

SCHOLARS PRESS.

Scholars Press records, 1974-1999

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
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Collection Stored Off-Site

All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Scholars Press.
Title: Scholars Press records, 1974-1999
Call Number: Record Group No. 060
Extent: 71 cubic feet (71 boxes)
Abstract: Contains records, minutes, and catalogs of the academic publisher, Scholars Press.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Pitts Theology Library in advance to access this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Scholars Press records, RG 060, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Robert Presutti, February 2014.

Collection Description

Historical Note

Scholars Press was founded in 1974 by a consortium of academic societies to stimulate learning and encourage research and publication in the humanities, especially in the fields of biblical studies, religious studies, and classics. The Press sought to publish scholarly monographs economically by pooling resources, utilizing volunteer editors drawn from member societies, and lowering typesetting costs by using camera-ready copy and computerized printing. At its height in the 1990s, it published over 100 books a year (an estimated 15-20% of all scholarly books in religious studies), and maintained a subscriber list of over 30,000 members. Consortium members included the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), American Society of Papyrologists (ASP), American Philological Association (APA), State University of New York, Binghamton, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Eastern Buddhist Society, University of Illinois, Harvard Semitic Museum, Brown University, Boston College, Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, Jewish Law Association, Journal of Religious Ethics, Anglican Theological Review, Case Western University, Emory University, the University of Illinois, the University of South Florida, the University of Montana, the California State University, Chico, and the University of Manitoba. The Press was funded by dues, fees, and grants from member societies, and grants from foundations, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Exxon Education Foundation, the Lilly Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, the J. Howard Pew Freedom Trust, the Booth Ferris Foundation, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation.

The Press began publishing in 1970, under the leadership of Robert W. Funk (1926-2005), a professor at the University of Montana and a member of the Society of Biblical Literature. Formally organized in 1974 under the aegis of the Center for Scholarly Publishing and Services (CSPS), the Press was sponsored by the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, in an effort to gain economies in journal publication and to expand the scope of the two societies. The Press took on a full-time staff and became an affiliate of the University of Montana, which contributed two members to its board. Other societies, such as the American Schools for Oriental Research, the American Philological Association, and the American Society of Papyrologists, soon joined and contributed members to the board as well. The Press grew under Funk's leadership, publishing journals, dissertations, and monographs, and offering membership and subscription services for member societies. It moved to Chico, California in 1980, when it gained the sponsorship of California State University. Funk, however, resigned as director at the end of 1980.

C. Conrad Cherry (b. 1937) became director of the Press in 1981. The Press continued to grow, and the board decided to seek a new home connected with a major university. In 1985, the Press moved its headquarters to the campus of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Harry W. Gilmer was appointed director of the Press in 1987. Under Gilmer's direction, the Press gained the sponsorship of the Luce Foundation in the construction of a new, larger building on the Emory Campus. The Luce Center was opened in 1998, and provided offices not only for the Press, but for several affiliate societies, including the AAR and SBL.

With the retirement of Harry Gilmer in 1999, the Board retained the consulting services of the Center for Applied Research, the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, to determine the future of the Press. At its August 28-29, 1999 meeting, the Board reviewed the consultants' findings and determined that the changing economics of publication and the diverse directions of its constituent societies required a restructuring of the Press; this effectively meant its dissolution.

Scope and Content Note

The Scholars Press records are housed in six records boxes and arranged alphabetically and chronologically by folder. Series have been designated for Directors' Files, Board of Trustees records, Executive Committee Records, and Catalogs. The collection contains minutes, financial statements, reports, policies, by-laws, supporting documents, correspondence, and biographical materials relating to the operation of Scholars Press, as well as publication catalogs. It includes bound minutes of board meetings from 1983 to 1998, and loose-leaf minutes from 1975-1999, along with significant notes, financial records, and correspondence with board members, editors, representatives of participating organizations, and service providers.

The Directors' Files Series includes reports, correspondence, and policies of the directors of the Press, primarily Robert Funk, Conrad Cherry, and Harry Gilmer (including one folder of reactions to early publicity about the Jesus Seminar, which Funk chaired); also included are the 1997 architectural bid documents of the Scholars Press building at Emory University (later named the Luce Center). This series is arranged chronologically.

The Board of Trustees Series include minutes, financial papers, and supporting papers for the periodic meetings of the board; these records sometimes include extensive annotation and multiple drafts of documents. Correspondence in this series includes material from noted scholars such as Roger Bagnall, Martin Marty, Jacob Neusner, H. Kent Richards, and James Robinson. Also included in this series is biographical information about board members and Press employees, especially James T. Laney, Alexander Madison, John Schonleber, Charles Weltner, and James Wiggins. Board meeting records and bound minutes are arranged chronologically; other material is arranged alphabetically.

The Executive Committee Series comprise material from the governing subcommittee of the board, much of which overlaps the Board of Trustees records. This material provides background, context, and further information about the running of the board and the Press. This series is arranged chronologically.

The Catalog Series includes publication catalogs of Scholars Press books from 1973-1983. Some of these were included as part of AAR/SBL and APA Annual Meeting guides. This series is arranged chronologically.

Container List

Series I: Directors' Files (1978- 1999)

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	AAR Executive Committee, 1981
1	2	Associates Program, Edward Everding, 1981
1	3	Building Correspondence with Emory Officials, 1990-1996
1	4	Correspondence, Name Similarity, 1994
1	5	Directors' Reports to AAR, 1986-1989
1	6	Directors' Reports to APA Publications Committee, 1986-1989
1	7	Directors' Reports to SBL, 1984-1989
1	8	Directors' Reports to Board of Trustees, 1982-1992
1	9	Editorial Policy Statements, 1986-1987
1	10	Employment Agreement, Harry Gilmer, 1987
1	11	Financial Relations with Sponsors, 1980, 1984, 1990
1	12	Funk, The Economics of Scholars Press, undated
1	13	Jesus Seminar: Public Response, 1978-1980
1	14	Looking Toward 2000, 1994
1	15	Luce Center Dedication Brochure, 1998
1	16	Scholars Press Restructuring clipping, 1999
1	17	Policies and Procedures (1), 1990-1993
1	18	Policies and Procedures (2), 1990-1993
1	19	Position Statements, 1986-1987
1	20	Report to Journal of Pastoral Care Board, 1992
1	21	Report: Scholars Press Overview, 1989
1	22	Report: Views of the Future, 1989
1	23	Reports and Proposals, 1980s
1	24	Three-Year Planning Document, 1985
1	25	Architectural bid documents, Scholars Press building, 1997

Series II: Board of Trustees (1974-1999)

2	1	CSPS Organizational Board Meeting, October 30, 1975
2	2	CSPC Board Minutes, 1975-1976
2	3	Board of Trustees Meeting, October 26, 1976
2	4	Board of Trustees Meeting, October 1977
2	5	Board of Trustees Meeting, December 30, 1977
2	6	Board of Trustees Meeting, April 15-16, 1978
2	7	Board of Governors Meeting, November 19-20, 1978
2	8	Board of Trustees Meeting, May 5-6, 1979

