

The Archive of Women in Theological Scholarship
The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary

Finding Aid for

Rosemary Radford Ruether Papers, 1954 – 2002



Finding Aid prepared by: Patricia E. LaRosa, March 2006

Summary Information

Creator: Rosemary Radford Ruether, 1936 -
Title: Rosemary Radford Ruether Papers
Inclusive dates: 1954 – 2002
Bulk dates: 1970 – 2000
Abstract: Theologian, Professor Emerita of Applied Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, author; primary theologian for feminist theology; liberation theology, women and the third world, Palestinian issues, anti-Semitism, environment. Journal and newspaper articles; sermons and addresses; audio taped lectures; conference notes; course outlines; correspondence; bibliography, awards, photos, artwork, miscellaneous.
Size: 7.5 linear ft, 15 boxes
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
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Administrative Information

Provenance: This collection was donated by Rosemary Radford Ruether in May 2002

Access restrictions: This collection is unrestricted with the exception of 2 folders:
Series 7 Box 2 f 3 Correspondence restricted to 2076 and
f11 a Merton watercolor for display or restricted consultation only

Preferred Citation: item description, Rosemary Radford Ruether Papers, series #, box #, folder #, Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary.

Biography

Rosemary Radford was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1936. Her father died when she was twelve years old and her mother then moved the family to California. Rosemary graduated La Jolla High School as the commencement speaker. She studied the Classics at Scripps College in Claremont, and graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor's degree. She received her Master's degree in Historical Theology at Claremont Graduate School in 1960, and her Doctorate in Patristics in 1965, also from Claremont Graduate School, while at the same time having married Herman J. Ruether in 1957 and raising three children.

Ruether taught at Howard University in Washington DC from 1965 to 1975, continuing her commitment to civil rights, which began in Mississippi as a Delta Ministry Volunteer in 1965. She taught her first feminist theology classes when she was a visiting professor at Harvard Divinity School in 1972. Various schools invited Ruether as visiting professor, among them Princeton Theological Seminary, Yale University Divinity School, Sir George Williams University in Montreal, and Claremont School of Theology in California.

From 1976 to 2002, Ruether taught at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary as the Georgia Harkness Professor of Applied Theology. Ruether's theological work evolved through teaching, writing, traveling and speaking in those years. Several of Ruether's published works have become seminal texts: *Sexism and God-Talk* (1983) as a systematic approach to feminist theology; *Liberation Theology* (1976) has been translated into several languages; *The Wrath of Jonah: The Crisis of Religious Nationalism in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (1989) explores Holocaust theology and its rationale for power in the hands of the formerly powerless.

Before retiring in 2005, Rosemary Radford Ruether taught at Graduate Theological Union. Ruether has published thirty-six books and over 600 articles. She is the recipient of nine honorary doctorates and numerous awards. Of her long career in theological exploration, Ruether wrote, "*I have been privileged to have strayed into this path and found myself led by whatever combination of instinct and divine grace causes one to explore mile after mile of a particular path of thought and life... It is as much a direction into which I have been led as it is one that I have consciously chosen. Like so many other travelers on this path, we can only say to each other, 'here we must go; we cannot do otherwise.'*"

Collection Scope and Content Note

- Series 1. Correspondence , 1 box

This series includes correspondence to, from and concerning many individuals and organizations. Included in the correspondence is an 18 month exchange with Thomas Merton; correspondence with Pax Christi on the Julie Raino case; National Catholic Reporter and Marjorie Tuite; Gustavo Gutierrez;. Issues include politics, theology, writings, conferences. The series is organized chronologically.

- Series 2. Education / Biographical, 4 boxes + 1 OS box

This series contains Ruether's undergraduate papers and thesis, master's thesis and draft notes from her doctoral dissertation; autobiographical writings on childhood, family and early life; many honorary degrees and awards; several interviews about Ruether which appeared in magazines and/or newspapers.

- Series 3. Courses / Teaching / Administration, 1 box

Included in this series are Ruether's course outlines, syllabi, or lists of courses taught at Scripps College, Howard University, Harvard Divinity School, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; guest lecturer courses; list of supervised doctoral dissertation projects; student writings in feminist theology courses.

