

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

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Philip Schaff Papers, 1838 - 1896



Philip Schaff

Credit: Union Theological Seminary Records, The Burke Library

Finding Aid prepared by: Kathleen Ford, 1985; Revised by Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, 2006;
Revised by Todd Willison, 2012

Summary Information

Creator: Philip Schaff, 1819-1893
Title: Philip Schaff Papers, 1838 - 1896
Inclusive dates: 1838 -1896
Bulk dates: 1839 - 1889
Abstract: *Privat-docent*, University of Berlin; Professor of in German Reform Church seminary, Mercersburg, PA; Secretary of NY Sabbath Committee; UTS Professor of Theological Encyclopedia and Christian-Symbolics, 1870-72; of Hebrew, 1872-74; of Sacred Literature from 1875; Founder of American branch of Evangelical Alliance and President of American Bible Revision Committee. Correspondence; lectures notes, diaries; travel journal; scrapbook; photo album of theologians
Size: 7 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, 5.5 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:** Donated to the Burke Library by David Schaff, 1896. Semi-Centennial Documents, Berlin 1842 - New York 1892, were added to the Collection from an undocumented source in September 1995. Charles R. Gillett's student notes on Schaff lectures were added to the collection at an unknown date, possibly while Gillett was librarian for UTS.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain extremely fragile items are **Restricted** and are not available for consultation. These are so marked in the Contents list. Where possible acid free copies will be made available to enable consultation.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS1: Philip Schaff Papers, 1838 - 1896, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

Biography

Philip Schaff was born in Chur, Switzerland on January 1, 1819. He was an illegitimate child whose mother was forced out of town for that reason and whose father died a year after his birth, making him a ward of the state. In 1834, he was dismissed from his school and sent to a boarding school at Kornthal in Württemberg that was founded by Pietists. After six months at Kornthal, which Schaff called his "spiritual birthplace," he transferred to a Gymnasium at Stuttgart where he continued to be influenced by pietism and revivalism.

In 1837, he began his university studies at Tübingen during the era of David Strauss, Isaac Dörner, Ferdinand Baur, and Friedrich Schmid. He was especially influenced during this time by the evangelical mediating theology of Dörner and Schmid and would go on to train with similar thinkers such as Friedrich Tholuck at the University of Halle, where he spent a winter semester in 1839/40, and August Neander at the University of Berlin, where he completed his doctoral dissertation entitled "The Sin Against the Holy Spirit" in the spring of 1842.

In the summer of 1841, Schaff was hired by a widow named Baroness Von Krocher to be a tutor for her only son. He spent fourteen months traveling with the von Krochers throughout Italy and Sicily while completing his dissertation. After returning to Berlin in the summer of 1842, he prepared a second inaugural dissertation entitled "The Relationship of James, the Lord's Brother, to James, the son of Alphaeus, anew Exegetically and Historically Investigated." This qualified him to take his first teaching post as a *privadozent* at the University of Berlin in late 1842.

In 1843, Schaff was called to a professorship at Mercersburg Seminary, the theological seminary of the German Reform Church of the United States, located in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. In April 1844, Schaff was ordained by the Prussian Evangelical Union church, a Reformed church in Elberfeld, so that he could serve at Mercersburg. He arrived in Mercersburg in August 1844 and continued to teach there until 1863. When he first arrived he gave a controversial inaugural address entitled "The Principle of Protestantism" that contained mediating views taken to be out of

accord with the teachings of the German Reformed Church. In the publication of this address he added a rejection of the "Waldensian theory," which held that the Roman Catholic Church was apostate and that true apostolic succession ran only through the Waldensian medieval sect. Schaff's rejection of this doctrine led him to be tried for heresy in October 1845. He was acquitted of all charges. He was threatened with a second heresy trial in 1846, but the Synod of the German Reformed Church did not take action.

