

**The Burke Library Archives  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

**Ralph W. Sockman Papers, 1937-1945**



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Archival Source: UTS Records Series 18

Finding Aid prepared by: Deyse Bravo 2009

**Summary Information**

Creator: Ralph Washington Sockman, 1889-1970  
Title: Ralph W. Sockman Papers, 1937-1945  
Inclusive dates: 1937-1945  
Bulk dates: 1937-1945  
Abstract: Pastor Emeritus of Christ Church (1917-1961); National Radio Pulpit Speaker (1928-1962); Author; UTS Associate Professor (1950-1957); Harry Emerson Fosdick Visiting Professor at UTS (1963-1964); President of Board of World Peace of Methodist Church (1928-1960); Director of Hall of Fame for Great Americans (1948-1970); Transcripts of National Radio Pulpit addresses.  
Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-851-5612  
Fax: 212-851-5613  
Email: [archives@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:archives@uts.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance: Donated by Rev. H.H. Kumnick, Lutheran minister and Dean of students at Valparaiso University, via his nephew Richard Jacky and transmitted to The Burke Archives by Robert Shuster of Wheaton College, BGC Archives.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email [archives@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:archives@uts.columbia.edu), as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, UTS1: Ralph W. Sockman Papers, 1937-1945, Series #, box #, and folder #, Union Theological Seminary Archives in The Burke Library (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary, New York

### Biography

Ralph W. Sockman was born on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1889 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He studied at Ohio Wesleyan University and in 1913 received an M.A. from Columbia University. In 1916 he graduated from Union Theological Seminary and married Zellah Endly that same year. He went on to receive his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Sockman completed 34 seasons as a featured speaker of the Sunday morning NBC radio network's National Radio Pulpit, a post also held by Harry Emerson Fosdick. He was pastor emeritus of the Christ Church (Methodist) in New York City for 44 years and president of the Board of World Peace of the Methodist Church from 1928 to 1960. In 1948 he was elected as director, for his lifetime, of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

Sockman served as Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary from 1950 to 1957. He also served as Visiting Professor of Homiletics at Yale Divinity School. From 1963 to 1964, he filled the Harry Emerson Fosdick Visiting Professor position at Union Theological Seminary. Sockman was the author of over twenty books, including *Live for Tomorrow*, *Higher Happiness*, and *Now to Live!* (reprinted in 2007), and wrote a nationally syndicated column entitled *Lift for Living*.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

This small collection consists of 5 folders of mimeographed sermons organized into a single series.

- **Series 1: Radio Pulpit Addresses, 1937- 1945 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**  
This series contains many of Sockman's addresses from National Broadcasting Company's (NBC) radio program the National Radio Pulpit, organized by date. Included in the series are also addresses delivered by guest speakers in Sockman's absence. These speakers include Dr. Fred Field Goodsell, Dr. William Thomson Hanzche, Dr. Alfred Grant Walton, Dr. Leslie Bates Moss, Dr. L. Wendell Fifield, and Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert. Each folder includes a list in which the addresses are itemized by date and title.

**Processing**

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.

**Contents list****Series Box Folder Contents****Series 1: Radio Pulpit Addresses, 1937 - 1945**

1	1	1	National Radio Pulpit Addresses, Feb-Dec 1937 Includes Addresses by Guest Speaker Dr. Fred Field Goodsell
1	1	2	National Radio Pulpit Addresses, Jan-Dec 1938 Includes Addresses by Guest Speaker Dr. William Thomson Hanzche and Dr. Alfred Grant Walton
1	1	3	National Radio Pulpit Addresses, Jan-Apr 1939 Includes Address by Guest Speaker Dr. Leslie Bates Moss
1	1	4	National Radio Pulpit Addresses, Apr-Dec 1944 Includes Address by Guest Speaker Dr. L. Wendell Fifield
1	1	5	National Radio Pulpit Addresses, Jan-May 1945 Includes Addresses by Guest Speakers Dr. Alfred Grant Walton and Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert