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H88-0107. Muste, Abraham J. (1885-1967).
Papers, 1904-2017. 7.75 linear ft.

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Abstract

Labor leader and pacifist. Articles by and about Muste, clippings, exchange of letters with Irwin J. Lubbers concerning hiring a conscientious objector, tape of memorial service at Hope College, 1967; MS: "Abraham Johannes Muste, 1885-1967," student paper by John Mulder '67; "The Annual Muste Lecture," by Jo Ann Robinson; letters of condolence; more articles and pamphlets by and about A. J. Muste; clippings, and extra copies of *Liberation*, a periodical edited by A. J. Muste; gift from John Muste; books from A. J. Muste's library that bear his personal notes.

Accession No.: H88-0107
Provenance: Abraham Johannes Muste
Donor: Muste Estate
Photographs: 4 images (Box 1)
Processed by: Craig G. Wright, May 1991
Michael Douma, May 2002

Biography

Abraham Johannes Muste was born in Zierkzee, Zeeland, the Netherlands, in 1885. The family immigrated to America and settled in Grand Rapids in 1891. He was admitted to Hope Preparatory School in 1898, the youngest student at that time. He transferred to Hope College in 1902 and graduated after only three years at the age of twenty.

Muste was a very active student while at Hope. He won the Michigan state oratorical contest, edited the *Anchor*, captained the Flying Dutchman basketball teams, which won two state of Michigan championships, and was valedictorian of his graduating class of 1905.

The year 1909 was very important for Muste. That was when he graduated from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, married Anna Huizenga in Rock Valley, Iowa, was ordained in the Reformed Church in America, and installed as first minister of the Fort Washington Collegiate Church in New York City.

Muste was the ultimate pacifist and protested against every major war of this century while he lived. He joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an inter-faith pacifist organization in 1916. In 1917, he resigned from the Central Congregational Church due to his pacifistic views, and the following year led the Lawrence, Massachusetts, textile workers strike. Among the many places he has protested are famous landmarks like Red Square in Moscow, the United Nations, Times Square, and the White House.

It is also telling that despite disappointment over his son's desire to enlist in the Navy at the age of 17, Muste honored his son's wishes and signed the enlistment papers.

Muste has had an impact on major figures in the peace movement and many called him the "American Gandhi." The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was a college student when he first heard Muste speak. The fact that the struggle for civil rights in this country has been so bloodless when compared to some other areas of the world is largely attributable to Muste.

In 1948, Muste stopped paying federal income tax due to the fact that they were used to finance the machineries of war. Every year he sent a package to the Internal Revenue Service containing the following items: a Bible, a copy of Henry Thoreau's "Essay on Civil Disobedience," and a three-page typewritten paper outlining the principles that prevented him from making a contribution to the armaments of the United States. It wasn't until 1961 that the United States Tax Court ruled that the government had a right to back taxes but collection against Muste's small retirement income was never attempted.

Muste passed away 1967.

Scope and Content

Personal library contains Muste's marginalia and comments.

Container List

Box 1

Address by Muste, "The Church's Responsibility for Peace: A Matter of Life and Death," 1937

A. J. Muste Lecture Series

"A. J. Muste: An Historical Remembrance and Affirmation," April 8, 1985
Clippings, 1987

Autobiography, *Liberation Magazine*, 1957

Articles

Collum, Danny. "A.J.: His Life as Activist and Pacifist," 1984
Danielson, Leilah.

"In My Extremity I Turned to Gandhi: American Pacifists, Christianity,
and Gandhian Nonviolence, 1915-1941," 2003

Bibliography, n. d.

Dulles, John Foster. "Peace Without Platitudes," 1942

Goodman, Paul. "On A. J. Muste," 1963

Hern, Jim. "A. J. Muste: His Early Years," 1974 (student paper)

Mayer, Milton. "The Christer," 1952 (see Muste, A. J., "The Price of Moral
Authority")

McReynolds, David. "The Legacy of A. J. Muste (1885-1967)," 1985

Meyers, Jeff. "A.J. Muste: Hope's Famous Peacemaker," 2012

Mulder, John M. "Abraham Johannes Muste, 1885-1967," n.d.