On December 10, 1845, Schaff was married to Mary E. Schley. They had 8 children, 5 of whom died before 1876. In 1863, when the Civil War began, Mercersburg Seminary was closed and the buildings turned into a military hospital. To avoid the turmoil, Schaff moved his family to New York City, where he worked as Secretary of the New York Sabbath Committee until 1869. After lecturing intermittently during these years at Andover, Drew, Hartford, and Union seminaries, he was invited to join the faculty at Union Theological Seminary in 1870. There he was appointed Professor of Theological Encyclopedia and Christian-Symbolics (1870-73); of Hebrew (1873-74); of Sacred Literature (1875-1887) and finally as Washburn Professor of Church History (1887-1893). During his years at Union he traveled to Europe thirteen times, often for Bible revision work, for conferences of the Evangelical Alliance and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and for archival consultation in preparation for his church history volumes.

His many original writings include *The Principle of Protestantism* (1845), *Creeds of Christendom* (1877), and *History of the Christian Church* (12 vols, 1838-1893). He also edited, among many other works, John Lange's *Commentary on the Holy Scriptures* (1864-1880) and the sets of patristic translations known as the *Nicene and post-Nicene Fathers* (Series I, 14 vols., 1886-9; Series II, 14 vols., 1890-1900).

Schaff was a founding member of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis (1880), the American Society of Church History (1888), and the American branch of the Evangelical Alliance (1867). He was also the first president of the American Bible Revision Committee, which he organized in 1871 at the request of the British Committee. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Berlin University in 1854, the University of St Andrews in 1887, and the University of the City of New York in 1892. He was awarded an LL.D. from Amherst College in 1874.

Philip Schaff died in New York City, October 20, 1893.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is contained in seven boxes in a single series:

- **Series 1: Correspondence, 1839-1896 (2 boxes, 0.75 linear ft)**

In this series letters range from 1839 to 1896 and are arranged in alphabetical order by correspondent. The bulk of all correspondence is written to Schaff. However, Box 2, Folder 1 contains correspondence to and from David Schaff, and Box 2, Folder 2 contains letters from Schaff. If there are five or more letters from a single correspondent, these are gathered together in a folder under that person's name. Unless otherwise specified, the letters are handwritten and are of one page / leaf.

The material in this collection probably represents only a fraction of Schaff's total correspondence, much of which was evidently lost or destroyed by his son (see letter from David Schaff to Dr. Rockwell of UTS, Aug. 17, 1896 in (Box 2, Folder 1).

Key correspondents include:

George Prentiss, Schaff's closest friend in the United States

Ezra Abbot, founding member with Schaff of Society of Biblical Literature.

Joseph Angus, member of British Bible Revision Committee who recruited Schaff to lead the American Committee.

The American Bible Revision Committee¹ met for the first time in Dr. Schaff's study in New York on December 7, 1871. A significant amount of correspondence in this series is between Schaff and the members of this committee, often related to committee work.

Committee members included:

Old Testament:

Wm. Henry Green, Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J.

George E. Day, Divinity School of Yale College, New Haven, Conn.

Charles A. Aiken, Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J.

T. W. Chambers, Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, N. Y.

Thomas J. Conant, Brooklyn, N. Y.

John De Witt, Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, N. J.

George Emlen Hare, Divinity School, Philadelphia.

Charles P. Krauth, Vice-Provost of University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Taylor Lewis, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

Charles M. Mead, Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass.

Howard Osgood, Theological Seminary, Rochester, N. Y.

Joseph Packard, Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Va.

Calvin E. Stowe, Hartford, Conn.

James Strong, Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J.

C. V. A. Van Dyck, Beirut, Syria. - Advisory Member on questions of Arabic.

New Testament:

Theodore D. Woolsey, New Haven, Conn.

J. Henry Thayer, Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass.

Ezra Abbot, Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Henry Boynton Smith, Union Theological Seminary

Rev. J. K. Burr, Trenton, N. J.

Thomas Chase, Haverford College, Pa.

Rev. G. R. Crooks, New York

Howard Crosby, New York University, New York.

