



Guide to the Paul Ramsey Papers, 1934-1984 and undated

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

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Summary

Collection Title:

Paul Ramsey papers, 1934-1984 and undated

Creator:

Ramsey, Paul

Extent:

24 Linear Feet
circa 14,500 items

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

RL.01063

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m11077>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], The Paul Ramsey Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The papers of Paul Ramsey span the years 1934 to 1984. Included are correspondence, memoranda, book reviews, typescripts, reprints, drafts of books and articles, clippings, lecture notes and outlines, course outlines, examinations and handouts, writings of Ramsey and others, news releases, theses and dissertations, and cassette tapes. The principal focus of the collection reflects the direction of the teaching and writing career of Ramsey, principally while a professor in the Department of Religion at Princeton University. These primarily professional papers relate to his major fields of interest: theology, philosophy, and the humanities. In particular, Ramsey's chief specialty as a teacher and scholar has been Christian ethics, beginning with the publication of his classic, *Basic Christian Ethics* in 1950. There followed

writings in ethical methodology, "situation ethics," marriage, and sexual ethics. In the 1960s he expanded the scope of his research and writing to include the ethics of warfare and nuclear deterrence, and in the 1970s turned to medical ethics topics, such as fetal research, abortion, and in vitro fertilization.

The Correspondence Series, which comprises about one-half of the collection, and the Writings and Speeches Series form the bulk of the Ramsey Papers. The Correspondence Series consists chiefly of office correspondence including letters from theologians and professors, institutions and organizations, and journals, such as the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, for which Ramsey served as chairman of the editorial board. Among the correspondents are the American Medical Association, Roland Herbert Bainton, Emil Brunner, Daniel Callahan, James M. Gustafson, Van Austin Harvey, Orrin Hatch, the Institute of Society, Ethics, and the Life Sciences, Henry M. Jackson, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, Ernest W. Lefever, Richard A. McCormick, Rollo May, Abraham John Muste, the National Council of the Churches of Christ, the National Council on Religion in Higher Education, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, H. Richard Niebuhr, Reinhold Niebuhr, Richard M. Nixon, Liston Pope, Quentin L. Quade, Warren T. Reich, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Sargent Shriver, John Edwin Smith, Elton Trueblood, Richard Preston Unsworth, Henry Pitney Van Dusen, and *Worldview*.

Both the Writings and Speeches Series and the Courses Series reflect the various areas of Christian ethics about which Ramsey wrote and taught. The papers in the Courses Series relate specifically to the three chief areas in which Ramsey taught: religion, philosophy, and the humanities. Of particular interest is the information relating to Karl Barth, especially the seminar on Karl Barth's church dogmatics.

The relatively small Academic and Professional Series relates chiefly to Princeton academic affairs, such as the graduate program in religion and committee work, and The Wesley Foundation. There also is material concerning conferences and programs, such as the Aspen Institute Seminar, the Conference on Life Sciences and Mankind, and Week of Work.

Biographical/Historical

Date	Description
1913, Dec. 10	Born, Mendenhall, Mississippi.
1935	B.S., Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.
1937, June 23	Married Effie Register.

Date	Description
1937-1939	Instructor of history and social science, Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.
1940	B.D., Yale University.
1941-1942	Assistant Instructor, social philosophy, Yale University.
1942-1944	Assistant Professor, Christian ethics, Garrett Biblical Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
1943	Ph.D., Yale University.
1944-1982	Professor of Religion at Princeton University.
1957	Appointed Harrington Spear Paine Professor at Princeton University.
1959-1960	Vice President of the American Theological Society.
1964-1965	President of the American Theological Society.
1968-1975	Member of the Board of Trustees of Drew University and Trustee of the Council on Religion and International Affairs.
1968-1983	Awarded eight honorary degrees.
1982-1986	Member of the Center of Theological Inquiry.
1988, Feb. 29	Died

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition Information

The Paul Ramsey Papers were received in 1987, 1989, 1999, and 2012.

Processing Information

Processed by Sharon E. Knapp

Completed July 7, 1987

Encoded by Alvin Pollock

Additions encoded by Ted Holt, Nov. 2009

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Names and Subjects

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- Philosophy
- Sexual ethics
- Abortion -- Moral and ethical aspects
- Humanities
- Theology -- Study and teaching
- College teachers -- New Jersey
- Medical ethics
- Christian ethics
- Marriage -- Religious aspects
- Fetus -- Research
- Pope, Liston, 1909-
- Princeton University. Department of Religion
- Niebuhr, H. Richard (Helmut Richard), 1894-1962
- Niebuhr, Reinhold, 1892-1971
- National Council of the Churches of Christ
- National Council on Religion in Higher Education
- McCormick, Richard A., 1922-
- Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences
- Lefever, Ernest W.
- Callahan, Daniel, 1930-
- Harvey, Van Austin
- Muste, A. J. (Abraham John), 1885-1967
- American Medical Association
- Smith, John Edwin
- Shriver, Sargent, 1915-
- Unsworth, Richard Preston, 1927-
- Quade, Quentin L.
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Cassette Tapes Series, 1973-1982 and undated

Physical Description: 1 box

Access Restrictions:

[Original audiovisual materials are closed to use. Use of these materials may require production of listening or viewing copies. Please contact Research Services before coming to use this collection.]

"Ethical Issues in Genetic and Reproductive Engineering" (Ramsey), undated	Box 55 > Audio-cassette 1
"The Ethics of Fetal Experimentation" (Ramsey), 1975.	Box 55 > Audio-cassette 2
Forum (Gaylin), 1973.	Box 55 > Audio-cassette 3
Gray Lecture #1 (Ramsey), undated	Box 55 > Audio-cassette 4
"Models for Decision Making" (Ramsey), "Religion and Life History" (Harvey G. Cox), and "Death and Life in Christ" (Aiden Kavanagh), 1974.	Box 55 > Audio-cassette 5
"Models of Christian Decision Making" (Ramsey), undated	Box 55 > Audio-cassette 6
Religion 362 Lectures #1-24 (Ramsey), 1982.	Box 55 > Audio-cassette 7-18

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Addition (89-024)

Physical Description: 16 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Contains clippings, correspondence, research material, photographs, publications and writings. Includes drafts and proofs of the following major works: Ethics at the Edges of Life , Speak Up for Just War or Pacifism and Ethical Writings . Unprocessed addition.

Access Restrictions:

[Access restricted. Please consult with reference archivist.]

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Addition (1999-0256)

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Contains correspondence and articles. Unprocessed addition.

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Addition, 2012 (Acc. 2012-0075)

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Acc. 2012-0075 (0.2 lin. ft.; 150 items) includes drafts of and correspondence on Ramsey's essay Human Sexuality in the History of Redemption . This material requires processing before use.

Access Restrictions:

[Access restricted. Please consult with reference archivist.]

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