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Guide to the Langdon Gilkey Papers 1921-2004



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Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary	3
Information on Use	3
Access	3
Citation	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope Note	4
Related Resources	5
Subject Headings	6
INVENTORY	6
Series I: Personal	6
Series II: Correspondence	7
Series III: Teaching	10
Series IV: Writings and Research	12
Series V: Audio-Visual	31
Series VI: Restricted	32

Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.GILKEYL
Title	Gilkey, Langdon. Papers
Date	1921-2004
Size	11 linear feet (23 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Langdon Brown Gilkey taught at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago from 1963 until his retirement in 1989. He was a prominent protestant theologian, an expert on the relation between science and religion, and a key respondent to the rise of intelligent design as a way of teaching creationism. During 1940-1945 he taught at Yenching University (now part of Peking University) in Beijing, China, then occupied by the Japanese, and from 1943 to 1945 he was interned along with other Allied civilians at the Weihsien Internment Camp (or Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center). The collection contains official and personal correspondence, notes, manuscripts and typescripts, newspaper clippings, postcards, periodicals and other publications, photographs, and administrative documents dating between 1934 and 2004. The bulk of the material dates between 1940-1945 and 1954-2004. The papers primarily document Langdon Gilkey's life in China during the Second World War and his professional career as theologian, academician, and professor at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago and other institutions.

Information on Use

Access

Series VI of the collection contains evaluative student materials, which are restricted for eighty years after the date of record creation.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Gilkey, Langdon. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Biographical Note

Langdon Brown Gilkey (b. 1919 and d. 2004) was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. His father, Rev. Charles W. Gilkey (1882-1968), was chaplain of the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel

on the campus of the University of Chicago and Associate Dean of the Divinity School. Langdon Gilkey acquired his A.B. from Harvard University in 1940 and a joint Ph.D. from Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in 1954. Gilkey taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York from 1949 to 1950, Vassar College from 1951 to 1954, and Vanderbilt University from 1954 to 1963. In July 1963 he was appointed to the faculty of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. After his retirement in 1989, Gilkey taught periodically at the University of Virginia and Georgetown University.

From 1940 to 1942, Gilkey taught at Yenching University (now part of Peking University) in Beijing, China, which was then occupied by the Japanese. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States and Japan formally entered in to war, and Gilkey was interned along with other Allied civilians by the Japanese in the Weihsien Internment Camp in Shandong, China from 1943 until the end of the war; this act may be seen as a retaliation to the forceful relocation of Japanese Americans by the United States. Gilkey discussed the formative impact of this experience in *Shantung Compound: The Story of Men and Women Under Pressure* (1968), and he revisited the compound in 1995.

A prominent American Protestant Theologian, Langdon Gilkey authored fifteen books and several hundred scholarly articles during his career. He systematically outlined his theology in three major works: *Naming the Whirlwind: The Renewal of God-Language* (1969), *Repeating the Whirlwind: A Christian Interpretation of History* (1976), and *Message and Existence: An Introduction to Christian Theology* (1979). He is best known for his writings on science and religion, including *Creationism on Trial: God at Little Rock* (1985) that builds upon his testimony at *McLean v. Arkansas*, a landmark case on the teaching of creationism in public schools. Gilkey wrote authoritatively on twentieth-century theologians Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich; both were his teachers at Union Theological Seminary. Gilkey also fostered exchanges between theological traditions. He offered a Protestant perspective on the theological movements of Vatican II in *Catholicism Confronts Modernity* (1975). He authored articles and reviews on Christian-Buddhist dialogues and taught at Kyoto University in Japan in 1975.

Scope Note

The Langdon Gilkey Papers are organized into six series: Series I: Personal; Series II: Correspondence; Series III: Teaching; Series IV: Writings and Research; Series V: Audio-Visual; and Series VI: Restricted. The collection contains official and personal correspondence, notes, manuscripts and typescripts, newspaper clippings, postcards, periodicals and other publications, photographs, and administrative documents dating between 1934 and 2004. The bulk of the material dates between 1940-1945 and 1954-2004. The papers primarily document Langdon Gilkey's life in China during the Second World War and his professional career as theologian, academician, and professor at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago and other institutions.

Series I, Personal, contains materials primarily related to Gilkey's pre-professional life and personal activities. Highlights of the series are materials documenting Langdon Gilkey's activities in Japanese-occupied China during the Second World War from 1940-1945. These materials include letters between Gilkey and his family. Many of them show the difficult modes of communication between Allied-controlled and occupied territories during the Second World War; after Pearl Harbor, Gilkey had to rely on middlepersons or the Red Cross to contact his family. Also notable are records of the kitchen of the Weihsien Internment Camp (1943-1945); the Japanese let the civilian internees govern the Camp by themselves, and from 1943 to 1945 Gilkey worked as a manager of the Camp's kitchen. Also included are pamphlets, maps, and other materials related to Yenching University (now part of Peking University). This series also includes some of Charles Gilkey's papers.

