

**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

**Union Theological Seminary Archives 1**

**Finding Aid for**

**Charles Cuthbert Hall Papers, 1872 – 1962**



Busby, Cathy. *About Face: Portraits at Union Theological Seminary*.  
New York: The Institute for Art, Religion & Social Justice, Union Theological Seminary, 2012.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, March 2015  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator:	Charles Cuthbert Hall, 1852-1908
Title:	Charles Cuthbert Hall Papers
Inclusive dates:	1872-1962
Bulk dates:	1872-1908
Abstract:	Presbyterian minister, pastoral theologian, missiologist, and Union Theological Seminary president, instrumental in moving the school to Morningside Heights. Collection contains correspondence, publications, course notes, sermons and addresses.
Size:	11 boxes, 4.75 linear feet
Storage:	Onsite storage
Repository:	The Burke Library Union Theological Seminary 3041 Broadway New York, NY 10027 Email: <a href="mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu">burkearchives@library.columbia.edu</a>

**Administrative Information**

- Provenance: The collection was donated in 1962-1963 by Basil Hall, son of Charles Cuthbert Hall.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible  
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, UTS 1: Charles Cuthbert Hall Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

**Biography**

Charles Cuthbert Hall was born in New York City on September 3, 1852, the son of William Cooper Hall and Jane Agnes Boyd. The family lived in Manhattan for just a few years; Hall spent his formative years in the town of New Windsor, New York. In 1868 Hall entered Williams College, where he began to gain an interest in the ministry.

He enrolled at Union Theological Seminary, then located on University Place in lower Manhattan, in the fall of 1872 and graduated in 1875. He interrupted his studies at Union for a six-month study/vacation tour of Great Britain, where he also met some of the most influential theologians of the day.

Following his graduation, Hall was called to be the minister of Union Church (Presbyterian) in Newburgh, New York. He served as minister there for two years when he was offered the same position with the large and renowned First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. While Hall was only twenty-five at the time, many of the important members of the church knew him or of him through his connections at Williams College and Union Theological Seminary. He was installed as minister of the church in May, 1877, and in August he married his first cousin, Jeanie Stewart Boyd.

Hall's work at First Presbyterian was indicative of the effort he would put in throughout his life. He preached two sermons every Sunday, made home visits, greeted visitors at his own home, spoke at outside institutions - in short, Hall performed all of the tasks of a minister. His ability at these tasks, and particularly his kindness and grace in performing them, were above and beyond the capabilities of most, at least according to those who knew him.

Hall's efforts revitalized the church from its somewhat enervated state, serving to increase the membership and broaden the church's impact on the surrounding neighborhood. He also met and befriended some of the important people of New York, including the future president of Columbia and mayor of New York, Seth Low.

Over their twenty years in Brooklyn, the Halls had four children: Katharine Stanley in 1886, Basil Douglas in 1888, Eleanor McMaster in 1891, and Theodore Eldridge in 1896.

While living in Brooklyn, Hall still found time to travel around the country to speak at other churches and events. He spoke for the YMCA, Harvard, Wellesley, in Chicago, Boston, New York, and many smaller points in between. Andover Theological Seminary offered him the Chair of Homiletics, a tempting offer that he turned down. Hall was deeply involved with both of his alma maters, Williams College and Union Theological Seminary, speaking at both and becoming a trustee of Williams in 1881 and serving on the Board of Directors of Union beginning in 1883.

It was the connection with Union that provided the next step in Hall's career. As a member of Union's Board, Hall had been intimately involved with the school during the difficult time of the case against Charles A. Briggs, and he stood faithfully by Briggs as the controversy raged. Hall's interest in Union deepened during the early 1890's, and when it became clear that Thomas Hastings was going to step down from the Presidency in 1896, Hall was approached about the job. He agreed to be placed in the running, and in February 1897 he was unanimously elected by the Board of Directors to replace Hastings, taking also the position of Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Pastoral Theology, Church Polity, and Mission work.

