

# Guide to the Horace Bushnell Papers

RG 39



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1977

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 39

**CREATOR:** Bushnell, Horace, 1802-1876

**TITLE:** Horace Bushnell Papers

**DATES:** 1832-1902

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection includes five diaries containing valuable biographical information and documenting Bushnell's trip abroad, 1845-1846, and manuscript sermons, 1832-1875, which give insight into the less formal aspects of Bushnell's thought. The material written about Bushnell during his lifetime pertains to the controversy associated with his theological beliefs. Horace Bushnell was born in Bantam, Connecticut on April 14, 1802. He was educated at Yale (B.A., 1827; M.A., 1830; B.D., 1833), and received degrees from Wesleyan University, Harvard, and Yale. He served as pastor of North Church, Hartford, CT from 1833-1859. He was the author of *God in Christ* (1849) and *Christ in Theology* (1851), as well as other works uncongenial to the orthodox theology of his times.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.039>

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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.039>.

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 Howell Cheney, 1945.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Horace Bushnell Papers (RG 39), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

| Date        | Event  |
|-------------|--|
| 1802 Apr 14 | ○ Born in Bantam, CT   |
| 1827        | ○ B.A., Yale   |
| 1829-1831   | ○ Tutor in Yale College  |
| 1830        | ○ M.A., Yale   |
| 1833        | ○ B.D., Yale   |
| 1833-1859   | ○ Ordained in 1833, Bushnell served as pastor of the North Church, Hartford, CT until 1859   |
| 1842        | ○ D.D., Wesleyan University  |
| 1845-1846   | ○ Year spent abroad in Europe  |
| 1849        | ○ Published <i>God in Christ</i> , a work uncongenial to the orthodoxy of the times. Conservative ministers in Connecticut sought to bring Bushnell to trial for heresy. |
| 1851        | ○ Published , <i>Christ in Theology</i> , which answered his critics.  |
| 1852        | ○ S.T.D., Harvard  |
| 1856        | ○ Traveled to California for health reasons, became interested in the problems of developing the region.   |
| 1859        | ○ Retired from the ministry for health reasons but continued to write and publish.   |
| 1871        | ○ L.L.D., Yale   |
| 1876 Feb 17 | ○ Died   |

Biographical information taken from: *Historical Register of Yale University, 1701-1937* and *Dictionary of American Biography*

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## Scope and Contents

[I. Correspondence, 1848, n.d.](#)

[II. Diaries, 1845-1846.](#)

[III. Writings of Bushnell, 1832-1875.](#)

[IV. Material written about Bushnell, 1843-1902, n.d.](#)

[V. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1849-1902, n.d.](#)

The correspondence section consists of two letters written and signed by Bushnell, their recipients unidentified. Additional Bushnell correspondence can be found in the papers of Walter Clarke, Record Group 30, which relates to the theological controversy in 1848-1854.

The diaries of Series II are a five volume record of Bushnell's impressions during his trip abroad in 1845-1846. These journals would be of greatest value for biographical research. Excerpts from them have been published in Bushnell's daughter's book, *Life and Letters of Horace Bushnell*.

The writings of Bushnell are divided into three sections:

- A. Manuscript sermons and discourses (1832-1875, n.d.)
- B. Published sermons and discourses (1839-1959, n.d.)
- C. Miscellaneous (1839-1873, n.d.)

The manuscript sermons give valuable insight into the less formal aspects of Bushnell's thought. Some of these sermons have been published in whole or in part, largely in Bushnell's posthumous volume, *The Spirit in Man*. Although many of them were not considered sufficiently valuable or well organized to be included in his published works as entire sermons, these unpublished writings contain material that can assist in tracing the development of his thought. In many cases the unpublished portions of the sermons contain statements of doctrine that were apparently omitted as not being of interest to the general reader.

The published sermons and discourses are largely duplicates of ones already cataloged in the Library's collection, and are included with Bushnell's papers to provide consolidated access. The miscellaneous writings of Bushnell included newspaper articles, a prayer for a wedding, and explanations of two patents obtained by him.

The material written about Bushnell during his lifetime pertains to the controversy associated with his theological beliefs. Bushnell's opposition to the rigid rationalism of his times and his attempts to redefine Christianity in terms of human experience were the cause of much accusation and debate. Additional material in this section stems from the centenary celebration of Bushnell's birth in 1902. Series V includes a letter from Amos Cheseborough to T.T. Munger, biographer of Bushnell, that traces Bushnell's genealogical descent.

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## Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1848, n.d.
- II. Diaries, 1845-1846
- III. Writings of Bushnell, 1832-1875
- IV. Material written about Bushnell, 1843-1902, n.d.
- V. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1849-1902, n.d.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, n.d.

Additional Bushnell correspondence located in the papers of Walter Clarke, Record Group 30, relates to the theological controversy in 1848-1854.