Series II, Correspondence, contains Gilkey's letters from and to his professional colleagues, including his past students, and other academic institutions. Due to their evaluative nature, letters of recommendation are included in Series VI, restricted. Gilkey's personal correspondence from China is included in Series I, Personal.

Series III, Teaching, contains Gilkey's lecture notes, syllabi, and other materials related to his teaching at Union Theological Seminary, Vassar College, Vanderbilt University, the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, the University of Virginia, and Georgetown University. It also contains materials documenting Gilkey's teaching at Japan (1975) and Hong Kong (2001-2002).

Series IV, Writings and Research, constitutes the bulk of the collection. It mainly consists of Gilkey's writings in a variety of formats: notes, conference presentations, articles, talks, speeches, sermons, and court testimonials. It also includes his collection of academic essays, articles, and periodicals, as well as the travel documents, pamphlets, and correspondence specifically related to the academic events he attended. Highlights of this series are drafts of Gilkey's publications and different versions of his articles or conference presentations.

Series V, Audio-Visual, consists of portraits of Gilkey and a few unidentified photographs, which could be family pictures.

Series VI: Restricted, contains Gilkey's evaluated work from college and graduate school, and student grades, letters of recommendation, and other evaluative materials from his teaching. Materials are restricted for eighty years after the date of record creation.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

Gilkey, Charles Whitney Papers

Subject Headings

- Gilkey, Langdon Brown, 1919-2004
- Gilkey, Charles Whitney, 1882-1968
- University of Chicago
- Theology—Study and teaching—United States
- Theology—United States
- Creationism—United States
- Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center

INVENTORY

Series I: Personal

This series mainly documents Gilkey's pre-Professional life and personal activities. It also includes Charles Gilkey's correspondence in relation to Langdon Gilkey's activities in China, as well as Charles Gilkey's papers. Materials are ordered chronologically.

Box 1

Folder 1

College and Graduate School Papers, circa 1933-1948

Box 1

Folder 2

Correspondence from China [1/3], 1940

Box 1

Folder 3

Correspondence from China [2/3], 1941

Box 1

Folder 4

Correspondence from China [3/3], 1942-1495

Box 1

Folder 5

Writings in China, 1942

Box 1

Folder 6

Weihsien Internment Camp Records [1/2], 1943-1944

Box 1

Folder 7

Weihsien Internment camp Records [2/2], 1945

Box 1

Folder 8

"Life in an Internment Camp," 1945

Box 1

Folder 9

Correspondence of Charles Gilkey, 1928-1945

Box 2

Folder 1

Charles Gilkey's Papers, 1921-70

Box 2

Folder 2

Harvard 25th Reunion, 1965

Box 2

Folder 3

Koinonia Partners, Brochures and Newsletters, 1973-1975

Box 2

Folder 4

The University of Chicago Magazine, 1983

Box 2

Folder 5

Memorial Service for Ioan Culianu, University of Chicago, 1991

Box 2

Folder 6

Miscellaneous materials on health and medicine, 1991

Box 2

Folder 7

"Fifty Years Later: Shantung Compound Revisited," 1995

Box 2

Folder 8

Newspaper Clipping – The Highlander, 1996

Box 2

Folder 9

Newspaper Clipping – Washington Post, 1999

Box 2

Folder 10

News Paper Clipping – The New York Times, 1999

Series II: Correspondence

This series mainly contains Gilkey's correspondence with professional colleagues and academic institutions. Materials are ordered according to the last names of the correspondents.

Box 2

Folder 11

Anderson, Per, 1990

Box 2

Folder 12

Bessler, 1990-1997

Box 2

Folder 13

Billington, John, 1993-1994

Box 2

Folder 14

Brown, Charles, 1989

Box 2

Folder 15

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, 1993

Box 2

Folder 16

Christopherson, John, 1993

Box 2

Folder 17

Creel, Austin B., 1990-1991

Box 2

Folder 18

Deschich, Carol, 1991

Box 2

Folder 19

Hartshorne, Charles, 1965

Box 2

Folder 20

Hefner, Philip, 1994-1995

Box 2

Folder 21

Hendricks, Charles, 1990

Box 2

Folder 22

Hersey, John, 1984-1985

Box 2

Folder 23

Hoshinski, Thomas, 1986

Box 2

Folder 24

Lippitz, Charles, 1991

Box 2

Folder 25

Mamouth College, 1992

Box 2

Folder 26

NEH Institute, 1991

Box 2

Folder 27

O'Brien, Bill, 1993

Box 2

Folder 28

Ogletree, T.W., 1969

Box 2

Folder 29

Olivetti, Marco M., 1991

Box 2

Folder 30

Pasewark, Kyle, 1993-1995

Box 2

Folder 31

Payne, Richard J, 1986

Box 2

Folder 32

Pool, Jeff D., 1994-1995

Box 2

Folder 33

Pultz, David, 1996

Box 2

Folder 34

Reeves, Gene, 1995

Box 3

Folder 1

Rike, Jennifer, 1995-1996

Box 3

Folder 2

Scharf, Uwe Carsten, 1993-1994

Box 3

Folder 3

Starr, Cole, 1996-1997

Box 3

Folder 4

Sifton, Elisabeth, 1997

Box 3

Folder 5

Spahn, Jeffrey, 1992

Box 3

Folder 6

Stetson University, 1992-1993

Box 3

Folder 7

Vahanian, Gabriel, 1996

Box 3

Folder 8

Wilson, Richard F, 2003

Box 3

Folder 9

Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1990-1998

Box 3

Folder 10

Summer Correspondence, 1992

Box 3

Folder 11

Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1993-1996

Series III: Teaching

This series contains Gilkey's lecture notes, syllabi, and other materials related to his teaching. Materials are grouped according to the related courses and institutions and are ordered chronologically.

Box 3

Folder 12

Vanderbilt University – Seminar on Augustine, 1955

Box 3

Folder 13

Vanderbilt University and University of Chicago – “History of Christian Doctrine,” 1955, 1964

Box 3

Folder 14

Vanderbilt University – Lectures for Ministers Conference, 1955-57

Box 3

Folder 15

Vanderbilt University – Seminars on Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich, 1956-1961

Box 3

Folder 16

Vanderbilt University – “The Church and the World,” 1958, 1962

Box 3

Folder 17

Vanderbilt University and the University of Chicago – “History of Christian Doctrine,” 1959, 1969

Box 3

Folder 18

Vanderbilt University – Courses on Luther and Calvin, 1962-1963

Box 3

Folder 19

Vanderbilt University – REL 356 “Development of Liberal Theology,” 1963

Box 3

Folder 20

University of Chicago – “The Nature of the Church,” 1962-75

Box 3

Folder 21

University of Chicago – “History of Christian Thought,” 1965

Box 3

Folder 22

University of Chicago and University of Virginia – Miscellaneous, 1966-93

Box 4

Folder 1

University of Chicago – CT 315/CT 461 “Problematic Theology/Issues and Problems in Contemporary Theology,” 1969-1972

Box 4

Folder 2

University of Chicago – “Philosophy of Religion II,” circa 1970

Box 4

Folder 3

University of Chicago – Courses on Alfred North Whitehead, 1972-1976

Box 4

Folder 4

University of Chicago – “Religious Thoughts to 1500,” 1975

Box 4

Folder 5

University of Chicago – CT 305 “Introduction to Theology,” 1976-1980

Box 4

Folder 6

University of Chicago – “Theology of History II,” 1976

Box 4

Folder 7

University of Chicago – Courses on Niebuhr, 1977-1984

Box 4

Folder 8

University of Chicago – “History, Historicity, and Narrative,” 1978-1983

Box 4

Folder 9

University of Chicago – SC 321 “Religion and Modern Culture,” 1983, 1986

Box 4

Folder 10

University of Chicago – Various Lecture Notes, 1984-1987

Box 4

Folder 11

University of Chicago – CT 457 “Religion and Science”

Box 4

Folder 12

University of Chicago – CT 405 “Søren Kierkegaard,” 1986-1987

Box 4

Folder 13

University of Chicago – “Doctrine of God” and “God and other Religions,” 1987

Box 4

Folder 14

University of Chicago – CT 499 “Religion and the Religious,” 1988

Box 4

Folder 15

University of Chicago – Teaching Notes, 1990

Box 4

Folder 16

University of Virginia – RELG 565 “Theology of Augustine,” 1991-1996

Box 4

Folder 17

University of Virginia – RELG 562 “The Development of Liberal Theology,” 1993

Box 4

Folder 18

University of Virginia – Theology 320 “The Issue of Religious Pluralism,” 1993

Box 4

Folder 19

University of Virginia – RELG 565 “The Philosophy of Whitehead,” 1994

Box 4

Folder 20

Lecture at George Washington University, 1994

Box 5

Folder 1

Courses on Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr at Various Institutions, 1995-1999

Box 5

Folder 2

Georgetown University et al – “Religion and Science,” 1995-1999

Box 5

Folder 3

Georgetown University – Theology 320 “Pluralism,” 1995-1997

Box 5

Folder 4

University of Virginia – Theology 138/Religion 347 “Religion and Science,” 1997-1998

Box 5

Folder 5

Lecture Notes for Teaching in Japan, 1973-1975

Box 5

Folder 6

Teaching Materials for Seminars in Japan, circa 1975

Box 5

Folder 7

Chung Chi College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong – RST 2232 “God, Creation, and Eschatology,” 2001-2002

Box 5

Folder 8

Lecture on Reinhold Niebuhr, 2001

Box 5

Folder 9

“Secularism, Fundamentalism, and the Religious Dimension,” ND circa 2000s

Series IV: Writings and Research

This series mainly consists of Gilkey’s academic writings and other documents related to his professional activities. Materials in this series are ordered chronologically.