- Series 4. Sermons and Addresses, 2 boxes

This series begins with a list of speaking engagements from 1967-2002, prepared by Ruether; a chronological arrangement of typed sermons and addresses, including the Philadelphia ordinations statement of 1974; a chronological arrangement of conference lectures on audio/video cassettes: topics include liberation theology, sexism, feminist theology, gender, ecofeminism.

- Series 5. Speaking trips and Conferences, 1 box

The conferences Ruether attended include the women's ordination conference in Detroit, CELAM III Latin American Bishops Conference in Puebla, EATWOT in Costa Rica ; Ruether also attended conferences in Jerusalem, Cuba, India, South Africa, Nicaragua. Several conference files have formal reports written by Ruether; also newspaper articles, Ruether's handwritten notes in diary or itinerary form, and various conference materials.

- Series 6. Writings, 4 boxes

The writing series begins with Ruether's listing of her own publications, up to May 2001; newspaper and journal articles arranged in files by years from 1963-2002; *National Catholic Reporter* columns 1982-2002; and an unpublished book manuscript, *The Messiah of Israel and the Cosmic Christ*.

- Series 7. Miscellaneous, 2 boxes

This series includes several dissertations written about Ruether's work; two manuscripts on Ruether's works by Mary Tardiff; lecture posters; Ruether's watercolor travel books; a Merton watercolor.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired Rosemary Radford Ruether's papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order she imposed throughout the course of her career.

Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were interleaved with acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

Contents List

Series 1. Correspondence

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| 1 | 1 | 1 | Correspondence: Ruether-Merton, Jan-Dec 1967, including three essays by Thomas Merton: <i>Three Saviors</i> , 1966; <i>The Monastic Renewal: Problems and Prospects</i> , 1966; <i>Auschwitz: A Family Camp</i> , 1967 |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | Correspondence, 1960-1975 |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | Correspondence, 1976-1980 |
| 1 | 1 | 4 | Correspondence re: Jemima Wilkinson portrait, 1983 for <i>Women and Religion in America</i> |
| 1 | 1 | 5 | Correspondence re: National Catholic Reporter column, <i>Polarization in Israel</i> , 1984 |
| 1 | 1 | 6 | Correspondence, 1981-1985 |
| 1 | 1 | 7 | Correspondence, 1986-1990 |
| 1 | 1 | 8 | Correspondence re: The Eighth of May Movement, 1991; [Dutch Roman Catholic reform movement]; <i>The Eighth of May Movement</i> , article, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1990 [authorship unknown] |
| 1 | 1 | 9 | Correspondence re Julie Raino case, 1992 |
| 1 | 1 | 10 | Correspondence re <i>Ecofeminism in the third world</i> , 1993-1995 |
| 1 | 1 | 11 | Correspondence with Pax Christi re: Marjorie Tuite, 1995 |
| 1 | 1 | 12 | Correspondence re: Gustavo Gutierrez, 1997 |
| 1 | 1 | 13 | Correspondence, 1991-2002 |

Series 2. Education / Biographical

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| 2 | 1 | 1 | College papers: Scripps College, 1954-1958 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | <i>Historical and textual analysis of the relationship between futurism and eschatology in the apocalyptic texts of the inter-Testamental period</i> , BA degree thesis, Scripps College, May, 1958 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | <i>A study of the political career of the domitii ahenobarbi in the republican period</i> , Masters thesis, Claremont Graduate School, 1960 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | Graduate School papers, 1961, 1962 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | Gregory letters 1-50: notes for Ph.D. dissertation |
| 2 | 1 | 6 | Gregory letters 25-28, and 58-101: notes for Ph.D. dissertation |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | Gregory 2 nd Letter to Cledonius: notes for Ph.D. dissertation |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | Gregory letters 103-150, 227: notes for Ph.D. dissertation |
| 2 | 2 | 3 | Gregory letters 51-58, 107-119, 151-180, and 186-240: notes for Ph.D. dissertation |
| 2 | 2 | 4 | Personal stories, 1961-1964: On leaving/not leaving the Church |

Series 2. Education / Biographical (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents**

