

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Horace Bushnell Papers

RG 39



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1977

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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<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>

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Howell Cheney, 1945.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

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

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*

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.

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.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

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

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

Series II: Diaries

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

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.
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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.
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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
Clergy
Congregational churches -- United States
Theology

Genres / Formats

Diaries
Sermons

Occupations

Authors
Theologians

Names

Bushnell, Horace, 1802-1876