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Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Nils Arne Bendtz Papers

RG 202



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2007

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

[divinity.library@yale.edu](mailto:divinity.library@yale.edu)

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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 202

**CREATOR:** Bendtz, Nils Arne

**TITLE:** Nils Arne Bendtz Papers

**DATES:** 1927-2003 1953-1990

**BULK DATES:** 1953-1990

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 9 linear feet (19 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection documents the life and work of Lutheran theologian and ecumenist Nils Arne Bendtz. Bendtz received his B.D. and Ph.D. from Yale. He served as a missionary in China under the Board of Swedish Missions, with prisoners of war during World War II under the YMCA World's Committee, in Sumatra under the Commission of Younger Churches and Orphaned Missions of the National Lutheran Council, as a professor at Augustana Theological Seminary, as a pastor at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY, and for the Lutheran World Federation.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.202>

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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.202>.

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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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of N. Arne Bendtz, 2004

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## Preferred Citation

Nils Arne Bendtz Papers (RG 202), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1914 October 2	○ Nils Arne Bendtz born in Stockholm, Sweden, son of Nils T. and Emma Bendtz
1933-1935	○ Attended Inner Mission Bible College and Lutheran Independent Theological Seminary, Oslo, Norway
1935-1936	○ Attended China Inland Mission College, London
1936-1941	○ Served as missionary in China under the Swedish Board of Missions
1942-1946	○ Director of War Prisoners Aid of the World's Committee YMCA in China
1944-1946	○ General Secretary of Christian Welfare Association among Korean refugees in China
1946	○ Married Elsa L. Linne
1949	○ B.D. cum laude from Yale Divinity School
1949-1950	○ McFadden Fellow at Union Theological Seminary, New York
1952-1957	○ Served the Batak Church, Sumatra, including as Liaison Office between Lutheran World Federation and Indonesia and Professor of Theology in seminary. Helped to found Nommensen University, the first Lutheran university in Far East.
1953	○ Ph.D., Yale University - Thesis: "The Meaning of Luther's Doctrine of Forgiveness"
1957	○ Returned to the U.S. from Indonesia due to health reason, served as guest lecturer at Augustana Theological Seminary, IL
1958	○ Field representative for Lutheran World Action of National Lutheran Council; visiting across the U.S. and in Colombia and Ecuador
1958-1959	○ Professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, CA
1961	○ Married Britt M. Friman; one son - Nils Arne Bendtz, Jr.
1964-1971	○ Pastor of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY
1965-1971	○ Superintendent, Leif Ericson Day School, Brooklyn, NY

Date	Event
1966-1971	○ Adjunct Full Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY
1990s	○ Director, International Management-Education Foundation, Honolulu, Hawaii
2006	○ Died

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## Scope and Contents

This collection documents the life and work of Lutheran theologian and ecumenist N. Arne Bendtz.

Series I, Correspondence is divided into five subseries: Professional / work-related correspondence of Bendtz, Personal correspondence of Bendtz, Family correspondence, Correspondence of others, and Swedish language correspondence. Of most interest in this series are the letters related to Bendtz's work with the National Lutheran Council and when he was stationed in Indonesia.

Series II, Writings, consists primarily of unpublished typescript writings by Bendtz on subjects related to theology and missions, but also includes some writings of others, including "A History of Augustana Foreign Mission" by Dr. Eric Wahlstrom.

Series III, Documentation of Activities, includes printed material, minutes, reports, etc. regarding organizations with which Bendtz was involved.. These materials should be considered in connection with correspondence from the same era.

Series IV, Collected Material, includes materials not specifically associated with Bendtz's work, but which he had collected over the years.

Series V, Personal Items and Memorabilia, includes biographical information and clippings re. Bendtz as well as photographs.

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## Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1930-1990, n.d.
- II. Writings, 1947-1990, n.d
- III. Documentation of Activities, 1942-1984, n.d.
- IV. Collected Material, 1927-1990
- V. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1931-1991