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| 2 | 2 | 5 | Personal stories, 1961: Biography of childhood, including memorial for mother, and for sister, Nanette |
| 2 | 2 | 6 | Personal Stories, 1961-1964: Reflections on Father D |
| 2 | 2 | 7 | Personal Stories: <i>Fotheringay</i> , written by Robert Armstrong Rather |
| 2 | 2 | 8 | Articles about Ruether, 1969-1993 |
| 2 | 2 | 9 | Delta Ministry volunteer/Freedom movement, Mississippi, 1965 |
| 2 | 2 | 10 | Hon. doctoral certificate, Emmanuel College, Boston, MA, 1982 |
| 2 | 2 | 11 | Hon. doctoral certificate, Wittinberg University, Springfield Oh, 1983 |
| 2 | 2 | 12 | Hon. doctoral certificate, Walsh College, Canton, Oh, May 5, 1984 |
| 2 | 2 | 13 | Hon. doctoral certificate, Saint Olaf College, Northfield MI, 1984 [Framed] |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | Hon. doctoral certificate, De Pauw University, Greencastle IN, 1986 |
| 2 | 3 | 2 | Certificate, Women's ordination conference, April 16, 1988 |
| 2 | 3 | 3 | Certificate of appreciation, Loyola University, 1989 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | Certificate of appreciation, Association of Arab-American University Graduates, Nov 4, 1989 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | Hon. doctoral certificate, Merrimack College, May 19, 1991 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | Merrimack College: photo album, commencement brochure, 1991 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | Hon. doctoral certificate, St. Bernard's Institute, 1992 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | Doctorate citation, St. Bernard's Institute, 1992 |
| 2 | 3 | 9 | Fellowship of Christian Ministers 25 th Assembly, <i>Dance of Life</i> , Jul 31, 1993 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | University of Edinburgh graduation ceremony, July 1994, videocassette, VHS NTSC |
| 2 | 4 | 2 | A "Croning" in Honor of RRR [instead of advisory meeting]: flyer and photos, Dec 6, 1996 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | Claremont Graduate University Hall of Fame certificate, Oct, 2000 |
| 2 | 4 | 4 | <i>Ruether joins Graduate Theological Union faculty</i> , clipping from Graduate Theological Union brochure, Spring, 2000 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | Vision Keeper award, Evanston Ecumenical Action Council, 2002 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary retirement resolution re: RRR, May 22, 2002 Faculty statement, faculty photo, portrait photo |
| 2 | 4 | 7 | Ruether retirement conference program, April 3-4, 2002 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | Original binder for "Croning" celebration, 2:4:2 |
| 2 | 5-OS 1 | | Norman Thomas-Eugene V. Debs Award, hand-lettered, 1980 |
| 2 | 5-OS 2 | | Hon. doctoral certificate, with portrait, Hamilton College, 1983 |

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2 5-OS 3 Photo album: World Academic Conference of the Seoul Olympiad, Aug – Sep, 1998

2 5-OS 4 De Pauw University photo and degree, brass plaque mounted on wood, 1986

Series 3. Courses / Teaching / Administration

3 1 1 Scripps College: Humanities III course outline, annotated bibliography, 1963-1964

3 1 2 Scripps College: Humanities I lecture notes and bibliography, 1964 -1965

3 1 3 Howard University: course syllabi, 1968 -1975

3 1 4 Harvard Divinity School course syllabi, 1972-1973: [Theology 171, 172 were RRR's first feminist theology courses; Theology 173 was the basis for book, *Faith and Fratricide*]

3 1 5 Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary: syllabi, 1976-2002

3 1 6 List of doctoral dissertations and masters theses advised by RRR or where RRR served on the committee

3 1 7 Student writings: feminist theology, 1985

3 1 8 Student writings: feminist theology, 1986, 1987

3 1 9 Student writings: feminist theology, 1988, 1991-1993

3 1 10 Student writings: feminist theology, 1994

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Series 4. Sermons and Addresses

4 1 1 List of speaking engagements, 1967-2002

4 1 2 Sermons and Convocation published addresses, 1983 -1994

4 1 3 *Mary's Pence*: script for soundtrack for PR video, 1988

4 1 4 Boston Affirmations Statement, ms notes by Harvey Cox, 1975

4 1 5 The Validity of the July 29, 1974 ordination in Philadelphia, by RRR, typescript with annotations, Aug 1974