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|            |                |      |
|------------|----------------|------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | To: "George"   | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 1 | To: "Dear Sir" | 1848 |

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**Series II: Diaries, 1845 Jul 11-1845 Oct 11**

|            |                                |                            |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 2 | Diary of trip abroad: Volume I | 1845 Jul 11-1845<br>Oct 11 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Volume II                      | 1845 Oct<br>12-1845 Nov 25 |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Volume III                     | 1845 Nov<br>25-1845 Dec 19 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Volume IV                      | 1845 Dec<br>20-1846 Feb 17 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Volume V                       | 1846 Feb<br>19-1846 May 1  |

**Series III: Writings of Bushnell**

## Manuscript Sermons and Discourses

|             |   |                 |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| b. 1, f. 7  | Christ the Form of the Soul                   | 1848            |
| b. 1, f. 7  | The Church Catalogue of Rome II               | 1848            |
| b. 1, f. 7  | Corinthians 3:8                               | 1841            |
| b. 1, f. 8  | The Course of the World                       | 1854            |
| b. 1, f. 8  | Death Abolished                               | 1849            |
| b. 1, f. 8  | Death a Leveller of Distinctions              | 1850            |
| b. 2, f. 9  | The Doctrine of Prayer                        | 1865            |
| b. 2, f. 9  | The Eternity of Love                          | 1859            |
| b. 2, f. 9  | The Everlasting Gospel (incomplete)           | 1847            |
| b. 2, f. 10 | Existence Consummated in a State of Praise    | 1859            |
| b. 2, f. 10 | Giving Account Each One to God                | 1858            |
| b. 2, f. 10 | God' Meaning in Probation                     | 1851            |
| b. 2, f. 11 | Gods One Family                               | 1857            |
| b. 2, f. 11 | God's Way of Establishing the Nation          | 1865            |
| b. 2, f. 11 | The Good Wine Last                            | (1853?)         |
| b. 2, f. 12 | Grace Dispensed by a Law                      | 1848            |
| b. 2, f. 12 | Grace Dispensed by Law                        | 1848            |
| b. 2, f. 12 | A Great Life Begins Early                     | 1852            |
| b. 2, f. 13 | Heavenly State No. I, No. II, No. III, No. IV | 1842-1843, n.d. |
| b. 2, f. 14 | The Holy Spirit (incomplete)                  | ca. 1875        |
| b. 2, f. 14 | Hosea 6:3                                     | 1837            |
| b. 2, f. 14 | Inspiration                                   | 1875            |
| b. 2, f. 15 | John 14:2                                     | 1843            |
| b. 2, f. 15 | Long Suffering                                | 1862            |
| b. 2, f. 15 | The Largest Love                              | 1870            |
| b. 2, f. 16 | Luke 10:20                                    | 1842            |
| b. 2, f. 16 | Meaning of the Supper                         | 1849            |
| b. 2, f. 16 | The Motions of Sin                            | 1853            |



## Manuscript Sermons and Discourses (continued)

|                                  |   |                 |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| b. 3, f. 17                      | Natural Science and Moral Philosophy                        | 1832            |
| b. 3, f. 17                      | Nothing in God's Attributes to be Spared                    | 1857            |
| b. 3, f. 17                      | Our Unthanking Way Accounted For                            | 1857            |
| b. 3, f. 18                      | Personality Developed by Religion                           | 1854            |
| b. 3, f. 18                      | Power From On High  | 1857            |
| b. 3, f. 18                      | The Prayer of Expectation                                   | ca. 1850        |
| b. 3, f. 19                      | The Preparations of Eternity                                | 1857            |
| b. 3, f. 19                      | Psalms 125  | 1843            |
| b. 3, f. 19                      | Psalms 126:5  | 1843            |
| b. 3, f. 20                      | Pure Love   | 1848            |
| b. 3, f. 20                      | Revelation  | 1839            |
| b. 3, f. 20                      | The Sin of Being Only Negative to God                       | 1858            |
| b. 3, f. 21                      | Souls Enobled by Nearness to God                            | 1853            |
| b. 3, f. 21                      | Spiritual Things the Only Solid                             | 1850            |
| b. 3, f. 21                      | Subdue Evil by Enduring Evil                                | 1848            |
| b. 3, f. 22                      | There is a Moral Governor                                   | 1832            |
| b. 3, f. 22                      | Unconscious Prophecy  | 1854            |
| b. 3, f. 22                      | What is Faith?  | 1843            |
| b. 3, f. 22                      | The Word Grace Revived                                      | 1869            |
| b. 3, f. 23                      | Fragments   | 1848-1857, n.d. |
| Published sermons and discourses |   |                 |
| b. 3, f. 24                      | Address before the Hartford Co. Agricultural Society        | 1847            |
| b. 3, f. 24                      | Argument for "Discourses on Christian Nurture"              | 1847            |
| b. 3, f. 24                      | Barbarism the First Danger                                  | 1847            |
| b. 3, f. 25                      | The Character of Jesus                                      | n.d.            |
| b. 3, f. 25                      | Commemorative Discourse delivered in North Church, Hartford | 1853            |
| b. 3, f. 25                      | Common Schools  | 1853            |
| b. 4, f. 26                      | The Day of Roads  | 1846            |
| b. 4, f. 26                      | Discourse on the Slavery Question                           | 1839            |
| b. 4, f. 26                      | The Fathers of New England                                  | 1849            |

