

# Guide to the Luther Noss Papers

MS 1853



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

June 2005

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1853

**CREATOR:** Noss, Luther, 1907-1995

**TITLE:** Luther Noss papers

**DATES:** 1922-1995

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 49.92 linear feet (51 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Diaries, correspondence, subject files, photographs, publications, and printed material documenting the personal and professional lives of Luther Noss.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1853>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1853>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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 the Estate of Osea Noss, 2005; transfer from the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library, 2012-2013.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Luther Noss Papers (MS 1853). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Luther Melancthon Noss was born on July 21, 1907, in Leland, Illinois. He was educated at Northwestern University (B. Mus., 1930) and Yale University (B. Mus., 1931, M. Mus., 1932). He served as a combat intelligence specialist with the 73rd Bombardment Wing during World War II, based in Saipan. He was assistant professor of music at Cornell University from 1935-1939; thereafter he spent the rest of his career at Yale University. He served as professor of music, chair of the department of music, dean of the school of music, director of the university choir, and master of Silliman College. He edited several hymnals and authored two books on the Yale School of Music and Paul Hindemith. In 1936 he married Osea Calciolari. Luther Noss died on February 9, 1995.

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## Scope and Contents

Diaries, correspondence, subject files, photographs, publications, sheet music, and other printed material documenting the personal and professional lives of Luther Noss.

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## Collection Contents

### Original accession

b. 1	Personal effects [includes desk items, jewelry, inkwell]
b. 14	Personal effects [includes desk items, jewelry, inkwell]
	Diaries/journals
b. 2	1923-1925, 1927-1959
b. 3	1960-1981
b. 4	1982-1995
b. 11	Typed transcriptions of journals from 1927 to 1966
	Subject/correspondence files
b. 5	A-E
b. 6	F-M
b. 7	N-R
b. 8	S-Z, miscellaneous
b. 9	Hindemith book, draft
b. 10	Yale University: course outlines for Choir Music and Liturgical Music
b. 12	Noss family history and related materials
b. 13	Miscellaneous papers
b. 15	Hymnology, psalm tunes, lecture outlines
b. 16	Legal
b. 17	Research files on church history, liturgy
b. 18	Miscellaneous personal papers
b. 19	Yale University: School of Music, Silliman College
b. 20	Books about Yale and School of Music
b. 21	History of Yale
	Travel [printed matter]
b. 22	1978-1984
b. 23	1956-1963
b. 24	1965-1971
b. 25	1971-1976

## Travel [printed matter] (continued)

b. 26	1975-1977	
b. 27	Travel journals	
b. 28	Photographs [family and Yale]	Circa 1958-1984
b. 30	Photographs [family and Yale]	Circa 1958-1984
b. 31	Photographs [family and Yale]	Circa 1958-1984
b. 29	Early school and Europe photographs	
b. 31	Grade books	1939-1953
	Photograph albums	
b. 32	1922-1951	
b. 36	1922-1951	
b. 33	1952-1961	
b. 34	1960-1968	
b. 35	1969-1991	
b. 37	Correspondence between Luther and Osea	
b. 38	Music theory textbook materials	
b. 39	Yale University: Battell Chapel bulletins	
b. 40	Photograph albums	
b. 41	Photograph albums	
b. 42	Photographs, diplomas, awards	

**Accession 2013-M-001: Additional Material, 1926-1995**

This accession comprises concert programs; correspondence primarily pertaining to the publication of the book, *Christian Hymns*, edited by Luther Noss; research notes pertaining to *Christian Hymns* and to Noss's study of classical and liturgical music; papers written by Noss while a student at Northwestern University; and unpublished sheet music for compositions either written or arranged by Noss while a student at Northwestern University and the Yale School of Music, and as a professor at Cornell University.

Materials in this accession are arranged according to document type. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically according to correspondent. Sheet music is arranged alphabetically according to the title of the composition.

b. 1, f. 1	Concert programs	1938, 1955-1958
b. 1, f. 2-12	Correspondence	1955-1995
b. 2, f. 1	Northwestern University: Student papers	1930
	Research notes	
b. 2, f. 2-5	<i>Christian Hymns</i> English	1955-1963
b. 2, f. 6-7	Seminar on Bach	1983
b. 3, f. 1	Oversize materials	1983
b. 3, f. 2-52	Sheet music, A-O	1927-1956
b. 4, f. 1-33	Sheet music, P-W	1926-1956

**Accession 2013-M-029: Additional Material, 1971-1990**

This accession consists of office files from the 1970s related to Luther Noss' career as a professor at the Yale School of Music, as well as correspondence and subject files pertaining to the writing and publication of his book, *Paul Hindemith in the United States*.

b. 1, f. 1-5	Office files	1971-1978
	<i>Paul Hindemith in the United States</i>	
b. 2, f. 1	Correspondence	1985-1990
	Subject files	
b. 2, f. 2	General	1987
b. 2, f. 3	Pre-1937	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 4	1937 tour	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 5	1938 tour	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 6	1939 tour	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 7	Emigration	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 8	1940	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 9	1940-1953	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 10	Yale	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 11	Honors and recognition	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 12	1953-1959	Circa 1987
b. 2, f. 13	1959-1964	Circa 1987



**Accession 2013-M-076: Additional Material, 1931-1974**

This accession consists primarily of correspondence concerning Luther Noss's professional service and publications.

b. 1, f. 1	Catholic University of America	1967-1968
b. 1, f. 2	<i>Christian Hymns</i> : correspondence	1954-1973
b. 1, f. 3	Colby College	1963-1964
b. 1, f. 4	Hartt School	1972, 1974
<i>Hymnal for Colleges and Schools</i>		
b. 2, f. 1-3	Geer, E. Harold, correspondence	1952-1956
b. 2, f. 4-6b. 3, f. 1-4	Notes	Circa 1952-circa 1956
b. 3, f. 5	Prospectus	Circa 1954-circa 1955
b. 3, f. 6	Suggestions	Circa 1952-circa 1956
b. 3, f. 7	Tune data	1953-circa 1956
b. 1, f. 5	Indiana University School of Music, National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) evaluation	1967
National Council of Churches correspondence		
b. 1, f. 6	General	1952-1962
b. 1, f. 7	The hymnal, <i>Christian Hymns</i>	1954-1962
b. 1, f. 8	Northwestern University School of Music, National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) evaluation	1967
b. 1, f. 9	<i>Notes</i> correspondence	1948-1971
b. 1, f. 10	Publications, Galaxy Music Corporation and Raymond A. Hoffman Company	1931-1971
b. 1, f. 11	Rice University Arts Advisory Council	1971-1973
b. 1, f. 12	University of West Florida, Pensacola	1967

## **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.

### **Names**

Noss, Luther, 1907-1995

### **Corporate Bodies**

Silliman College (Yale University)

Yale School of Music

Yale University -- Faculty