

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

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Emilie Grace Briggs Papers, 1884 – 1945



Emilie Grace [1868?], UTS1: Charles Augustus Briggs Papers, series 3D, box 1, and folder 4, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Original finding aid prepared by Ruth Mary Pollack, 1985 and Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, 2007
Reviewed and Updated by: Brigette C. Kamsler, June 2015 with financial support from the
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Summary Information

Creator: Emilie Grace Briggs, 1867-1944
Title: Emilie Grace Briggs Papers
Inclusive dates: 1884-1945
Bulk dates: 1900-1941
Abstract: First woman graduate of Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1897 and amanuensis for her father, Professor Charles A. Briggs; teacher of New Testament at the New York Training School for Deaconesses. Collection contains family and publishers correspondence, doctoral dissertation, drafts of books and articles, research notes, bibliography notebooks, collections of devotional quotations, clippings, material relating to her father, memorabilia, and educational certificates.
Size: 15 manuscript boxes and 1 OS box, 8.75 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Emilie Grace Briggs donated her papers to the library of Union Theological Seminary in approximately 1941. The collection received later additions from papers donated by the Briggs family, UTS administration and faculty.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to 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. E.G. Brigg's manuscript doctoral Thesis and her University of Virginia Biographical article on Charles Briggs are fragile. Acid-free copies of the items are available for consultation; please use copies when able. Bibliography notebooks in Series 3 and oversized items in Series 4 are very fragile; please use care when handling.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS1: Emilie Grace Briggs Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Emilie Grace Briggs, daughter of Charles Augustus Briggs and Julia Valentine Briggs, was born in Berlin in 1867. Her father was a Presbyterian (later Episcopal) clergyman and noted Biblical scholar who served on the faculty at Union Theological Seminary (UTS) from 1876 to 1913.

The first woman to receive a Bachelor of Divinity degree from UTS, Emilie graduated first in her class in 1897. She enrolled in the doctoral program and worked toward completion on a dissertation entitled *The Deaconess in the Ancient and Medieval Church* which was accepted by the graduate faculty of UTS towards the doctoral degree. She was unable to receive the Ph.D. however as publication was a doctoral requirement at that time. Despite support from faculty members and repeated attempts over a number of years, her dissertation was never published.

From 1896 to 1915 she taught Greek and New Testament at the New York Training School for Deaconesses located at St. John the Divine Cathedral, wrote her dissertation, and assisted her father on the Hebrew Lexicon and a commentary on Psalms for the International Critical Commentary (ICC) series. She acted as Charles Briggs' amanuensis for much of her adult life before 1913. She published three articles: *Selah* (1899), *Galatians* (1900) and *The Restoration of the Order of Deaconesses* (1913). Additionally, a life sketch of her father for the University of Virginia Alumni Bulletin was published in 1899.

After her father's death in 1913, Emilie worked to prepare his uncompleted projects for publication. *Theological Symbolics* was published in 1914 and the two-volume *History of the Study of Theology* in 1916. A *Theological Encyclopedia* and a commentary on Thessalonians

for the ICC series were completed but never published. She continued to work on the subject of deaconesses, writing two unpublished articles and revising her dissertation (in 1922).

Much of her time and energy was directed towards the joint father-daughter venture of a Commentary on Lamentations. Charles Briggs began the project, and Emilie completed it, contributing additional research, revisions and considerable additions. This, together with a biography of her father planned as late as 1941 but never written, seems to have been what she considered her life's work.

The last years of her life continued to reflect both commitment to academic scholarship and devotion to her father. Emilie died in 1944, at the age of seventy-seven.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The papers of Emilie Grace Briggs include correspondence, the manuscript of her dissertation and copies of other writing, research notebooks, items from her personal library including an extensive collection of 'bibliography notebooks' that catalog authors and publications across a range of religious subject areas, and professional and personal memorabilia. Little of the content illuminates her personality or non-academic life; the collection of clippings and other memorabilia is scanty, and almost as much of it pertains to her father as to her own activities.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of scholarly research and writing, and evidences EGB's molding of her interests to those of her father. While her autonomous publications and research do appear in the collection, material regarding the commentary on Lamentations, although never published, is prominently featured.

