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# Records of the Bible Translation and Utilization Program, NCCCUSA

RG 218



Martha Lund Smalley

2009

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
divinity.library@yale.edu

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

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 218

**CREATOR:** National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.  
Bible Translation and Utilization

**TITLE:** Records of the Bible Translation and Utilization Program, NCCUSA

**DATES:** 1980-1999

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains unofficial archival documentation of the work of the Bible Translation and Utilization Program of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., which was the policy-making body for the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. The records date primarily from the period when the donor, Dr. J. Shannon Clarkson, was a BTU member. They document the preparation, launch, and promotion of the NRSV and reactions to it.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.218>

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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.218>.

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 J. Shannon Clarkson, 2002.

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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

Records of the Bible Translation and Utilization Program, NCCUSA (RG 218), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

In 1980 the Division of Education and Ministry of the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. authorized the translation committee of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible to begin working on a new translation. The Bible Translation and Utilization group (variously known as Program Ministry, Department, Unit, Committee, Section, and Program) was the policy-making body for the New Revised Standard Version, which was launched on September 30, 1990. During the period documented by these files, the BTU unit was directed by Arthur O. Van Eck and David J. Lull. BTU members represented various denominational groups; Dr. J. Shannon Clarkson, who donated these records, represented the United Church of Christ. Dr. Bruce Metzger, who was also involved with the preparation of the Revised Standard Version, was a member of the BTU group. The BTU was responsible for overseeing the development of an accurate translation of the Bible, developing contracts with publishers, developing plans for the utilization of the translation, and working with church bodies to integrate the translation into curricula, worship resources, evangelism resources, etc.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains unofficial archival documentation of the work of the Bible Translation and Utilization Program of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the policy-making body for the New Revised Standard Version. The records were collected by Dr. Shannon Clarkson and date primarily from the period 1988 to 1999 when she was a BTU member and/or Chairperson. They document the preparation, launch, and promotion of the NRSV and related products. The collection complements the documentation held in Yale Divinity Library Record Group No. 70, Records of the Standard Bible Committee. The Standard Bible Committee was responsible for preparation of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Series I, Correspondence, consists primarily of letters exchanged between Shannon Clarkson and BTU representatives or copies of correspondence between publishers and scholars and BTU representatives. Issues addressed include the structure and policy of the BTU, critiques of the NRSV translation, publishing and distribution rights for the NRSV and related products, promotion/marketing, and plans for consultations.

Series II, Policy, includes background documents regarding the BTU program and regarding the marketing and distribution of the NRSV and related products. Series III, Agendas and Minutes, documents meetings of the BTU group and plans for consultations that it sponsored, including on "Biblical Interpretation Beyond Patriarchy" (1993), "Biblical Literacy" (1994), and "Next Steps in Translation" (1999: The Authority of Religious Traditions for Bible Translation; 2000: Ideologies of Biblical Texts and English Bible Translations). Series IV, Operations, includes contracts with publishers of the NRSV and related products, and budget information. Series V, Promotion, includes reports on promotion activities, publicity publications, copies of "The Latest Word - A newsletters for those who are helping to launch the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible", and endorsements and critiques of the NRSV.

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## Arrangement

I. Correspondence, 1988-1999

II. Policy, 1980-1994

III. Agendas and Minutes, 1989-1999

IV. Operations, 1988-1999

V. Promotion, 1989-1995

VI. Collected Material, 1989-1999

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1988-1999

b. 1, f. 1	Including to/from Rev. Arthur O. Van Eck; Dr. Shannon Clarkson; Randall Bailey; Bruce Metzger; others	1988 Dec- 1990 Dec
b. 1, f. 2	Van Eck, Clarkson	1991 Jan- 1991 Mar
b. 1, f. 3	Franklin Electronics; Zondervan Pub; to other publishers	1991 Apr-1991 Jun
b. 1, f. 4	Van Eck; Clarkson; Gordon Conwell Seminary	1991 Jul- 1991 Dec
b. 1, f. 5	Van Eck; Jean Lebkind; Oxford U Press; Thomas Nelson Pub.; Princeton Seminary	1992 Feb- 1992 Jun
b. 1, f. 6	Van Eck; Johnnie Godwin; Scott Tunseth	1992 Jul- Dec
b. 1, f. 7	Van Eck; Godwin; John Kohlenberger	1993 Feb- Jul
b. 1, f. 8	James Powell; Abingdon Press; Van Eck; Broadman; Holmes Pub.; Zondervan	1993 Aug- Nov
b. 1, f. 9	R. Bailey; Van Eck; Carol Fouke; L.N. Thurber	1194 Jan- Apr
b. 1, f. 10	Godwin; Van Eck; Thomas Nelson Pub.	1994 May-Jun
b. 1, f. 11	United Methodist Pub Hs; VanEck; Oxford University Press	1994 Jul-Aug
b. 1, f. 12	Clarkson; Van Eck; Broadman Holman Press	1994 Sep-Dec
b. 1, f. 13	Van Eck; United Methodist Pub. Hs; Broadman Holman Press; Moravian Theological Seminary; Augsburg Fortress Press	1995 Jan-Mar
b. 1, f. 14	Oxford University Press; Clarkson; Van Eck	1995 Apr-Jul
b. 1, f. 15	Colorado Christian Consultants; Van Eck; Princeton Seminary; United Methodist Publishers Hs; Clarkson	1995 Aug-Dec
b. 1, f. 16	United Methodist Publishers Hs; Van Eck; Clarkson; Whitman; Breed Abbot and Morgan; David Lull	1996 Jan- 1998 Dec
b. 1, f. 17	David J. Lull; Clarkson	1999 Feb-Apr
b. 1, f. 18	Next Steps in Bible Translation Applications: A-M	1999 May
b. 1, f. 19	Next Steps in Bible Translation Applications: P-W	1999 May
b. 1, f. 20	Lull; Clarkson; S H Ringe; Lyn Oslek	
b. 2, f. 21	Lull; Clarkson; Verdi West	1999 Aug- Oct 19
b. 2, f. 22	Clarkson; Lull; Boyarin; Jensen	1999 Oct 20-29
b. 2, f. 23	Clarkson; Boyarin; Halpern	1999 Nov

