

Guide to the Newman Smyth Papers

MS 623



compiled by George Cunningham

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 623

CREATOR: Smyth, Newman, 1843-1925

TITLE: Newman Smyth papers

DATES: 1874-1924

BULK DATES: 1908-1924

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, diaries, sermons, and other papers of Newman Smyth, theologian, author, and pastor. The papers relate largely to Smyth's interest in and work on behalf of Protestant unity; there is little material for the period prior to his retirement from the ministry in 1908. Important correspondents include bishops and officials in the Anglican and Protestant Episcopal churches, other churchmen and theologians, and laymen interested in his work, most notable George Wharton Pepper and George Zabriskie.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0623>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0623>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Winifred Smyth, 1939.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Newman Smyth Papers (MS 623). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies

Scrapbooks are available on microfilm (100 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM126.

Biographical / Historical

Samuel Phillips Newman Smyth was born on June 25, 1843 in Brunswick, Maine. He was the son of William Smyth, professor of mathematics at Bowdoin College, and Harriet Porter Coffin Smyth. He had five brothers and sisters, among them a brother who became professor of Church History at Andover Seminary.

Smyth received his education at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.; Bowdoin College (1863); and Andover Theological Seminary (1867). Between his years of college and seminary he served first as an assistant librarian and professor of Mathematics at the United States Naval Academy, and then as a second lieutenant of the 16th Maine Volunteers in the Union Army. He fought during the last year of the Civil War and was present at Lee's surrender.

Smyth was ordained in 1863 and a year later he went to Germany, where he was exposed to and influenced by modern biblical criticism. On his return to the United States he served as pastor to three churches: The First Congregational Church of Bangor, Maine (1870-1875); the First Presbyterian Church of Quincy, Illinois (1875-1882); and the First Church of Christ of New Haven, Conn. (1882-1908). While in New Haven he was made a fellow at Yale University.

In 1871, Smyth married Anna Marston Ayer. They had four children: Mary Winslow (b. 1873), Nathan Ayer (b.1876), Winifred (b. 1881), and Ethel (b. 1885). Smyth wrote approximately twenty books on theology, religion and science, and church unity during his life time. His early works employed biblical criticism against the prevailing "New England Theology", and it was his views, particularly those on "second probation", that caused great controversy over his appointment to the Abbot Chair of Christian Theology at Andover Theological Seminary.

In 1908 Smyth retired from the New Haven church and became pastor emeritus. He then devoted most of his energy attempting to discover a basis for Protestant unity. His principal activities centered around three proposals aimed at unification. The first, the Lenox Proposal, was a plan for a limited union of certain functions of the Protestant Episcopal and the Congregational Churches. The second was an appeal for practical unity and joint ordination of chaplains during World War I. The third involved a plan for a special Episcopalian ordination that would be acceptable to the Congregational Church. Though each of these proposals eventually met defeat Smyth was a strong proponent of unification until his death on January 6, 1925.

Though Newman Smyth was an active and productive theologian during the first two-thirds of his life, the largest part of the Newman Smyth Papers relate to his activities after his retirement from the ministry in 1908. With the exception of four folders of correspondence pertaining to Smyth's call to the First Church of Christ in New Haven and a controversial and abortive appointment to the faculty of Andover Theological Seminary, both occurring in 1881-1882, almost all of the correspondence in this collection centers around the topic of church unity. Likewise, with the exception of his photo-diary of a trip to the Orient, Egypt, and Palestine in 1901 and his sermons from the 1870s through 1880s, the majority of Smyth's diaries and writings relate to Church unification.

Series III, "Special Files," contains the minutes, reports and resolutions of the organizations in which Smyth participated or was interested in, as well as newspaper and magazine clippings and pamphlets commenting on people, organizations and the events in the unification movement.