Hall's first focus at Union was to bring a more peaceful era to the school than the one that had just ended. Moreover, Hall determined to improve the condition of the physical plant of the school, then located at Park Avenue and 70th street on Manhattan's East Side. The Chapel and the dormitories were refurbished, and a Social Room was created. Many of these improvements were instituted through the generosity of Union supporters like D. Willis James, who was later to prove instrumental in the move from Park Avenue to Morningside Heights.

Unfortunately, Hall's plans to calm the turmoil were upset by new charges against a UTS professor, this time Arthur C. McGiffert. He, like C. A. Briggs before, was accused of heresy against the Presbyterian Church. Again Hall stood by the professors of Union and refused to condemn McGiffert. Hall's staunch support cemented his reputation as a dependable, reasonable leader of the Seminary.

Another of Hall's goals was to increase the social activity of Union, both internally and externally. He became known quickly as a kind man and a friend to both students and faculty, who were invited to visit him any time they needed to. Hall sought and succeeded in developing new Chairs for the school, and brought in distinguished lecturers to speak. All the while Hall continued to guest lecture all across the country. He frequently spoke for the University of Chicago, and this led in 1899 to his appointment as Barrows Lecturer to the Far East. These lectures, sponsored by Caroline Haskell and the University of Chicago, were designed to send Christian ministers to India and elsewhere in Asia and the Pacific to lecture to non-Christians about the nature and value of Christianity. Hall's renown in Christian circles made him a natural for the task, and he was scheduled to lecture in 1902-1903.

Hall was granted a leave of absence by the Seminary, and he and his family sailed for England in the Spring of 1902. They stayed in Britain for about six months, and Hall spent most of his time at Oxford preparing the lecture series. In September they set sail for the east, where Hall presented his lecture series in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), the Philippines, several major cities in India, and finally in Japan before returning to the United States. His lectures were a resounding success, so much so that he would be invited back for the 1906-1907 series.

His return to Union saw much of the usual administrative routine, but the next significant event was the decision to move the Seminary from Park Avenue. The Board and Hall both agreed that expansion was impossible at the present site. Morningside Heights, across town on the Upper West Side, was the only site with enough available land. Moreover, Hall's wish for a closer connection with Columbia University made the area a natural choice. Thanks to the generosity of D. Willis James, the area bounded by Broadway and Claremont Avenue between 120th and 122nd Streets was purchased in 1904 for \$850,000. Hall was pleased by this, but his continuing schedule of both internal and external commitments kept him far too busy to dwell on it for long.

In 1906 he returned to Oxford to prepare for the second set of Barrows Lectures, and in the fall of that year he again set sail for the East with his family. Once more his lectures were extremely well received, but the trip was to have unexpected consequences. Hall apparently contracted a virus, and his health steadily declined over the next year and a half. His schedule of lectures was drastically cut, and by the beginning of 1908 he was too ill to carry on his work. Hall died on March 25, 1908, with memorial services held at Union and at First Presbyterian in Brooklyn. Hall's legacy remains the campus at Morningside Heights that was his dream and the Refectory within that bears his name.

#### Sources:

Hall, Basil D. *Life of Charles Cuthbert Hall: One Among a Thousand*. New York: Carlton Press, 1965.

Handy, Robert T. *History of Union Theological Seminary in New York*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1987.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection is organized in five series. Organization is alphabetical, except where noted.

Descriptive manuscript or typescript notes in some folders appear to be notes written by C. C. Hall's son Basil when he donated the materials to UTS. In some cases, the younger Hall's notes have helped identify the nature, contents, and dates of the materials. They were left within the collection to serve as another source of information.

- **Series 1: Correspondence, 1872-1962 (4 boxes, 1.75 lin. ft.)**

This series contains Hall's correspondence with many individuals. Most of the material is incoming correspondence. Incoming and outgoing letters have been filed together under the name of the correspondent. The letters were originally filed in large alphabetical groups, such as A-F. Most of the letters are now arranged alphabetically, but because of

the large quantity of individual letters, some remain grouped into single letter categories (i.e., F). Groups of letters from more than five different individuals have been left within these single letter categories.

