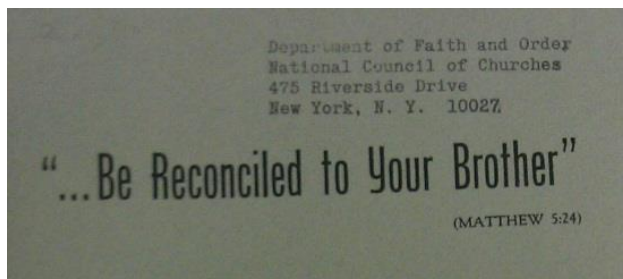


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

**American Bilateral Conversations Records, 1932–1975**



"Be Reconciled to Your Brother: The Lifting of the Anathema of 1054 as a Step Toward Reconciliation" 1966.  
Credit to WAB: American Bilateral Conversations Records, Series 1 Box 4, Folder 9,  
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: BreeAnn Midavaine, October 2012  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Union Theological Seminary  
Title: American Bilateral Conversations Records  
Inclusive dates: 1932–1975  
Bulk dates: 1965–1975  
Abstract: Roman Catholics tended to favor and encourage a methodology of bilateral or two-party conversations, while most ecumenical discussions were multilateral. Protestants also held conversations among themselves. The collection contains records of minutes, reports, correspondence, position papers, books and news statements drafted at bilateral meetings of the Roman Catholic Church and various Protestant churches.  
Size: 6 boxes, 3.00 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
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. Many of the materials are stamped by the Department of Faith and Order National Council of Churches indicating that these materials may have at one point been part of their 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](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. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: American Bilateral Conversations Records, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

According to *Catholicism and the Ecumenical Movement*, in attendance at the 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh was an American Episcopalian, Bishop Brent, who decided to organize what would be known as the Lausanne Conference (1927) for Christian Churches. The purpose was to "thrash out their mutual difference and oppositions to each other... [Bishop Brent] hoped that... what was held in common would be more powerful than that which separated one body from another and that it would lead to a firm intention to work for the rebirth of a single Christian body." Catholics were forbidden to attend the conference due to its insistence that the One Church was something that would exist in the future; this is in direct opposition to the Catholic Church's doctrine that they are the One Church. The Catholic Church's decision to not participate in the conference influenced the ecumenical movement by helping to refine and clarify the movement's basic mission.

Pope John XXIII convened the second Vatican council (1962-1965) and with its Decree of Ecumenism the Roman Catholic Church was pitched into full involvement in the ecumenical movement. The Decree pointed to "dialogue between competent experts from different Churches and Communities," as the main component to ecumenism. "Bilateral dialogue became an important ecumenical instrument for the churches in the second half of this century of ecumenism and a prominent feature of the Catholic Church's ecumenical activity."

Bilateral conversations in the early 1960s were focused on the church as a universal body of Christ. By the late 1960s discussions emphasized "... the Trinitarian nature of God... and the humanity of Christ, including his suffering and solidarity with those who live on the margins of history..." according to *The Ecumenical Movement: An Anthology of Key Texts and Voices*. John A. Radano points out that "the start of formal dialogues represented a major step in that new relationship [between the Catholic Church and other Christian Churches], a mutual

determination to deal with theological issues over which they are divided.” He also recommends that “more analysis of these dialogue reports, and accounts of what they have achieved are needed...”

These national bilateral conversations in some instances precluded and may have encouraged international bilateral conversations. Some of these dialogues produced quick results while others took many years before progressing to second stage talks. Since Vatican II new international conversations have begun in each new decade with more and more Protestant and Orthodox faiths, including dialogues with the Pentecostals in 1972, Evangelicals in 1977, Mennonites in 1998, and Oriental Orthodox in 2003. Although the international ecumenical movement through the World Council of Churches (WCC) has grown from an initial 147 member churches to over 350 member churches today, Radano continues that there is still a need to find an “effective way of bringing the benefits of bilateral conversation to the wider search within the multilateral conversation.” There is a need for a wider “ecumenical Forum” that would include churches not yet in membership with WCC, such as the Roman Catholic Church, Evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches within its ranks.

#### Sources:

- Kinnamon, Michael & Brian E. Cope. Editors. *The Ecumenical Movement: An Anthology of Key Texts and Voices*. Geneva : Grand Rapids, Mich: WCC Publications ; W.B. Eerdmans Pub, 1997.
- Mirus, Jeffrey. *The Documents of the Second Vatican Council: A Summary and Guide*. Trinity Communications, 2011.
- Radano, John A. Editor. *Celebrating a Century of Ecumenism: Exploring the Achievements of International Dialogue: In Commemoration of the Centenary of the 1910 Edinburgh World Missionary Conference*. Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, 2012.
- Slack, Kenneth. *The Ecumenical Movement*. London: Edinburgh House Press, 1960.
- Todd, John M. *Catholicism and the Ecumenical Movement*. London: Longmans, Green, 1956.

#### **Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection is divided into two series, which detail conversations discussing topics such as unity, baptism, women in the Church, the Eucharist and intercommunion, mixed or inter-marriage, the nature of sin, the purpose and role of the Church. Each of the series contains papers written by experts of all faiths including Peter Day, an ecumenical officer for the Episcopal Church, Bishop Arthur A. Vogel of the Anglican Church, Bishop Charles H. Helmsing of the Roman Catholic Church, and Robert T. Handy, a Baptist pastor and Professor of Church History at Union Theological Seminary.

- **Series 1: Roman Catholic Conversations, 1964-1975 (5 Boxes, 2.50 linear feet)**

This series provides an account of the Roman Catholic bilateral conversations with Christian Churches in the United States from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s. The Churches involved in the conversations include the American Baptist Convention, Anglican, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran, Methodist, Eastern Orthodox, Presbyterian, and Southern Baptist.

Some of the papers and official statements included in the collection are drafts and have revision notes and marginalia. Several contain anthologies that cover multiple years. There is a minimal amount of correspondence; a few letters detail the agreements and disagreements that occurred during the conversations. An example of this is contained in a copy of the letter between Athenagoras Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople to Reverend Iakovos Archbishop of North and South America, which details a plea for the correction of a misconception held by Orthodox Christians that due to ecumenical conversations they could now confess and receive communion from Roman Catholic priests. Intercommunion between the Orthodox and other churches did not exist at this time. A booklet about these initial attempts at ecumenism is also in the collection and documents the nullification of the anathema (excommunication) of 1054, which was necessary in order to begin bilateral conversation between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. The arrangement of the material is alphabetical according to the Christian church the Catholics were in conversations with, then chronologically according to the date of each meeting.

- **Series 2: Protestant Conversations, 1932-1972 (1 box, 0.50 linear feet)**

This series is a small collection of conversations between Protestant faiths from the United States, as well as abroad, which include a few booklets outlining bilateral discussion in the 1930s and 1950s. Of interest are the four folders containing documents that date far earlier than the majority of the documents, dealing mainly with bilateral conversations between Anglicans and the Orthodox Church. The 1932 booklet covering the Joint Doctrinal Commission between the Anglican and the Eastern Orthodox Church is a report of the conference which was appointed under resolutions made at the Lambeth Conference of 1932. The collection also contains a report of the bilateral conference between the Rumanian Commission [sic] on relations with the Church of England in June of 1935. A 1958 report of the Joint Commission on the Assistance to the Eastern Orthodox Churches and a 1959 paper by Professor Vasil T. Istavridis on *Orthodoxy and Anglicanism in the Twentieth Century*. The arrangement of the material is alphabetical according to which Church was leading the discussion and then chronological according to the date of each meeting.

### **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 as needed.

Published books and journal issues which were transferred from the archival collection to library stacks are listed below with links to Columbia Libraries' Online catalog (CLIO).

### **Separated Items**

The following items have been separated from the collection, but are available for viewing through Columbia Libraries' Online catalog (CLIO). Call numbers accessed September 2012.