As a result of his interest in pan-protestantism, Smyth corresponded with many of the leading churchmen of his time, particularly with members of the Anglican and Protestant Episcopal Churches. He corresponded with over a third of the Bishops of the Episcopal Church. In addition, Smyth corresponded with two laymen, George Wharton Pepper (later U.S. Senator from Penn.) and George Zabriskie, as well as a number of theologians and leaders of other denominations. This correspondence contains personal and official statements on many subjects including the nature of communion, ordination, and church organization. The correspondence, writings, and other material assembled in these Papers provide a view of the variety of inter and intra-denominational views on these subjects in the first quarter of the century.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, writings, diaries, sermons, and other papers of Newman Smyth, theologian, author, and pastor. The papers relate largely to Smyth's interest in and work on behalf of Protestant unity; there is little material for the period prior to his retirement from the ministry in 1908. Important correspondents include bishops and officials in the Anglican and Protestant Episcopal churches, other churchmen and theologians, and laymen interested in his work, most notable George Wharton Pepper and George Zabriskie.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence. II. Writings, Diaries, and Statements. III. Special Files. IV. Scrapbooks.

Collection Contents

Series I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1881-1882, 1908-1924

.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

CORRESPONDENCE is divided into two sections: "General Correspondence" and a brief section of "Correspondence of Others." Both sections are arranged alphabetically by the name of the writer of the letter or under the name of the person or organization to whom the letter was addressed.

The number in the parentheses indicates the number of items in the folder

General Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	A - B	1908-1924
b. 1, f. 2	A - B (3)	1917-1918
b. 1, f. 2	Abbot, Lyman, Burton, The Rt. Rev. Lewis	
b. 1, f. 3	Ainsley, Peter (15)	1912-1924
b. 1, f. 3	Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity	
b. 1, f. 4	Anderson, The Rt. Rev. Charles P., Bishop of Chicago (11)	1914-1915
b. 1, f. 5	Anderson, The Rt. Rev. Charles P., Bishop of Chicago (23)	1915-1923
b. 1, f. 6	Andover Theological Seminary and Bowdoin College. Corres. re: Teaching Position. (9) See also: box 2, folder 48	1881-1882
b. 1, f. 7	Armitage, The Rev. Clyde M., General Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains (3)	1918
b. 1, f. 8	Altwater, E. E. (3)	1882
b. 1, f. 9	Bell, The Rev. George K. E., Resident Chaplain to the Archbishop Canterbury (2)	1923
b. 1, f. 10	Brent, The Rt. Rev. Charles H., Bishop of Western New York (17)	1918-1923
b. 1, f. 11	Brewster, The Rt. Rev. Chauncey B., Bishop of Connecticut (17)	1908-1923
b. 1, f. 12	Bridgeman, Howard A., Editor-in-Chief, <i>The Congregationalist</i> and (4)	1917-1918
b. 1, f. 13	Buckhorn, John Wright, Pacific School of Religion (7)	1917-1919
b. 1, f. 14	C-F (22)	
b. 1, f. 15	C - F (7)	1914-1918
b. 1, f. 15	Cheshire, Rt. Rev. Joseph B.	
b. 1, f. 15	Courtney, Francis	
b. 1, f. 15	Dinsmore, Charles A.	
b. 1, f. 15	Douglas, George William	

General Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 15	Ely, Lord Bishop of	
b. 1, f. 16	Colkins, Raymond (4)	1917-1919
b. 1, f. 17	Davidson, Randall Thomas, Arch-Bishop of Canterbury (8)	1914-1923
b. 1, f. 18	Davies, The Rt. Rev. Thomas F., Bishop of Western Mass. (6)	1914-1918
b. 1, f. 19	Davis, Ozoras, President of Chicago Theological Seminary (3)	1917-1918
b. 1, f. 20	First Church of Christ (New Haven.) corres. re: Call to preach in New Haven. See also: box 2, folder 48	1882
b. 1, f. 21	First Church of Christ (New Haven) letter requesting permission to print a sermon (1)	1882
b. 1, f. 22	Frere, The Rev. W. N., The Community of Resurrection (3)	1914
b. 1, f. 23	G - K	1908-1924
b. 1, f. 24	G - K (7)	1914-1918
b. 1, f. 24	Greer, The Rt. Rev. David H.	
b. 1, f. 24	Hall, The Rt. Rev. C. A.	
b. 1, f. 24	Hamilton, The Rt. Rev.	
b. 1, f. 24	Hugel, Baron Friedrich von	
b. 1, f. 25	Gailor, The Rt. Rev. Thomas F., Bishop of Tennessee (4)	1917-1918
b. 1, f. 26	Gibson, The Rt. Rev. Robert A., Bishop of Virginia (3)	1918
b. 1, f. 27	Gore, The Rt. Rev. Charles, Bishop of Oxford (England) (11)	1914-1918
b. 1, f. 28	Guerry, The Rt. Rev. William A., Bishop of South Carolina (2)	1918
b. 1, f. 29	Hall, Francis Joseph (9)	1914-1918
b. 1, f. 30	Henson, The Rt. Rev. Herbert Hensley, Bishop of Durham (2)	1910-1914
b. 1, f. 31	King, Henry C., President of Oberlin College (3)	1917-1918
b. 1, f. 32	L - O	1908-1924
b. 1, f. 33	Lawrence, The Rt. Rev. William, Bishop of Massachusetts (7)	1917-1923
b. 1, f. 34	Lines, The Rt. Rev. Edwin S., Bishop of New Jersey (11)	1918-1924
b. 1, f. 35	Manning, The Rt. Rev. William T., Bishop of New York (5)	1920-1923
b. 1, f. 36	Morehouse, Fredric Cook, Editor of <i>The Living Churchman</i> (13)	1918-1920
b. 1, f. 37	National Council of Congregational Churches, corres. with Sanders, Frank K., and Burton, C. E. (3)	1921-1924
b. 1, f. 38	National War Council of the Y.M.C.A.; corres. with Mott, John R.; Stevenson, J.; Stronger, Paul M.; Barbour, C.H.; and Stocking, J.J. (7)	1917-1918

General Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 39	Nelson, The Rt. Rev. Richard H., Bishop of Albany (5)	1918
b. 1, f. 40	North, Frank Mason, Corres. Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions (5)	1917-1918
b. 1, f. 41	P - S	1908-1924
b. 1, f. 42	P - S (5)	1917-1924
b. 1, f. 42	Roberts, W. H.	
b. 1, f. 42	Reese, Freerick Focke (Georgia)	
b. 1, f. 42	Rockefeller, John D., Jr.	
b. 1, f. 42	Shipler, Guy Emery	
b. 1, f. 43	Pepper, George Wharton (11)	1915-1916
b. 1, f. 44	Pepper, George Wharton (12)	1916-1918
b. 2, f. 45	Rhineland, the Rt. Rev. Philip, Bishop of Pennsylvania (4)	1917-1918
b. 2, f. 46	Sabatier,(?) Paul (2)	1909
b. 2, f. 47	Slattery, the Rt. Rev. Charles Lewis, Bishop Coadjutor of Massachusetts (9)	1917-1924
b. 2, f. 48	Smyth, Egbert C. (brother to N.S.), Andover Theological Seminary (4)	1881-1882
b. 2, f. 49	T - W	1908-1924
b. 2, f. 50	Talbot, the Rt. Rev. Ethelbert, Bishop of Bethlehem, Pa. (13)	1915-1920
b. 2, f. 51	Tuttle, the Rt. Rev. Daniel S., Presiding Bishop (12)	1918
b. 2, f. 52	Vincent, the Rt. Rev. Boyd, Bishop of Southern Ohio (14)	1917-1923, undated
b. 2, f. 53	Weller, the Rt. Rev. Reginald H., Bishop of Fond Du Lac (21)	1915-1922
b. 2, f. 54	White, Charles A. (5)	1882
b. 2, f. 55	Williams, the Rt. Rev. Charles David, Bishop of Michigan (3)	1917-1918
b. 2, f. 56	Wilson, the Rt. Rev. St. John Basil Wynne, Bishop of Bath and Wells (2)	1914
b. 2, f. 57	World Conference on Faith and Order, Corres. with the Rt. Rev. Charles P. Anderson, William T. Manning, and Robert H. Gardiner. (5) See also: box 4, folder 7	1912-1917
b. 2, f. 58	Zabriskie, George (17)	1918-1923
b. 2, f. 59	Fragments	
b. 2, f. 60	Unidentified letters	
<u>Correspondence of Others</u>		
b. 2, f. 61	The Rt. Rev. Chauncey Brewster to The Rev. Dr. Lynch (3)	1923