Some correspondence was originally arranged by subject heading and this arrangement has been retained. Subject folders follow the individual correspondents, beginning with box 3, folder 6. Correspondence related to Hall's family has also been retained with the collection, and can be found in series 1, box 2, folder 6.

It should be noted that much of the correspondence in the C.C. Hall Collection appears to have been moved at some point in the past from the [John Crosby Brown collection](#). The bulk of the material, making up most of box 1, consists of Hall's letters to Brown. To refrain from compounding the confusion any further, it was decided to retain the correspondence in the C. C. Hall collection rather than returning it to the J. C. Brown Collection.

Some of the material found in the Hall boxes, however, appears to be solely related to Brown and have no obvious connection to Hall. This has therefore been returned to the J. C. Brown collection. Two of the correspondents, H. T. Newcombe and John B. Shaw, had files in the J. C. Brown collection which clearly belong to the Hall collection; these were shifted into the Hall collection, with explanatory notes on the folders.

- **Series 2: Sermons and Addresses, 1874-1908 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**

Within this series are written copies of sermons and other talks delivered by Hall, both in manuscript and other forms. Sermons have been arranged by title. The dates on the folders represent the first date listed on the sermon, but as Hall frequently reused sermons, additional uses are designated on the finding aid with a (+) symbol. These additional uses were noted by Hall on the back of each manuscript, where he noted the churches and dates that he had used the sermon. Addresses other than sermons by Hall are also arranged by title, and can be found beginning in Box 2.

- **Series 3: Course Notes, 1873-1907 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**

This majority of this series contains notes on courses either taken or given by Hall. Courses include Systematic Theology, The Life of Christ, and Exegesis. Also included are notes on lectures he presented.

- **Series 4: Publicity, 1885-1908 (2 boxes, 0.75 lin. ft.)**

Within this series are various published writings by and about Hall. Included are articles written by or about him, pamphlets and other publications, and news clippings. All have been arranged by title, and in the case of articles, the title of the publication has been written onto its folder.

- **Series 5: General, 1875-1906 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**

This series contains various other materials not directly related to the other series. Contents include posters, reports, event materials, as well as a book of handwritten notes from students at UTS for Hall before leaving on a voyage to England.

## Processing

Three items contained in the collection were found in folders indicating UTS call numbers:

Cage MA5 B9581 Pam Letter Charles Butler to Hall, December 1, 1892 in Series 1, Box 2, Folder 2.

Cage Tx73 HD74 Pam: Obituaries of Hall in Series 4, Box 2, Folder 4

Cage Tx73 HD74 Pam: letter from Hall to UTS students, Feb 25, 1908 Series 1, Box 3, Folder 7.

It appears that the collection contained photographs at one time, but those seem to have been removed. A note was left in the envelope from which they came originally, describing the new locations within the general UTS Photo collection. Much like the J. C. Brown correspondence discussed above, the Archives decided to prevent further confusion by leaving the photographs in their current location. The list created when the switch was made in 1986 can now be found in the Hall collection, series 5, box 1, folder 5, and users wishing to see those photographs should check this list.

There were some handwritten notes on the folders that originally housed the materials that were probably written by Hall's son Basil. When the materials were re-folded, the notes were photocopied and placed in series 5, box 1, folder 5.

When the Burke Library acquired C. C. Hall's papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order utilized by their creator. An original draft was created by Daniel Sokolow in July 1995. At that time the collection was generally organized and the Biographical Note was written. The full finding aid was prepared and written by Brigette C. Kamsler in March 2015 as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. At this time, materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

## Further Sources

A collection of five Buddhist Prayer Flags were sent by the Hall children in 1902 to UTS for inspection by the Seminary students. These are located separate from the archival collection and located with other rare material and assigned the call number BQ5075.P72 B83. For more information, please see the [catalog link](#).