Box 5

Folder 10

“Leibniz and Santayana: a Rationalist and a Naturalist Compared,” 1940

Box 5

Folder 11

Writings of Reinhold Niebuhr, 1942-1945

Box 5

Folder 12

Notes on Alfred North Whitehead, 1948-1969

Box 6

Folder 1

Notes on Classical Backgrounds, circa 1950

Box 6

Folder 2

Luther Reading Notes, circa 1950

Box 6

Folder 3

Notes on John Dewey, circa 1950-1954

Box 6

Folder 4

“Maker of Heaven and Earth,” PhD Thesis [1/3], 1950-1954

Box 6

Folder 5

“Maker of Heaven and Earth,” PhD Thesis [2/3], 1950-1954

Box 6

Folder 6

“Maker of Heaven and Earth,” PhD Thesis [3/3], 1950-1954

Box 6

Folder 7

Thesis Book I and Notes, 1952

Box 6

Folder 8

Thesis Book I, 1950-1954

Box 7

Folder 1

Thesis Book II, 1950-1954

Box 7

Folder 2

Thesis Part III, 1950-1954

Box 7

Folder 3

Thesis Part III, 1950-1954

Box 7

Folder 4

Articles and Reviews at Vassar College, 1954

Box 7

Folder 5

Abstract of PhD Thesis, 1954

Box 7

Folder 6

Papers and Notes at Vassar College, 1954

Box 7

Folder 7

Articles and Reviews at Vassar College, 1955

Box 7

Folder 8

Sermons, 1956-1992

Box 7

Folder 9

Articles and Reviews at Vanderbilt University, 1956

Box 7

Folder 10

Articles and Reviews at Vanderbilt University, 1958

Box 8

Folder 1

Christianity and Crisis Volume 20, 1960

Box 8

Folder 2

Two Essays on Biblical Theology, circa 1960

Box 8

Folder 3

Articles at Vanderbilt University, 1961-1962

Box 8

Folder 4

Articles and Reviews at Vanderbilt University, 1962

Box 8

Folder 5

Lectures on Romans in Nashville, 1962

Box 8

Folder 6

"The Idea of Providence in Contemporary Theology," 1962-1963

Box 8

Folder 7

"Holy, Holy, Holy," 1963-1964

Box 8

Folder 8

Original Manuscripts of New Published Materials, 1963-1969

Box 8

Folder 9

"Some Problems in the Concept of Providence," circa 1963

Box 8

Folder 10

“How I am making up my mind,’ 1964-1965

Box 8

Folder 11

Article in The Baptist Student, 1965

Box 8

Folder 12

“Dissolution and Reconstruction in Theology,” 1965

Box 8

Folder 13

“Is God Dead?” 1965

Box 8

Folder 14

Notes on Alfred North Whitehead, 1965-1983

Box 8

Folder 15

Preface to “Man is Estrangement,” 1965

Box 8

Folder 16

Paul Tillich’s Christology, 1965-1980

Box 8

Folder 17

“Projection Theories and Magical Practices,” 1965-1988

Box 8

Folder 18

Review, Adams, Paul Tillich’s Philosophy of Culture, Science, and Religions, 1965

Box 8

Folder 19

Review, Cobb, A Christian Natural Theology, 1965

Box 8

Folder 20

Review, McKelway, The Systematic Theology of Paul Tillich, 1965

Box 8

Folder 21

“Secularism’s Impact on Contemporary Theology, “1965

Box 8

Folder 22

“The Darwinian Controversy and Christian Thought,” circa 1965

Box 9

Folder 1

“The Implications for Theological Reflections of Scientific Breakthroughs,” circa 1965

Box 9

Folder 2

Miscellaneous Articles, 1966-1975

Box 9

Folder 3

Articles and Reviews, 1966-1967

Box 9

Folder 4

“Religion and the Secular University,” 1966-1969

Box 9

Folder 5

Review, Löwith, Nature, History, and Existentialism, 1966

Box 9

Folder 6

“Social and Intellectual Sources of Contemporary Protestant Theology in America,”
1966-1967

Box 9

Folder 7

“The God is Dead Theology,”

Box 9

Folder 8

Time Magazine Articles, 1966

Box 9

Folder 9

“The Authority of the Bible,” 1966

Box 9

Folder 10

Articles and Reviews, 1967

Box 9

Folder 11

“Evolutionary Science and the Dilemma of Freedom and Determinism,” 1967-1968

Box 9

Folder 12

“Security and Modern Theology,” 1967

Box 9

Folder 13

“American Policy and the Just War,” 1968

Box 9

Folder 14

“Modern Myth-Making and the Possibilities on the Twentieth-Century Theology,” 1968

