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Nils Arne Bendtz Papers

Record Group No. 202 .



Fantasia Thorne and Martha Lund Smalley

October, 2007

New Haven, Connecticut

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Overview

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Call Number: | Record Group No. 202 |
| Creator: | Bendtz, Nils Arne |
| Title: | Nils Arne Bendtz Papers |
| Dates: | 1927-2003 |
| Bulk Dates: | 1953-1990 |
| Physical Description: | Extent: Total archival boxes: 19. |
| Physical Description: | Extent: Total linear footage: 9. |
| Language(s): | Materials in English. |
| Summary: | <p>This collection documents the life and work of Lutheran theologian and ecumenist Nils Arne Bendtz. Bendtz received his B.D. and Ph.D. from Yale. He served as a missionary in China under the Board of Swedish Missions, with prisoners of war during World War II under the YMCA World's Committee, in Sumatra under the Commission of Younger Churches and Orphaned Missions of the National Lutheran Council, as a professor at Augustana Theological Seminary, as a pastor at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY, and for the Lutheran World Federation.</p> |
| Repository: | Yale Divinity School Library 409 Prospect St. New Haven, CT 06511 Email: divinity.library@yale.edu |

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of N. Arne Bendtz, 2004

Information about Access

Open to qualified researchers.

Ownership & Copyright

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

Cite As

Nils Arne Bendtz Papers. Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library. .

Biographical Sketch

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1914 October 2 | Nils Arne Bendtz born in Stockholm, Sweden, son of Nils T. and Emma Bendtz |
| 1933-1935 | Attended Inner Mission Bible College and Lutheran Independent Theological Seminary, Oslo, Norway |
| 1935-1936 | Attended China Inland Mission College, London |
| 1936-1941 | Served as missionary in China under the Swedish Board of Missions |
| 1942-1946 | Director of War Prisoners Aid of the World's Committee YMCA in China |
| 1944-1946 | General Secretary of Christian Welfare Association among Korean refugees in China |
| 1946 | Married Elsa L. Linne |
| 1949 | B.D. cum laude from Yale Divinity School |
| 1949-1950 | McFadden Fellow at Union Theological Seminary , New York |
| 1952-1957 | Served the Batak Church, Sumatra, including as Liaison Office between Lutheran World Federation and Indonesia and Professor of Theology in seminary. Helped to found Nommensen University, the first Lutheran university in Far East. |
| 1953 | Ph.D., Yale University - Thesis: "The Meaning of Luther's Doctrine of Forgiveness" |
| 1957 | Returned to the U.S. from Indonesia due to health reason, served as guest lecturer at Augustana Theological Seminary, IL |
| 1958 | Field representative for Lutheran World Action of National Lutheran Council; visiting across the U.S. and in Colombia and Ecuador |
| 1958-1959 | Professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, CA |
| 1961 | Married Britt M. Friman; one son - Nils Arne Bendtz, Jr. |
| 1964-1971 | Pastor of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY |
| 1965-1971 | Superintendent, Leif Ericson Day School, Brooklyn, NY |
| 1966-1971 | Adjunct Full Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY |
| 1990s | Director, International Management-Education Foundation, Honolulu, Hawaii |

Nils Arne Bendtz born in Stockholm, Sweden October 2, 1914, son of Nils T. and Emma Bendtz. From 1933 to 1935 he attended Inner Mission Bible College and Lutheran Independent Theological Seminary, Oslo, Norway. From 1935 to 1936 he attended China Inland Mission College, London. From 1936 to 1941 Bendtz was a missionary in China under the Swedish Board of Missions. He was Director of War Prisoners Aid of the World's Committee YMCA in China from 1942-1946 and General Secretary of Christian Welfare Association among Korean refugees in China 1944-1946. In 1946 he married Elsa L. Linne. In 1949 he received a B.D. Cum laude from Yale Divinity School. From 1949 to 1950 he was a McFadden Fellow at Union Theological Seminary, New York. In 1953 he received a Ph.D from Yale University; his thesis was: "The Meaning of Luther's Doctrine of Forgiveness" From 1952 to 1957 he served the Batak Church, Sumatra, including as Liaison Office between Lutheran World Federation and Indonesia and Professor of Theology in seminary. He helped to found Nommensen University, the first Lutheran university in Far East. He returned to U.S. for health reasons in 1957 and served as guest lecturer at Augustana Theological Seminary, IL. In 1958 he was field representative for Lutheran World Action of National Lutheran Council; visiting across the U.S. and in Colombia and Ecuador. From 1958 to 1959 Bendtz was Professor of Systematic Theology at