4 2 1 *Interviews with Women Scholars*, audio cassette, 1973

4 2 2 Women, Home and Work: The Double Exploitation, audio cassette, 1979

4 2 3 *Sexism and God-Talk: Two Models of Relationship*, audio cassette, 1979

4 2 4 *Women and the Church*, Troy Conference, 1981, audio cassette 1

4 2 5 *Liberation Theology*, Troy Conference, 1981, audio cassette 2

4 2 6 *Homosexuality, Religious Life and the Clergy*, Dr. John Boswell, 1985, audio cassette

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| 4 | 2 | 8 | <i>Interfaith Panel</i> , Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem, Dec 19, 1988, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 9 | <i>Feminist theology and solidarity</i> , Tokyo, 1988, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 10 | <i>Ecumenism and Muslims and Jews</i> , May 11, 1994 videocassette, VHS NTSC, 90' |
| 4 | 2 | 11 | <i>Models of Church and State</i> , 1998, videocassette, VHS NTSC, 45' |
| 4 | 2 | 12 | <i>Liberation Theology</i> , Jan 6, 1998, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 13 | <i>Background on Nicaragua</i> , Jan 7, 1998, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 14 | <i>Gender Analysis on Cuba & Nicaragua</i> , Jan 8, 1998, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 15 | <i>Gender Analysis on Cuba & Nicaragua</i> , Jan 8, 1998, audiocassette [2nd copy] |
| 4 | 2 | 16 | <i>Information about the Biblical University of Latin America</i> , Elsa Tamez, Pres., Costa Rica, Jan 9, 1998, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 17 | <i>Ecofeminism: Costa Rica</i> , Jan 19, 1998, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 18 | <i>Ecofeminism: Costa Rica</i> , Jan 19, 1998, audio cassette [2nd copy] |
| 4 | 2 | 19 | <i>Let's Talk: Women Church</i> , Feb 16, 1998, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 20 | <i>Sustainability Segment</i> , KMCU 90.3FM Seattle, Dec 11, 1998, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 21 | <i>Reclaiming Our Spirituality</i> , Women Healing, Earth #1, from Sophia Center July, 1999, audio cassette |
| 4 | 2 | 22 | <i>Faith Matters: Women & Religion Internationally</i> , Mar 5, 2000, audio cassette |
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Series 5. Speaking trips and Conferences

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| 5 | 1 | 3 | Leadership Conference of Women Religious Newsletter, Jan 1977 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | CELAM III [<i>Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano</i> – Latin American Bishops Conference], Puebla, 1978: Notes, working documents, articles, <i>Mujeres para el dialogo</i> papers |
| 5 | 1 | 5 | CELAM III: Working document for conference |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | CELAM III at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 1979: course description, consultation |
| 5 | 1 | 7 | World Student Christian Federation Theological Conference, Haugtun, Norway, <i>The Bible and Our Future</i> , 1979, 1 vol. |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | Jerusalem Women's Seminar, 1981: Notes, correspondence |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | Theological Encuentro, Cuba, Jun 1988: schedule, diary, articles |

Series 5. Speaking trips and Conferences (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents**

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| 5 | 1 | 10 | South Africa seminars, lectures and workshops, Jul-Sep 1989: notes re itinerary, diary; report; newspaper articles; course handouts; pamphlets |
| 5 | 1 | 11 | Guest Lecturer Feminist Theology Seminars, India, Dec 1990- Feb 1991: itinerary/diary and report |
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| 5 | 1 | 13 | Catholics for a Free Choice, Latin America, Aug, 199?: itinerary / diary |
| 5 | 1 | 14 | Women's Commission of EATWOT and First World Feminist Theologians, Costa Rica, Dec, 1994: itinerary / diary |
| 5 | 1 | 15 | Invitation to speak at "Marianum," Pontifical Symposium, Rome, Oct 1994 [Invitation cancelled by intervention of Cardinal Ratzinger: See <i>National Catholic Reporter</i> Article, Sept. 1994, series 6 box 3 file 15, <i>What if theologians ignored Vatican blackout on theology?</i>] |
| 5 | 1 | 16 | Alternatives to Consumerism Conference, Bangkok, 1997: Letter, program, 2 reports by RRR |
| 5 | 1 | 17 | Bosnia and Croatia, Jun 21-24, 1997: Diary, clipping from <i>Chicago Tribune</i> , Jul 27, 1997 |