2	9	Board of Trustees Meeting, November 17, 1979
2	10	Board of Trustees, November 1979
2	11	Board of Trustees Meeting, September 20-21, 1980
2	12	Board of Trustees, 1980-1982
2	13	Board of Trustees Meeting, February 6, 1981
2	14	Board of Trustees Meeting, March 28-29, 1981
2	15	Board of Trustees Meeting, September 19-20, 1981
2	16	Board of Trustees Meeting, March 27-28, 1982
2	17	Board of Trustees Meeting, October 30-31, 1982
2	18	Board of Trustees, February 1983
2	19	Board of Trustees Meeting, September 24-25, 1983
2	20	Board of Trustees, 1984
2	21	Board of Trustees Meeting, September 1984
2	22	Board of Trustees Meeting, November 11, 1984
2	23	Board of Trustees Meeting, September 21-23, 1985
2	24	Board of Trustees Meeting, April 4-6, 1986
2	25	Board of Trustees Meeting, September 27, 1986
2	26	Board of Trustees Meeting, April 25-26, 1987
2	27	Board of Trustees Meeting, August 21-23, 1987
2	28	Board of Trustees Meeting, February 13-14, 1988
2	29	Board of Trustees Meeting, October 3-4, 1992
2	30	Board of Trustees Meeting, March 27, 1999
3	1	Auditor's Financial Statements, 1975-1985
3	2	Auditor's Financial Statements, 1986-1992
3	3	Board of Trustees General Correspondence, 1986-1994
3	4	Board of Trustees Handbook, [1995]
3	5	Board of Trustees Members, 1982-1983
3	6	Board of Trustees Members, James T. Laney, 1993-1994
3	7	Board of Trustees Members, Charles Weltner, 1992
3	8	Board of Trustees Members, James Wiggins, undated
3	9	Board of Trustees Policies, 1990s
3	10	Board of Trustees Strategic Planning, 1995
3	11	Business/Marketing Plan, 1996
3	12	By-Laws, 1976-1995
3	13	By-Law Amendments, 1993
3	14	By-Law Revisions, 1986-1988
3	15	CSPS Annual Report, 1975-1976
3	16	CSPS and Scholars Press, 1975
3	17	Endowment, 1989-1990

- 3 18 Endowment, 1991-1992
- 3 19 Endowment, 1993
- 3 20 Endowment, 1994
- 3 21 Endowment, 1995-1996
- 3 22 Executive Director Files, Board of Trustees, 1984-1986
- 3 23 Executive Director Files, Board of Trustees, 1987
- 3 24 Information for New Board Members, 1990s
- 3 25 Madison, Alexander, Director of Printing Services, 1993
- 3 26 Powers of Board of Trustees, 1975
- 3 27 Strategic Initiatives, 1996-1997
- 3 Financial Statements (plastic comb binding), June 30, 1977
- 3 Combined Financial Statements (plastic comb binding), June 30, 1978
- 3 Combined Financial Statements (plastic comb binding), June 30, 1979
- 3 Combined Financial Statements (plastic comb binding), December 31, 1979
- 3 In Honor of John Schonleber (bound volume), 1992
- 3 NEH Challenge Grant Application (plastic comb binding), January 1980
- 3 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1988
- 3 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1989
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1990
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1991
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1992
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1993
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1994
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1995
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1996
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1997
- 4 Minutes of Scholars Press Board of Trustees (clothbound), 1998

Series III: Executive Committee (1979-1999)

- 5 1 Executive Committee Meeting, October 26-27, 1979
- 5 2 Executive Committee Meeting, November 13 & 17, 1979
- 5 3 Executive Committee Meeting, February 1-3, 1980
- 5 4 Executive Committee Meeting, June 20-21, 1980
- 5 5 Executive Committee Meeting, September 19, 1980
- 5 6 Executive Committee Meeting, November 9, 1980
- 5 7 Executive Committee Meeting, January 1981
- 5 8 Executive Committee Meeting, September 18-20, 1981
- 5 9 Executive Committee Meeting, November 13, 1981
- 5 10 Executive Committee Meeting, March 26, 1982
- 5 11 Executive Committee Meeting, July 30, 1982