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, CA and from 1959 to 1963 Professor of World Missions, Augustana Theological Seminary, IL. In 1961 he married Britt M. Friman; one son - Nils Arne Bendtz, Jr. From 1964 to 1971 he was Pastor of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY. From 1965-1971 he was Superintendent, Leif Ericson Day School, Brooklyn, NY. Bendtz was Adjunct Full Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY 1966-1971. During the 1990s he was Director, International Management-Education Foundation, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Description of the Papers

This collection documents the life and work of Lutheran theologian and ecumenist N. Arne Bendtz.

Series I, Correspondence is divided into five subseries: Professional / work-related correspondence of Bendtz, Personal correspondence of Bendtz, Family correspondence, Correspondence of others, and Swedish language correspondence. Of most interest in this series are the letters related to Bendtz's work with the National Lutheran Council and when he was stationed in Indonesia.

Series II, Writings, consists primarily of unpublished typescript writings by Bendtz on subjects related to theology and missions, but also includes some writings of others, including "A History of Augustana Foreign Mission" by Dr. Eric Wahlstrom.

Series III, Documentation of Activities, includes printed material, minutes, reports, etc. regarding organizations with which Bendtz was involved.. These materials should be considered in connection with correspondence from the same era.

Series IV, Collected Material, includes materials not specifically associated with Bendtz's work, but which he had collected over the years.

Series V, Personal Items and Memorabilia, includes biographical information and clippings re. Bendtz as well as photographs.

Arrangement

Arranged in five series: I. Correspondence, 1930-1990, n.d.; II. Writings, 1947-1990, n.d.; III. Documentation of Activities, 1942-1984, n.d.; IV. Collected Material, 1927-1990; V. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1931-1991.

Collection Contents
Series I. Correspondence

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | | Series I. Correspondence | 1930-1990, no date |
| | | Professional correspondence | |
| 1 | 1 | Including regarding Yale Divinity School | 1930-1946 |
| 1 | 2 | Including regarding Yale Divinity School, Tracy Strong | 1947-1949 |
| 1 | 3 | Including regarding Yale Divinity School | 1950-1953 Apr |
| 1 | 4 | Including regarding Yale Graduate School | 1953 May-1954 Apr |
| 1 | 5 | Incl. letter of introduction of Bendtz to Harold E. Stassen, Director, Foreign Operations Administration, Washington, DC | 1954 May-1955 Feb |
| 1 | 6 | Including regarding Fridtjov Birkeli | 1955 Mar-1955Aug |
| 1 | 7 | Including regarding Arne Sovik | 1955 Sep-1955Dec |
| 1 | 8 | Including regarding Fridtjov Birkeli | 1956 Jan- 1956 Sep |
| 1 | 9 | Bendtz to/from others | 1956 Nov.- 1957 Nov. |
| 1 | 10 | Including regarding Committee on Latin America of the Lutheran World Federation | 1958 |
| 2 | 11 | Bendtz to/from others | 1959 |
| 2 | 12 | Bendtz to/from others | 1960 |
| 2 | 13 | Bendtz to/from others | 1961 |
| 2 | 14 | Including regarding National Lutheran Council | 1962 |
| 2 | 15 | Bendtz to/from others | 1963 Jan-1963Apr |
| 2 | 16 | Bendtz to/from others | 1963 May- 1963 Dec |
| 2 | 17 | Including regarding Salem Oratorio Choir | 1964 Jan- Jun |
| 3 | 18 | Including regarding Salem Oratorio Choir | 1964 Jul- Dec |
| 3 | 19 | Including regarding Salem Oratorio Choir, Midsummer Day Festival | 1965 Jan- May |
| 3 | 20 | Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival | 1965 Jun-Aug |
| 3 | 21 | Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival | 1965 Sep- Dec |