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1930-1990, no date

Professional correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	Including regarding Yale Divinity School	1930-1946
b. 1, f. 2	Including regarding Yale Divinity School, Tracy Strong	1947-1949
b. 1, f. 3	Including regarding Yale Divinity School	1950-1953 Apr
b. 1, f. 4	Including regarding Yale Graduate School	1953 May-1954 Apr
b. 1, f. 5	Incl. letter of introduction of Bendtz to Harold E. Stassen, Director, Foreign Operations Administration, Washington, DC	1954 May-1955 Feb
b. 1, f. 6	Including regarding Fridtjov Birkeli	1955 Mar- 1955Aug
b. 1, f. 7	Including regarding Arne Sovik	1955 Sep- 1955Dec
b. 1, f. 8	Including regarding Fridtjov Birkeli	1956 Jan- 1956 Sep
b. 1, f. 9	Bendtz to/from others	1956 Nov.- 1957 Nov.
b. 1, f. 10	Including regarding Committee on Latin America of the Lutheran World Federation	1958
b. 2, f. 11	Bendtz to/from others	1959
b. 2, f. 12	Bendtz to/from others	1960
b. 2, f. 13	Bendtz to/from others	1961
b. 2, f. 14	Including regarding National Lutheran Council	1962
b. 2, f. 15	Bendtz to/from others	1963 Jan- 1963Apr
b. 2, f. 16	Bendtz to/from others	1963 May- 1963 Dec
b. 2, f. 17	Including regarding Salem Oratorio Choir	1964 Jan- Jun
b. 3, f. 18	Including regarding Salem Oratorio Choir	1964 Jul- Dec
b. 3, f. 19	Including regarding Salem Oratorio Choir, Midsummer Day Festival	1965 Jan- May
b. 3, f. 20	Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival	1965 Jun-Aug
b. 3, f. 21	Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival	1965 Sep- Dec
b. 3, f. 22	Including regarding J.O.I.N., Midsummer Day Festival, Danderyd Oratorio Choir and The Sofia Flickorna (Sofia Girls)	1966 Jan-May

## Professional correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 23	Including regarding J.O.I.N., Midsummer Day Festival, Danderyd Oratorio Choir and The Sofia Flickorna (Sofia Girls)	1966 Jun–Aug
b. 3, f. 24	Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival, Danderyd Oratorio Choir and The Sofia Flickorna (Sofia Girls)	1966 Sep– Dec
b. 3, f. 25	Bendtz to/from others	1967 Jan– Apr
b. 4, f. 26	Bendtz to/from others	1967 May– Jun
b. 4, f. 27	Bendtz to/from others	1967 July– Dec
b. 4, f. 28	Including regarding Manpower and Career Development Agency	1968 Jan–Oct
b. 4, f. 29	Bendtz to/from others	1968 Nov.– 1969 Dec.
b. 4, f. 30	Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival	1970 Jan– Jul
b. 4, f. 31	Bendtz to/from others	1970 Aug.– 1971 Jan
b. 4, f. 32	Including regarding Metropolitan New York	1971 Feb– Apr
b. 4, f. 33	Bendtz to/from others	1971 May–Dec
b. 5, f. 34	Bendtz to/from others	1972–1973
b. 5, f. 35	Including regarding Jarvis Rental of Gallery	1974–1977
b. 5, f. 36	Including regarding Jarvis Rental of Gallery	1978–1979
b. 5, f. 37	Including regarding CET Language Program	1980–1984
b. 5, f. 38	Including regarding Shatemuck Realty Company	1984–1986
b. 5, f. 39	Including regarding Shatemuck Realty Company	1987– 1989 Apr
b. 5, f. 40	Bendtz to/from others	1989 May –1990
b. 5, f. 41	Partial/ Not dated	no date
Personal correspondence		
b. 6, f. 42	To/from friends and acquaintances	1930–1959
b. 6, f. 43	To/from friends and acquaintances	1960–1963
b. 6, f. 44	To/from friends and acquaintances	1964–1969
b. 6, f. 45	To/from friends and acquaintances	1970–1979
b. 6, f. 46	To/from friends and acquaintances	1980–1988
b. 6, f. 47	To/from friends and acquaintances	1989–1990
b. 6, f. 48	To/from friends and acquaintances	no date

## Family correspondence

## Family correspondence (continued)

## Arne Bendtz to and from family

b. 7, f. 49	Elsa Linne Bendtz to and from Arne Bendtz	1953–1956, no date
b. 7, f. 50	Britt Bendtz, Arne Jr.	1971–1982
b. 7, f. 51	Jerry Walter Bendtz materials: Correspondence, Last will and testament, Insurance policy	1953–1967

## Correspondence of family members (not to/from Arne Bendtz)

b. 7, f. 52	Elsa Linne Bendtz: References , yearbook	1921–1951
b. 7, f. 53	Elsa Linne Bendtz: correspondence about travels	1953–1954
b. 7, f. 54	Elsa Linne Bendtz: correspondence about travels	1955–1957, no date
b. 7, f. 55	Elsa Linne Bendtz: Writings and poetry	no date

