

# Guide to the Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. Papers

RG 250



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2014, 2015

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New Haven, CT 06511  
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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  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 250

**CREATOR:** Bucher, Henry Hale, 1936-

**TITLE:** Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. Papers

**DATES:** 1936-2013

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.5 linear feet (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, writings, and collected material document the life and work of Henry Hale Bucher, Jr., focusing on his participation in ecumenical study and mission abroad programs, his work with the University Christian Movement and other organizations concerning Middle East and Jewish-Christian issues, and his draft resistance during the Vietnam war.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.250>

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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.250>.

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

b.        box  
f.        folder  
■■■■    item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Henry Hale Bucher, Jr., 2012-2014

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. Papers (RG 250), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

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## Biographical / Historical

### Chronology

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1936 March 7   | ○ Born in Hainan, China, son of Presbyterian missionaries Henry Hale Bucher, Sr. and Louise Scott Bucher   |
| 1937 September | ○ Bucher family moved to Hong Kong, staying at Phillips House, due to health reasons and Sino-Japanese war.  |
| 1938           | ○ Family returned to Hainan, stationed in Ledong (Nodoa).  |
| 1939           | ○ Conditions on Hainan deteriorating due to Japanese occupation, the family left for furlough in the U.S. Christmas 1939 was spent in Roanoke, Virginia.   |
| 1940 September | ○ Family returned to China.  |
| 1941 January   | ○ Bucher family evacuated to Philippine Islands, initially staying in Baguio and later Manila.   |
| 1941 December  | ○ Family evacuated to Los Baños during bombing of Manila, then returned to Manila.   |
| 1944 July      | ○ Family relocated from occupied Manila to Los Baños internment camp. Food became scarce as internment continued.  |
| 1945 February  | ○ U.S. soldiers and Filipinos enabled the escape of internees from Los Baños camp; internees housed on New Bilibad prison grounds until repatriation.  |
| 1945 May       | ○ Bucher family returned to U.S. on USS Eberlee and went to New Jersey and later to Hartford, Connecticut  |
| 1946 December  | ○ Family returned to China, stationed at Qiongsan (Kiungchow), Hainan  |
| 1948-1949      | ○ Henry, Jr. and his older sister Anna attended boarding school at Shanghai American School. In spring 1949, with General Mao's advancing forces, Henry and sister were evacuated on the USS Repose. |
| 1949 July      | ○ Bucher family returned to U.S. and resided in New Jersey.  |
| 1954           | ○ Graduated from high school in New Jersey and entered Davidson College  |
| 1956-1957      | ○ Participated in Junior Year Abroad program sponsored by Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., attending American University of Beirut in Lebanon.   |
| 1958           | ○ Decided to complete studies at American University of Beirut, graduated with B.A.  |

## Chronology

- 1960-1961
  - While attending Princeton Theological Seminary, participated in Seminary Year Abroad program at University of Ghana, Legon
- 1962
  - Received M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary
- 1962-1965
  - Served as Frontier Intern in Mission under World Student Christian Federation and Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and Paris Mission Society, stationed in France and Gabon
- 1965-1969
  - Served on staff of Department of Higher Education, National Council of Churches, and Field Director, University Christian Movement
- 1967-1968
  - Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. and more than 900 others who had draft status exempting them from draft for Vietnam War, sent their draft cards to Yale University Chaplain William Sloane Coffin, who handed them in to the Justice Department in protest of the War. In response, the Selective Service System reclassified them as I-A, making them vulnerable to the draft, and many law suits followed, including "Bucher (et.al) vs. Selective Service System." The government lost this case, setting a new legal precedent that draft reclassification could not be used as "punishment" for free speech.
- 1971
  - M.A. from University of Wisconsin-Madison in Comparative World History
- 1971-1973
  - Ford Fellow, University Wisconsin-Madison
- 1973-1974
  - Fulbright/Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellow to France, Gabon, and Senegal
- 1977
  - Ph.D. in Comparative World History, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dissertation: "The Mpongwe of the Gabon estuary : a history to 1860"
- 1977-1980
  - Academic staff, International Studies and Programs, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 1980-1985
  - Educational Consultant with GLOBE (Global Learning Opportunities in Basic Education) and pastor in Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin
- 1985-2004
  - Chaplain and Associate Professor of Humanities at Austin College, Sherman, TX
- 2004-
  - Chaplain Emeritus and Adjunct Associate Professor / Humanities, Austin College, Sherman, Texas

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## Scope and Contents

The correspondence, writings, and collected material in the papers of Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. are focused on specific areas that are complementary to other collections at the Yale, including his participation in ecumenical study abroad programs, his work with the University Christian Movement, and his draft resistance in a movement that involved Yale Chaplain William Sloane Coffin. This collection should be examined in connection with the papers of Henry Hale Bucher, Jr.'s parents, the Henry Hale Bucher and Louise Scott Bucher Papers ([Record Group No. 249](#)). Henry, Jr.'s early life is well documented in the papers of his parents.