| Box | Folder | Description | Date(s) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|----------------------|
| 3 | 22 | Including regarding J.O.I.N., Midsummer Day Festival, Danderyd Oratorio Choir and The Sofia Flickorna (Sofia Girls) | 1966 Jan-May |
| 3 | 23 | Including regarding J.O.I.N., Midsummer Day Festival, Danderyd Oratorio Choir and The Sofia Flickorna (Sofia Girls) | 1966 Jun-Aug |
| 3 | 24 | Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival, Danderyd Oratorio Choir and The Sofia Flickorna (Sofia Girls) | 1966 Sep- Dec |
| 3 | 25 | Bendtz to/from others | 1967 Jan- Apr |
| 4 | 26 | Bendtz to/from others | 1967 May- Jun |
| 4 | 27 | Bendtz to/from others | 1967 July- Dec |
| 4 | 28 | Including regarding Manpower and Career Development Agency | 1968 Jan-Oct |
| 4 | 29 | Bendtz to/from others | 1968 Nov.- 1969 Dec. |
| 4 | 30 | Including regarding Midsummer Day Festival | 1970 Jan- Jul |
| 4 | 31 | Bendtz to/from others | 1970 Aug.- 1971 Jan |
| 4 | 32 | Including regarding Metropolitan New York | 1971 Feb- Apr |
| 4 | 33 | Bendtz to/from others | 1971 May-Dec |
| 5 | 34 | Bendtz to/from others | 1972-1973 |
| 5 | 35 | Including regarding Jarvis Rental of Gallery | 1974-1977 |
| 5 | 36 | Including regarding Jarvis Rental of Gallery | 1978-1979 |
| 5 | 37 | Including regarding CET Language Program | 1980-1984 |
| 5 | 38 | Including regarding Shatemuck Realty Company | 1984-1986 |
| 5 | 39 | Including regarding Shatemuck Realty Company | 1987- 1989 Apr |
| 5 | 40 | Bendtz to/from others | 1989 May -1990 |
| 5 | 41 | Partial/ Not dated | no date |
| Personal correspondence | | | |
| 6 | 42 | To/from friends and acquaintances | 1930-1959 |
| 6 | 43 | To/from friends and acquaintances | 1960-1963 |
| 6 | 44 | To/from friends and acquaintances | 1964-1969 |
| 6 | 45 | To/from friends and acquaintances | 1970-1979 |
| 6 | 46 | To/from friends and acquaintances | 1980-1988 |
| 6 | 47 | To/from friends and acquaintances | 1989-1990 |
| 6 | 48 | To/from friends and acquaintances | no date |
| Family correspondence | | | |
| Arne Bendtz to and from family | | | |
| 7 | 49 | Elsa Linne Bendtz to and from Arne Bendtz | 1953-1956, no date |

| Box | Folder | Description | Date(s) |
|---|---------------|--|--------------------|
| 7 | 50 | Britt Bendtz, Arne Jr. | 1971-1982 |
| 7 | 51 | Jerry Walter Bendtz materials: Correspondence, Last will and testament, Insurance policy | 1953-1967 |
| Correspondence of family members (not to/from Arne Bendtz) | | | |
| 7 | 52 | Elsa Linne Bendtz: References , yearbook | 1921-1951 |
| 7 | 53 | Elsa Linne Bendtz: correspondence about travels | 1953-1954 |
| 7 | 54 | Elsa Linne Bendtz: correspondence about travels | 1955-1957, no date |
| 7 | 55 | Elsa Linne Bendtz: Writings and poetry | no date |
| Correspondence of others | | | |
| 7 | 56 | Not to/from Arne Bendtz, not to family members | 1945-1989, no date |
| Swedish language correspondence | | | |
| 8 | 57 | Bendtz to/from others | 1930-1949 |
| 8 | 58 | Bendtz to/from others | 1950-1959 |
| 8 | 59 | Bendtz to/from others | 1960-1961 |
| 8 | 60 | Bendtz to/from others | 1962-1965 |
| 8 | 61 | Bendtz to/from others | 1966-1969 |
| 8 | 62 | Bendtz to/from others | 1970-1979 |
| 8 | 63 | Bendtz to/from others | 1980-1990, no date |