- American Baptist Historical Society. *Foundations*. [Rochester, N.Y: American Baptist Historical Society, 1958. Vol. XI, No. 3. July-September 1968. [Call Number](#): UTS (Burke) Periodicals Shelved alphabetically by title.
- American Baptist Historical Society. *Foundations*. [Rochester, N.Y: American Baptist Historical Society, 1958. Vol. XII, No. 3. July-September 1969. [Call Number](#): UTS (Burke) Periodicals Shelved alphabetically by title.
- Beeson, Trevor, and Robin Sharp. *Worship in a united church*, [Oxford, Eng.: A.R. Mowbray, 1964. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE LS23 M5C5 S79(1)
- Davies, Rupert Eric. *Methodists and unity*. London; New York: A.R. Mowbray; Morehouse-Barlow, 1962. [Call Number](#): UTS (Burke) stacks JR96 D257
- Greet, Kenneth G, and Martin Reardon. *Social questions*. [London]: Mowbray, 1964. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE LS23 M5C5 S79(4)
- Hubery, Douglas S, and Dewi Morgan. *The churches' outreach*,. [N.p.: A.R. Mowbray and Epworth Press, 1964. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE LS23 M5C5 S79(3)
- Levett, Theodore Angelo Roderick, and Edward Rogers. *Church government*. [London]: Mowbray, 1964. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE LS23 M5C5 S79(2)
- Lutheran World Federation, and Catholic Church. *Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue*. Minneapolis, Minn. (426 South Fifth St. 55415): Published by Augsburg Pub. House for U.S.A. National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation and the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, 1967. (Vol. 1-3 in one book). [Call Number](#): UTS (Burke) stacks BX1783 .L875 1967
- Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue: a Progress Report*. An FM Maxi Book. [Cincinnati: Forward Movement Publications, 197AD. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE MD35 L8E5 L97
- Lazareth, William H, Warren A Quanbeck, and Joseph C McLelland. *A reexamination of Lutheran and Reformed traditions. Summaries and comment IV, Ethics and ethos*; New York, N.Y.: North American Area of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and U.S.A. National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, 1966. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE KL10R332
- Mac Donagh, Enda. *Roman Catholics and unity*. London: Mowbray, 1962. [Call Number](#): UTS (Burke) stacks JR56.6M135
- McLelland, Joseph C. *A reexamination of Lutheran and Reformed traditions. II, Christology, the Lord's Supper and its observance in the church*. New York, N.Y.: North American Area of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and U.S.A. National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, 1964. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE KL10R332
- Paton, David M. *Anglicans and unity*. London; New York: A. R. Mowbray; Morehouse-Barlow, 1963. [Call Number](#): UTS (Burke) stacks JR86 P312
- Price, Stuart Hetley, and Gordon S Wakefield. *Unity at the local level*. [London]: A.R. Mowbray; Epworth Press, 1964. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE LS23 M5C5 S79(5)
- Reid, John Kelman Sutherland. *Presbyterians and unity*. London; New York: A. R. Mowbray; Morehouse-Barlow, 1962. [Call Number](#): UTS (Burke) stacks JR96 R356
- Stob, Henry. *A reexamination of Lutheran and Reformed traditions. Liturgy and ethics; Creation and redemption; Law and Gospel III, Justification and sanctification*; New York, N.Y.: North American Area of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and U.S.A. National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, 1965. [Call Number](#): OFFSITE KL10R332

Williams, R. R, editor. *Authority and the church : papers and discussions at a Conference between theologians of the Church of England and the German Evangelical Church*. London: S.P.C.K., 1965. Call Number: UTS (Burke) stacks RC85 W726

### Further sources

Burke Library Archives Collections:

[World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, 1910](#)

[National Council of Churches of Christ USA, 1950 – 1973](#)

[World Council of Churches \(WCC\) Records, 1893-1975](#)

Kasper, Walter. *Harvesting the Fruits: Basic Aspects of Christian Faith in Ecumenical Dialogue*. London ; New York: Continuum, 2009.

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. *The National Council of Churches : what it is, what it does*. New York, N.Y.: The Council, 1960.

Norgren, William A. *Faith and Order in the U.S.A.: a Brief History of Studies and Relationships*. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans Pub, 2011.

Obach, Robert E. "Some recent Protestant points of view (1956-1966) concerning the goal of the Roman Catholic Church's participation in the modern ecumenical movement." 1968, unpagged. Dissertation.

*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*. Accessed 10/2012. Webpage.

<http://old.usccb.org/seia/index.shtml>

World Council of Churches. Records of the World Council of Churches, 1927-2002. Yale University Divinity School Library. [Finding Aid](#)

Yale University Divinity School Library. Special Collections: [Archives of Organizations List](#)