**Series II: Policy, 1980-1994**

b. 2, f. 24	Report of Task Force on Issues of Biblical Translation; Background documents for NRSV; Specifications for NRSV; Proposal for Consultation on Feminist Biblical Translation Issues; NRSV Translation Development Plan	1980, 1991 Dec- 1994 Aug
b. 2, f. 25	Provisional Standing Rules for BTU	1991 May
b. 2, f. 26	Policy on decision making	1994 Apr-Nov
b. 2, f. 27	Privilege of Quotation	1987 Apr- 1991 Mar 1
b. 2, f. 28	Marketing and promotion	1993 Feb- 1994 Aug
b. 2, f. 29	Guide for preparing position description, including membership lists	1990 Mar

**Series III: Agendas and Minutes, 1989-1999**

b. 2, f. 30	Meetings in New York City; Marco Island, FL.	1989 Arp- 1990 Nov
b. 2, f. 31	NRSV update; New launch phase II; meeting in Florida	1991 Jul- Nov
b. 2, f. 32	Database report; meetings in FL and NJ	1992 Mar- 1993 Apr
b. 2, f. 33	Minutes: Biblical Literacy Team; Transition and Coordination Comm.; The Future of Feminist Interpretation of Bible; flyer from consultation on "Biblical Interpretation Beyond Patriarchy"	1993 Jun- Oct
b. 2, f. 34	Meeting in Marco Island FL.	1993 Nov
b. 2, f. 35	Meeting in N.J.	1994 Apr- May
b. 2, f. 36	Promotion concerns; Minutes search committee; meeting in FL.	1994 Aug- 1994 Nov
b. 2, f. 37	Meeting in PA.; meeting in Chicago; Search committee for new director	1994 Nov- Dec
b. 2, f. 38	Meeting in N.J.; meeting in FL	1995 Apr- Nov
b. 2, f. 39	Consultation on Next Steps in Translation	1997 Jun-Nov
b. 3, f. 40	BTU Committee meeting; BTU goals; Next Steps consultation 2000	1999 Nov



**Series IV: Operations, 1988-1999**

Marketing		
b. 3, f. 41	List of publishers; Contract model	1988
b. 3, f. 42	Conference agenda on marketing; Sales trends; List of publishers with contracts; Budget information	1992 Sep- 1994 Apr
Budget Information		
b. 3, f. 43	BTU operations and activities	1990 Oct- 1993 Sep
b. 3, f. 44	BTU budget income and expenditures	1993 Nov- 1994 Apr
b. 3, f. 45	BTU and Bible Fund budgets	1994 Nov- 1996 Apr
b. 3, f. 46	BTU including proposed budget for 1999	1998 Mar- 1999 Mar

**Series V: Promotion, 1989-1995**

b. 3, f. 47	Helps for planning promotions	1994-1995, n.d.
b. 3, f. 48	Publicity articles and ideas	1990-1993, n.d.
b. 3, f. 49	Reports on promotion activity, etc.	1992-1993, n.d.
b. 3, f. 50	Articles; Endorsements; etc.	1993-1994
b. 3, f. 51	Articles; Endorsements; etc.	1994
b. 3, f. 52	Publicity and programs, incl. service to celebrate publication of NRSV held at Interchurch Center, litanies	1990-1993, n.d.
b. 3, f. 53	Endorsements and critiques of NRSV	1989-1995, n.d.
b. 3, f. 54	Brochures re. NRSV-related products	1993, n.d.
b. 3, f. 55	Bookmarks; Brochures, including "God's Word for All the People: Why Women Welcome the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible."	n.d.
b. 3, f. 56	"The Latest Word" newsletter regarding NRSV	1989-1994
b. 3, f. 57	Phase II: summary of introduction of NRSV	1991-1992

**Series VI: Collected Material, 1989-1999**

b. 4, f. 58-59	Magazine and newspaper articles	1991-1994
b. 4, f. 60	Ecumenical articles; Booklets; etc.	n.d.
b. 4, f. 61	Newsletters; Misc. articles; Cartoons	1989-1995, n.d.
b. 4, f. 62	National Council of Churches of Christ: Reports; Misc. articles	1994
b. 4, f. 63	National Council of Churches of Christ: General Assembly Booklet; 1998 proposed budget	1998-1999
b. 4, f. 64	National Council of Churches of Christ: Connections newsletter; Misc. articles	1993-1994
b. 4, f. 65	National Council of Churches of Christ: including Jubilee Quadrennium material	1996, n.d.

## **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.

### **Preferred Titles**

*Bible -- Translating*

*Bible -- Versions*

### **Corporate Body**

National Council of the Churches of Christ in  
the United States of America. Bible Translation  
and Utilization