Series II

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|
| | | Series II Writings | 1947-1990, no date |
| | | Writings by Bendtz | |
| 9 | 64 | " Nommensen and Kierkegaard: An Attempt at Comparing the Sense of Vocation of Two of the Most Profound Christians of the Nineteenth Century" | no date |
| 9 | 65 | "About Bataks and Their Church" | no date |
| 9 | 66 | "Acts" | no date |
| 9 | 67 | "Autonomy defined" | no date |
| 9 | 68 | "Bendtz' Papers", Various writings | no date |
| 9 | 69 | "Dissertations" | no date |
| 9 | 70 | "Faith and Knowledge in Luther's Theology" | no date |
| 9 | 71 | "General Theories and Practices of Leadership" | no date |
| 9 | 72 | "Genesis" | no date |
| 9 | 73 | "Genesis" | no date |
| 9 | 74 | "Gospel of John" | no date |
| 9 | 75 | "Indonesia- Dialogue and Friendship", "God's Compassion in Action", "The Soul Care of the Roman Catholic Church and its Challenges to our Church", "Faith of the Batak", "The Role of Lutheran Unity in Missions", "The Mission Method of Group conversion and the Pietistic Individualism" | no date |
| 10 | 76 | " A Responsible Church Faces a Diverse Society" | 1962 |
| 10 | 77 | "Studies of Moral Life" | no date |
| 10 | 78 | Notes, Sermons, Lectures, Essays | no date |
| 10 | 79 | "The Theological Basis for a Consideration of the Economic Order and the Life of the Church", "Effective and Ineffective Groups" | no date |
| 10 | 80 | Class work: "What is Social Ethics?", "Structure", "The Negro Problem in America and Its Relation to the Race Problem in World Politics" | 1948,1949 no date |
| 10 | 81 | "World Service" | no date |
| | | Swedish language materials | |
| 10 | 82 | Writings | no date |
| 10 | 83 | Writings | no date |
| | | Untitled | |
| 11 | 84 | Misc. notes | no date |
| 11 | 85 | Lectures, notes, essays | no date |

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 11 | 86 | Lectures, notes, essays | no date |
| 11 | 87 | Lectures, notes, essays | no date |
| 11 | 88 | Lectures, notes, essays | 1958-1959 |
| 11 | 90 | Lecture notes for "Christian Ethics" class | no date |
| 11 | 91 | Lecture notes for "Structure of Religion" class | no date |
| Writings by others | | | |
| 12 | 92 | "The Problems and Promises of Maphilindo" by Paul B. Pedersen, and various writings by this author | no date |
| 12 | 93 | "Jajasan Seni Rakjat Indonesia, "Serindo"" by Paul B. Pedersen, and other writings by same author | 1967, no date |
| 12 | 94 | "Teacher Education in Indonesia" by Mrs. Corinne H. Bruning, and other writings | 1967, no date |
| 12 | 95 | Student papers | 1947, 1962-1963 |
| 12 | 96 | Student papers | 1954-1990 |
| 13 | 97 | "A History of Augustana Foreign Mission" by Dr. Eric Wahlstrom | no date |
| 13 | 98 | Materials used for Bendtz' research of Indonesia | no date |

Series III

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|--------------------|
| | | Series III Documentation of Activities | 1942-1984, no date |
| | | Work related | |
| 14 | 99 | "Bay Ridge Ecumenical Activities" | 1967-1971 |
| 14 | 100 | Bay Ridge Lutheran Clergy: Meeting minutes | 1966 |
| 14 | 101 | Bedford Stuyvesant Advisory Board: Member's listing | 1966 |
| 14 | 102 | CAPP: Center for Attacking Pervasive Poverty in Rural Villages of Tropical Areas: Report | no date |
| 14 | 103 | Christian University of Sumatra: Meeting minutes | no date |
| 14 | 104 | Chicago Theological Seminary: Meeting minutes | 1954 |
| 14 | 105 | Community Development Agency: Guidelines | 1967 |
| 14 | 106 | I.M.P.R.O.V.E.: Research report | 1966 |
| 14 | 107 | J.O.I.N.: Job Orientation in Neighborhoods: Proposals, reports, minutes, etc. | 1965-1966 |
| 14 | 108 | Leif Ericson Day School: Charter and By-laws, meeting minutes | 1973, no date |
| 14 | 109 | Kingston Lutheran Council: Meeting minutes | 1974 |
| 14 | 110 | Lutheran Committee on Housing: Meeting minutes | 1965 |
| 14 | 111 | Lutheran Foreign Missions Conference of North America: Memo | 1963 |
| 14 | 112 | Lutheran Theological Seminary: Continuing Cultivation Committee Manual | no date |
| 14 | 113 | Lutheran World Federation: Application, meeting agenda | 1971 |
| 14 | 114 | Manpower Builders Inc.: Training manual, minutes, etc. | 1968 |
| 14 | 115 | Midwest Fellowship of Professions of Missions: Minutes | 1962 |
| 14 | 116 | National Lutheran Council: Meeting minutes, agenda | 1951-1954 |
| 14 | 117 | New York City Council Against Poverty: Goals and guidelines for proposal submission | 1967-1968 |
| 14 | 118 | Nommensen University: Reports | 1974, 1984 |
| 15 | 119 | Protestant Church of the Batu Islands, The: Meeting minutes | 1954 |
| 15 | 120 | St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Meeting agenda | 1981-1982 |
| 15 | 121 | Salem Lutheran Church: Meeting agendas, Pastoral reports, etc. | 1954-1967 |