The collection is divided into four series, arranged chronologically or thematically and then chronologically:

- **Series 1: Correspondence, 1893-1941 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**
This series contains two major categories: letters from brother, Alanson Briggs, and letters to and from publishers with regard to her own and her father's projects. The letters from her brother (living in California) date from 1928 to 1939. Many have been heavily edited and deal almost exclusively with their shared interest in the Song of Songs. Emilie was apparently concerned with preserving his research, the results of which were never published. Other correspondence in the series includes notes on special and regular domestic events, on her writing, research and publications, and personal and professional condolences regarding her father's illness and death in 1913.
- **Series 2: Primary Research and Writing, 1904-1936 (6 boxes, 3.00 lin. ft.)**
Within this series are Emilie's finished dissertation as well as drafts and exhaustive research notes and notebooks. Additionally, due to the fragile state of the original, there are two copies of the dissertation for consultation, one in bound volumes and the other a collection of loose pages.

Research in preparation for writing *The Deaconess in the Ancient and Medieval Church* occasioned other writing and publication, most notably a 1913 article in *The Biblical World*. The series then moves to her second principal academic endeavor, the commentary on Lamentations, and includes her father's initial research and writing, and her own revisions, extensions and additions.

- **Series 3: Other Research, Writing and Personal Effects, 1891-1932 (8 boxes, 3.75 lin. ft.)**

Within this series are a mixture of Emilie's and Charles' research and personal effects. Emilie's *Selah* article, biblical and devotional texts from her personal library, and her work on the Canticles/Song of Songs (intersecting with Alanson's Briggs study) are featured.

The heart of the series is the thirty-four bibliography notebooks on religious and theological subjects such as church history, diaconal ministry, doctrine, ethics and practical theology. All notebooks from boxes 3 through 7 are fragile due to loose clippings; extra care must be taken when handling.

- **Series 4: Oversize Materials, 1888; 1897 (1 OS box, 1.50 lin. ft.)**

This series includes three oversized certificates of study awarded to EGB which are fragile and rolled. Each item is individually listed.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. 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. The fragile draft of Emilie Brigg's doctoral dissertation was copied onto acid free paper, which is to be consulted in place of the original.

In 2015, the collection was reviewed and updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. The materials were placed in new acid-free, legal size boxes and folders and the finding aid was updated. Folder numberings were condensed, although the separations have stayed the same.

Please note that CAB is used as alternative to Charles Augustus Briggs for brevity throughout the Contents list.

Further Sources

The Burke Library Archives house and offer the collection of Emilie's father, Charles Augustus Briggs. The finding aid for the collection [is available online](#).

The Burke Library offers the collection pertaining to the Song of Songs, which Emilie Grace worked on with her brother Alanson Tuthill Briggs. This finding aid [is available here](#).

Contents list

Series 1: Correspondence, 1893-1941

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Domestic Notes [1893-19??] UTS Graduation, 1897 Thomas Hastings, 1899-1906 Publication of Books and Articles, 1899-1916
1	1	2	UTS Alumni Association, includes Description of War Work, 1907-1940 Julia Valentine Briggs-Letter, Postcards, Apr 1908-Apr 1909 Church of Scotland, July 2, 1909 Condolences, Apr - July, 1913
1	1	3	Charles Briggs' (CAB) Illness-To Agnes Briggs, May 12, [1913] Condolences: Charles Lewis Hattery, May-Sept 1913 Marvin Ronicents, June - July, 1913 Condolences: Francis Brown, Aug-Oct, 1913
1	1	4	William Elliott Griffis, July 1916-Sept 1919 Dr. Hodges- CAB Trial in Bishop Potter Biography, Oct. 12, 1916 Charles McGiffert- EGB Doctoral Candidacy, 1918-1921 Henry Lamb- Puritan Memorial, July 7, 1928
Alanson Briggs			
1	1	5	Notes and Research on Song of Songs [1928-1936] Partial Letters and Fragments [1928-1936]
1	1	6	Musical Settings for Song of Songs, [1928-1936] Song of Songs Notes, Aug-Nov 1928 Mar 1929-Jan 1930
1	1	7	Easter 1932-June 1933 Mar 1934-Dec 1935 List-Bound Article Collections from Journal of Biblical Literature [1936?]
1	1	8	Notes, Jan 1936-Mar 1937 Jan 1938-Apr 1939 Dwight Guthrie-Proposed Dissertation on CAB, Nov 1938-Aug 1941 William W. Rockwell, Feb-Nov, 1940
Publisher Correspondence			
1	1	9	Funk and Wagnalls Co, Dec 12, 1913 Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913-1940 Duckworth and Co., July 1913-Aug 1915 Marvin R. Vincent , June-July 1913 Macmillan, London, Apr-July, 1922
1	1	10	F.J. Foakes-Jackson, Apr-Dec 1922 Cambridge University Press, Sept 1922-Dec 1922 Harvard University Press, 1922-1933 Julius A. Bewer, Dec 31, 1940