The Burke Library offers a number of other collections related to the people and places covered in the Hall collection, including individuals such as William Adams, Philip Schaff, Charles Briggs, Arthur McGiffert, and Harry Fosdick; and missions and missionaries like Robert E. Hume and Daniel Johnson Fleming. These collections are available in the Union Seminary Archives as well as the Missionary Research Library Archives. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

The [Francis Brown Papers](#) and the [John Crosby Brown Papers](#) were originally part of this collection. Please see their finding aids for more information.

## Contents list

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1872-1962

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Adams, William, 1874-1877 Baldwin, A, [n.d.] Barrett, Harriet K., 1901 Barton, James L., 1901 Baumgartner, A., 1905 Bebb, W.B., 1898 Bewer, Julius A., 1901-1909
1	1	2	Black, Hugh, 1904-1908 Briggs, Charles A., 1894-1901
1	1	3	Brown, Francis A., 1893-1915
1	1	4	Brown, John C. [Incoming], 1885-1908
1	1	5-10	Brown, John C. [Outgoing], 1892-1905
1	1	11	Brown, Mrs. John C., 1905
1	2	1	Brown, John C. [Outgoing], 1906-1907
1	2	2	Brown, William A., 1897-1909 Butler, Charles, 1892 Coe, Edward B., 1898-1901 Coffin, Henry Sloane, n.d.
1	2	3	C, 1901-1903
1	2	4	Dodge, William E., 1897-1903 Doggett, Walton H., 1897-1898 D, 1900-1905 E, 1901
1	2	5	Fagnani, Charles P., 1908 Fleming, D. J., 1906-1915 Ford, Edmund E., 1906 Fosdick, Harry E., 1931 F, 1901-1905 Gillett, Charles R., 1897-1902
1	2	6	Gray, W. C., 1897 Griffin, Henry L., 1903 UTS Archives and Basil D. Hall, 1961-1962 Basil D. Hall, Katherine Hall and Harold H. Tryon, 1905-1961 Hall, Janet, 1905-1908 Harnack, Adolph, 1900
1	2	7	Hastings, Thomas S., 1896-1901 Hitchcock, Roswell D., 1882 Hoyt, Arthur S., 1908 Hume, R. A., 1908 Hume, Robert E., 1905-1908 H, 1900-1906

**Series 1: Correspondence (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	2	8	Iglehart, F. C., 1899 Ioshi, S. L., 1907 James, D. Willis, 1897-1907 Jessup, Charles M., 1908 Jessup, Morris K., [1897?] Judson, Edward, 1901-1902 Kennedy, H. A. A., 1904-1905 Kennedy, John S., 1898-1904
1	2	9	Kingsley, E. M., 1883-1903 Kirkbridge, F. B., 1902 Kissam, Charles T., 1901 Knox, George W., 1897-1908
1	2	10	Lee, Theodore S., 1906 Lee, J. B., 1902 LeFavour, Issachar, 1903 LeForest, Robert, 1901 Lewis, Henry, 1903 Low, Seth, 1881-1908
1	2	11	McAlpin, D. H., 1897 McGiffert, Arthur C., 1899-1901 Morgan, G. Campbell, 1904
1	2	12	M, 1874-1907 Nason, Mr, 1902 Newcomb, H. T, 1905 (Moved from J.C. Brown Collection) [N?], 1901
1	3	1	Ogden, Robert C., 1896-1904 Parkhurst, C. H., 1901-1905 Payne, M. Taylor, 1899 Peabody, George F, 1904 (Polhemus?), R. A., 1901 Prentiss, George L., 1886-1899 Price, Clinton B., 1906
1	3	2	Rockwell, W. W., 1908-1928 R, 1901-1906 Sanday, William, 1901-1906 Sanders, Henry M., 1908 Schaff, Philip, 1888 Shaw, John B., 1901 (Moved from J.C. Brown Collection) Shaw, John B., 1899-1908 Shedd, W. G. T., 1874
1	3	3	Smith, Gerrit, 1901-1908 Smith, Laura, 1903 Southard, George H., 1897



