

## 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](mailto:divinity.library@yale.edu)

ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
FRANKLIN TRASK LIBRARY  
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Ferré, Nels F. S.  
An Inventory of His Papers

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION:

Creator:

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. Ferré 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 Ferré 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.

Ferré's publications include the following books: **Swedish Contributions to Modern Theology** (1939), **The Christian Fellowship** (1940), **The Christian Faith, An Inquiry into its Adequacy as Man's Ultimate Religion** (1942), **Return to Christianity** (1943), **Faith and Reason** (1946), **Evil and the Christian Faith** (1947), **Pillars of Faith** (1948), **Christianity and Society** (1950), **The Christian Understanding of God** (1951), **Strengthening the Spiritual Life** (1951), **The Sun and the Umbrella** (1953), **Christian Faith and Higher Education** (1954), **Making Religion Real** (1955), **Christ and the Christian** (1958), **Know Your Faith** (1959), **Searchlights on Contemporary Theology** (1961), **God's New Age** (1962), **The Finality of Faith** (1963), **Reason in Religion** (1963), **A Theology for Christian Prayer** (1963), **The Living God of Nowhere and Nothing** (1966), **A Theology for Christian Education** (1967), and **The Universal Word** (1969).

Nels Ferré died in Wooster, Ohio, in 1971.

## Scope and Content

The Nels F. S. Ferré 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 Ferré.

Refer to faculty publication register for itemization of Ferré's publications.

BOX 1

Diaries

1940, 1942, 1945, 1959 (in folder)

Date/Address Books

1944, 1945, 1947 (2), 1951, 1952, 1951-52, 1953, 1954, 1955,  
1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965 (2), 1966,  
1967

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

BOX 9

S-Z

BOX 10

folder 1

Articles about NFSF

undated

"Ferré, unfair, uninformed." (letter to editor in unidentified periodical)

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

1944

Pierce, Richard D. "Nels Fredrick Solomon Ferré." ADVANCE (January 1944): 6-7.

1950

Björn, Thyra and Margaret Ferré. "A Boy Who Dared to Dream." YOUNG PEOPLE 70 (July 16, 1950): 1, 6. (2 copies)

"Redaktionens Spalt: Se På Klockan!" UNGA KAMRATER 10 (Mar. 5-11, 1950): 2.

1953

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

Soper, David Wesley. "The Postcritical Theology of Nels F.S. Ferré." Chap. in MAJOR VOICES IN AMERICAN THEOLOGY. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1953. pp. 73-105

1954

LeQuire, Louise. "Creative Art Marks Many New Churches." NASHVILLE BANNER (Sep. 16, 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): .

Hordern, William. "The Theology of Nels Ferré." THE PASTOR 19 (Feb. 1956): 10-12.

Articles about NFSF (cont.)

Pemberton, Prentiss L. "An Examination of Some Criticisms of Talcott Parsons' Sociology of Religion." JOURNAL OF RELIGION 36 (Oct. 1956): 241-256.

Soper, David Wesley. "The Sufficiency of God: The Postcritical Theology of Nels F.S. Ferré." BRITISH WEEKLY (Aug. 9, 1956): 9, 11.

White, S.S.. "The Controversy Between Ferré and Tillich, I." THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE 31/9 (Sep. 1956): 1-5.

White, S.S.. "The Controversy Between Ferré and Tillich, III." THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE 31/11 (Nov. 1956): 16-20.

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.)

Ilico. "An Unsatisfactory Conversation." 139/3673 BRITISH WEEKLY (Apr. 4, 1957): 4.

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

1958

Bradley, William L.. "Theology a Live Topic at Boston." ADVANCE 150/13 (July 8, 1958): 8-10.

Gray, Wallace. "Whitehead and Ferré Discuss God." THE HIBBERT JOURNAL 56/125 (Apr. 1958): 262-272.

1959

Clark, Gordon H. "The Theology of Nels F.S. Ferré." THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL 17/46 (Mar. 18, 1959): 6-9.

. "Dr. Nels F.S. Ferré." (editorial) OPINION (July, Aug., Sep. 1959): 8-9.

. "Graham and Ferré" THE BRITISH WEEKLY 143/3777 (Apr. 2, 1959): 6.

Gray, Wallace. "Issues in Contemporary Evangelism, I: Billy Graham Meets Nels Ferré." RELIGION IN LIFE 28/2 (Spring 1959): 163-180.

Johnson, Robert Clyde. "The Normative Theology of Nels F.S. Ferré." in AUTHORITY IN PROTESTANT THEOLOGY. ed. Robert Clyde Johnson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959. pp. 153-161.

folder 3

1960

"About the New Mood in Politics." [incomplete article in which NFSF is quoted] ESQUIRE (Jan. 1960): .