## Contents list

### Series 1: Roman Catholic Conversations, 1964-1975

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, List of Consultations, 1965-1969
			<b>RC-American Baptist Convention, 1967-1972</b>
1	1	2	First Meeting: DeWitt, Michigan, 1967
1	1	3	Second Meeting: Green Lake, Wisconsin, 1968
1	1	4	Third Meeting: Schiller Park, Illinois, 1969
1	1	5	"Report on Roman Catholic-American Baptist Dialogues," by Robert G. Middleton [1968-1969?]
1	1	6	Fourth Meeting: Atchison, Kansas, 1970
1	1	7	Fifth Meeting, <i>Growing in Understanding</i> : Detroit, Michigan, 1971
1	1	8	Sixth Meeting: Liberty, Missouri, 1972
			<b>RC-Anglican, 1964-1970</b>
1	1	9	<i>Anglican-Roman Relations</i> , by Bernard C. Pawley, 1964
1	1	10	"Guidelines for Relations with the Roman Church", by The Committee for Relations with the Roman Catholic Church of The Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations, 1966
1	1	11	Second Meeting: Kansas City, Missouri, February 1966
1	1	12	Third Meeting: Providence, Rhode Island, October 1966
1	1	13	Fourth Meeting: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 1967
1	1	14	Fifth Meeting: Jackson, Mississippi, January 1968
1	1	15	Sixth Meeting: Liberty, Missouri, December 1968
1	1	16	Seventh Meeting: Boynton Beach, Florida, December 1969
1	1	17	Eighth Meeting: Green Bay, Wisconsin, June 1970
			<b>RC-Anglican, 1971-1974</b>
1	2	1	Ninth Meeting: [St. Benedict, Louisiana], January 1971
1	2	2	Tenth Meeting: [Liberty, Missouri], June 1971
1	2	3	Eleventh Meeting: Location Unknown, January 1972
1	2	4	Twelfth Meeting: Location Unknown, June 1972
1	2	5	Thirteenth Meeting: Cincinnati, Ohio, March 1973
1	2	6	Fourteenth Meeting: Vicksburg, Mississippi, January 1974
1	2	7	Fifteenth Meeting: Cincinnati, Ohio, November 1974
			<b>RC-Disciples of Christ, 1967-1970</b>
1	2	8	Second Meeting: Kansas City, Missouri, September 1967
1	2	9	Third Meeting: St. Louis, Missouri, April-May 1968
1	2	10	<i>Mid-stream: Council on Christian Unity</i> , Volume VII, Number 2, September-April/May 1968
1	2	11	Fourth Meeting: Washington D. C., October 1968
1	2	12	Fifth Meeting: Location Unknown, April 1969
1	2	13	Sixth Meeting: Columbus, Ohio, November 1970

**Series 1: Roman Catholic Conversations (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			<b>RC-Disciples of Christ (Cont'd)</b>
1	3	1	Seventh Meeting: Location Unknown, June 1971
1	3	2	Eighth Meeting: Indianapolis, Indiana, March 1972
1	3	3	Ninth Meeting: Location Unknown, June 1972
1	3	4	<i>Mid-stream: Council on Christian Unity</i> , Volume XII, Numbers 2-4, October 1968-June 1972
1	3	5	[Tenth] Meeting: Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, May 1973-1974
			<b>RC-Lutheran, 1965-1969; 1974</b>
1	3	6	[First Meeting: Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue I]: <i>The Status of the Nicene Creed as Dogma of the Church</i> : Baltimore, Maryland, July 1965
1	3	7	[Second Meeting]: Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue II: <i>One Baptism for the Remission of Sins</i> : Chicago, Illinois, February 1966
1	3	8	[Third-Fifth Meeting]: Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue III: <i>The Eucharist as Sacrifice</i> : Location varies, September 1966, April 1967, September/October 1967
1	3	9	[Sixth Meeting]: Regional Roman Catholic-Lutheran Dialogues: 450 <sup>th</sup> Reformation Anniversary, 1967-1968, <i>Guidelines for Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue</i>
1	3	10	[Seventh Meeting]: New York City, New York, March 1968
1	3	11	Eighth Meeting: [Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue IV]: Williamsburg, Virginia, September 1968
1	3	12	[Ninth Meeting: San Francisco, California], February 1969
1	3	13	[Eighth-Tenth Meeting]: Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue IV: <i>Eucharist and Ministry</i> : Dialogue V: <i>Papal Primacy and the Universal Church</i> Williamsburg, Virginia, [San Francisco, California, Baltimore, Maryland], September 1968, [February 1969, September] 1969; 1974
			<b>RC-Methodist, 1966-1975</b>
1	4	1	[Second Meeting]: Chicago, Illinois, December 1966
1	4	2	[Third Meeting: Lake Junaluska, North Carolina], June 1967
1	4	3	[Fourth Meeting: New York, New York], December 1967, "Three Generations of Church-State Argument" by Dean M. Kelley
1	4	4	[Fifth Meeting]: San Antonio, Texas, September-October 1968
1	4	5	[Sixth Meeting]: Delaware, Ohio, October 1969
1	4	6	Dayton, Ohio, October 1972
1	4	7	Unknown location, March 1973
1	4	8	Unknown location, January 1975
			<b>RC-Orthodox, 1966-1969</b>
1	4	9	"...Be Reconciled to Your Brother" <i>The Lifting of the Anathema of 1054 as a Step Toward Reconciliation</i> : 1966-1967
1	4	10	[Second Meeting]: Worcester, Massachusetts, May 1967
1	4	11	Third Meeting: Maryknoll, New York, December 1968