Correspondence of Others (continued)

b. 2, f. 61	The Rt. Rev. Edwin Lines to Miss Du Bose	1917
b. 2, f. 61	Edmund T. Shanahan to William E. Hicking	1916
b. 2, f. 62	Walker, Williston; letter to--Washburn (1)	
b. 2, f. 63	Walker, Williston; letters written to Walker from The Rev. William Barton, George Wharton Pepper, The Rt. Rev. Philip Rhimelander, Truman Spencer, and George Zabriskie.(5)	1921

Series II: WRITINGS, DIARIES, AND STATEMENTS, 1876, 1885-1886, 1889, 1901, 1908, 1914-1923

1 linear foot (2 boxes)

This series is grouped by type of material as follows:

- Journals
- Sermons
- Speeches and Articles
- Open letters and Signed Statements
- Writings of Others

Journals

b. 2, f. 1	Photo-Journal (handwritten) of Tour of Egypt, Palestine and the Orient	1901
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I Chronicles 12:32.

See: [box 3, folder 20](#)

Sermons

b. 3, f. 2	Psalm 45:11
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Psalm 127:1.

See: [box 3, folder 21](#)

Proverbs 13:23.

See: [box 3, folder 20](#)

b. 3, f. 3	Isaiah 33:24
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b. 3, f. 3	Isaiah 64:4
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b. 3, f. 4	Matthew 1:17
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b. 3, f. 4	Matthew 21:9
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Matthew 5:9

See: [box 3, folder 20](#)

b. 3, f. 5	Matthew 26:8
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b. 3, f. 5	Matthew 28:16
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b. 3, f. 6	Mark 10:32
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b. 3, f. 6	Luke 2:1
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b. 3, f. 7	Luke 15:15
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b. 3, f. 7	Luke 16:10
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b. 3, f. 8	Luke 19:28
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b. 3, f. 8	Luke 22:22
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b. 3, f. 9	John 5:17
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Sermons (continued)

b. 3, f. 9	John 6:19	
b. 3, f. 10	John 11:56	
b. 3, f. 10	John 15:14	
b. 3, f. 11	John 17:16	
b. 3, f. 11	John 21:3	
b. 3, f. 11	John 21:17	
	John 19:15.	
	See: box 3, folder 21	
b. 3, f. 12	Acts 1:3 (two versions)	
b. 3, f. 13	Romans 8:3	
b. 3, f. 13	Romans 16:12 (two versions)	
b. 3, f. 14	Ephesians 1:10	
b. 3, f. 14	Philippians 4	
b. 3, f. 15	II Thessalonians 1:11	
b. 3, f. 15	Hebrews 2:14	
b. 3, f. 16	Hebrews 12:27	
b. 3, f. 16	I Peter 5:7	
b. 3, f. 17	II Peter 1:13	
b. 3, f. 17	III John 8	
b. 3, f. 17	Revelations 22:17	
b. 3, f. 18	"The Spirit of Christ," English	
b. 3, f. 18	Speech concerning religious experience	
b. 3, f. 19	Fragments	
<u>Speeches and Articles</u>		
b. 3, f. 20	"Social Problems: Sermons to Workingmen" English	1885
b. 3, f. 20	"Scientific Patriotism" English	1889
b. 3, f. 21	"The Religious Principle in American Politics" English	1876
b. 3, f. 21	"Social Caesarism" English	1886

Speeches and Articles (continued)

b. 3, f. 21	"The Spiritual Quality of Evolution" English	undated
	"Claims of Labor," "Use and Abuse of Capital," "Social Helps." English See: box 3, folder 20	
b. 3, f. 22	"College Leadership" English	undated
b. 3, f. 22	"The Making a City" English	undated
b. 3, f. 23	Report given to the General Conference of Congregational Churches	1923
b. 4, f. 24	Untitled speeches on the nature of thinking and on education	undated
b. 4, f. 25	Speech at World Convention on Faith and Order	undated
b. 4, f. 26	"Other Bodies and Movements" English	undated
b. 4, f. 26	"The Waldensian Church" English	undated
b. 4, f. 26	"The Christian Ministry" English	undated
b. 4, f. 26	Unidentified fragments	
b. 4, f. 27	"The Bull Apostolicae Curae and the Validity of Sacraments" English	undated
b. 4, f. 27	"The Churches of the United States and the War" English	undated
b. 4, f. 27	"A Call for a Covenant of Church Unity" Untitled speeches English	undated
b. 4, f. 28	"Suggestions for the Work of the Joint Commission" English	undated
b. 4, f. 28	"The Order of Topics in Their Relative Values" English	undated
b. 4, f. 28	"Unrealists" English	undated
b. 4, f. 28	Untitled	
b. 4, f. 29	Unidentified speeches, articles and misc. statements re: Church Unity	1896, undated
b. 4, f. 30	Unidentified speeches, articles, and misc. statements re: Church Unity	undated
b. 4, f. 31	Misc. notes	

