

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

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

WAB General Records, 1944 – 1972

In accordance with Dr. Brown's desires and through the generosity of his sons, his entire theological library is to come to the Seminary and will be set apart as the WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN LIBRARY OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY for the special use of students in this field. On Washington's Birthday, Dr. Brown's office, where many of us have visited him through the years, will be open to the alumni and his library, together with a complete collection of his own theological writings, will be on exhibition.

Faithfully yours

HENRY P. VAN DUSEN

Acting Chairman, Executive Committee)

Letter to Alumni from Henry Pitney Van Dusen.

Credit to: William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: WAB General Records, box 1, folder 5,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, December 2014
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library
Title: William Adams Brown General Records
Dates: 1944-1972
Abstract: General information and material relating to ecumenism, Henry Pitney Van Dusen, and the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library. Contains papers, notes, clippings, and correspondence.
Size: 1 box, 0.50 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 William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Collection, which was founded in 1945 by the Union Theological Seminary Board of Directors. The materials in this collection were part of a large group of unprocessed material that was organized in 2014.
- 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. 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: WAB General Records, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library (WAB) was founded by the Union Theological Seminary (UTS) Board of Directors as a response to the increasing demand for materials in the field of ecumenicity. The Library was named after William Adams Brown, who was very active in the field of Christian Unity and was Roosevelt Professor of Systematic Theology at UTS. Upon his death, he left his sizeable collection of papers documenting his activities with ecumenical conferences and committees, which served as the basis for the Library.

In November 1944, the Library was opened, and was directed by a committee of faculty in collaboration with the Missionary Research Library (MRL). The funding for WAB, as well as for part-time staff, was from UTS. The official opening of the Library occurred on March 13, 1945. The general policy of the Library was to acquire and make available printed and unprinted material documenting the ecumenical effort, including records connected to church union, federation and cooperation projects, and the development of the World Council of Churches.

WAB, as well as MRL, later became part of the UTS library. In 2004, the Burke Library was fully integrated with the Columbia University Library System.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library created and collected individual items to document a specific topic. This is one such collection, which focuses on general ecumenical work as well as the work of Henry Pitney Van Dusen. The items were pulled from unknown locations and have no relationship to one another other than they contain information that is generally related.

Henry Pitney Van Dusen was a faculty member of UTS, as well as Union's president from 1945-1963. Van Dusen was very supportive of the library and did all possible in order to keep it functioning. He was also one of the main architects of the World Council of Churches, and is among the most important ecumenists of the twentieth century.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

The "Chronicle of Christian Unity" by Henry Pitney Van Dusen is cataloged separately, and can be found online here: <http://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4492690>. Physically it is housed within this archival collection.

The Burke Library offers collections for Henry Pitney Van Dusen, the World Council of Churches, and the entirety of the Missionary Research Library. For more information, please see the library website at: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives.html>.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-3	Notes Collected for Henry Pitney Van Dusen, 1952-1963
1	4	"Chronicle of Christian Unity" by Henry Pitney Van Dusen [195?]
1	5	Ecumenical Correspondence of Henry Pitney Van Dusen, 1944-1972
1	6	National Workshop for Christian Unity Notes and Promotion [195?]
1	7	Ecumenism, 1967