

Yale University Library  
Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Suzanne de Dietrich Papers

RG 314



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2019

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 314

**CREATOR:** Dietrich, Suzanne de

**TITLE:** Suzanne de Diétrich papers

**DATES:** 1906–1992

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials are primarily in French, with large amounts also in English and German.

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, written works, and family information by and about French ecumenical leader Suzanne de Diétrich.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.314>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.314>.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Custodial History

The collection was originally processed as part of the WSCF archive in Geneva (boxes 213.51.1-213.51.6), housed at the World Council of Churches library. The collection arrived at Yale along with the WSCF archive (RG 46F) in 2018.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Suzanne de Diétrich papers (RG 314), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

The material is available on microfilm: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/bibid/6662763>

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## Related Materials

A larger portion of de Diétrich's papers are at the Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire de Strasbourg (<https://biblio.bnu.fr/opac/resource/fonds-suzanne-de-dietrich-ms-6-555-6-575-inventaire-detaille/BUS4669733?sysb=bnu>). The collection in Strasbourg includes photocopies of the materials in this collection.

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## Biographical / Historical

Suzanne de Diétrich (1891-1981) was born in Niederbronn in the Rhine valley to a family of industrialists, members of the Reformed Church of France. She studied engineering in Lausanne, where she also took part in the Christian Students Association's activities. She graduated in 1913—the first French woman to obtain a degree in engineering—and attended the congress of the French Federation of Christian Students Associations (the "Fédé") in 1914. Her attendance at the congress inspired her to dedicate herself more fully to the Student Christian Movement. She started regular Bible study sessions at the Fédé, promoting the idea that the Bible was available to everyone, at every step of their spiritual development. During this time, she also took part in the discovery of Karl Barth (1886-1968), the great German theologian whose work was spread in France by pastor Pierre Maury (1890-1956) via Faith and Life magazine.

She joined the World Student Christian Federation in 1920, serving as an executive committee member (1920-1935), vice chair (1928-1932), and staff member (1935-1946). In 1932, she organized the first meeting of Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox theologians. During World War II, she stayed in Geneva to support Christian Students' Associations in Europe, while the main WSCF office had temporarily relocated to Toronto. While there, she wrote a history of the WSCF, and *Le Dessein de Dieu*, her most well-known work. It was published in 1945, and has been translated into thirteen languages.

In September 1939, along with Madeleine Barot (1909-1995), she took part in the foundation of the CIMADE (Comité inter-mouvements auprès des évacués), which gave assistance and support to people uprooted by war, beginning with those who were evacuated from the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine at the beginning of World War II. In 1941, she was one of sixteen pastors and lay people who wrote the *Thèses de Pomeyrol*, advocating the resistance of the French Reformed Church to Nazism.

In 1946, de Diétrich took part in the foundation of the new Ecumenical Institute at Bossey in the Swiss Vaud region, a sort of laboratory where ecumenicalism was a way of living. She was in charge of training lay people for ecumenical work. She stayed there for eight years. In 1954, she settled in Paris, but often travelled to North America and Canada to teach theology. She has been nominated Doctor Honoris Causa in theology by several universities in North America and Europe. In 1958, she became a member of the Board of directors of the CIMADE. In 1979, she moved to the Deaconess House in Strasbourg, where she lived until her death on January 24, 1981.

In addition to a large number of Bible study resources, Suzanne de Diétrich's works include:

Les paraboles: études bibliques (Paris, 1922)

Je suis la vérité (Paris: Fédération française des étudiants chrétiens, 1923)

L'apôtre Paul: études bibliques (Paris, 1924)

C'était l'heure de l'offrande: Notes en marge de l'Évangile (Éditions du Semeur, 1935)

La croix: trois meditations (Cahors: Éditions du Semeur, 1941)

Le prophète Jérémie (Paris: Fédération française des étudiants chrétiens, 1941)  
Le dessein de Dieu (Neuchâtel, Delachaux et Niestlé, 1943) (English translation: God's Unfolding Purpose, Philadelphia, Westminster Press, 1960)  
Le nouveau biblique (Geneva, WCC, 1945) (a shorter English edition had appeared already with the title Rediscovering the Bible, WSCF, Canada, 1942)  
La Fédération universelle des associations chrétiennes d'étudiants (1895-1945) (Paris, éditions du Semeur, 1948)  
Les Lettres johanniques (Labor et Fides, 1964)  
Le nouveau biblique, hier et aujourd'hui. Second enlarged edition in two volumes: Volume I: Qu'est-ce que la Bible?; Volume II: Comment lire la Bible? (Delachaux et Niestlé, 1969)

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## Scope and Contents

The collection includes correspondence and written works by Diétrich, as well as information about the Diétrich family. Correspondents include Madeleine Barot, Marguerite Ecoffey, Valdo Galland, Robert Mackie, Pierre Maury, Théo Preiss, Willem A. Visser 't Hooft, Charles Westphal, and others. The written works include a small number of diaries, as well as some Bible study manuscripts. There is also biographical material about Suzanne de Diétrich and her family.