**Series 1: Correspondence (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	3	4	Strong, Augustus W., 1900-1901 S, 1900-1906 T, 1900-1905
1	3	5	Vincent, Marvin, 1896-1908 White, Gaylord S., 1901-1908 W, 1900-1905 Yazdani, G., 1906
1	3	6	Alumni, 1900-1901 Barrows Lectures, 1899-1903 Evangelistic Committee, 1905 Federation of Churches, 1901-1905 Foreign Missions, 1904-1905
1	3	7	Richard Hodge/Course for Lay People, 1902-1907 Korea, 1902 Lectures, 1901 Letterbook from Students, 1906 Memorials to Hall, 1908-1914 UTS and Williams College, 1872-1908 Morningside Buildings, 1906 Oberlin College, 1904-1905
1	3	8	Presbyterian General Assembly, Comm. on Forms of Service, 1903-1906
1	4	1	Presbyterian Historical Society, 1902 Sathianadhan Lectures, 1904-1905 Scholarships, 1901-1905 Springfield, MA, 1903-1905
1	4	2	Thessalonica Agricultural, 1904-1905 UTS Library, 1948-1962 UTS in Virginia, 1905
1	4	3	Vanderbilt University Lectures, 1904-1905 YMCA Convention, 1901 Yale City Government Club, 1905-1906

**Series 2: Sermons and Addresses, 1874-1908**

2	1	1	Seventh Special Service, 1888 Twelfth Special Service, 1889 Twenty Fifth Children's Sermon, 1891 Twenty Ninth Special Service, 1892
2	1	2	American Seaman's Friend Society, 1892 Application of Spiritual Ideas, 1900 (+) Assorted Sermon Notes, n.d. Christ Feeding the Six Thousand/Address on the Jews, n.d. On Christ Leading Souls..., 1894 (+)

**Series 2: Sermons and Addresses (Cont'd)****Series Box Folder Contents****Sermons**

2	1	3	Christ's Three Desires for his Church, 1894 Commemoration of George Washington's Inauguration, 1889 Desires of Parents for their Children, 1904 (+)
2	1	4	Disturbing of Life and the Becalming of Life..., 1901 (+) Eternal Friendships, n.d. Faith Considered as a Life-Power, n.d. Fellowship (Not Controversy) - the Cure for Doubt, 1892 (+)
2	1	5	High Belief: the Lowly Life, 1899 (+) Home Life of Heaven, 1894 (+) Influence of the Holy Spirit, 1907 Influence of Immortality, n.d. Influence of the Resurrection on Social Life, 1897 (+)
2	1	6	Inspiration of Our Later Years, 1907 (+) Larger Meaning of the Incarnation, 1881 (+) Led By the Spirit of God, 1897 (Original and Copy) Living Sacrifice, 1900 (+) On Making the Best of One's Calling, n.d.
2	1	7	Mistakes of Inexperience, 1887 Prayer and Peace of Mind, 1900 (+) Realistic Christianity, n.d. Religious Value of Jewish Trust, 1899 (+) Seeing Only What is Near, 1903 (+) Steps in a Great Decision, 1897 (+)
2	1	8	Steward of God, 1900 (+) Strength, 1901 (+) Then Cometh the Evil One, 1900 (+) Thinkest Thou This to be Right?, 1886 Threshing of the Grain, n.d. Tresco - A Parable for Girls, n.d.
2	1	9	Untitled, 1874; 1901-1907 (+) What is the Attitude..., 1889 Work of the Spirit in the Person of Christ, 1893 (+)

**Addresses**

2	2	1	Arthur Penryn Stanley, n.d.
2	2	2	Assorted Lectures, 1907
2	2	3-6	Barrows Lecture - #1-6, 1902-1903; #2 and #4, 1907
2	2	7	Chicago University Convocation, 1898 Church and Her Young People, 1895 Clef Club Dinner, 1900 Commencement, n.d.
2	2	8-9	Doctrine & Worship, 1907-1908 (Original and Copy) Four Lectures on Missions