Box 9

Folder 15

“Morality and the Law,” 1968

Box 9

Folder 16

Review, Jenkins, The Christian Belief in God, 1968

Box 9

Folder 17

Review, Schubert, The Reality of God and Other Essays, 1968

Box 9

Folder 18

“Student radicals are right,” 1968

Box 9

Folder 19

“The Contribution of Culture to the Reign of God,” 1968-1968

Box 9

Folder 20

“The Idea of God from the Enlightenment to Modern Times,” 1968-1969

Box 9

Folder 21

“The Priesthood in the Modern World View,” 1968

Box 9

Folder 22

“The Problem of God,” 1968-1969

Box 9

Folder 23

“The Religious Dimensions of the Secular,” 1968

Box 9

Folder 24

“Is Faith Possible in a Secular Age,” 1969

Box 9

Folder 25

“Reflection on the End of an Era,” 1969

Box 9

Folder 26

“Anatomy of Reconciliation,” 1969

Box 9

Folder 27

Letters and Unpublished Manuscripts, 1969-1970

Box 10

Folder 1

“The Future of Empirical Theology,” 1969

Box 10

Folder 2

“Trends in Protestant Apologetics,” 1969

Box 10

Folder 3

“Biblical Symbols in a Scientific Culture,” 1970

Box 10

Folder 4

Notes, 1970

Box 10

Folder 5

Notes on Karl Barth, 1970-1991

Box 10

Folder 6

“Religious Dimensions of Scientific Inquiry,” 1970

Box 10

Folder 7

Review, Rahner, Spirit in the World, 1970

Box 10

Folder 8

“That Mysterious Sleeping Dragon,” 1970

Box 10

Folder 9

Theology in the Seventies, 1970

Box 10

Folder 10

“Comments on Emmanuel Levinas’s Tonalite et Infini,” 1970-1971

Box 10

Folder 11

“Process Theology,” 1971

Box 10

Folder 12

“The Role of Philosophy,” 1971

Box 10

Folder 13

“The Student Revolt,” 1971

Box 10

Folder 14

“Technology, History, and Liberation,” 1972-1973

Box 10

Folder 15

“The Myth of the Mythless Society,” 1972

Box 10

Folder 16

“To the Bennes: Presumptuous Comments on some of his paintings,” 1972

Box 10

Folder 17

Review, Dupre, The Other Dimension, 1972

Box 10

Folder 18

Review, Niebuhr, Experiential Religion, 1972

Box 10

Folder 19

“The Spirit and the Discovery of Truth through Dialogue,” 1972-1973

Box 10

Folder 20

Review, Pannenberg, Basic Questions in Theology, 1973-1974

Box 10

Folder 21

Speeches, 1973-1974

Box 10

Folder 22

“The Eternal God: Eternal Ground of New Possibilities,” 1973-1974

Box 10

Folder 23

“Theology in the Divinity School,” 1973

Box 10

Folder 24

“The Problem of a Nineteenth Century Theology,” 1973

Box 10

Folder 25

“The Structure of Academic Revolutions,” 1973

Box 11

Folder 1

“Reinhold Niebuhr’s Theology of History,” 1973-1974

Box 11

Folder 2

Review, Heilbroner, The Human Project, 1974

Box 11

Folder 3

“Robert Heilbroner’s Vision of History,” 1974

Box 11

Folder 4

“The Meaning of Watergate,” 1974

Box 11

Folder 5

Lectures in Japan, 1975

Box 11

Folder 6

“The Future of Science,” 1975

Box 11

Folder 7

Papers on Secularization,” 1976-1981

Box 11

Folder 8

“The Contribution of Theology to the Comprehension of History,” 1976

Box 11

Folder 9

“The Dialectic of Christian Belief,” 1976

Box 11

Folder 10

“The Search for Meaning,” 1976

Box 11

Folder 11

Writings, 1976-1978

Box 11

Folder 12

Articles and Notes on Wilfred Cantwell Smith, 1977-1981

Box 11

Folder 13

Notes on Cosmologies, circa 1977-1986

Box 11

Folder 14

“Religion and the American Future,” circa 1977

Box 12

Folder 1

The Christian Century, containing exchanges between Langdon Gilkey and Avery Dulles, 1977