The collection consists mainly of photocopies of original material and descriptive notes by historians of additional related material. The originals have been missing since before the collection arrived at the World Council of Churches library.

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## Arrangement

I. Correspondence

II. Papers

## Collection Contents

### Correspondence, circa 1907-1981

b. 213.51.1, f. 1	A-B	[circa 1915-1977]
b. 213.51.1, f. 2	Barot, Madeleine	[circa 1941-1960]
b. 213.51.1, f. 3	Breitenstein, Jules	[circa 1907-1922]
b. 213.51.1, f. 4	Boegner, Marc (Rev. Dr)	[circa 1918-1943]
b. 213.51.1, f. 5	C	[circa 1918-1979]
b. 213.51.2, f. 1	Delachaux, Agnès (Mrs.)-Dumas, André (Prof.)	
b. 213.51.2, f. 2	Ecoffey (information, family)	
b. 213.51.2, f. 3	Ecoffey, Marguerite	1907-1908
b. 213.51.2, f. 4	Ecoffey, Marguerite	1909-1910
b. 213.51.2, f. 5	Ecoffey, Marguerite	1911-1912
b. 213.51.2, f. 6	Ecoffey, Marguerite	1913-1914 July 31
b. 213.51.2, f. 7	Ecoffey, Marguerite	1914 August 1- 1917
b. 213.51.2, f. 8	Ecoffey, Marguerite	1918-1929
b. 213.51.2, f. 9	Ecoffey, Marguerite	1930-1939
b. 213.51.3, f. 1	Evdokimov, Paul	
b. 213.51.3, f. 2	E-F	
b. 213.51.3, f. 3	de la Faye, Alexandre	
b. 213.51.3, f. 4	G	
b. 213.51.3, f. 5	Grauss, Charles	
b. 213.51.3, f. 6	Haein-Krummacher, Helga	
b. 213.51.3, f. 7	Kraemer, Hendrik (Dr. Prof.)	
b. 213.51.3, f. 8	L	
b. 213.51.3, f. 9	Mackie, Robert Cuthbert (Dr.)	1940-1979
b. 213.51.3, f. 10	M	
b. 213.51.4, f. 1	Menzinger, Lydia	[circa 1916-1928]
b. 213.51.4, f. 2	N-P	[circa 1907-1979]

b. 213.51.4, f. 3	Preiss, Théo	[circa 1939-1950]
b. 213.51.4, f. 4	R-T	[circa 1907-1979]
b. 213.51.4, f. 5	Trew, Amélie and Michael	[circa 1937-1981]
b. 213.51.4, f. 6	V-Z	[circa 1916-1928]
b. 213.51.4, f. 7	Visser 't Hooft, Willem Adolf (Dr.) (1st WCC General Secretary, 1948-1966)	[circa 1933-1961]
b. 213.51.4, f. 8	Westphal, Charles (Rev. Prof.)	[circa 1918-1944]

**Papers, 1906–1992**

b. 213.51.5, f. 1	Diaries	1916–1934
b. 213.51.5, f. 2	Biographical Material	1906–1981
b. 213.51.5, f. 3	Testimonies	1992
b. 213.51.5, f. 4	Family history	
b. 213.51.5, f. 5	“De Dietrich”	1988–1991
b. 213.51.6, f. 1	Exhibit, photos	[circa 1991]
b. 213.51.6, f. 2	Suzanne de Diétrich archives (Fonds Suzanne de Diétrich) Information about the Suzanne de Dietrich archives in Strasbourg.	1989–1992
b. 213.51.6, f. 3	Documents	
b. 213.51.6, f. 4	Bible Study Outline	1950–1957
b. 213.51.6, f. 5	Manuscripts	1922–1975
b. 213.51.6, f. 6	Bibliographics	1956–1992
b. 213.51.6, f. 7	Family history	
b. 213.51.5, f. 7.1	<i>Une famille noble d’Alsace (Les Dietrich)</i> , Mme L. Roehrich 57 p. French  Work about the ancestors of Suzanne de Dietrich (Ouvrage sur les ancêtres de Susanne de Dietrich).	[circa 1911]
b. 213.51.5, f. 7.2	<i>De Dietrich : Le Tricentenaire</i> , Jean-Pierre Kintz 207 p. French  Collection of studies and documents (Recueil d’études et de documents).	[circa 1986]
b. 213.51.5, f. 7.3	<i>De Dietrich</i> Copy No 0314 English  Booklet on De Dietrich Group.	1992



## **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.

### **Corporate Body**

World Student Christian Federation