

# Guide to the Paul Herman Vieth Papers

RG 59



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1998, 2015

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 59

**CREATOR:** Vieth, Paul H. (Paul Herman), 1895-

**TITLE:** Paul Herman Vieth papers

**DATES:** 1919-1974

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Writings, notes, and subject files document Vieth's career as a student and professor of Religious Education at Yale. Paul Vieth was a Yale Divinity School professor in the field of Religious Education from 1931 to 1963.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.059>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.059>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Paul Herman Vieth

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Preferred Citation

Paul Herman Vieth Papers (RG 59), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

| Date      | Event   |
|-----------|---|
| 1895      | ○ Born near Warrenton, Missouri   |
| 1917      | ○ B.A., Central Wesleyan College  |
| 1924      | ○ B.D., Yale Divinity School  |
| 1925      | ○ Director of research for the International Council of Religious Education; over the years he served the Council as chairman of various committees and commissions.                          |
| 1928      | ○ Ph.D., Yale   |
| 1931-1939 | ○ Director of Field Work at the Yale Divinity School, Associate Professor of Religious Education  |
| 1939-1963 | ○ Horace Bushnell Professor of Christian Nurture, Yale Divinity School; under his leadership a Visual Education Service was established at YDS to serve faculty, students, and area churches. |
| 1947-1948 | ○ Advisor on religious education with the religion division, civil information and education section of staff of General Douglas MacArthur in Japan during U.S. occupation.                   |
| 1954-1955 | ○ Fulbright Scholar in Japan  |
| 1963      | ○ Professor Emeritus  |
| 1978      | ○ Died  |

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## Scope and Contents

Paul Vieth was a pioneer in the field of Protestant religious education during the twentieth century. He is best known for his work in formulating the objectives of religious education, his leadership of the Educational Commission of the International Council of Religious Education, and his groundbreaking recognition of the value of audio-visual materials in religious education. Vieth was the first professor to offer a course in a seminary on audio-visual education.

These papers primarily document Vieth's professional career and contain relatively little personal material. The correspondence is primarily business letters related to publications. One folder contains circular letters by Vieth describing his experiences in Japan, 1947-1948. There is a fairly complete file of Vieth's writings for journals, as well as sermons, addresses, and lecture notes. The articles are primarily in typescript form, as Vieth submitted them for publication; the journal to which an article was submitted is noted on some.

The Class Notes of Series III are from Vieth's years as a student at the Yale Divinity School. They provide documentation on the content of religious education and the psychology of religion courses taught during this time period. The Working Files of Series IV were compiled for courses taught by Vieth at the Divinity School.

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## Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1929-1948
- II. Writings, Sermons, Notes, 1919-1966, undated
- III. Working Files, undated

#### IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1934-1974, undated

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**Collection Contents**  
**Series I: Correspondence, 1929-1954**

|            |  |                 |
|------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Letters requesting permission to quote from published materials in the publication of Vieth's dissertation | 1929            |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Letters re: writings and publications  | 1930-1934       |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Circular letters by Vieth from Japan; letter from Japanese friend  | 1947-1948, 1954 |

**Series II: Writings, notes, sermons, 1919-1966, undated**

## Articles

|            |   |                |
|------------|---|----------------|
| b. 1, f. 4 | "The Purpose, History, and Promise of the International Curriculum of Religious Education"; "Statement of Progress of the International Curriculum Undertaking"; "Who Are the Leaders of Thought in Religious Education?" | 1928           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Do We Need a Superintendent?"  | 1933           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Time For Christian Teaching"   | 1933           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Is the Church a School?"   | 1933           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Can the Church School Build a Better Church?"  | 1934           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Education for the World Tomorrow"  | 1934           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Never Stop Learning"   | 1934           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Realizing Our Objectives Through the Christian Family"   | 1934           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "When the Church Plans for Her Children"  | 1934           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Visual Aids"   | 1935           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "The Projector in the Service of Christian Education"   | 1936           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "The Purpose of Teaching"   | 1936           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Education for Christlike Character"  | 1936           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Motion Pictures as an Aid to Friendship"   | 1936?          |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Teaching the Adult Class"  | 1936           |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Church Administration - For a Unified Program" in <i>Light Bearer</i>  | 1937 April     |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Christian Education Through the Family"  | 1938           |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "Report on Japan" in <i>Yale Divinity News</i>  | 1948 November  |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "Christian Education in Japan" (typescript)   | 1954           |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "Training Teachers to Use Audio-Visuals" in <i>Children's Religion</i>  | 1954 September |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "The Superintendent at Work" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>   | 1957 October   |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "The Superintendent and the Teachers" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>  | 1958 April     |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "Off to Adventure" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>   | 1958 July      |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "Who Makes the Decision?" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>  | 1960 April     |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "The Pastor and the D.C.E. - a Team" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>   | 1960 October   |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "The General Superintendent - What is His Job?" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>  | 1965 January   |
| b. 1, f. 5 | "Enlistment of Workers"   | 1965           |

