

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

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Anne McGrew Bennett Papers, 1969 - 1989



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Finding Aid prepared by: Rachel Long 2008; Alexis Waller, 2009

Summary Information

Creator: Anne McGrew Bennett, 1903-1986
Title: Anne McGrew Bennett Papers, 1969-1989
Inclusive dates: 1969-1989
Bulk dates: 1969 - 1972
Abstract: Activist, feminist, author and wife of UTS President John Coleman Bennett. Congressional testimony, first UTS Commencement Address given by a woman, press clippings, book and photographs.
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 current papers were discovered among late additions to the John Coleman Bennett Papers in both presidential files and in donations from John C. Bennett after his retirement from UTS. They were separated from that collection in 2008. A pre-existing small collection of Anne McGrew Bennett papers has so far remained untraceable since a major water incursion into the archives storage area in 2003. The typescript by Anne Bennett from 1970 was received from Katherine Shinn through her daughter Carol Wheeler in August 2014 for the Roger Shinn papers. A copy of this is now placed in Anne Bennett's collection.
- 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.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS1: Anne McGrew Bennett Papers, 1969 -1989, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Anne McGrew Bennett was born in Lincoln County, NE on November 24, 1903 and died in Claremont, CA, on October 19, 1986.

Anne was born and raised in Nebraska, the child of homesteaders. She taught school, having received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Nebraska. Enrolled at Auburn Theological Seminary, in Auburn NY, she met and married John Coleman Bennett, who was later to become President of Union Theological Seminary. She graduated from Auburn in 1931. Later she was a lay church worker and became active in the movement to end the Vietnam War, traveling to both North and South Vietnam and testifying before congress.

Despite labeling herself 'a homemaker, not a specialist,' she was a pioneer in feminist theology, authoring over 60 articles. Her writings and speeches reflected her interest in the peace movement and feminist theology. In 1972, she was the first woman to give the commencement address at Union Theological Seminary. She was a founder of the Center for Women and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She also served as a board member of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ and the National Council of Churches. Anne received an honorary Doctorate in 1983 from Starr King School for the Ministry and both she and her husband were awarded the Union Medal in 1986.

Her published works include:

Women and the Word: Toward a New Theology, 1972.

'Beyond Barriers: A Presentation.' United Presbyterian Church in the USA Standing Committee on Women, 1972.

Overcoming the Biblical and Traditional Subordination of Women. Community for Religious Research and Education, 1974.

Women in a Strange Land: Search for New Image, (co-ed.), Philadelphia, Fortress Press, 1979.
 'Meditation on July 4, 1982.' *Journal of Women in Religion*. Vol. 2 No. 2 (Winter 1982). pp. 6-12.
 'Feminist Critique of Theology.' *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. Vol. 4 No. 2 (Fall 1988).
 p. 93-98

From Woman-Pain to Woman-Vision: Writings in Feminist Theology, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989

Collection Scope and Content Note

This is a small collection of materials that have been separated from the formerly unprocessed additional papers of John Coleman Bennett, Anne McGrew Bennett's husband. They reflect her activism against the Vietnam War and her feminist theology, as well as her involvement in the life of Union Theological Seminary. The previous collection of Anne McGrew Bennett papers has been untraced since early 2003.

Note: Further Anne McGrew Bennett Papers can be found at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, donated by John C. Bennett in 1989. The finding aid for the GTU collection can be accessed at

http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=tf0q2n97f1&doc.view=entire_text&brand=oac

This single series includes items related to Bennett's congressional testimony on the War in Vietnam, the 1970 Faculty Wives' party held in her honor, the text of her 1972 Commencement Address, photographs, a book written and owned by her, and press clippings on the subject of her activism against the Vietnam War.

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 and clippings were copied to acid free paper.

Contents list

Series 1: General, 1969-1989

Series Box Folder Contents

1	1	1	Congressional Testimony, 1969
1	1	2	Faculty Wives' Party in Honor of Anne McGrew Bennett, 1970
1	1	3	UTS Commencement Address, 1972
1	1	4	News Clippings, 1970-1972
1	1	5	Photographs of Anne McGrew Bennett, 1978
1	1	6	Book: <i>From Woman-Pain to Woman-Vision</i> , 1989
1	1	7	Copy-Day of Civil Obedience June 5, 1970