This collection provides personal papers that complement organizational archives held at Yale, including the archives of the World Student Christian Federation ([Record Group No. 46](#)) and the University Christian

Movement Archives ([Record Group No. 235](#)), and the papers of William Sloane Coffin (Yale Manuscripts and Archives, [MS 1665](#)) and Margaret Flory ([Record Group No. 86](#)).

The Family Correspondence of Series I dates from 1955 to 1968 and primarily documents Henry, Jr.'s participation in a Junior Year Abroad program at the American University of Beirut, a Seminary Year Abroad program at the University of Ghana, Legon, his work as a Frontier Intern in Mission in France and Gabon, his work with university students when based in New York, and his Vietnam War draft resistance. The General Correspondence of Series II covers the same general time period. There is a focus within it on Bucher's interest in mission history in Africa and efforts to gather documentation. Correspondence specifically related to his study programs and work is in Series III.

Series III, Activities Documentation, is a chronological gathering of correspondence and collected materials from the various eras of Bucher's life from his Junior Year Abroad in college to his involvement in Vietnam War-era draft resistance. Areas of particular interest are Bucher's documentation of the 1964 coup that occurred in Gabon when he was there as a Frontier Intern in Mission, his ongoing interest in issues related to the Middle East, and many clippings, articles, and court documents related to his draft resistance. More information about the draft resistance effort is available in a book documenting the Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam organization: "Because of their Faith: CALCAV and Religious Opposition to the Vietnam War by Mitchell K. Hall (New York: Columbia University Press, 1990).

Series IV, Writings, includes published and unpublished writings of Bucher, sermons, and journals.

Series V, Personal Items and Memorabilia, contains biographical documentation, photographs, audio material, and artifacts that generally correspond to the areas of Bucher's life documented in the earlier series. A button and pin collection of more than 480 items provides a valuable window on social and political issues in America since the 1960s, including civil rights, the Vietnam war, drug culture, peacemaking, and ecology.

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## Arrangement

- I. Family Correspondence
- II. General Correspondence
- III. Activities Documentation
- IV. Writings
- V. Personal Items and Memorabilia

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Family Correspondence, 1955-1997

#### Letters to parents

b. 1, f. 1	From World Council of Churches work camp in Finland, and traveling in Israel and Africa	1955-1957
b. 1, f. 2	From American University of Beirut and traveling in Israel, Turkey, Europe	1958 Apr-Aug
b. 1, f. 3	Primarily from Princeton Theological Seminary	1958 Oct - 1959 Mar
b. 1, f. 4	From Nigeria and Ghana	1960 Sep-Nov
b. 1, f. 5	From France and Switzerland	1963 Feb-May
b. 1, f. 6	From Gabon	1964 Mar - 1965 Apr
b. 1, f. 7	From New York and elsewhere in U.S.	1965 Jul - 1968

#### Letters to/from extended family

b. 1, f. 8	To/from Aunt Clara Scott	1956-1962
b. 1, f. 9	From Uncle Bob and Aunt Carol Bucher, missionaries in Iran	1961-1968
b. 1, f. 10	To/from Aunt Hettie and Uncle Frank Davey	1948-1997
b. 1, f. 11	To/from other family members including sister Anna, sister Priscilla, brother Scott	1956-1967

#### Postcards to sister Priscilla

b. 1, f. 12	Primarily from Lebanon	1956-1957
b. 1, f. 13	Primarily from Princeton Theological Seminary	1959
b. 1, f. 14	Primarily postcards made from photographs, sent by HHB, Jr. in Africa	1960-1961, 1964, 1977

**Series II: General Correspondence, 1958-1995**

b. 1, f. 15	Including from Yupa Oonyawongse in Thailand	1958-1962
b. 1, f. 16	To/from Ray Teeuwisen, fraternal worker in Cameroon	1962-1963
b. 1, f. 17	HHB, Jr. letter to Albert Schweitzer and reply written by nurse, with signed note by Schweitzer	1963 Apr, Jun
b. 1, f. 18	Primarily regarding efforts to gather historical documentation on history of missions in Gabon and Robert Hamill Nassau	1963-1964
b. 1, f. 19	From Andrew F. Walls regarding Society for African Church History	1964 Jun
b. 1, f. 20	Primarily regarding documentation of Protestantism in Gabon	1965-1966
b. 1, f. 21	To/from First Presbyterian Church, Haddonfield, New Jersey, re. HHB, Jr. stance on Vietnam war	1967
b. 1, f. 22	Primarily to/from colleagues related to Africa	1967-1980, 1995



