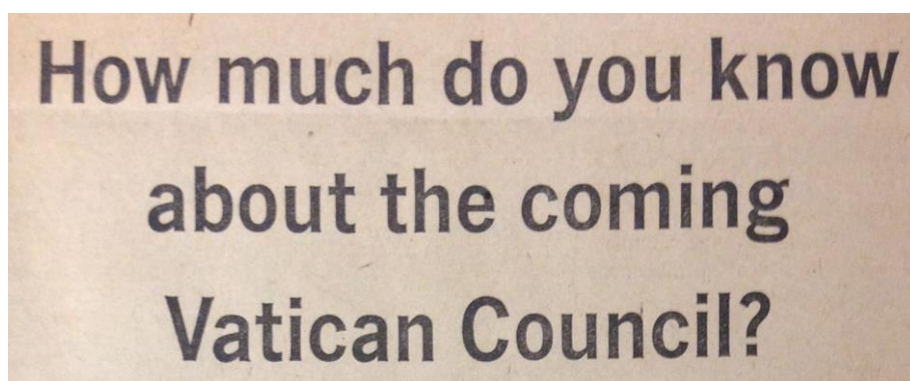


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

Vatican II Ecumenical Council Records, 1962 – 1980



"How Much Do You Know About the Coming Vatican Council?" *The New York Times*, 1962
William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Vatican II Ecumenical Council Records, box 1, The Burke Library at
Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Kristen Leigh Southworth, October 2013
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Union Theological Seminary
Title: Vatican II Ecumenical Council Records
Inclusive dates: 1962 – 1980
Bulk dates: 1962 – 1965
Abstract: A scrapbook collection of New York *Times* clippings about Vatican II, and a collection of articles defending Catholic theologian Hans Küng.
Size: 2 OS boxes, 2 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.
- 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: Vatican II Ecumenical Council Records, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The second Vatican Council, also known as Vatican II, was the twenty-first Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church, convoked by Pope John XXIII and held from 1962-1965. It was preceded by Vatican I (1869-1870), which was the first council to be held since the closing of the Council of Trent in 1563. Deliberations at Vatican I were cut short due to the Italian army's capture of Rome in 1870, leaving many issues unaddressed.

Still, many were surprised when Pope John XXIII announced on January 25, 1959 that he wished to convoke a new council, saying that he wished to open the windows of the church and let in some fresh air. The tremendous political, social, economic, and technological changes that had taken place over the previous four centuries led to new theological questions and ecclesiastical challenges, for which the bishops convened at Vatican II sought new solutions.

Vatican II addressed the ecumenical issues of Christianity for the first time since the Reformation. Hundreds of representatives from Christian denominations outside the Roman Church were invited to Rome to observe their deliberations. A cornerstone decree of the council is known as the *Lumen gentium*, which represented a major breakthrough for Rome's relations with the Eastern Churches and with Protestant Christian groups, as it recognized a common Baptism, as well as a mutual responsibility for the Church's divisions.

Hans Küng is a Catholic, priest, theologian, and author from Switzerland who was appointed by Pope John XXIII to serve as a theological advisor to members of the Second Vatican Council. In 1971, he published a book entitled *Infallible? An Inquiry*, in which he rejected the doctrine of papal infallibility, decided during Vatican I. On December 18, 1979, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, under the papacy of John Paul II, withdrew Küng's license to teach as a Roman Catholic theologian, causing a public outcry in his defense. Though the decision was not revoked, Küng remained professor of ecumenical theology at the University of Tübingen until his retirement in 1996.

Sources:

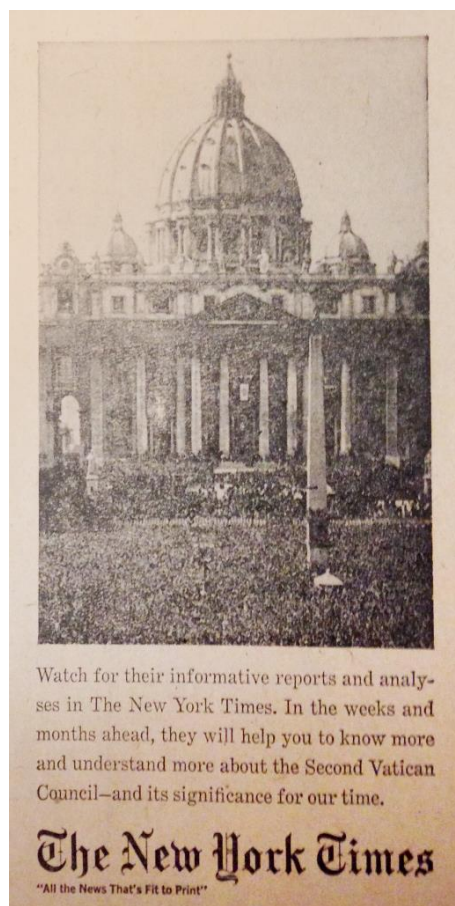
From the materials in the collection, as well as:

Tanner, Norman P., *The Councils of the Church: A Short History*, New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 2001.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two large scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings from the New York Times about the developments of the Vatican II Ecumenical Council. The clippings have been taped onto the scrapbook pages and are somewhat fragile.

Box 1 contains the Vatican Scrapbook Volume 1, with clippings from Session 1 (1962) and Session 2 (1963). Box 2 contains Vatican Scrapbook Volume 2, with clippings from Session 3 (1963) and Session 4 (1964). Also contained in Box 2 is a folder containing three photocopied news articles, and one typed manuscript written in defense of Catholic theologian Hans Küng.



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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.

Further Sources

The William Adams Brown Collection of the Burke Library also contains the papers of Robert C. Dodds, a NCC delegate to the Vatican II Council. The finding aid is available online at:

http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/wab/ldpd_4492708.pdf

The official documents from Vatican II are held by the Holy See at the Vatican Secret Archives in Rome, Italy. Many of these documents may be viewed online at in multiple languages at:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm

Contents list

Box	Contents
1	Clippings from the NY Times Volume 1: Sessions 1-2, 1962-1963
2	Clippings from the NY Times Volume 2: Sessions 3-4, 1964-1965
2	Articles in Defense of Hans Küng, 1979-1980