

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

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

William Adams Brown Papers, 1900 – 1942

WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN - MANUSCRIPTS

1. Christian Preparedness. 1915
2. The church and the community. 1920
3. The church in America. 1922
4. Contribution of religion to the life of the individual. 1911
5. Divine providence. 1915
6. Fellowship of hope. 1922
7. Fundamentalism and modernism. 1924
8. Fundamentals of religion. 4 pts. 1915
9. The gospel at home. 1911
10. Home missions. 1911
11. How can the essential values of religion be more effectively developed in social work? 1914
12. Is Christianity practicable? 1914
13. Message of Christian missions to the modern world. 1920 ?
14. The ministry and the sacraments in the Reformed churches. 1925
15. Our duty as a Seminary in time of war. 1917
16. Our personal responsibility for the moral condition of the city. 1914
17. The place of the church in the Christian life. 1916
18. Present possibilities of Seminary improvement. 1900
19. A retrospect of thirty years. 1922
20. Three great religions. 1922
21. Three weeks in England with an umbrella. 1942
22. Training of the modern minister. 1900
23. What the world has a right to expect of the church. 1914

Contents List, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: William Adams Brown Papers, box 1, folder 1, The Burke at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Erin Campbell and Brigitte C. Kamsler, November, 2015
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: William Adams Brown, 1865 – 1942
Title: William Adams Brown Papers
Inclusive dates: 1900 – 1942
Bulk dates: 1911 – 1927
Abstract: The collection consists of manuscripts and reports.
Size: 1 boxes, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: General library stacks item that was moved to archives.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@libraries.cul.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: William Adams Brown Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

William Adams Brown was born in 1865 in New York City, the son of John Crosby Brown and Mary Elizabeth Adams. His father was a merchant banker and partner in Brown Brothers and Company. The Brown family had been involved with Union Theological Seminary almost since its inception. James Brown, William Adams' grandfather, was a financial patron of the school, and John Crosby Brown continued the association, joining the Board of Directors soon after his son's birth. The connection continued on his mother's side, as his grandfather William Adams was later named president of the Seminary in 1873.

Brown was educated privately at first, and then went to St. Paul's Preparatory School in New Hampshire. This was followed by four years as an undergraduate, then an additional year of graduate study at Yale University. He continued his schooling at Union Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1890. Less than a year after his initial appointment, the school asked him to shift fields and teach Systematic Theology. Despite little training in the field, Brown accepted the change and was named Roosevelt Chair of Systematic Theology only five years later.

Brown was also instrumental in the founding of Union Settlement in East Harlem. The settlement movement began in the 1880's as a way to improve the lives of people in poorer communities. Union Theological Seminary's Alumni Association decided in 1893 to open a settlement, and Brown was named to the site committee. Their choices were narrowed down to Hell's Kitchen and the Upper East Side, and they chose the latter, mainly for its proximity to Union. The Settlement, opened in 1895, provided education, health, and other community services, often using Seminary students as volunteers. Brown's role aside from site selection included president of the Union Settlement Association, and he was largely responsible for fundraising. 1 Union Settlement continues to this day to provide services to East Harlem.

For more information, consult the Union Theological Seminary [archives finding aid](#) for William Adams Brown.

Collection Scope and Content Note

Manuscripts

1. Christian Preparedness. 1915
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Additional Material

1. Report of the General War-time Commission of the Churches. 1917. W. A. Brown, Exec. Secretary
2. Report of the General War-time Commission of the Churches. 1918. W.A. Brown, Exec. Secretary
3. Brown, W. A. What the Churches will Face at Lausanne. 1927
4. Brown, W. A. The Message of the Church on the Political Issues of the Day. 1933
5. Brown, W. A. Taking Unity Seriously. 1934
6. Brown, W. A. Christian Unity, the World's Need. 1935
7. Brown, W.A. Statement of aim of the Committee on Religion and Medicine prepared for clergymen and laymen. 1931

Processing

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

Further Sources

Burke Library has further information about William Adams Brown including: *The church through half a century; essays in honor of William Adams Brown* by his former students, *A comparative study of the theory of human nature as expressed by Jonathan Edwards, Horace Bushnell and William Adams Brown* by John Arthur Boorman, and *The modern protestant quest for the essence of Christianity focused in William Adams Brown* by James Hamilton Ware.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-6	Papers, 1900-1942