**Series 2: Sermons and Addresses (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	2	10	Packer Collegiate Institute Commencement, 1888; 1894 Religion of Thomas a Kempis, 1893 St. Francis of Assisi, n.d.
2	2	11	Seminary and the Ministry, 1898; n.d. Speech to Alumni, 1905 Theology of Teaching, 1904 Value of Church Attendance, n.d.
2	2	12	William B. Noble Lecture #6, [1906?] Educational and Religious Value of YWCA, 1899 YWCA Commencement, 1905
2	2	13	Prayer at Hall's Funeral, 1908 Reminiscences About Dr. C. C. Hall [192?] (Pages Missing) W. Richards at C. C. Hall's Memorial, 1908

**Series 3: Course Notes, 1873-1907**

3	1	1	Assorted Barrows Lectures, 1906-1907 Board of Directors, [1901?] Pages missing
3	1	2	Burial Service Catachetics, n.d.
3	1	3	Church Polity
3	1	4	Cole Lectures, Vanderbilt University, 1905 Four Conferences on Prayer, 1886
3	1	5	Homiletics Course, 1905-1906 Liturgies, n.d. (Pages missing)
3	1	6-9	Missions, 1903-1906
3	1	10	Miscellaneous, Posted by C. C. Hall, 1901-1904 Personal Work, 1901-1902 Principles and Polity of Methodism, 1900 (Pages missing) Religious Education, 1905-1906 [Research?], n.d. [Sermons?], n.d.
3	2	1	Course Notes by C. C. Hall, Varied Professors, n.d.
3	2	2-4	1873-1874
3	2	5	Roswell D. Hitchcock, n.d.
3	2	6	Peter Lorimer, 1874
3	2	7	Philip Schaff, n.d.
3	2	8	W. G. T. Shedd, n.d.

**Series 4: Publicity, 1885-1908****Series Box Folder Contents**

4	1	1	Bearing of Religious Education, 1905 Christ's Early Life, 1907 Christian Belief and Christian Experience, 1905 Church Awakening, 1899 Coming of the Lord, n.d. A Country in Deep Water, 1896 Faithful Unto Death, 1900 Growth of the Soul, 1885 High Ideals, 1890
4	1	2	Ideal Minister: Notes, Manuscript and Copy, 1907 If I Be Lifted Up, 1899 Is Christianity Founded..., 1898 Impressions of the Far East, 1903
4	1	3	An Interview with C. C. Hall, 1902-1903; 1907 Invisible God, 1900 Ministry of Today, 1899 Mr. White and Union Seminary, 1901 Modern Missionary Movement..., 1903 Native Christian Church in Japan..., 1903 Our Unexhausted Possibilities, 1902
4	1	4	Prayer, 1885 A Prophet of Christendom, 1893 Seminary and the World, 1907 William E. Dodge, 1903 College Friendships, 1906 Ideal Minister, 1907 (Reprint)
4	1	5	India Publications, 1906-1907 Pamphlets Spiritual Unity in the Name of Christ, 1899
4	1	6	Texts of Anthems, 1895 Truth in Hymns, 1899 Two Lectures for Students, 1903
4	1	7	Non - Hall Publications
4	2	1-2	News Clippings: India, 1906-1907
4	2	3	News Clippings: 1895-1905
4	2	4	News Clippings: Obituaries, 1908 Published Articles, 1896-1907

**Series 5: General, 1875-1906**

5	1	1	Report: Class of 1875, 1882 Poster: Barrows Lecture Report: Seminary Enlargement, Fragment
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**Series 5: General (Cont'd)****Series Box Folder Contents**

5	1	2	Events, 1900-1905 Events, Memorial Service, 1908 Interview with C. C. Hall, [1897?] Events, Hall's Inauguration, 1898 Program: YMCA Jubilee Convention, 1901
5	1	3	Organizations: League of Catholic Unity, [1895-1896?] Prayer before U. S. Senate, 1906
5	1	4	Book: Messages from UTS Students to Hall, 1906
5	1	5	India Photographs Folder Notes