Series 2: Primary Research and Writing, 1904-1936

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			Deaconess in the Ancient and Medieval Church: Original
2	1	1-9	[FRAGILE] Dissertation Manuscript, Drafts, Notes Appendices, completed 1913, revised for publication, 1922
			Consultation Copies
2	2		Deaconess in the Ancient and Medieval Church, Bound Volumes
2	3		Deaconess in the Ancient and Medieval Church, Loose pages
			Canon on Deaconesses
2	4	1	Manuscript [1913?] Incomplete Draft, [1913?] Drafts [1913?]
2	4	2	Marriage of a Deaconess-Drafts [1913?] Restoration of Order of Deaconesses, Biblical World XLI, (6) June 1913
2	4	3	Drafts and Research-Deaconess Title/Role in Ancient and Medieval Church [1913?] Draft for Conclusion of Article on Deaconess
			Deaconess Notes
2	4	4	J.A. Assemanus Calvin L. Duchesne, Le Liber Pontificalis Washington Gladden Goar Richard Carolus Ludovicus, Analysis Conciliorum Venetis Mrs. Adolf Spaeth Marriage and Celibacy in Canon Law Canonesses and Deaconesses, 11th-17th Centuries
2	4	5	Comparison of Historic Formulas-Latin Canon Law
2	4	6	Varied Sources
2	4	7	Notebook 2
2	4	8	Notebook: Ordination Rites
2	4	9	Notebook: Orders, Liturgies, Vestments
2	4	10	Notebook
2	4	11	Enlarging the Conception of Office of Deaconess, Rev. William Gardner Deaconess Reader- Contributors include W.W. Rockwell Correspondence- Book Reference, Aug.1904 German
			Commentary on Lamentations
2	5	1	CAB Textual Notes, 1906; EGB Revisions 1923
2	5	2-3	CAB Notes, [1906?]
2	5	4-5	CAB Introduction and Comments, [1906?]; EGB Revisions, [19??]

Series 2: Primary Research and Writing (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			Commentary on Lamentations (cont'd)
2	5	6	Study of Text and Versions, [1935-1936]
2	5	7	Megillot, [1935-1936]
2	5	8	LXX and Other Ancient Greek Versions, [1935-1936]
2	5	9	LXX, [1935-1936]
2	6	1	Vulgate Version Vocabulary, [1935-1936]
2	6	2	Peshitto, [c.1935-1936]
2	6	3-4	Syriac - Hexapla of Paul of Talla, [1935-1936]
2	6	5	Chapters 1-2: Word Study Summary
2	6	6-8	Chapters 2-4: Notebooks

Series 3: Other Research, Writing and Personal Effects, 1884-1932

3	1	1	Selah, American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literature, October 1899 Commemoration Day in Oxford, Christian Union, July 18, 1891 CAB Biblical Theology Course Notes, [189?]
			History of Study of Theology
3	1	2	Outline and Draft Pages, [prior to 1915] History of Study of Theology, Written by C.A. Briggs and Prepared for Publication by EGB, First Printed Signature, 1915 Bibliographical Notes [19??]
3	1	3	Notebook [19??]
			Paul
3	1	4	Lecture, 1923
3	1	5	Lectures [1923?]
3	1	6	Salvation in Romans and Galatians [EGB?], [19??] Philippians Notes [19??] Aramaisms in Canticles (Song of Songs) Notes, 1932
			Research Notes
3	1	7	Aramaisms [1932?] Canticles
3	1	8-10	Canticles Word Study [1938?]
3	1	11	Lives of Illustrious Men [19??] Epistles of Erasmus, by F.U. Nichols [19??]
3	1	12	CAB Works of Westminster Divines [19??]
3	1	13	General [19??]
			Personal Library
3	2	1-2	Devotional Quotations, 4 Volumes Compiled by EGB