Timothy Dwight, Divinity School of Yale College, New Haven, Conn.

Horatio B. Hackett, Theological Seminary, Rochester, N. Y.

¹ For more information about the Revision Committee see <http://www.theexaminer.org/history/chap8.htm> -accessed July 5, 2012. ¹

Charles Hodge, Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J.
 A. C. Kendrick, University of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y.
 Alfred Lee, Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware
 Matthew B. Riddle, Theological Seminary, Hartford, Conn.
 Charles Short, N. Y.
 Rev. Edward A. Washburn, Calvary P. E. Church, N. Y.

Schaff also corresponded with the following members of the British Revision Committee.

Old Testament:

Edward Harold Brown, Bishop of Winchester, Farnham Castle, Surrey
 Lord Arthur Charles Hervey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Palace, Wells, Somerset
 Robert Payne Smith, Dean of Canterbury, Deanery, Canterbury
 William Lindsay Alexander, Congregational Church Hall, Edinburgh
 Robert L. Bensly, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge
 Thomas Chenery, Esq., Reform Club, London, S. W. ()
 T. K. Cheyne, Fellow and Hebrew Lecturer, Balliol College, Oxford
 George Douglas, Professor of Hebrew , Principal of Free Church College, Glasgow
 S. R. Driver, Tutor of New College, Oxford.
 Patrick Fairbairn, Principal of the Free Church College, Glasgow
 Frederick Field, Carlton Terrace, Heigham, Norwich
 John Dury Geden, Wesleyan College, Didsbury, Manchester
 William Kay, Great Leghs' Rectory, Chelmsford
 Stanley Leathes, Professor of Hebrew, King's College, London
 Professor J. R. Lumby, Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge
 John James Stewart Perowne, Dean of Peterborough, Deanery, Peterborough
 Edward Hayes Plumptre, King's College, London
 Henry John Rose, Archdeacon of Bedford
 A. H. Sayce, Fellow and Tutor of Queen's College, Oxford
 William Robertson Smith, Professor of Hebrew, Free Church College, Aberdeen
 William Aldis Wright (Secretary), Bursar of Trinity College, Cambridge

New Testament:

Charles John Ellicott, Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Palace, Gloucester
 George Moberly, Bishop of Salisbury, Palace, Salisbury
 Edward Henry Bickersteth, Dean of Lichfield, Deanery, Lichfield
 Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, Dean of Westminster, Deanery, Westminster
 Robert Scott, Dean of Rochester, Deanery, Rochester
 Richard Chenevix Trench, Archbishop of Dublin, Palace, Dublin
 Joseph Lightfoot, Bishop of Durham
 Joseph Angus, President of the Baptist College, Regent's Park, London
 David Brown, Principal of the Free Church College, Aberdeen
 Fenton John Anthony Hort, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge
 William Gilson Humphry, Vicarage, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, W. C
 William Lee, Archdeacon of Dublin, Dublin
 Charles Merivale, Dean of Ely

William Milligan, Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism, Aberdeen
 William F. Moulton, Master of the Leys School, Cambridge
 Samuel Newth, Principal of New College, Hampstead, London
 Edwin Palmer, Archdeacon of Oxford, Christ Church, Oxford
 Alexander Roberts, Professor of Humanity, St. Andrew's
 Frederick Henry Ambrose Scrivener, Prebendary, Hendon Vicarage, London, N. W.
 George Vance Smith, Parade, Carmarthen
 Charles John Vaughan, Master of the Temple, The Temple, London, E. C. Brooke
 Foss Westcott, Canon of Peterborough, Regius Professor of Divinity, Trinity
 College, Cambridge
 J. Troutbeck, Dean's Yard, Westminster

Correspondents with responsibilities on the Bible Revision Finance Committee:

William Adams
 William E. Dodge
 Richard S. Storrs
 Norman White
 H. Howson of Chester

