

**The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries)
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives

Finding Aid for

Reginald Humphrey Helfferich Papers, 1835 – 1981

Finding Aid prepared by: Melissa Lemons, Aug 2007

Summary Information

Creator: Reginald Humphrey Helfferich, 1905 – 1981
Title: Reginald Humphrey Helfferich Papers
Inclusive dates: 1835 – 1981
Bulk dates: 1930 – 1972
Abstract: Evangelical and Reformed Church pastor; Church World Service of NCCC. Sermons and talks, news clippings, photographs of family and field visits in Africa, Europe, and Asia. Family history and documentation of five generations of pastors of the Reformed Church in the U.S. German prayer books and liturgical literature.
Size: 3 boxes, 3.25 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

Administrative Information

- Provenance: The collection was donated between the 1970s and 1990s.
- 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, as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Please note that certain materials are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Reginald H. Helfferich, box #, The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Biography

Reginald H. Helfferich was born in Pennsylvania in 1905. He graduated from Ursinus College in 1928 and from the Theological Seminary of the University of Chicago in 1932. Rev. R. H. Helfferich served as pastor of Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church in Bath, Pennsylvania for 18 years. He was the fifth generation of Helfferichs to serve as ministers in the Reformed Church U.S.A. and his ancestors had been ministers in Europe.

He served as General Secretary of the Division of World Service for the Evangelical and Reformed Church from 1946-1961, and for the United Church Board for World Ministries for the United Church of Christ from 1961-1971. He served the Church World Service (CWS) of the National Council of Churches of Christ from 1949-1970 and their Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) until 1972. In these roles he visited 160 countries and worked in 41 of them.

Germany awarded him the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, the government's highest honor, in 1961 for his work in Europe following World War II. Rev. Helfferich served on the Board of Directors of the Heifer International Foundation from 1949-1975. He died June 28, 1981.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection contains Helfferich's pastoral papers as well as world service reports and travel documents. Family history papers include documents from earlier generations of Helfferichs. The collection is organized thematically.

Box 1 contains family history, personal documents, and sermons.

Box 2 contains correspondence and reports of his field visits in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.

Box 3 contains memorabilia from both personal and professional venues (photographs, scrapbooks, diapositive slides, audiograms, film and correspondence).

Processing

Metal clips were removed from materials. 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. Further physical processing is necessary for photographs, film and clippings.

Contents list

| Box | Contents |
|------------|---|
| 1 | Family History: pamphlets, letters, photographs Passports and travel documents Postcards (sent and blank): Germany, Norway, U.S., Haiti, etc. German language prayer books, 1835, 1838, 1846, 1857 R.H. Helfferich sermons, talks & memorial service |
| 2 | Correspondence and reports on Africa, incl. Botswana, Namibia, Uganda and Haiti Scrapbook of project newsletters, National Council of Churches of Christ, Church World Service and the Commission on World Service of the Evangelical and Reformed Church Miscellaneous correspondence Photographs and correspondence from Europe |
| 3 | Helfferich Family Daily Expense Reports, 1916-1921 R. H. Helfferich Appointment books, 1945-1946 Audiograms [recordings] of family members and talks Photographic Slides: Ecuador, Honduras, Chile, Algeria, Burundi, Congo and Angola, Burundi, Jordan, Niger and Ghana, Uganda, Poland and Naples, New Zealand Photographs: Ecuador, summer 1951 16 mm film reel Scrapbook of pictures of India, 1959 |