Open Letters and Signed Statements

Open Letters and Signed Statements (continued)

b. 4, f. 32	Letters to the editor written and/or signed by Newman Smyth	1914-1921, undated
b. 4, f. 33	Appeals for support for church unity	1917-1918
<u>Writings of Others</u>		
b. 4, f. 34	Manuscripts re: Church unity	
b. 4, f. 34	The Rt. Rev. Durlington, address to annual convention, diocese of Harrisburg, Dr. Hall, "The Value and Limits of Federation"	
b. 4, f. 35	Manuscripts re: Church unity	
b. 4, f. 35	Rev.Dr. Herring, "Congregational Ordination"	
b. 4, f. 35	George Wharton Pepper, on Lenox Proposals Williston Walker, on S. Goulart	
b. 4, f. 36	Letters to the editor from The Rt. Rev. Charles H. Brent, The Rt. Rev. Chauncey B. Brewster, The Rt. Rev. William T. Manning, The Rt. Rev. Boyd Vincent	
b. 4, f. 37-39	Clippings and articles re: Church unity	1918,1914, 1918- 1919, 1908, 1914, 1916-1919, 1923, undated
b. 4, f. 40-41	Pamphlets re: Church unity	1908, 1915, 1921, 1908, 1922, undated

Series III: SPECIAL FILES, 1908-1924*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

SPECIAL FILES consists of minutes, reports and resolutions relating to church unity followed by newspaper clippings about Newman Smyth.

b. 4, f. 1	Commission of Nineteen on Polity - Reports	
b. 4, f. 2	Commission on Comity, Federation and Unity Reports, minutes, proceedings	
b. 4, f. 3	House of Bishops (Protestant Episcopal) Reports, minutes, proceedings, etc.	
b. 4, f. 4	Interchurch Council on Organic Union, and American Council on Organic Union Reports, minutes, proceedings, etc.	
b. 4, f. 5	Joint Commissions on Concordat Reports, minutes, proceedings, etc.	
b. 4, f. 6	Lambeth Conference (Anglican) "An Appeal from the Bishops....to All Christian Peoples," "The Lambeth Conference Appeal. The Response."	
b. 4, f. 7	World Conference on Faith and Order Reports, minutes, proceedings, etc. See also: box 2, folder 57	
b. 4, f. 8	Other organizations involved in church unity Reports, minutes, proceedings, etc.	
b. 4, f. 9-10	Press clippings about or mentioning Newman Smyth	1914-1923, undated

Series IV: SCRAPBOOKS, 1874-1895

Newspaper clippings of sermons, letters to the editor, book reviews by and about Newman Smyth. Also included are clippings on issues and events in which Smyth was engaged, e.g. Sunday closings, temperance, legal and political reform.

These scrapbooks have been filmed (HM film 126; MAY 1982). After filming the originals were discarded.

reel 1, 1U	Scrapbook 1 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 126 instead of the originals.	1874-1879
reel 1, 1U	Scrapbook 2 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 126 instead of the originals. [Transferred from the Divinity Library, July 1978.]	1894-1895

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Clergy
Religion
Theology

Geographic Names

Asia
Middle East

Genres / Formats

Diaries
Sermons

Names

Abbott, Lyman, 1835-1922
Anderson, Charles Palmerston, 1863-1930
Brewster, Chauncey B. (Chauncey Bunce),
1848-1941
Bridgeman, Howard Allen, 1860-
Davidson, Randall Thomas, 1848-1930
Gore, Charles, bp. of Oxford, 1853-1932
Hall, Francis J. (Francis Joseph), 1857-1932
Morehouse, Frederic Cook, 1868-1932
Pepper, George Wharton, 1867-1961
Smyth, Newman, 1843-1925
Zabriskie, George Albert, 1868-1927

Corporate Body

Episcopal Church