- **Series 2: Diaries, 1844-1890 (1 Box, 0.50 linear ft)**

The bulk of the diary material in this series consists of travel records. Seven of the diaries contain extensive travel logs of trips to Europe and the Middle East that lasted from three to eight months. In addition, the diaries contain frequent entries that record Schaff's attendance at meetings and church services, his deliverances of sermons and lectures, his travel itinerary within the United States, his progress on academic projects, and events related to his teaching career. There are several notable entries that pertain to the illness and/or death of his loved ones: the sudden death of his son Johnny on August 21, 1870; his wife's near fatal struggle with small pox beginning February 4, 1872; the serious illness of his son David Schley during the last two weeks of December 1872; the death of his mother on May 25, 1876; the death of his daughter Meta on July 14, 1876.

- **Series 3: Notes and Lectures, 1838-1870 (1 Box, 0.5 linear ft)**

Series 3 contains lecture notes, study notes, and one sermon. Schaff's notes on the Baur lecture along with Schaff's Essingen sermon are from his time as a student in Tubingen. The lecture notes on August Neander (Schaff's close mentor) were taken by Schaff as a student at the University of Berlin. The notes on Schleiermacher and Jacobi were possibly acquired during this time as well. (See also Schleiermacher notebook in series 4) This series also includes Schaff's lecture notes from his two earliest teaching assignments, as a privatdocent at the University of Berlin and as a professor of Mercersberg Seminary.

Finally Schaff's lectures at Union can be read in notes taken by Charles R. Gillett during his time as a UTS student. Later Gillett became librarian at Union, 1883-1908; instructor of Theological Encyclopedia, 1893-1908; registrar, 1898-1905, 1908-1925; secretary of faculty, 1898-1929; dean of students, 1913-1929). The lecture notes cover three sections: 1) Theological Encyclopedia, 2) Biblical Introduction to the New Testament, and 3)

Exegesis of the Gospel of Mark.

- **Series 4: Scrapbooks and Memorabilia, 1843-1893 (3 Boxes, 2 Oversize Boxes, 2.75 linear ft)**

This series includes a variety of Schaff's memorabilia, including a photograph album, books of pressed flowers from the Holy Land, an autobiographical scrapbook, periodicals, two books, and a semi-centennial booklet dedicated to Schaff. In the photograph album are 58 photographs of Schaff's Academic contacts, most of which are named in Schaff's own hand, e.g. Patrick Fairbairn of Glasgow, Dr. Grimm of Jena, "Winchester", Dr. Harnack. Some however are named in another later hand with some inaccuracies.

Philip Schaff dedicated his autobiographical scrapbook "For my Children", (Series 4 Box OS1) giving rise to the possibility that this may have been used by David Schaff in his published biography of his father². Contents include: biographical note, list of publications, and clippings, articles, invitations, programs, and letters, including one from Schaff's daughter Meta and one from William Gladstone.

The Semi-Centennial booklet was produced in 1892 in honor of Schaff's fifty years of teaching, dating from his first lecture at University of Berlin in 1842. The booklet includes a congratulatory address from the University of Berlin, notes or letters from Dr. Weiss, Dr. Harnack, the Union Seminary faculty, and Charles Butler, a student publication in honor of Schaff, and newspaper clippings.

Processing

All materials were placed in acid free folders and boxes. Folded materials were flattened and large items transferred from their original positions into oversized boxes. All folders were replaced and relabeled. Fragile materials were secured with Mylar. Fragile bound documents were wrapped with cloth binders. Some metal pins were removed.

Previously all separate items in this collection were individually numbered. To enable access to these numbers from earlier citations, item numbers are listed at the end of description in this form: Correspondence, Adams-Asbury, 1880-1868 (1-7)

Please note that original Items 270-278 from Series 1 have not been traced.