**Series III: Activities Documentation, 1956-1970**

Junior Year Abroad: Lebanon		
b. 2, f. 1	"Junior Year Abroad Letters" from HHB, Jr. at American University of Beirut (mimeographed circular letters)	1956 Nov - 1957 Jun
b. 2, f. 2	Follow-up correspondence with colleagues and acquaintances in program	1957-1959
Seminary Year Abroad: Ghana		
b. 2, f. 3	"Seminary Year Abroad Letters" from HHB, Jr. at University College, Legon, Ghana	1960 Oct - 1961 Jun
b. 2, f. 4	Clipping showing American and African students at University College of Ghana; "Open Letter to All African Governments from African Students in Russia"	ca. 1960
Frontier Internship in Mission: Paris, Gabon		
b. 2, f. 5	"Frontier Internship in Mission Letters" from HHB, Jr. in Paris and Gabon (mimeographed circular letters)	1962 Dec - 1963 Dec
b. 2, f. 6	Report letters from HHB, Jr. to FIM program leadership, Margaret Flory of Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and Erica Brucker of Paris Mission Society	1962-1964
b. 2, f. 7	Three year report: "Evaluation of Frontier Intern Study and Service Project: Gabon" by HHB, Jr.	1965
b. 2, f. 8	Administrative correspondence	1962-1963
b. 2, f. 10	Program material and notes	1962-1963, no date
b. 2, f. 11	Collected material regarding 1964 coup in Gabon, including student response	1964
b. 2, f. 12	Collected material regarding 1964 coup in Gabon	1964
b. 2, f. 13	HHB, Jr. description of and reaction to Gabon coup: "Summary of Political Events in Libreville, February 18-20, 1964"	1964
b. 2, f. 14	HHB, Jr. description of and reaction to Gabon coup: report letters addressed to Phil Bosserman, Director of Peace Corps in Gabon	1964 Mar
b. 2, f. 15	HHB, Jr. description of and reaction to Gabon coup: report letters addressed to Phil Bosserman	1964 Apr
b. 2, f. 16	HHB, Jr. description of and reaction to Gabon coup: report letters addressed to Phil Bosserman	1964 May, Dec
b. 2, f. 17	Map, article re. Gabon; metal franc, money of Baraka Protestant Mission	1968, no date
b. 2, f. 18	Correspondence with other Frontier Interns and regarding program	1962-1964, 2001

## Related to Middle East

Materials in this section date from HHB, Jr.'s work on the staff of the University Christian Movement (1964-1969) and Americans for Middle East Understanding (1969), as member of National Council of Churches Mid-East Panel, and in later years.

## Correspondence

b. 2, f. 19	Including letters to editors, to Norton Mezvinsky, American Council for Judaism	1967 Jan - 1968 Feb
b. 2, f. 20	Including with American Council for Judaism	1968 Mar-Apr
b. 2, f. 21	Including re. WSCF Beirut consultation, with Humphrey Walz	1968 May-Jul
b. 2, f. 22	Including regarding National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council conference on Anti-Semitism and American Council for Judaism	1968 Aug-Dec
b. 2, f. 23	Including with Humphrey Walz and American Jewish Committee	1969 Jan-Feb
b. 2, f. 24	Including regarding packet on Middle East sent out by University Christian Movement	1969 Mar-Oct
b. 3, f. 1	Including regarding Middle East Peace Project, Madison Campus Ministry	1975-1994, no date

## Collected material

b. 3, f. 2	Related to National Council of Churches Middle East Panel	1968
b. 3, f. 3	University Christian Movement Middle East packet, Resolution on the Middle East, statements regarding UCM goals and perspectives; clipping re. disbanding of UCM	1969
b. 3, f. 4	Publications of American Council for Judaism	1967-1970
b. 3, f. 5	Related to Norton Mezvinsky and Michael Selzer	1968
b. 3, f. 6	Newsclippings, press releases, notes	1967-1969

