

# Guide to the Noah Porter Papers

MS 1131



compiled by Susan Grigg

June 1980

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1131

**CREATOR:** Porter, Noah, 1811-1892

**TITLE:** Noah Porter papers

**DATES:** 1781-1889

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, notes, sermons, lectures, teaching materials, and memorabilia of Noah Porter. The major part of the correspondence, as well as of the other papers, deals with Porter's responsibilities as professor and president at Yale College. The few family letters are from his father, Rev. Noah Porter of Farmington, and from his wife, Mary Taylor Porter. His writings include lectures and sermons delivered at Yale College, 1871-1886. Also documenting his academic career are grade books, reports of Yale College committees, including one on the location of college buildings (1866), and papers relating to the American Education Society (1874-1889).

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1131>

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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.1131>.

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

The Noah Porter Papers were brought together in 1980 from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Yale Treasurer's Records, and the autograph collections and miscellaneous collections in Manuscripts and Archives.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Noah Porter Papers (MS 1131). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Noah Porter: Congregational clergyman, educator, president of Yale College; B.A., Yale, 1831; studied at the Yale Divinity School with Nathaniel W. Taylor; ordained in 1836; from 1843-1846 pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts; president of Yale from 1871-1886.

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## Scope and Contents

The Noah Porter Papers consist of correspondence, writings, and miscellaneous papers brought together in 1980 from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Yale Treasurer's Records, and the autograph collections and miscellaneous collections in this department. There is much Porter material remaining in other collections, especially the Woolsey Family Papers.

Series I, CORRESPONDENCE, consists mainly of letters to and from Noah Porter, professor of moral philosophy and metaphysics and president of Yale College. About three-fourths were written while he was serving as president, and the rest were written earlier. There is hardly any continuity in this correspondence, but most letters deal with Porter's responsibilities as professor and president. Besides his correspondence, there are five letters by his father, the Rev. Noah Porter of Farmington, and a few letters to his father and his wife.

Series II, WRITINGS, consists of sermons, lectures, and notes of President Noah Porter, mainly originating during his presidency but including a few items from his student days at Yale. These are mainly manuscripts of published and unpublished works.

Series III, OTHER PAPERS, is a miscellaneous gathering of personal, professional, and presidential papers by Noah Porter and others.

## **Arrangement**

Arranged in three series: I. Correspondence. II. Writings. III. Other Papers.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence

	Noah Porter, 1781-1866
b. 1, f. 1	Outgoing
b. 1, f. 1	Incoming
b. 1	Noah Porter, 1811-1892
	Incoming
b. 1, f. 2-8	By topic
b. 1, f. 9-43	By writer
b. 1, f. 44-53	Outgoing (by recipient)
b. 1, f. 54	Mary (Taylor) Porter, 1813-1888: incoming

**Series II: NOTES AND WRITINGS**

b. 2, f. 55-58	Baccalaureate addresses	1876-1886
b. 2, f. 59-60	Student papers	1827, 1830
b. 2, f. 60A	Notes in German on philosophy lectures of Adolph Helfferich and logic lectures of Friedrich Adolf Trendelenburg	[1853?]
	Notes, sermons, and lectures	
b. 2, f. 61-62	1871-1877	1871-1877
b. 2A, f. 63	1877-1877	1877-1877
b. 3, f. 64-72	1883-1886, undated	1883-1886, undated

**Series III: OTHER PAPERS**

## Oversize Material

b. 3, f. 73	Receipt	1833
b. 3, f. 74-75	Documents re: sabbatical in Germany	1853
b. 3, f. 76	Recommendation	1857
b. 3, f. 77	Engraving	
b. 3, f. 78	Grade and attendance books	1861, 1866-1867
b. 3, f. 79	Report on location of college buildings	1866
b. 3, f. 80	Critique of <i>Human Intellect</i>	1869?
b. 3, f. 81	Reports of term exam committees	1871-1883
b. 3, f. 82	Subscription book for Porter and other medallions	1874
b. 3, f. 82A	Ms. letter asking for money for medical department	1876
b. 3, f. 83	Papers of Porter and T. Dwight re the Am. Ed. Soc.	1874-1889
b. 3, f. 84	Recommendation	1875
b. 3, f. 85	Documents re the John Haynes Fund	1878, 1881
b. 3, f. 86	Minute re: Porter's retirement	1886
b. 3, f. 87	Calling card	
b. 4	Honorary degree, Passports	1866-1886



## INDEX OF CORRESPONDENTS

Angell, James Burrill (1829-1916). ALS to Noah Porter, , Univ. of Michigan. 2 p. 21 1/2 cm.	1874 May 8
Caulfield, Richard (1823-1881). ALS to Noah Porter, , Cork, Ireland.	1882 February 8
Eaton, Daniel Cady (1834-1895). A. Df. of a report to Noah Porter, , New Haven, Conn. This report lists courses which Eaton proposed to offer and contrasts the equipment for botanical studies at Harvard and at Yale. With this is a statement also in his hand concerning the "Botany optional" at Yale, which may be Eaton's copy of Porter's note on the subject. 3 p. and 1 l.	1877 June 4
Harrison, Francis Edwin (1830-1887). ALS to Noah Porter, , New Haven, Conn.	1873 May 26
Helfferich, Adolph (1813-1894). Geschichte der neueren Philosophie nach den Vorlesungen des Herrn Dr. A. Helfferich, probably written for, or used by, Noah Porter, president of Yale College, while in Germany in 1853-54. 1 v. 22 cm.	
McDermott, Charles (1808-1884). ALS to Noah Porter, , Monticello, Arkansas. Concerning the Woolsey Fund.	1873 August 6
Marsh, Othniel Charles (1831, Y 1860). Copy of ALS to President Noah Porter, , New Haven, Conn. 2 p. 18 1/2 cm. Portrait.	1873 June 4
Neilson, Joseph (1813-1888). ALS to Noah Porter, , Brooklyn, N.Y. The body of the letter is in a different hand from that of Mr. Neilson's subscription and signature. About Rufus Choate. 3 p. 26 1/2 cm.	1879 May 6
Trendelenburg, Friedrich Adolph (1802-1872). Outline of lectures on logic, in German by F. A. Trendelenburg, University of Berlin, probably made for or used by Noah Porter, president of Yale College, while in Germany in 1853-54. 1 v. 20 1/2 cm.	
Van Name, Addison (1835-1922). Memorandum stating that William Miller had deposited his bronze medallion of President N. Porter for presentation to the college, , New Haven, Conn. With annotation of H. N. Day. Enclosed is a notebook, showing subscriptions for Mr. Miller's medallions of T. D. Woolsey, N. Porter, with proposals for those of W. M. Ewart and Morrison Waite. 1 p. 20 cm.	1874 July 7
Wooding, W. M. of Newark, N.J. INTUITIONS; an article written after seeing a criticism of Noah Porter's <i>Human Intellect</i> in a March issue of <i>The Catholic World</i> . 3 p. 32 cm.	

## **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.

### **Genres / Formats**

Sermons

### **Subjects**

Clergy

College presidents

Educators

### **Names**

Porter, Mary Taylor, 1813-1888

Porter, Noah, 1781-1866

Porter, Noah, 1811-1892

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale Corporation

Yale University. Dept. of Philosophy

Yale University -- Buildings

Yale University -- History

Yale University -- Officials and employees