## Articles (continued)

|                        |   |               |
|------------------------|---|---------------|
| b. 1, f. 5             | "A Job for All Seasons: Enlistment" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>  | 1965 April    |
| b. 1, f. 5             | "What Has Happened to Sunday Schools?" in <i>Bethany Guide</i>  | 1965 June     |
| b. 1, f. 5             | "How to Have Effective Workers' Conferences" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>                                 | 1965 July     |
| b. 1, f. 5             | "The General Superintendent - His Concern with Worship" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>                      | 1965 October  |
| b. 1, f. 5             | "Enlistment and Orientation of New Teachers" in <i>The Christian Educator</i>                                 | 1966 January  |
| b. 1, f. 6             | Various writings relating to period spent in Japan  | 1948, undated |
| b. 1, f. 7 - 9         | Miscellaneous typescript articles   | undated       |
| Booklength manuscripts |   |               |
| b. 2, f. 10a           | "Report to the Sub-Committee on International Curriculum of the International Sunday School Lesson Committee" | 1927          |
| b. 2, f. 10b           | "A Critical Study of Objectives in Religious Education" (dissertation)  | 1928          |
| b. 2, f. 11            | "A Teaching Ministry for the Christian Church" (incomplete)   | undated       |
| b. 2, f. 12            | "The Church in its Teaching Work"   | 1937          |
| b. 2, f. 13            | "Religious Education in Japan"  | 1948          |
| b. 2, f. 14            | Untitled manuscript   | undated       |
| Sermons and addresses  |   |               |
| b. 3, f. 15            | "The Family - the Cornerstone of Character"   | 1933          |
| b. 3, f. 15            | "Jesus Answers his Adversaries"   | 1933          |
| b. 3, f. 15            | Sermon on Matthew 6:34  | 1933?         |
| b. 3, f. 15            | "Commissions for Actions"   | 1933          |
| b. 3, f. 15            | "The Modern Religious Education Program and its Requirements in Building and Equipment"                       | 1938          |
| b. 3, f. 15            | "The Prospect for Christianity in Japan"  | 1948          |
| b. 3, f. 15            | "Trends in Christian Education in the U.S"  | 1954          |
| b. 3, f. 15            | "Christian Education Faces the Future" - Rufus Jones Lecture  | 1964          |
| b. 3, f. 16            | Miscellaneous sermons   | 1941-1956     |
| b. 3, f. 17            | Miscellaneous sermons   | 1957-1966     |
| b. 3, f. 18            | Miscellaneous lectures, presentations   | undated       |
| Class notes            |   |               |
| b. 3, f. 19            | "Religious Education", "Philosophy of Education"  | 1919, 1920    |
| b. 3, f. 20            | "Educational Psychology", "Educational Statistics"  | 1922-1923     |



## Class notes (continued)

|                  |   |           |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| b. 3, f. 21      | "New Testament Intro"   | 1922-1923 |
| b. 3, f. 22      | "Psychology of Religion", "Philosophy of Religion"  | 1922-1923 |
| b. 3, f. 23      | "Psychology of Religion", "Materials of Religious Education"                                | 1923-1924 |
| b. 3, f. 24      | "Psychology of Religion", "Methods of Religious Education", "Elementary School Supervision" | 1923-1924 |
| b. 4, f. 25      | "History of Religious Education"  | 1923-1924 |
| b. 4, f. 26 - 28 | Miscellaneous   | undated   |