## Related to Vietnam War

## Correspondence

b. 3, f. 7	To/from family members	1967
b. 3, f. 8	To/from family members	1968-1970
b. 3, f. 9	To/from Stephen Allen, Leonard Boudin, Homer Bradshaw	
b. 3, f. 10	To/from First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield, NJ, Robert Gladden, Appeal Agent, Local Board No. 7 for New Jersey	1967-1970
b. 3, f. 10	To/from Morris Karparkin, Dean Kelley, Senator Robert F. Kennedy	1967-1968
b. 3, f. 11	To/from Law Center for Constitutional Rights	1968-1970

## Related to Vietnam War &gt; Correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 12	To/from Raymond Morris, President Richard Nixon, West Jersey Presbytery and others	1967-1969, 2011
Court documents		
b. 3, f. 13	Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. vs. Selective Service System, Local Board No. 7: Civil Action Verified Complaint:	1967 Nov
b. 3, f. 14	Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. vs. Selective Service System, Local Board No. 7: Plaintiff's Memorandum	1967
b. 3, f. 15	Bucher et al vs. Selective Service System: Amended Complaint	1967
b. 3, f. 16	Bucher et al vs. Selective Service System: Second Amended Complaint	1967
b. 3, f. 17	Bucher et al vs. Selective Service System: Brief for Appellants	1969
b. 3, f. 18	Bucher et al vs. Selective Service System: Opinion of Court	1970
b. 3, f. 19	Bucher et al vs. Selective Service System: summary of case from Westlaw.com	
Statements/notes		
b. 4, f. 1	Statement by William Sloane Coffin when HHB, Jr. draft card handed in; Selective Service history for HHB, Jr.; Statement of HHB, Jr. concerning the turning in of his draft card	1967 Oct-Nov
b. 4, f. 2	Statement prepared for Local Board No. 7; Statement by HHB, Jr. after being reclassified by Local Board 7	1967 Dec
b. 4, f. 3	Notes from diary; prepared packet of documents	1967-1969
Collected material		
b. 4, f. 4	National Council of Churches resolutions, documents	1967-1968
b. 4, f. 5	Press release from American Civil Liberties Union	1967 Dec
b. 4, f. 6	Documents from Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, "Resist" bulletin	1968-1969
b. 4, f. 7	Documents from Commission on Youth Service Project	1968-1969
b. 4, f. 8	Miscellaneous memos and documents about Vietnam War draft resistance	1967-1969
b. 4, f. 9	Newspaper and magazine clippings re. Bucher case and Vietnam War	1967
b. 4, f. 10	Newspaper and magazine clippings re. Bucher case and Vietnam War	1968

**Series IV: Writings, 1957-2013**

Student papers		
b. 4, f. 11	"John Leighton Wilson : Robert Hamill Nassau - Gabon's Response to Christian Missions: 1842-1890	1969
b. 4, f. 12	"The Gabon Evangelical Church: A Response to Christian Missions - 1890-1961"; paper re. doctrinal changes in West Africa	1970, 1972
Journals		
b. 4, f. 13	Notebook describing travels on return from seminary abroad year	1961
b. 4, f. 14	Notebook describing trip back to birthplace in China	1996-1997
Typescript papers, essays		
b. 4, f. 15	"Ecumenical Work Camps - Evaluation: Aspo, Finland"; writings from period at American University of Beirut	ca. 1957-1958
b. 4, f. 16	Writings related to Gabon coup	1964, 2001
b. 5, f. 1	"Christianity Looks at Zionism" - ACJ 25th Anniversary Conference	1968 Oct
b. 5, f. 2	"Athens and Jerusalem - A Theology for the Crisis in the Middle East: February, 1969"	1969 Feb
Sermons, notes		
b. 5, f. 3	Typescript sermons and talks	1962-1970, n.d.
b. 5, f. 4	Handwritten notes, primarily for talks	1958, 1968-1969, n.d.
b. 5, f. 5	Handwritten notes, primarily for talks	n.d.
Published writings		
b. 5, f. 6	Book: The Third World: The Middle East (Dushkin Publishing Group, 1984)	1984
b. 5, f. 7	Article: "Radical Obedience" in New, the Media Album, Vol. 3: No. 3	1968
b. 5, f. 8	Article: "John Leighton Wilson and the Mpongwe" in Journal of Presbyterian History; "Apartheid and Slavery: Some Parallels in Christianity and Crisis	1976, 1978
b. 5, f. 9	Articles: "Third World Sermon Notes" ; "Warning: Investing Yourself May Change You, Your World View, and Your Future" in Transitions Abroad	1979-2004
b. 5, f. 10	Edited work: "Two Women" by Robert Hamill Nassau, with Isabella Ann Nassau, digitized by Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. from the 1911 typescript with expanded notes and commentary, 2011 (in book format and files on CD and flash drive)	2013
b. 5, f. 11	Miscellaneous brief writings	1967-1984

