Nels F. S. Ferré Papers

This is the original finding aid that was prepared by Andover Newton Theological School library staff prior to the collection’s transfer to the Yale Divinity School Library in 2017.

The Ferré papers are now Record Group 286 at the Yale Divinity School Library. The finding aid available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.286 should be used to retrieve materials for use. This original finding aid is made available in order to provide additional detail about the collection.

If you have questions, please contact the Yale Divinity Library at divinity.library@yale.edu
OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION:

Creator: Ferré, Nels F. S.
Title: Ferré, Nels F. S. - Papers
Date: Donor: Gift- Katharine Ferré, 1986
Quantity: 7 feet
Location: C.S. Mss. 1991-1
Biography

Nels F.S. Ferre was born in Sweden in 1908, and came to the United States at the age of 13. He received his undergraduate degree from Boston University in 1931. His interest in philosophy and theology led him to pursue the B.D. degree at Andover Newton; he graduated with the class of 1934. He received the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1936 and 1938 respectively. His doctoral work included a year of study at the universities of Uppsala and Lund. He was ordained to the Congregational ministry in 1934.

It was as a teacher and writer that Ferre made his major contributions to American thought. Academic appointments included the following: Instructor in Philosophy (1937-1939) and Abbot Professor of Christian Theology (1939-1950, 1957-1965), Andover Newton Theological School; Professor Philosophical Theology (1950-1957), Vanderbilt University; Scholar in Residence (1965-1968), Parsons College; Ferris Professor of Philosophy (1968-1971), College of Wooster. In addition, he was visiting professor at several institutions and offered many lectureship series.


Nels Ferré died in Wooster, Ohio, in 1971.

Scope and Content

The Nels F. S. Ferre Papers, 1940-1968, document his professional work. The collection is arranged according to the following categories: diaries, date/address books, lecture notes, unpublished literary manuscripts, notes on readings, and collected articles and dissertations written about Ferre.

Refer to faculty publication register for itemization of Ferre's publications.
BOX 1

Diaries
1940, 1942, 1945, 1959 (in folder)

Date/Address Books

Correspondence
06/26/1953  John to NFSF
09/09/1958  Gustaf Wingren to NFSF (in Swedish)
09/19/1960  Paul Tillich to NFSF
04/02/1963  Gustaf Aulen to NFSF (in Swedish)
06/26/1968  George P. Chandler to NFSF
n.d.        NFSF to Wayne (regarding resignation of NFSF from Parsons College as of 09/01/1968)

Lecture Notes
1969        College of Wooster, Phil339, Whitehead Contemp.

BOX 2

Unpublished Literary Manuscripts
A Charge to Danforth Teachers
The Christian Basis for Family Life
The Christian in Business
A Christian Pilgrimage (Prayer Service, 1944)
The Explanatory Word (described as Section I; alternate title on p.1 is The Method of a Universal Theology)
   Chapter I:  Revelation and Reason (pp.1-39)
   Chapter II: Revelation and History (pp.40-81)
   Continuation of text, but with different pagination, apparently a different version of the manuscript.
   Chapter III: Revelation and Scripture (pp.58-85)
   Chapter IV: Revelation and Myth (pp.86-136)
   Chapter V: Explanation and Directed Seeing (pp.137-159)
   Chapter VI: On Faith as a Theological Method (pp.160-179)
   Chapter VII: On Personal Seeing and Corporate Worship (pp.180-195)

The Fabric of Paul Tillich's Theology
Hope by Stereotype
Learning and Life
The Place of Philosophy in the Curriculum
Relation of the Church to the War in the Light of the Christian
Unpublished Literary Manuscripts (cont.)

Faith (1944)
Theology and the Modern Student
Theses on the Freedom of the Will, for the D Society, Cambridge University

Personal Library Holdings
(includes various undated lists)

BOX 3
Notes on Readings
This material consists of typed or handwritten notes and quotations on 3x5 and 4x6 index cards. The first part consists of cards as organized by NFSF, both by author and by topic. The second part consists of cards which had not been organized by NFSF; these are now organized into uncategorized notes and an alphabetical organization of authors quoted.

Notes on Authors: (organized by NFSF)
Adams-St. Simon

BOX 4
Smith, N.K.-Yuase

Notes on Topics: (organized by NFSF)
Art-Holy Spirit

BOX 5
Incarnation-XIV: Catalogue of Reality, Love

BOX 6
Uncategorized Notes
Quotations: (arranged alphabetically by author)
A

BOX 7
B-G

BOX 8
H-R
undated
"Ferre, unfair, uninformed." (letter to editor in unidentified periodical)

Fuller, David, Otis. THE BLASPHEMIES OF NELS FERRE. Grand Rapids MI: Wealthy St. Baptist Church.

1944

1950


1953
Yamaka, Shiroshi. "Correspondence from America with Sketches, no. 42." MUTSU-SHIMPO 2630 (Apr. 10, 1953). (Japanese original with English translation)


1954

"What They Think."(excerpts from speech) NEWSWEEK (November 8, 1954): 65.

1956
[Incomplete article in which NFSF is quoted] CHRISTIAN LIFE (Mar.-Apr. 1956): .

Articles about NFSF (cont.)


folder 2
1957
. "How to Lecture on Theology When It's Ninety-Five in the Shade." BRITISH WEEKLY 140/3688 (July 18, 1957): 1. (9 pictures, Front Page, comments by Ed.)


"Vespers Draws Outstanding Theologians." PEABODY REFLECTOR 30/4 (May-June 1957): 130.

1958


1959


1968

Reviews of NFSF Books
folder 1
1957

1958

1959


1960


folder 2
1963

1967

1968

1969

1970

Dissertations on NFSF

Schrag, Oswald O. EXISTENTIALISM AND RATIONALISM IN THE THOUGHT OF NELS F. S. FERRE. Boston: Boston University Graduate School, 1952.


Chandler, George Patterson. THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEOLOGICAL METHOD IN NELS FERRE. Atlanta: Emory University Graduate School, 1967.

Unpublished Papers on NFSF
Robert Brank Fulton, "Towards a fuller inter-faith dialogue." (undated, but after 1967)