Series 6. Writings

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| 6 | 3 | 16 | <i>National Catholic Reporter</i> columns, 1996 – 2002 |
| 6 | 3 | 17 | <i>Per una teologia della liberazione della donna, del corpo, della natura</i> , Giornale Di Teologia 96, 1976 |
| 6 | 3 | 18 | <i>Prophetic tradition and liberation of Women: Promise and betrayal</i> , Journal of Theology for Southern Africa. No. 69-73, Dec 1990, p. 24-33. |
| 6 | 3 | 19 | Rich nations/poor nations: Towards a just world order in the era of neo-colonialism, Reprinted from <i>Christian Spirituality in the United States: Independence and Interdependence</i> , Proceedings of the Theology Institute of Villanova University, 1978. |
| 6 | 3 | 20 | <i>Ecofeminism: First and third world women</i> , Ecotheology, Jan 2, 1997, p. 72-83. |
| 6 | 3 | 21 | Journal edition: Women and Therapy, Vol. 16, Nos.2/3, 1995: [special edition: Women's spirituality, women's lives] <i>Feminist metanoia and soul-making</i> , p. 33-44. |

Series 6. Writings (Cont'd)

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| 6 | 3 | 22 | <i>Ripensare la creazione e la distruzione. La rivalutazione del corpo nell'eco-femminismo</i> , Concilium, 2/2002 |
| 6 | 3 | 23 | Notes on Jewish feminist theology, ms, unpublished, undated. |
| 6 | 4 | | <i>Messiah of Israel and the Cosmic Christ</i> , 1975, unpublished ms, 460 pp. |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | <i>Messiah of Israel and the Cosmic Christ</i> , title page, table of contents, preface i-viii |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | <i>Messiah of Israel and the Cosmic Christ</i> , Part I, p. 1-25 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | <i>Messiah of Israel and the Cosmic Christ</i> , p. 26-50 |
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Series 7. Miscellaneous

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| 7 | 1 | 1 | Evans, Ruth. <i>Woman As Other: A Study of Alienation in Rosemary Ruether, Mary Daly and Sheila Collins.</i> , MA thesis, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, 1980. |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | Vaughan, Judith. <i>Sociality, Ethics, and Social Change: A Critical Appraisal of Reinhold Niebuhr's Ethics in The Light of Rosemary Radford Ruether's Works</i> , Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Chicago, 1982. |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | Weir, Mary Kathryn Williams. <i>The Concept of Freedom in the Work of Rosemary Radford Ruether</i> , PhD thesis, St. Mary's College, The University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 1982. [Signed by author and Rev. Steve Mackie] |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | Buersmeyer, David A. <i>Rosemary Radford Ruether's Feminist Theology and Its Dogmatic Theological Foundations</i> . Licentiate in Sacred Theology dissertation, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 1986. [Personal note from author] |

Series 7. Miscellaneous (Cont'd)

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| 7 | 1 | 5 | Van Kollenburg Olga. Analyzing Ruether's <i>Sexism and God-Talk</i> , doctoral dissertation, Tilburg, 1986 [in German] |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | Tardiff, Mary. <i>RRR: a bibliography of twenty-five years, 1963-1988</i> , 1987 [with letter from Mary Tardiff] |
| 7 | 2 | 2 | <i>At Home With the World: The Letters of Thomas Merton and RRR</i> , manuscript by Mary Tardiff |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | Correspondence: Mary Tardiff and RRR re: book and Gregory Baum/RRR correspondence [Restricted to 2076] |
| 7 | 2 | 4 | Posters advertising RRR lectures |
| 7 | 2 | 5 | Pauli Murray, <i>Black Theology and Feminist Theology</i> , Anglican Theological Review, Jan, 1978 offprint; inscribed to RRR |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | <i>A Citizen's Guide to the Right Wing</i> , by Americans for Democratic Action; <i>The Mystery of Iniquity</i> , by Dr. Wesley A. Swift |
| 7 | 2 | 7 | The Sister Fund Special Report, pamphlet |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | RRR travel art book, 10" x 15" |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | RRR travel art book, 6 1/2 "x 8 1/2 " |
| 7 | 2 | 10 | RRR watercolor pad, 1976 |
| 7 | 2 | 11 | Black and white watercolor by Thomas Merton, gift to RRR by artist [For display only; restricted consultation] |