**Series V: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1936-2012**

Biographical documentation		
b. 5, f. 12	Childhood, including at Shanghai American School, China	1936-1949
b. 5, f. 13	Youth, in New Jersey	1950-1954
b. 5, f. 14	At Davidson College, Junior Year Abroad at American University of Beirut	1955-1958
b. 5, f. 15	At University of Ghana, Princeton Theological Seminary, ordination, Frontier Intern in Mission, draft cards	1960-1968
b. 5, f. 16	At University of Wisconsin, consultant at GLOBE, chaplain at Austin College	1972-1999
b. 6, f. 1	"China Memoirs" from 2002 reunion of Shanghai American School; certificate from Manila Liberation Reunion; Junior Year Abroad 50th anniversary survey	2002
b. 6, f. 2	"Where in the World was Henry Bucher" (booklet prepared by Austin College alumni association)	2012
Photographs		
b. 6, f. 3	Childhood and youth	1940s-1955
b. 6, f. 4	Primarily Junior year abroad - Beirut	1956-1958
b. 6, f. 5	Primarily Princeton Theological Seminary and seminary year abroad in Ghana	1959-1962
b. 6, f. 6	Primarily from FIM period in Gabon, including with Albert Schweitzer	1962-1965
b. 6, f. 7	HHB, Jr. and family photos	1967-1970s
b. 6, f. 8	HHB, Jr. and family, including trip to China and Thailand	1990s-2008
Audio		
b. 6, f. 9	Related to Middle East, including by Benjamin and Carol Weir, Christy Wilson, Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum (5 cassettes)	1968-1986
b. 6, f. 9,  39002052077824	Ben and Carol Weir; General Assembly Mission Board <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Divinity Special Collections staff for further information.	1985 October 25
b. 6, f. 9,  39002052077832	In Search of Peace in the Middle East [Ben and Carol Weir] <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Divinity Special Collections staff for further information.	1986 September 26
b. 6, f. 9,  39002052077840	Dr. Christy Wilson; What God Is Doing Today in Afghanistan <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Divinity Special Collections staff for further information.	[circa 1991]

## Audio &gt; Related to Middle East, including by Benjamin and Carol Weir, Ch [...] (continued)

b. 6, f. 9, ■■■■ 39002052077857	In Search of Peace in the Middle East; Henry Bucher <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Divinity Special Collections staff for further information.	1986 September 27
b. 6, f. 9, ■■■■ 39002052077865	Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum to NYC Chapter of the AJC on Post-'67 War Jewish/Christian Relations <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Divinity Special Collections staff for further information.	1968 January 12
b. 6, f. 10	HHB, Jr. interviews with Alice Osuka, Gabon (audiocassette and CD)	1964
b. 6, f. 10, ■■■■ 39002131152960	HB [Henry Bucher] interviews Alice Osuka, Gabon <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Divinity Special Collections staff for further information.	1964 June 28
Artifacts		
b. 6, f. 11	Hat worn by HHB, Jr. at AFSC-sponsored international work camp in Evan Saphir, Israel	1958
b. 6, f. 12	Copies of framed plaques, one signed by Albert Schweitzer	1976, 2003, n.d.
Button (Pin) collection More than 480 buttons and pins collected by Henry Hale Bucher, Jr. provide a window on social and political issues in America since the 1960s, including civil rights, the Vietnam war, drug culture, peacemaking, and ecology. A full listing of the buttons is available in Box OV-1 and at <a href="http://divinity-adhoc.library.yale.edu/Resources/Bucher_Buttons.pdf">http://divinity-adhoc.library.yale.edu/Resources/Bucher_Buttons.pdf</a> .		
b. OV1	Vietnam war	1960s-1970s
b. OV1	Civil Rights	1960s-1980s
b. OV2	Civil Rights / Women's Rights	1960s-1970s
b. OV2	Drug subculture	1960s
b. OV2	Peace / Peacemaking	1960s-1980s
b. OV3	God / Planet / Ecology	1960s-1980s
b. OV3	Political	1960s-1970s
b. OV3	Middle East / Africa / Southern Americas / China	1960s-2000s

## **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**

Church work with students  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Draft resisters.

### **Names**

Bucher, Henry Hale, 1936-

### **Corporate Body**

Frontier Internship in Mission Programme