² [David Schaff, *The Life of Philip Schaff: In Part Autobiographical* (New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1897); full text available at <http://clio.cul.columbia.edu:7018/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7864159>]

Contents**Series 1: Correspondence, 1839-1896**

Series Box	Folder	Contents
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1	1	3 C.A. Aiken, 1869-1885 (16-20)
1	1	4 Joseph Angus, 1870-1879 (21-27)
1	1	5 Baird-Botta, 1855-1892 (28-46)
1	1	6 Bradley-Butler, 1857-1888 (47-63)
1	1	7 C.A. Briggs, 1872-1890 ((64-73)
1	1	8 Cairns-Clark, 1872-1896 (74-89)
1	1	9 Comba-Curry, 1860-1902 (90-105)
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1	1	11 Dale-Dods, 1876-1892 (113-124)
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1	1	38 George L. Prentiss, 1848-1893 (408-422)
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1	1	40 E. Robinson, 1844-1851 (435-439)
1	1	41 Sabatier-Smyth, 1862-1896 (440-464)
1	1	42 Sprague-Swete, 1863-1889 (465-484)

Series 1: Correspondence, 1839-1896

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
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1	2	6	Van Dyck-Wells, 1867-1893 (522-529)
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1	2	8	B.F. Westcott, 1867-1893 (535-542)
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Series 2: Diaries, 1844-1890

2	1	1	1844 [in German]; 1854 [in German]
2	1	2	1865; 1870
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2	1	5	1878; 1879
2	1	6	1884; 1890

Series 3: Notes and Lectures, 1838-1870

3	1	1	Draft-Schaff's first sermon, Essingen, 1838, German
3	1	2	Notes by Philip Schaff on Lectures on Symbolics, by Ferdinand Christian Baur, Tübingen, 1839, German
3	1	3	Notes by Schaff on Lectures by Professor [Johann August Wilhelm] Neander on Modern Church History, Berlin University, 1840, German
3	1	4-6	Notes by Ernst Fink on Schleiermacher, 1842-3
3	1	7	Notes by Schaff on Jacobi, [1842-3], ms German
3	1	8	Schaff's Privat-docent Lectures, Berlin, 1842-4, German
3	1	9	Lecture Notes [from Mercersberg?], 1846, ms German
3	1	10-11	Notes on Schaff's UTS lectures, by Charles R. Gillett, 1877

Series 4: Scrapbooks/Memorabilia, 1843-1893

4	1	1	Letter of Appointment to Mercersberg, 1843
4	1	2	Ordination Certificate, 1844
4	1	3	Chi Alpha Roll/Poem, 1867
4	1	4	Semi-Centennial Documents, Berlin 1842 - New York 1892,
4	1	5	Facsimile Bull of Excommunication of Martin Luther, June 15, 1520, Presented to Library by Schaff

Series 4: Scrapbooks/Memorabilia, 1843-1893

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
4	1	6	Notes-List of Contributors to Critical, Doctrinal and Homiletical Commentary on Bible Letter re August Tholuck, Dec. 1870 (German) American and British Bible Revision Committees Membership
4	1	7	Commemorative Address in The Century, 1893
4	1	8	Book-H. von Holst, Constitutional Law of the United States, tr. A. B. Mason 1887. Inscribed
4	1	8	Notebook by Ernst Fink--Friedrich Schleiermacher, <i>Lectures on the Church's Geography and Statistics</i> , 1827 German
4	1	10	Philip Schaff Memorial Committee, 1923
4	2	1	Photograph Album--58 Academic portrait photographs
4	3	1	Fragile Restricted Wild Flowers from Palestine by Harvey B. Greene
4	3	2	Flowers of Holy Land, 1871
4	3	3	Flowers of Holy Land, 1871
4	3	4	Restricted Natural Flowers of Jerusalem and Environs, Bought in Jerusalem by Philip Schaff, 1877
4	OS1	1	Schaff's Autobiographical Engraved Scrapbook, 1870
4	OS2	1	Scrapbook--Articles, Publisher's Prospectuses, 1883-1889
4	OS3	1	Sammelband of Correspondence and Pamphlets, German