## Correspondence of others

b. 7, f. 56	Not to/from Arne Bendtz, not to family members	1945–1989, no date
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## Swedish language correspondence

b. 8, f. 57	Bendtz to/from others	1930-1949
b. 8, f. 58	Bendtz to/from others	1950-1959
b. 8, f. 59	Bendtz to/from others	1960–1961
b. 8, f. 60	Bendtz to/from others	1962–1965
b. 8, f. 61	Bendtz to/from others	1966–1969
b. 8, f. 62	Bendtz to/from others	1970–1979
b. 8, f. 63	Bendtz to/from others	1980–1990, no date



**Writings, 1947-1990, no date**

## Writings by Bendtz

b. 9, f. 64	"Nommensen and Kierkegaard: An Attempt at Comparing the Sense of Vocation of Two of the Most Profound Christians of the Nineteenth Century"	no date
b. 9, f. 65	"About Bataks and Their Church"	no date
b. 9, f. 66	"Acts"	no date
b. 9, f. 67	"Autonomy defined"	no date
b. 9, f. 68	"Bendtz' Papers", Various writings	no date
b. 9, f. 69	"Dissertations"	no date
b. 9, f. 70	"Faith and Knowledge in Luther's Theology"	no date
b. 9, f. 71	"General Theories and Practices of Leadership"	no date
b. 9, f. 72	"Genesis"	no date
b. 9, f. 73	"Genesis"	no date
b. 9, f. 74	"Gospel of John"	no date
b. 9, f. 75	"Indonesia- Dialogue and Friendship", "God's Compassion in Action", "The Soul Care of the Roman Catholic Church and its Challenges to our Church", "Faith of the Batak", "The Role of Lutheran Unity in Missions", "The Mission Method of Group conversion and the Pietistic Individualism"	no date
b. 10, f. 76	" A Responsible Church Faces a Diverse Society"	1962
b. 10, f. 77	"Studies of Moral Life"	no date
b. 10, f. 78	Notes, Sermons, Lectures, Essays	no date
b. 10, f. 79	"The Theological Basis for a Consideration of the Economic Order and the Life of the Church", "Effective and Ineffective Groups"	no date
b. 10, f. 80	Class work: "What is Social Ethics?", "Structure", "The Negro Problem in America and Its Relation to the Race Problem in World Politics"	1948,1949 no date
b. 10, f. 81	"World Service"	no date
Swedish language materials		
b. 10, f. 82	Writings	no date
b. 10, f. 83	Writings	no date
Untitled		
b. 11, f. 84	Misc. notes	no date
b. 11, f. 85	Lectures, notes, essays	no date
b. 11, f. 86	Lectures, notes, essays	no date

## Untitled (continued)

b. 11, f. 87	Lectures, notes, essays	no date
b. 11, f. 88	Lectures, notes, essays	1958-1959
b. 11, f. 90	Lecture notes for "Christian Ethics" class	no date
b. 11, f. 91	Lecture notes for "Structure of Religion" class	no date
Writings by others		
b. 12, f. 92	"The Problems and Promises of Maphilindo" by Paul B. Pedersen, and various writings by this author	no date
b. 12, f. 93	"Jajasan Seni Rakjat Indonesia, "Serindo"" by Paul B. Pedersen, and other writings by same author	1967, no date
b. 12, f. 94	"Teacher Education in Indonesia" by Mrs. Corinne H. Bruning, and other writings	1967, no date
b. 12, f. 95	Student papers	1947, 1962-1963
b. 12, f. 96	Student papers	1954-1990
b. 13, f. 97	"A History of Augustana Foreign Mission" by Dr. Eric Wahlstrom	no date
b. 13, f. 98	Materials used for Bendtz' research of Indonesia	no date