Box 12

Folder 2

“The Church and the University,” 1977

Box 12

Folder 3

“The Mystery of Being and Non-Being,” 1977

Box 12

Folder 4

“Responses to Peter Berger,” 1978

Box 12

Folder 5

“The Political Dimensions of Theology,” 1978

Box 12

Folder 6

“The Uses of Phenomenology in Systematic Theology,” 1978

Box 12

Folder 7

“Towards a Redefinition of Universal Salvation in Christ,” 1978

Box 12

Folder 8

Writings, 1978-1981

Box 12

Folder 9

Writings, 1978-1984

Box 12

Folder 10

“History, Providence, and the People of God,” circa 1979

Box 12

Folder 11

Papers on Religion and Science, 1979-1980

Box 12

Folder 12

“Scripture and History,” 1979

Box 12

Folder 13

“The AAR and the Anxiety of Non Being,” 1979

Box 13

Folder 1

Arts of Ministry, 1989-1982

Box 13

Folder 2

"Church, University, and Culture in Nashville," circa 1980

Box 13

Folder 3

"Is Religious Faith Possible in an Age of Science," 1980

Box 13

Folder 4

"Lakatos and the Philosophy of Dubitability," circa 1980

Box 13

Folder 5

"Philosophy and Theology of History," 1980

Box 13

Folder 6

"Scripture, History, and the Quest for Meaning," 1980

Box 13

Folder 7

"The Khalsa Goes West," 1980

Box 13

Folder 8

"The Religious and Theological Dimensions of History," 1980

Box 13

Folder 9

"Can Art fill the Vacuum?" 1981

Box 13

Folder 10

"How My Mind is Changing," 1981

Box 13

Folder 11

"Meditation on Death and its Relation to Life," 1981

Box 13

Folder 12

"Secularization," 1981

Box 13

Folder 13

Testimony, McLean v Arkansas, 1981

Box 13

Folder 14

"The New Watershed in Theology," 1981

Box 13

Folder 15

"Theology for a Time of Troubles," 1981

Box 13

Folder 16

“The Protestant View of Sin,” 1981

Box 13

Folder 17

“The Roles of the Descriptive or Historical and of the Normative in Our Work,” 1981

Box 13

Folder 18

“The Vocation of the Theologies,” 1981

Box 13

Folder 19

Writings, 1981-1982

Box 13

Folder 20

“Creationism: the Roots of the Conflict,” 1982

Box 13

Folder 21

“Free Will and Evil: A Christian View in Response to Professor Abe’s Paper,” 1982-86