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 15 | 122 | Salem Lutheran Church: Reports, agendas, etc. | 1968-1971 |
| 15 | 123 | Sweden Day Committee: Meeting minutes | 1967 |
| 15 | 124 | Y.M.C.A.: China Prisoners' of War reports | 1942-1944 |
| 15 | 125 | Y.M.C.A.: China Prisoners' of War reports | 1945-1971, n.d. |
| 15 | 126 | Course syllabi | 1962-1971, no date |

Series IV

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|-----------------|
| | | Series IV Collected material | 1927-1990 |
| | | Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, etc. | |
| 16 | 127 | Various materials: Pamphlets, flyers, programs, business cards, Sweden Day materials, Salem Oratorio Choir materials | 1963-1989 |
| 16 | 128 | Various materials: Pamphlets, brochures, Book of hymns, manuals, etc. | 1956-1962 |
| 16 | 129 | Various materials: Pamphlets, brochures, etc. | 1953-1989 |
| 16 | 130 | Various materials: Swedish language | 1927-1981 |
| 17 | 131 | Various materials: "Neem Tree Project" | 1990 |
| 17 | 132 | The Prophet | 1957-1958, 1960 |
| 17 | 133 | Newspaper clippings: General clippings about Bendtz | 1954-1970 |
| 17 | 134 | Newspaper clippings: General clippings about Bendtz, some in Swedish language | 1954-1961, n.d. |
| 17 | 135 | Newspaper clippings: Bendtz' family | 1966, n.d. |
| 17 | 136 | Newspaper clippings: Concerning Bay Ridge | 1964-1972 |
| 17 | 137 | Newspaper clippings: Leif Ericson School, Sweden Day, some in Swedish language | 1966-1972 |
| 17 | 138 | Newspaper clippings: Salem Lutheran Church | 1965-1971 |
| 17 | 139 | Newspaper Clippings: Sofia Girls, Danderyd Choir, some in Swedish language | 1966-1969 |
| 17 | 140 | Newspaper Clippings: (non- English) | 1961-1966 |
| 17 | 141 | Newspaper Clippings: not about Bendtz, some articles in Swedish language | 1956-1989 |

Series V

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|------------|---------------|---|---------------------|
| | | Series V Personal Items and Memorabilia | 1931-1991, no date |
| 18 | 142 | Biographical material and resume | no date |
| 18 | 143 | Greeting cards | 1961-1975 |
| 18 | 144 | Guest books | no date |
| 18 | 145 | Health records, life insurance documents | 1945-1981 |
| 18 | 146 | Various certificates: Verifications, Visa applications | 1945-1978 |
| 18 | 147 | Various materials: Yale Divinity School Grades, parking ticket claim, etc. Some material in Swedish language | 1931-1982 |
| 18 | 148 | Financial information: Receipts, bills | 1943-1991, no date |
| 19 | 149 | Photographs: Elsa Linne Bendtz, Sofia Girls, Bendtz and others | 1989, n.d. |
| 19 | 150 | Photographs: Sofia Girls, Danderyd Choir, Bendtz, etc. | 1943-1967 |
| 19 | 151 | Photographs: Bendtz and students | 1966-1971 |
| 19 | 152 | Photographs: Bendtz, Ruth Ericsson (director of Danderyd Choir), Lutheran School of Theology class photos, etc. | 1963-1967, no date. |
| 19 | 153 | Photographs: Church of Good Shepherd Confirmation class photo | 1950 |