**Series III: Working files, undated**

| Curriculum                                  |                                      |           |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| b. 4, f. 29                                 | Introduction                         |           |
| b. 4, f. 30                                 | The Meaning of Curriculum            |           |
| b. 4, f. 31                                 | History of Protestant Curriculum     |           |
| b. 4, f. 32                                 | Objectives and the Curriculum        |           |
| b. 4, f. 33                                 | Curriculum Principles                |           |
| b. 4, f. 34                                 | Curriculum Design                    |           |
| b. 4, f. 35                                 | The Learner and the Learning Process |           |
| b. 4, f. 36                                 | Utilization in the Local Church      |           |
| b. 4, f. 37                                 | Study of Lesson Materials            |           |
| b. 4, f. 38                                 | The Christian Fellowship             |           |
| b. 4, f. 39                                 | The Bible in the Curriculum          |           |
| b. 4, f. 40                                 | Nursery                              |           |
| b. 4, f. 41                                 | Kindergarten                         |           |
| b. 4, f. 42                                 | Primary and Junior Departments       |           |
| b. 4, f. 43                                 | Memory work                          |           |
| b. 4, f. 44                                 | Union Seminary                       | 1965      |
| b. 4, f. 45                                 | Andover-Newton                       | 1964-1966 |
| Local Church Program of Christian Education |                                      |           |
| b. 5, f. 46                                 | History of Sunday School             |           |
| b. 5, f. 47                                 | Historical                           |           |
| b. 5, f. 48                                 | Church as Teacher                    |           |
| b. 5, f. 49                                 | Education for Lay Ministry           |           |
| b. 5, f. 50                                 | Learning and Teaching                |           |
| b. 5, f. 51                                 | Meaning of Religious Education       |           |
| b. 5, f. 52                                 | Good Order - Discipline              |           |
| b. 5, f. 53                                 | Program of Christian Education       |           |
| b. 5, f. 54                                 | Organization for Christian Education |           |
| b. 5, f. 55                                 | Enlistment and Training of Workers   |           |

## Local Church Program of Christian Education (continued)

b. 5, f. 56                      Outreach, Records, Measurement

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Work of the Parish Minister

b. 5, f. 57                      Religion 174 - 1st semester

b. 5, f. 58                      Religion 174 - 2nd semester

b. 5, f. 59                      Protestant Day Schools

b. 5, f. 60                      Weekday Church School

b. 5, f. 61                      Vacation Church School

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Christian Education of Adults

b. 5, f. 62                      Leadership

b. 5, f. 63                      Education for Lay Ministry

b. 5, f. 64                      Young Adult - Older Adult

b. 5, f. 65                      Older Adults

b. 5, f. 66                      Curriculum

b. 5, f. 67                      Adults

b. 5, f. 68                      Understanding Adults

b. 5, f. 69                      Adult - Methods

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Religion and Public Education

b. 6, f. 70                      Introduction

b. 6, f. 71                      Religion and Public Education

b. 6, f. 72                      Regents Prayer

b. 6, f. 73                      Public School and Religion

b. 6, f. 74 - 75                  Dual Enrollment / Shared Time

b. 6, f. 76                      Religion in Public Education

b. 6, f. 77                      Seminar on Religion and Public Education

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Miscellaneous

b. 6, f. 78 - 89                  Files re: Christian Education

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**Series IV: Personal items and memorabilia, 1934-1974**

|             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| b. 7, f. 90 | Newspaper and magazine clippings re: Vieth   | 1947-1964 |
| b. 7, f. 90 | "Paul Herman Vieth" - paper by Don Paul Gray, student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary | 1974      |
| b. 7, f. 91 | Financial material   | 1934-1937 |
| b. 7, f. 91 | Photographs from time in Japan   | 1947-1948 |
| b. 7, f. 92 | Prints and artwork from Japan  |           |
| b. 7, f. 93 | Filmstrip and commentary: "In the Footsteps of Susann Lorantffy"                                   |           |

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Educators  
Religious education

### **Names**

Vieth, Paul H. (Paul Herman), 1895-

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Faculty