Box 14

Folder 1

Review, Nishitani, Religion and Nothingness, circa 1982

Box 14

Folder 2

Notes on Keiji Nishitani, 1982-1986

Box 14

Folder 3

“The Creationist Controversy,” 1982

Box 14

Folder 4

“The Political Meaning of Silence,” 1982

Box 14

Folder 5

“Religion and Science in an Advanced Scientific Culture,” 1983-1987

Box 14

Folder 6

Testimony and Correspondence related to Mueller v Allen, 1983

Box 14

Folder 7

“Theological Frontiers: Implications for Bioethics,” 1983

Box 14

Folder 8

“The Paradigm Shift in Theology,” 1983

Box 14

Folder 9

“The Relevance of Luther Today,” 1983

Box 14

Folder 10

“Culture and Religions Belief,” 1984

Box 14

Folder 11

“Events, Meaning, and the Current Tasks of Theology,” 1984

Box 14

Folder 12

Notes, 1984-1987

Box 14

Folder 13

Notes on Nature, 1984-1988

Box 14

Folder 14

Papers and Notes on Philosophy and Religion, 1984-1985

Box 15

Folder 1

Papers on Science, Theology, and Cosmology, 1984-1985

Box 15

Folder 2

Review, Medawar, The Limits of Science, 1984

Box 15

Folder 3

“The Christian Understanding of Suffering,” 1984

Box 15

Folder 4

“The Meaning of Jesus the Christ,” 1984

Box 15

Folder 5

“Theology of Culture and Christian Ethics,” 1984

Box 15

Folder 6

“Denying the Image,” 1985

Box 15

Folder 7

Lectures on Science and Theology, circa 1985

Box 15

Folder 8

“Plurality and its Theological Implications,” 1985

Box 15

Folder 9

Proposal for A Handbook of Contemporary Christian Theologies, circa 1985

Box 15

Folder 10

“Reinhold Niebuhr as Political Theologian,” 1985-1986

Box 15

Folder 11

“Religion and Culture: A Protestant Problem,” 1985

Box 15

Folder 12

“Religion and Public Policy,” 1985

Box 15

Folder 13

Speeches in China

Box 15

Folder 14

“The Creationist Issue: A Theologian’s View,” circa 1985

Box 15

Folder 15

“The Misunderstanding of the Image: Idealization,” 1985

Box 15

Folder 16

“The Pastoral Vocation in a Plural World,” 1985

Box 16

Folder 1

“A Retrospective Glance at My Work,” 1986

Box 16

Folder 2

Articles and notes on Abe Masao and the Kyoto School, 1986-1989

Box 16

Folder 3

“Basic Faith and the Special Traditions,” 1986

Box 16

Folder 4

“Comments on Practical Theology,” 1986

Box 16

Folder 5

Review, Masao, Zen and Western Thought, 1986

Box 16

Folder 6

“The Promise of Dialogue,” 1986

Box 16

Folder 7

“Ethics,” 1987

Box 16

Folder 8

“Nature as the Image of God,” 1987

Box 16

Folder 9

Notes on Søren Kierkegaard, up to 1987

Box 16

Folder 10

Notes, Religion, and Science Conference, 1987

Box 16

Folder 11

“Religion and Science in an Advance Scientific Culture,” 1987

Box 16

Folder 12

Reply to Reviews of Creationism on Trial, 1987

Box 16

Folder 13

Review, Fox, Reinhold Niebuhr, 1987

Box 16

Folder 14

Review, Tanabe, Philosophy as Metanoetics, 1987

Box 16

Folder 15

“Science, Power, and the Ambiguity of History,” 1987

Box 16

Folder 16

“Tillich and the Kyoto School,” 1987

Box 16

Folder 17

“Whatever Happened to Immanuel Kant?” 1987

Box 16

Folder 18

“Augustine: Symbol and Source,” 1988

Box 17

Folder 1

“Biology, Ethics, and Theology,” 1988

Box 17

Folder 2

“Forgotten Traditions in the Clergy’s Self-Understanding,” 1988

Box 17

Folder 3

“Fundamentalism and Science,” 1988

Box 17

Folder 4

“Fundamentalism and Science,” Second Copy, 1988

Box 17

Folder 5

Hong Kong Visit, 1988

Box 17

Folder 6

Lectures and Talks on Nature, Creationism, Science, and the Ethics, 1988-1990

Box 17

Folder 7

“The Need for a Liberal Education in a Scientific Culture,” 1988

Box 17

Folder 8

“Theodicy and Plurality,” 1988

Box 17

Folder 9

“The Principle of Order in the West,” 1988

Box 17

Folder 10

Criterion, Volume 28

Box 17

Folder 11

“Nature, Reality, and the Sacred,” 1989

Box 17

Folder 12

Notes on Science, Religion, and Nature, 1989-1991

Box 17

Folder 13

“Report on Christian Theological Seminary,” 1989

Box 17

Folder 14

“Tenabe and the Philosophy of Religion,” 1989

Box 17

Folder 15

“The Influence of Science on Theology,” 1989

Box 18

Folder 1

“Theological Comments on Job,” 1989

Box 18

Folder 2

“The Pluralism of Religions,” 1989

Box 18

Folder 3

Articles for The New Handbook of Christian Theology, 1990

Box 18

Folder 4

“Assessment of David Tracy’s Plurality and Ambiguity, 1990

Box 18

Folder 5

“Caring for Creation: The Roles of Religion and Science,” 1990

Box 18

Folder 6

Convocation Speech at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1990

Box 18

Folder 7

“Cosmos, Creationism, and Consciousness,” 1990

Box 18

Folder 8

“Human Existence, Selfishness, and Altruism,” 1990

Box 18

Folder 9

“Nature, the Human, and God,” 1990

Box 18

Folder 10

“The Church as a Theological Entity,” 1990

Box 18

Folder 11

“The Congregation as a Religious Community,” 1990

Box 18

Folder 12

“The Congregation as a Religious Community, Part II,” 1991

Box 18

Folder 13

“Three Lectures on Science and Religion,” circa 1990

Box 18

Folder 14

“To Karl-Hans,” 1990

Box 18

Folder 15

“What of Value does Religion have to say to Science?” 1990

Box 18

Folder 16

“Christian Faithfulness: Culture as Ally and Enemy,” 1991

Box 18

Folder 17

Conference Materials, SETI, 1991-1994

Box 18

Folder 18

Eric Fichner Files, 1991

Box 19

Folder 1

Glassman, “Comments on Prof. Langdon Gilkey’s Theology and the Life Sciences,” 1991

Box 19

Folder 2

Lectures at the Newman Theological College, 1991

Box 19

Folder 3

“Nature and Religion,” 1991

Box 19

Folder 4

Paul Tillich: a new Catholic Assessment, drafts, correspondence, and other materials, 1991-1993

Box 19

Folder 5

“Problems and Potentialities of Protestant Spirituality,” 1991

Box 19

Folder 6

“The Life Sciences and Theology,” 1991-1992

Box 19

Folder 7

TV Series, “Space, Time, and God,” 1991

Box 19

Folder 8

Vatican Observatory Conference, Rome, 1991

Box 19

Folder 9

“Creation Order and Compassion,” 1992

Box 19

Folder 10

Lecture at Lambuth University, 1992

Box 19

Folder 11

Lectures on Tillich at Universite Laval, Quebec, 1992

Box 19

Folder 12

“New Directions,” 1992

Box 19

Folder 13

Reports on NASA’s HRMS Project, 1992-1993

Box 19

Folder 14

“Speaking of God in Our American Culture,” 1992

Box 20

Folder 1

“A Ramble on a Road Taken,” 1993

Box 20

Folder 2

“Beginnings and Endings,” 1993

Box 20

Folder 3

“Catholic Elements in Tillich’s Technology,” 1993

Box 20

Folder 4

Essays by Holmes Rolston III, 1993

Box 20

Folder 5

List of “Addresses on Religion and Science in the Light of the Creation issue,” 1993

