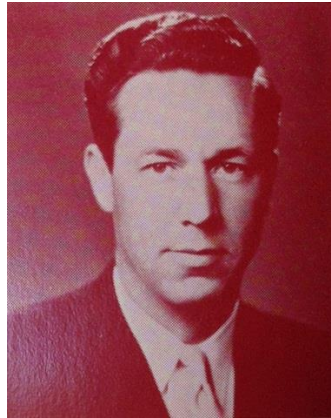


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

**Robert Tobias Papers, 1960 – 1962**



Source: Tobias, Robert, ed. *Preaching on Christian Unity*.  
St. Louis, Missouri: Bethany Press, 1958.

Finding Aid prepared by: Rossy Mendez and Brigette C. Kamsler, October 2013  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Robert Tobias, 1919 – 2010  
Title: Robert Tobias Papers  
Dates: 1960 – 1962  
Abstract: Scholar, professor and leader of the ecumenical movement. Materials included in collection pertain to his involvement in starting a World Association of Theological Schools in the 1960s.  
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](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The collection is part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library, which was established in 1945 within Union Theological Seminary's main library to hold ecumenical materials.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto: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. Please note that certain materials are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Robert Tobias Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Robert Tobias was born August 17, 1919 in Lyons, Kansas. Tobias completed a Master of Arts from Phillips University in 1943 and obtained his Bachelor of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 1945. He went on to pursue his Doctorate in Theology at the University at Geneva. His dissertation entitled, *Communist-Christian Encounter in East Europe, 1917-1951* revealed his interest in ecumenism and the role of the church in society.

This interest was perhaps influenced by his special responsibilities towards East Europe while working as the Assistant Director of the Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, which was part of the World Council of Churches. He served in this position from 1946-1953. Tobias also served as a World Council of Churches observer for the Geneva sessions, led by Eleanor Roosevelt. These sessions were used to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Tobias earned many honors for his work in ecumenism, including Geneva's key to the city and prominent decorations by King Paul of Greece as Commander of the Royal Order of Phoenix and in Yugoslavia, by patriarchs German and Pavel with the Order of St. Sava.

From the 1950s-1980s Tobias served as a theology professor at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana and later at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois. During his time at the Christian Theological Seminary, Tobias worked with other faculty and ecumenical leaders, such as Dr. Henry P. van Dusen from Union Theological Seminary, to establish a World Association of Theological Schools. In 1960, a proposal was drafted at the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism in Bossey, Switzerland. As the secretary of the continuation committee, Tobias sent out surveys to seminary schools nationwide and abroad to gauge interest in a world-wide association of seminaries. In 1961, the committee met during the World Council of Churches meeting in New Delhi to discuss the formal establishment of the association. Following this meeting Tobias assisted in establishing a world-wide directory of seminaries.

Robert Tobias continued with his work on ecumenism and went on to serve on committees of many ecumenical and international organizations. Beginning in 1983, Tobias co-chaired sessions of the Lutheran-Orthodox dialogue in North America and has written books and articles related to his work, including, *Heaven on Earth: A Lutheran - Orthodox Odyssey*.

Tobias passed away on October 6, 2010 and was buried in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

### Sources:

Columbia University Libraries: Alumni Catalogue, 1836-1947. *Columbia University Libraries Digital Collections*. n.d. [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/cul/texts/ldpd\\_5949068\\_000/pages/ldpd\\_5949068\\_000\\_00000428.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/cul/texts/ldpd_5949068_000/pages/ldpd_5949068_000_00000428.html).

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. *LSTC: News: LSTC Mourns The Death of Robert Tobias*. October 10, 2010. <http://www.lstc.edu/communications/news/?a=article&id=311> (accessed October 2013).

"Obituary of Robert Tobias." *Hutchinson News*. Hutchinson, Kansas. October 6, 2010.

"Obituary of Robert Tobias." *Racine Journal Times*. Racine, Wisconsin. October 8, 2010.

Tobias, Robert, ed. *Preaching on Christian Unity*. St. Louis, Missouri: Bethany Press, 1958.

"Meeting in New Delhi, 1961- Report and Minutes" William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Robert Tobias Papers, box 1, folder 2, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of Robert Tobias' files pertaining to the potential founding of a World Association of Theological Schools. Although the proposal gained a lot of support, the association never came to fruition. The files contain correspondence with different schools as well as drafts of letters sent by Robert Tobias. In some folders there are also catalogues and course descriptions pertaining to the seminaries which Tobias contacted.

