-9	E. W. Lyman and D. W. Roberts: Philosophy of Religion [194?]
1	1	10	Mary Ely Lyman- Practical Theology, 1940
1	2	1	[Nagler ?] and Robert H. Nichols-Church History, 1940-1941
1	2	2	Reinhold Niebuhr-Christian Ethics, 1938
1	2	3	R. Niebuhr-Christian Ethics Term Paper, 1939
1	2	4	R. Niebuhr-Philosophy of Religion, 1940
1	2	5-7	Cyril C. Richardson- Church History, 1940
1	2	8	Ralph W. Sockman and Donohugh- Church Institutions Lectures, [194?]
1	3	1	Paul J. Tillich-Philosophy of Religion Term Paper, 1941
1	3	2	P. J. Tillich-Systematic Theology, 1940-1941
1	3	3	Harold H. Tryon-New Testament [194?]
1	3	4-5	Henry P. Van Dusen-Systematic Theology, 1939, 1940
1	3	6-7	Harry F. Ward-Christian Ethics, 1939
1	3	8	General Exams-3 exam books, [194?]