**Series 1: Roman Catholic Conversations, 1964-1975(Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			<b>RC-Orthodox (Cont'd)</b>
1	4	12	Fourth Meeting: Worcester, Massachusetts, December 1969
			<b>RC-Presbyterian-Reformed, 1965-1974</b>
1	4	13	<i>Conversations with Roman Catholics on the Nature of the Church and Ecumenism: 1965</i>
1	4	14	[Third Meeting: New York, New York], May 1966
1	4	15	[Fourth Meeting: Chicago, Illinois], October 1966
1	4	16	[Fifth Meeting: Collegeville, Minnesota], April 1967
1	4	17	[Third-Fifth Meeting]: <i>Reconsiderations: Roman Catholic/Presbyterian and Reformed Theological Conversations, 1966-67</i>
1	4	18	[Sixth Meeting: Lancaster, Pennsylvania], October 1967
1	4	19	Presbyterian Office of Information: <i>News Bulletin</i> , July 1965-November 1967
1	5	1	[Seventh Meeting: Bristow, Virginia], May 1968
1	5	2	[Eighth Meeting: Allen Park, Michigan], October 1968
1	5	3	[Ninth Meeting: Charleston, South Carolina], May 1969
1	5	4	[Tenth Meeting: Macatawa, Michigan], October 1969
1	5	5	Location Unknown, 1970.
1	5	6	183 <sup>rd</sup> General Assembly: Columbus, Ohio, May 1971; <i>Ministry in the Church and Women in the Church</i> , October 1971
1	5	7	Location Unknown, 1972
1	5	8	Columbus, Ohio, May 1973
1	5	9	Location Unknown, May 1974
1	5	10	Cincinnati, Ohio, October 1974
			<b>RC-Southern Baptist, 1971</b>
1	5	11	First Meeting: Daytona Beach, Florida, February 1971; <i>Issues and Answers</i>

**Series 2: Protestant Conversations, 1932-1972**

2	6	1	<b>American Baptist Convention-Church of the Brethren, [19??]-1972</b> 1972, <i>Conversations</i> [19??]
			<b>Anglican-Eastern Orthodox, 1932-1970</b>
2	6	2	<i>Report of the Joint Doctrinal Commission appointed by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Archbishop of Canterbury for consultation on the points of agreement and difference between the Anglican and Eastern Orthodox churches, London, 1932</i>
2	6	3	<i>Report: Joint Commission on Assistance to the Eastern Orthodox Churches, 1958</i>
2	6	4	<i>Orthodoxy and Anglicanism in the Twentieth Century</i> by Vasil T. Istavridis, August-September 1959
2	6	5	<i>Report: Joint Commission on Co-operation with the Eastern and Old Catholic Churches, 1964</i>

**Series 2: Protestant Conversations (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			<b>Anglican-Eastern Orthodox (Cont'd)</b>
2	6	6	"The Goal of Our Discussions" by Peter Day [after 1964]
2	6	7	Third-Sixth Meetings: Various locations, November 1963-March 1965
2	6	8	Seventh-Tenth Meetings: Various locations, September 1965-January 1968
2	6	9	Conversations with His Beatitude Ieronymos, Panyiotis Trembelas, and Hamilcar Alivisatos: Athens, Greece, October 1968
2	6	10	Consultation: New York, New York, March 1970
			<b>French Lutheran-Reformed, 1970</b>
2	6	11	"Signs of Unity Hailed by French Lutherans, Reformed," October 1970
			<b>Lutheran-Episcopalian (Anglican), [196?]-1972</b>
2	6	12	"The Meaning and Authority of Scripture in the Life of the Church" by Robert W. Jensen [196?]
2	6	13	[Fourth Meeting]: "The Meaning and Authority of the Bible" by Harvey H. Guthrie, Jr., October 1969
2	6	14	Fifth and Sixth Meetings: New York, New York, November 1971, May-June 1972
			<b>Lutheran-Reformed and Orthodox-Reformed, 1968-1969</b>
2	6	15	<i>Bulletin of the Department of Theology of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches &amp; The World Presbyterian Alliance</i> , Volume 9, Number 2, Winter 1968-1969
			<b>Lutheran-Reformed, 1970-1972</b>
2	6	16	Preliminary-Second Meetings: New York, New York, February 1970-April 1972
			<b>Rumanian Church-Church of England (Orthodox-Anglican), 1935</b>
2	6	17	<i>Report of the Conference at Bucarest [sic] from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1935, Rumanian [sic] Commission on Relations with the Anglican Communion and the Church of England Delegation appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, London, 1936</i>