The following schools had folders but were found empty: Haas Theological Seminary, [Salisbury, North Carolina], Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary [Columbus, Ohio] Talusan C. Smith University [Charlotte, North Carolina], McMaster Divinity College [Hamilton, Ohio], North Baptist Theological Seminary [Chicago, Illinois], Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary, [New York New York], Union College of British Columbia [Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada], and the Janhtau School of Theology, Affiliated with United Theological Seminary [Minneapolis, Minnesota].

The records are arranged primarily by region and in alphabetical order by name of seminary.

### Processing

Materials were rehoused onto new acid-free folders and archival boxes. Material was separated by acid free paper to indicate separate school listings.

**Further Sources:**

The Burke Library Archives include collections from organizations which Tobias was affiliated with, including the World Council of Churches and Union Theological Seminary Archival Records. For more information on these collections, please visit the Burke Library Archives website at <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives.html> or contact archives staff by email [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu).

## Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	General Circular and Mailing List, Initial Inquiry, 1960
1	2	Meeting in New Delhi, 1961- Report and Minutes
1	3	Summary of Seminary Responses
		<b>Seminaries: United States and Canada</b>
1	4	Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky Augsburg College Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois The Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas
1	5	Bangor Theological Seminary, Bangor, Maine Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, Berkeley, California Berkeley Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, Illinois Bethel College and Seminary
1	6	Bexley Hall Divinity School, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio The Biblical Seminary in New York, New York, New York Bloomfield College and Seminary, Bloomfield, NJ
1	7	Brite College of the Bible, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas California Baptist Theological Seminary, Covina, California Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Kentucky Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kansas
1	8	Central Lutheran Theological Seminary, Fremont, Nebraska Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, Maywood, Illinois The Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana The Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York The College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky
1	9	Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia Concordia Seminary Lutheran, St. Louis, Missouri Crane Theological School, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary, McKenzie, Tennessee Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas
1	10	The Divinity School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania The Divinity School, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa The Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina The Divinity School, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Box	Folder	Contents
1	11	The Divinity School at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Grove, Missouri Emmanuel College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas
1	12	Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West, South Carolina Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Illinois Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California Garrett Graduate School of Theology, Evanston, Illinois The General Theological Seminary, New York, New York
2	1	Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, California Gordon Divinity School, Beverly Farms, Massachusetts Goshen College Biblical Seminary, Goshen, Indiana The Graduate School of Theology, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio The Graduate Seminary, Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma Hamma Divinity School, Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio
2	2	The Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts Huron College, London, Ontario, Canada The Iliff School of Theology, The South University, Denver, Colorado Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia Knox College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2	3	Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
2	4	Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois McGill University, Faculty of Divinity, Montreal, Quebec, Canada Meadville Theological School, Chicago, Illinois Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana
2	5	Mission House Theological Seminary, Plymouth, Wisconsin Missouri School of Religion, Columbia, Missouri Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri
2	6	New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey New Church Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminaries, New Orleans, Louisiana North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Box	Folder	Contents
2	7	North American Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas North Park College and Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley Louisiana Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, Ohio
2	8	Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania The Presbyterian College, Montreal, Quebec, Canada Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia Queen's Theological College, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
2	9	St. Johns College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada Saint Paul School of Theology, Methodist, Kansas City, Missouri St. Stephen's College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, California School of Religion, Howard University, Washington, District of Columbia School of Religion, Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia
2	10	School of Theology, Alfred University, Alfred, New York The School of Theology, Anderson College, Anderson, Indiana School of Theology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts The School of Theology, University of the South, Swansee, Tennessee Seabury- Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois Seventh - day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan
2	11	Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Agency of Southern Baptist Convention, Wake Forest, North Carolina The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky Southern California School of Theology, Claremont, California Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
2	12	Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, California The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey Theological School, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York The Theological Seminary, University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa Trinity College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
3	1	United College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Minneapolis, Minnesota
3	2	Wartburg Theological Seminary, American Lutheran Church, Dubuque, Iowa Wesley Theological Seminary of the Methodist Church, Washington, District of Columbia

Box	Folder	Contents
3	2	Western Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America, Holland, Michigan Wycliffe College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
3	3	United States Seminaries Address List
3	4	Van Dusen's Appeal for Support
		<b>Seminaries-Abroad</b>
3	5	Overseas Appeal
3	6	Australia and New Zealand
3	7	India
3	8	Southeast Asia
3	9	South America
3	10	West Africa
3	11	Great Britain
3	12	Scandinavia
3	13	Netherlands, Brussels
3	14	Germany and Austria
3	15	Wagner and his list, The Fund for Theological Education
3	16	Letters to seminaries abroad
3	17	Key to codes on folders and filing systems