Box 20

Folder 6

“Nature as the Image of God,” 1993

Box 20

Folder 7

Nature, Science, and the Sacred, drafts and related materials, 1993

Box 20

Folder 8

Drafts and Notes for Chapter VIII of Nature, Science, and the Sacred, 1993

Box 20

Folder 9

“The God of Nature,” 1993

Box 20

Folder 10

“Nature, Religion, and the Sacred,” circa 1994

Box 20

Folder 11

Review, Hefner, The Human Factor, 1994

Box 20

Folder 12

“The Christian, the University, and the Challenge of Ecology,” 1994

Box 20

Folder 13

Raymond Brady Williams, “Swaminarayan Hindu Temple of Glen Ellyn,” circa 1994

Box 20

Folder 14

“An Open Letter to Christians on the Religious Right,” 1995

Box 20

Folder 15

“Plurality and its Theological Implications,” circa 1995

Box 20

Folder 16

“The Flight from Reason,” 1995

Box 21

Folder 1

Lecture at Brigham Young University, 1996

Box 21

Folder 2

“The Religious Right,” 1996

Box 21

Folder 3

Articles by Davidson Loehr, 1997-1998

Box 21

Folder 4

Kyle A Pasewark Files, 1997

Box 21

Folder 5

“Lay Leadership Institute,” Program, circa, 1997

Box 21

Folder 6

Sermon at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 1998

Box 21

Folder 7

“The Crisis of Christianity in North America,” 1998

Box 21

Folder 8

“A Short Essay on Creationism and National Security,” 1999

Box 21

Folder 9

“American Theology since Niebuhr and Tillich,” 1999

Box 21

Folder 10

“An Introduction to Tillich,” 1999-2000

Box 21

Folder 11

“Reinhold Niebuhr,” 1999

Box 21

Folder 12

Sermonettes and Lectures in Japan, 1999

Box 21

Folder 13

“The Meaning and Relevance of Creation,” 1999

Box 21

Folder 14

“The Religious Situation at the End of the Century,” 199

Box 21

Folder 15

“The Theology of Nature,” 1999

Box 21

Folder 16

On Niebuhr, related materials, 1999-2001

Box 21

Folder 17

“An Introduction to Tillich,” 2000

Box 21

Folder 18

“History and Theology,” 2000

Box 21

Folder 19

“Human Nature and Myth in the Age of Science,” 2000

Box 21

Folder 20

Notes on Creationism, circa 2000

Box 21

Folder 21

Notes on Tillich and Niebuhr, circa 2000

Box 21

Folder 22

Notes, "Tillich, Myth, and Existence," 2000

Box 21

Folder 23

"Community: Essential, Dangerous, and Creative," 2001

Box 21

Folder 24

"The Meaning and Relevance of Creation," 2001

Box 21

Folder 25

"Comments on 'Constructing and Testing Theological Models,'" 2002

Box 21

Folder 26

"Reinhold Niebuhr, Paul Tillich, and the Theological of Culture," 2002

Box 21

Folder 27

Lectures at the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, 2003

Box 21

Folder 28

"Society and Politics in the Early Niebuhr," 2003

Box 21

Folder 29

"Secularism, Fundamentalism, and the Religious Dimension," 2004

Box 22

Folder 1

"Arete" Articles, N.D.

Box 22

Folder 2

Draft, unidentified typescript, N.D.

Box 22

Folder 3

Folder "Footnotes," N.D.

Box 22

Folder 4

Papers, N.D.

Series V: Audio-Visual

Box 22

Folder 5

Photographs of Langdon Gilkey, 1934-1980

Box 22

Folder 6

Framed Photograph, circa. 1970

Box 22

Folder 7

Photographs, circa 1971

Series VI: Restricted

This series consists of student grades, recommendations, and other evaluative records, as well as college and graduate school papers of Gilkey himself. Folders dedicated to particular students are ordered alphabetically and other folders chronologically. Materials are restricted for eighty years after the date of record creation.

Box 23

Folder 1

College and Graduate School Papers, 1933-1948

Box 23

Folder 2

Grades for University of Chicago Course – Religion and Science, 1991

Box 23

Folder 3

Grades for University of Chicago Course, 1992

Box 23

Folder 4

Recommendations – De Souza, Rowena, and Pedraja, Luis, 1993

Box 23

Folder 5

Recommendations – Himes, Michael, 1997

Box 23

Folder 6

Recommendations – Kok, Peter, 1996

Box 23

Folder 7

Recommendations – Pasewark, Kyle, 1993-1997

Box 23

Folder 8

Recommendations – Pool, Jeff B., 1986

Box 23

Folder 9

Recommendations – Redwine, Michael, 1997

Box 23

Folder 10

Recommendations – Rike, Jennifer, 1997

Box 23

Folder 11

Recommendations – Sapp, Gregory, 1996

Box 23

Folder 12

Recommendations – Scharf, Uwe, 1995

Box 23

Folder 13

Recommendations – Simmons, Stephen, 1997

Box 23

Folder 14

Recommendations – Stenger, Mary Ann, and Lamm, Julia, 1994

Box 23

Folder 15

Recommendations – Yerkes, James, 1995