5	12	Executive Committee Meeting, October 30, 1982
5	13	Executive Committee, 1982
5	14	Executive Committee Meeting, April 14, 1983
5	15	Executive Committee Meeting, September 24-25, 1983
5	16	Executive Committee Meeting, April 12, 1984
5	17	Executive Director Files, Executive Committee, 1984-1986
5	18	Executive Committee Meeting, September 20-21, 1985
5	19	Executive Committee Meeting, April 4, 1986
5	20	Executive Committee Meeting, September 25, 1986
5	21	Executive Committee Meeting, March 19, 1987
5	22	Executive Committee Meeting, November 5, 1987
5	23	Executive Committee Meeting, January 14, 1988
5	24	Executive Committee Meeting, February 12, 1988
5	25	Executive Committee Meeting, May 24, 1988
5	26	Executive Committee Meeting, September 23, 1988
5	27	Executive Committee Meeting, January 13, 1989
5	28	Executive Committee Meeting, July 13, 1989
5	29	Executive Committee Meeting, January 19, 1990
5	30	Executive Committee Meeting, March 30, 1990
5	31	Executive Committee Meeting, July 10, 1990
5	32	Executive Committee Meeting, September 28, 1990
5	33	Executive Committee Meeting, January 18, 1991
5	34	Executive Committee Meeting, April 5, 1991
5	35	Executive Committee Meeting, August 29, 1991
5	36	Executive Committee Meeting, October 4, 1991
5	37	Executive Committee Meeting, January 17, 1992
5	38	Executive Committee Meeting, March 27, 1992
5	39	Executive Committee Meeting, May 19, 1992
5	40	Executive Committee Meeting, August 28, 1992
5	41	Executive Committee Meeting, October 2, 1992
5	42	Executive Committee Meeting, March 26, 1993
5	43	Executive Committee Meeting, January 15, 1993
5	44	Executive Committee Meeting, September 22, 1993
5	45	Executive Committee Meeting, August 17-18, 1993
5	46	Executive Committee Meeting, July 26, 1994
6	1	Executive Committee Meeting, January 30, 1995
6	2	Executive Committee Meeting, March 24, 1995
6	3	Executive Committee Meeting, September 13, 1995
6	4	Executive Committee Meeting, January 23, March 21, 1996

- 6 5 Executive Committee Meeting, June 18, 1996
- 6 6 Executive Committee Meeting, June 18, September 16, 1996
- 6 7 Executive Committee Meeting, January 29, 1997
- 6 8 Executive Committee Meeting, March 1997
- 6 9 Executive Committee Meeting, February 4, 1998
- 6 10 Executive Committee Meeting, March 27, 1998
- 6 11 Executive Committee Meeting, June 30, 1998
- 6 12 Executive Committee Meeting, October 6, 1998
- 6 13 Executive Committee Meeting, January 22, 1999
- 6 14 Executive Committee Meeting, March 26, 1999

Series IV Catalogs (1973-1983)

- 6 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting booklet, 1973
- 6 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting booklet, 1975
- 6 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting booklet, 1976
- 6 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting booklet, 1977
- 6 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting booklet, 1978
- 6 Scholars Press Book Service (newsprint), undated (1970s)
- 6 Scholars Press Book Service 2 (newsprint), undated (1970s)
- 6 Scholars Press Book Service 3 (newsprint), undated (1970s)
- 6 Scholars Press Book Service 4 (newsprint), undated (1970s)
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia (booklet), 1977
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia II (booklet), 1977
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia III (booklet), Spring 1978
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia IV (booklet), Summer 1978
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia V (booklet), Autumn 1978
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia VI (booklet), Winter 1979
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia VII (booklet), Spring 1979
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia VIII, AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, 1979
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia IX (booklet), Autumn 1979
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia X(booklet), Winter 1980
- 6 Scholars Press Scholia XI (booklet), Spring 1980
- 6 Annual Meeting 1980, AAR/SBL, Scholars Press Scholia XII, 1980
- 6 APA Annual Meeting, Scholia XIII (booklet), 1980
- 6 Scholars Press Fall 1981 Book Sale, 1981
- 6 Scholia XIV, [1980]
- 6 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Scholars Press, 1981
- 6 Scholars Press Spring 1982 Titles & Complete Catalogue, 1982
- 6 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting 1982, Scholars Press, 1982
- 6 Scholars Press, Summer 1982

6 Scholars Press, New Titles and Complete Catalogue, Winter/Spring 1982

Series V Publications

7-71 Scholars Press Publications