**Documentation of Activities, 1942-1984, no date**

## Work related

b. 14, f. 99	"Bay Ridge Ecumenical Activities"	1967-1971
b. 14, f. 100	Bay Ridge Lutheran Clergy: Meeting minutes	1966
b. 14, f. 101	Bedford Stuyvesant Advisory Board: Member's listing	1966
b. 14, f. 102	CAPP: Center for Attacking Pervasive Poverty in Rural Villages of Tropical Areas: Report	no date
b. 14, f. 103	Christian University of Sumatra: Meeting minutes	no date
b. 14, f. 104	Chicago Theological Seminary: Meeting minutes	1954
b. 14, f. 105	Community Development Agency: Guidelines	1967
b. 14, f. 106	I.M.P.R.O.V.E.: Research report	1966
b. 14, f. 107	J.O.I.N.: Job Orientation in Neighborhoods: Proposals, reports, minutes, etc.	1965-1966
b. 14, f. 108	Leif Ericson Day School: Charter and By-laws, meeting minutes	1973, no date
b. 14, f. 109	Kingston Lutheran Council: Meeting minutes	1974
b. 14, f. 110	Lutheran Committee on Housing: Meeting minutes	1965
b. 14, f. 111	Lutheran Foreign Missions Conference of North America: Memo	1963
b. 14, f. 112	Lutheran Theological Seminary: Continuing Cultivation Committee Manual	no date
b. 14, f. 113	Lutheran World Federation: Application, meeting agenda	1971
b. 14, f. 114	Manpower Builders Inc.: Training manual, minutes, etc.	1968
b. 14, f. 115	Midwest Fellowship of Professions of Missions: Minutes	1962
b. 14, f. 116	National Lutheran Council: Meeting minutes, agenda	1951-1954
b. 14, f. 117	New York City Council Against Poverty: Goals and guidelines for proposal submission	1967-1968
b. 14, f. 118	Nommensen University: Reports	1974, 1984
b. 15, f. 119	Protestant Church of the Batu Islands, The: Meeting minutes	1954
b. 15, f. 120	St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Meeting agenda	1981-1982
b. 15, f. 121	Salem Lutheran Church: Meeting agendas, Pastoral reports, etc.	1954-1967
b. 15, f. 122	Salem Lutheran Church: Reports, agendas, etc.	1968-1971
b. 15, f. 123	Sweden Day Committee: Meeting minutes	1967
b. 15, f. 124	Y.M.C.A.: China Prisoners' of War reports	1942-1944
b. 15, f. 125	Y.M.C.A.: China Prisoners' of War reports	1945-1971, n.d.

Work related (continued)

b. 15, f. 126

Course syllabi

1962-1971, no  
date

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**Collected material, 1927-1990**

## Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, etc.

b. 16, f. 127	Various materials: Pamphlets, flyers, programs, business cards, Sweden Day materials, Salem Oratorio Choir materials	1963–1989
b. 16, f. 128	Various materials: Pamphlets, brochures, Book of hymns, manuals, etc.	1956–1962
b. 16, f. 129	Various materials: Pamphlets, brochures, etc.	1953–1989
b. 16, f. 130	Various materials: Swedish language	1927–1981
b. 17, f. 131	Various materials: "Neem Tree Project"	1990
b. 17, f. 132	The Prophet	1957–1958, 1960
b. 17, f. 133	Newspaper clippings: General clippings about Bendtz	1954–1970
b. 17, f. 134	Newspaper clippings: General clippings about Bendtz, some in Swedish language	1954–1961, n.d.
b. 17, f. 135	Newspaper clippings: Bendtz' family	1966, n.d.
b. 17, f. 136	Newspaper clippings: Concerning Bay Ridge	1964–1972
b. 17, f. 137	Newspaper clippings: Leif Ericson School, Sweden Day, some in Swedish language	1966–1972
b. 17, f. 138	Newspaper clippings: Salem Lutheran Church	1965–1971
b. 17, f. 139	Newspaper Clippings: Sofia Girls, Danderyd Choir, some in Swedish language	1966–1969
b. 17, f. 140	Newspaper Clippings: (non- English)	1961–1966
b. 17, f. 141	Newspaper Clippings: not about Bendtz, some articles in Swedish language	1956–1989

**Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1931-1991, no date**

b. 18, f. 142	Biographical material and resume	no date
b. 18, f. 143	Greeting cards	1961-1975
b. 18, f. 144	Guest books	no date
b. 18, f. 145	Health records, life insurance documents	1945-1981
b. 18, f. 146	Various certificates: Verifications, Visa applications	1945-1978
b. 18, f. 147	Various materials: Yale Divinity School Grades, parking ticket claim, etc. Some material in Swedish language	1931-1982
b. 18, f. 148	Financial information: Receipts, bills	1943-1991, no date
b. 19, f. 149	Photographs: Elsa Linne Bendtz, Sofia Girls, Bendtz and others	1989, n.d.
b. 19, f. 150	Photographs: Sofia Girls, Danderyd Choir, Bendtz, etc.	1943-1967
b. 19, f. 151	Photographs: Bendtz and students	1966-1971
b. 19, f. 152	Photographs: Bendtz, Ruth Ericsson (director of Danderyd Choir), Lutheran School of Theology class photos, etc.	1963-1967, no date.
b. 19, f. 153	Photographs: Church of Good Shepherd Confirmation class photo	1950

## **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**

Educators

Lutheran Church -- Missions

Missionaries

Missions -- Indonesia