## Published sermons and discourses (continued)

|                        |  |      |
|------------------------|--|------|
| b. 4, f. 27            | Moral Tendencies and Results of Human History          | 1843 |
| b. 4, f. 27            | The Moral Uses of Great Pestilences                    | 1849 |
| b. 4, f. 27            | The Moral Uses of the Sea                              | 1845 |
| b. 4, f. 28            | The Northern Iron                                      | 1854 |
| b. 4, f. 28            | Oration delivered before the Society of Phi Beta Kappa | 1848 |
| b. 4, f. 28            | Parting Words  | 1859 |
| b. 4, f. 29            | Politics Under the Law of God                          | 1844 |
| b. 4, f. 29            | Popular Government by Divine Right                     | n.d. |
| b. 4, f. 29            | Position and Power                                     | n.d. |
| b. 4, f. 29            | Prosperity Our Duty                                    | 1847 |
| b. 4, f. 30            | Religious Music  | 1852 |
| b. 4, f. 30            | Reverses Needed  | 1861 |
| b. 4, f. 30            | Society and Religion: A Sermon for California          | 1856 |
| b. 4, f. 30            | Speech for Connecticut                                 | 1851 |
| b. 4, f. 30            | Spiritual Dislodgements                                | 1857 |
| Miscellaneous writings |  |      |
| b. 5, f. 31            | The Faith-Talent Wanting Education for the Pulpit      | 1873 |
| b. 5, f. 31            | Letter to <i>The Independent</i>                       | 1856 |
| b. 5, f. 31            | Need of Regeneration (sermon extract)                  | n.d. |
| b. 5, f. 32            | Patent No. 1177 (Heating stove)                        | 1839 |
| b. 5, f. 32            | Patent No. 6238 (Air-heating furnace)                  | 1849 |
| b. 5, f. 32            | Prayer for a wedding                                   | n.d. |
| b. 5, f. 32            | The Religious Situation in New England                 | n.d. |

**Series IV: Material Written about Bushnell, 1843**

|             |  |      |
|-------------|--|------|
| b. 5, f. 33 | Letter Written to Dr. Bushnell, of Hartford, on the Certain Passages of his Address...             | 1843 |
| b. 5, f. 33 | Printed letter from B. Tyler to Bushnell   | 1847 |
| b. 5, f. 33 | What Does Dr. Bushnell Mean?   | 1847 |
| b. 5, f. 33 | Contribution of CC., now declared in full as Criticus Critorium                                    | 1849 |
| b. 5, f. 34 | Remonstrance and Complaint of the Association of Fairfield West to the Hartford Central Assn.      | 1850 |
| b. 5, f. 34 | Appeal of the Association of Fairfield West to the Associated Ministers of the General Assn. Of CT | 1852 |
| b. 5, f. 35 | The Doctrines Held by Dr. Bushnell   | 1872 |
| b. 5, f. 35 | Address by Dr. T.T. Munger   | 1902 |
| b. 5, f. 35 | Bushnell Centenary - 193rd Annual Meeting of General Assn. of CT                                   | 1902 |
| b. 5, f. 36 | Newspaper clippings from: <i>The Hartford Courant</i> and <i>The Hartford Weekly Times</i>         | 1902 |
| b. 5, f. 37 | Miscellaneous  | n.d. |

**Series V: Personal Items and Memorabilia**

## Biographical and genealogical material

|             |   |      |
|-------------|---|------|
| b. 5, f. 38 | Letter from A. Cheseborough to Dr. Munger | 1902 |
|-------------|---|------|

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|             |       |      |
|-------------|-------|------|
| b. 5, f. 38 | Notes | n.d. |
|-------------|-------|------|

## Miscellaneous

|             |   |      |
|-------------|---|------|
| b. 5, f. 39 | Certificate of church standing signed by Bushnell | 1849 |
|-------------|---|------|

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|             |                          |      |
|-------------|--------------------------|------|
| b. 5, f. 39 | Illustration of Bushnell | 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.

### **Subjects**

Authors  
Church work  
Clergy  
Congregational churches -- United States  
Theology

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Sermons

### **Occupations**

Theologians

### **Names**

Bushnell, Horace, 1802-1876