Gray, Wallace. "Billy Grahams Theologie?" MONATSCHRIFT FUR PASTORALTHEOLOGIE 49/9 (Sep. 1960): 359-371.

Gray, Wallace. "Nels Ferré and Reinhold Niebuhr Discuss War." CANADIAN JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY 6/4 (Oct. 1960): 237-261.

folder 4

1962

Nelson, Alvin F. and Gustave A. Ferré. "God as Agape." in BASIC PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES. : Educational Publishers, 1962. pp. 321-326.

1963

Cobb, John B. "On Being Post-Christian." CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE 7/12 (June 6, 1963): 12-13.

Dawson, John B. "Nels Ferré, Who Proved Prayer's Power." in PEOPLE OF PRAYER. Nashville: Upper Room, 1963. pp. 46-51.

Haas, Theodore E. "The Extreme Middle in Christian Theology: An Interpretation of Nels Ferré." THEOLOGY AND LIFE 6/2 (Summer 1963): 144-153.

Parrinder, E. G. "Religion Today. 16. Is the World Council in Heresy?" THE HIBBERT JOURNAL 61/243 (July 1963): 161-164.

1965

Duthie, Charles. "The God Who Is Involved: The Theology of Nels Ferré." BRITISH WEEKLY (Dec. 2, 1965): 12-13.

Duthie, Charles. "The Problem of Evil." BRITISH WEEKLY (Dec. 9, 1965): 9.

Duthie, Charles. "The Theologian for Today: Nels Ferré." BRITISH WEEKLY (Nov. 25, 1965): 10-11.

1966

Dean, Larry. "Dr. Ferré Delivers 1st Lecture at BYU." DAILY UNIVERSE [Brigham Young University] (Feb. 1966): 1-2.



1968

Gray, Wallace. "God Is Dead -- Or Is He?" COMMUNIO VIATORUM 1-2 (1968): 39-60.

Reviews of NFSF Books

folder 1

1957

Barclay, William. "Review of 'Strength to Live with God.' by Nels F.S. Ferré." THE EXPOSITORY TIMES 68 (May 1957): 255-256.

1958

McCracken, Robert J. "Review of 'Christ and the Christian.' by Nels F.S. Ferré." WESTMINSTER BOOKMAN 17/4 (Dec. 1958):5-6.

1959

"Dr. Nels Ferré's 'Christ and the Christian'." THE EXPOSITORY TIMES 70/7 (Apr. 1959): 193-195.

Albritton, Walter M. "Review of 'Know Your Faith' by Nels F.S. Ferré." THE NEW CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE (Sep. 1959): 84-85.

Johnson, Robert Clyde. "Review of 'Know Your Faith' by Nels F.S. Ferré." THE WESTMINSTER BOOKMAN 18/3 (Sep. 1959): 7-8.

1960

Luecke, Richard. "Christ and the Christian, by Nels F.S. Ferré." THEOLOGY TODAY 16/4 (Jan. 1960): 530-539.

Temple, Howard. "Notes on the Theologian's Comment on Hermeneutics." JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE 79/2 (1960): 164-166.

folder 2

1963

Miller, William Robert. "Review of 'God's New Age' and 'The Finality of Faith.' by Nels F.S. Ferré." FELLOWSHIP 29/17 (Sep. 1, 1963): 28-29.

1967

Homrighausen, E.G. "Review of 'A Theology for Christian Education.' by Nels F.S. Ferré." RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 62 (Nov.-Dec. 1967): 528-530.

Rood, Wayne R. "Review of 'A Theology for Christian Education.' by Nels F.S. Ferré." RELIGION IN LIFE 36/4 (Winter 1967): 617-619.

1968

Cobb, W. Daniel. "Review of 'The Living God of Nowhere and Nothing.' by Nels F.S. Ferré." ENCOUNTER 29/2 (Spring 1968): 218-219.

1969

Tait, Gordon L. "The Universal Word and Its Author." WOOSTER ALUMNI MAGAZINE 84/1 (Oct. 1969): 10-12.

1970

Durfee, Harold A. "Review of 'The Universal Word.' by Nels F.S. Ferré." RELIGION IN LIFE 39/1 (Spring 1970): 148-149.

Dissertations on NFSF

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

Moissides, George Lazarus. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE THEOLOGY OF HENRY NELSON WEIMAN AND OF THE THEOLOGY OF NELS F. S. FERRE. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, 1955.

Molloy, Vincent P. THE CHRISTOLOGY OF NELS F. S. FERRE. Rome: Catholic Book Agency, 1965.

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)