Series 3: Other Research, Writing and Personal Effects (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			Personal Library (cont'd)
3	2	3	<i>Bibliotheca Theologica</i>
3	2	4	American Bible Society Isaiah, 1897 Lamentations and Ezekiel, 1915 Jeremiah, 1916
3	2	5	American Publication Society of Hebrew, I Samuel, 1884
3	2	6	Hebrew Bible Psalms (in Hebrew), 1884
			Bibliography Notebooks
3	3	1	Religious Subject Headings
3	3	2	[FRAGILE] Biblical
3	3	3	Biography- 3 Books
3	3	4	Biography, Modern
3	3	5	[FRAGILE] Catechetics
3	3	6	Christian Art and Archaeology
3	3	7	[FRAGILE] Church and Ministry: Pastoral Theology
3	3	8	[FRAGILE] Church Government
3	3	9	[FRAGILE] Church History-2 Books
3	4	1	[FRAGILE] Symbolics- Confessions, Creeds, Councils
3	4	2	[FRAGILE] Councils
3	4	3	[FRAGILE] Devotional Literature
3	4	4	[FRAGILE] Devotional and Christian Literature, 2 volumes
3	4	5	[FRAGILE] Diaconal Ministries, Evangelistic, Home and Foreign Missions, Philanthropy
3	5	1	[FRAGILE] Doctrine
3	5	2	[FRAGILE] Doctrine, Inserts
3	5	3	[FRAGILE] Doctrine 2
3	5	4	[FRAGILE] Doctrinal Theology
3	5	5	[FRAGILE] Doctrinal Theology, Inserts
3	5	6	[FRAGILE] Ethics/Moral Theology-2 Books
3	5	7	[FRAGILE] Greek and Oriental Churches
3	5	8	[FRAGILE] Eschatology
3	6	1	[FRAGILE] Historical
3	6	2	[FRAGILE] Historical Theology
3	6	3	[FRAGILE] History of the Study of Theology
3	6	4	[FRAGILE] Jesus Christ
3	6	5	[FRAGILE] Liturgics
3	6	6	[FRAGILE] Liturgics: Worship
3	7	1	[FRAGILE] Practical Theology
3	7	2	Practical Theology: Modern Preaching

Series 3: Other Research, Writing and Personal Effects (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents****Bibliography Notebooks (cont'd)**

3	7	3	Great Preachers: Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern
3	7	4	[FRAGILE] Sermons
3	7	5	[FRAGILE] Sacraments
3	7	6	[FRAGILE] Theological Encyclopedia and Education
3	7	7	[FRAGILE] Sketch of Charles Briggs by EGB, University of Virginia Alumni Bulletin, 1899
3	8	1	Hamilton Institution Report Card, 1894
3	8	2	[FRAGILE] Newspaper Clippings, 1897-1944
3	8	3	Lectures and Conventions: Programs, 1898 -1912
3	8	4	University of Virginia Alumni Bulletin, 1899 Poem for Father [by Agnes Briggs?], Jan. 5, 1902
3	8	5	UTS Registration Book, 1911
3	8	6	CAB Obituary by EGB, 1913
3	8	7	Notes and Reminiscences, 1913
3	8	8	Account of Father's Illness, March 25-April 28, [1913?]
3	8	9	Election to American Oriental Society, April 10, 1920
3	8	10	Resume [1920?]
3	8	11	Thesis- Length Estimate for Scribner's [192?]
3	8	12	Record of Events- Dwight Guthrie, 1938
3	8	13	W.W. Rockwell Notes- Publication of Commentary on Lamentations, 1945
3	8	14	List of Books in Charles Briggs' Library
3	8	15	Notecards - Bibliography of Books Related to Briggs' Trial
3	8	16	Articles by Charles Briggs- Incomplete List

Series 4: Oversize Materials, 1888; 1897 **[FRAGILE]**

4	1OS	1	<i>Königliches Conservatorium der Musik zu Leipzig</i> Certificate, 1888
		2	UTS [Diploma] Certificate of Theological Study, May 18, 1897
		3	UTS Bachelor of Divinity, University of State of New York, May 18, 1897