Muste, A. J.

"Africa Against the Bomb," 1960

"The Church in the Modern World," 1938

"The Church's Responsibility for Peace: A Matter of Life and Death,"
1937 (address to the General Synod of the RCA)

"Communism and Civil Liberties," n.d.

"The Eisenhower - Khrushchev Talks," 1959

"Getting Rid of War," 1959

"Of Holy Disobedience," 1952

- “How to Deal With a Dictator,” 1954
“India and World Pacifism with notes about the H-bomb,” (report to membership of the Fellowship of Reconciliation), 1950
“Jesus and the Way to Peace,” n.d.
“John Sobieski,” 1903
“Korea: Spark to Set a World Afire?” 1950
“Neo-Gandian India,” 1953
“Non-Violence in an Aggressive World,” (excerpts) n.d.
“Not So Long Ago,” 1957-1960 (autobiography, parts 1-21 and 23)
“Now is the Appointed Time: Nuclear War and the Christian Family,” n.d.
“An Open Letter to Dr. Einstein,” n.d.
“Pacifism and Perfectionism: A Discussion of Some Neo-Orthodox Criticisms of Pacifism,” n.d.
“Pacifists and the 1960 Election Campaign,” 1960
“Personal Statement by Rev. A. J. Muste and Evan W. Thomas, M.D. On Matters Relating to Registration Under the Conscription Act,” October 16, 1940
“The Price of Moral Authority,” 1952
“The Problem of Discontent,” 1905
“Sabbath Observance,” (sermon), 1910
“To Save Democracy—Another War?” 1937
“Their Church and Ours,” 1958
“They Made it to Moscow,” 1961
“Total War or Total Pacifism?” n.d.
“An Urgent Note on the Greek-Turkish Issue: How to Stop Russia and Communism,” n.d.
“War is the Enemy,” n.d.
“The Way of the Cross,” 1938
“What Would Pacifists Have Done About Hitler? A Discussion of War, Dictators, and Pacifism,” 1949
“Where Are We Going?” n.d.
“Who Is Now the Absolutist?” 1947
Reich, Wilhelm. “What is Class-Consciousness?” 1971
Robinson, Jo Ann Ooiman.
“A. J. Muste, Pacifist and Prophet: His Relation to the Society of Friends,” 1981
“A. J. Muste: Traveling Toward a Better World,” 1985
“Abraham Went Out: A Biography of A. J. Muste,” 1981
“The Pharos of the East Side, 1937-1940: Labor Temple Under the Direction of A. J. Muste,” 1970
Streit, Clarence K. “For Union Now: A Proposal for a Federal Union of the Democracies,” 1939
Whitney, Norman J. “Number One Pacifist,” 1967
Bibliographic Notes, n.d.
Biographical, n.d., 1904-2003

Clippings, n.d., 1928-1987 (scattered)
Correspondence
 General, n.d., 1917-1966 (scattered)
 The Christian Century, n.d., 1942-1953
Death
 Condolences, 1967
 Eulogy by Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra, 1967
 Memorials, 1967
 Obituaries, 1967
Editorials
 “Senator Dodd, Norman Cousins, and SAVE,” December, 1960
 “Khrushchev, Africa and the U.N.,” November, 1960
 “Relaxation or Reshuffling?” December, 1959
Gandhi Quotes, 1925-1926, 1940-1944
Gram Udyog Patrika, (economic newsletter), v.16 no.7, July 1954
Liberation, 1957-1960, 1963, 1966, 1968, 1975
Muste Memorial Institute, A. J., n.d., 1981, 1988
Notes, n.d., 1940, 1963
Photographs, n.d. (4 images)
Promotional Materials for Peace Organizations, n.d., 1959, 1970

Box 2

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Alperovitz, Gar. *Atomic Diplomacy: Hiroshima and Potsdam*. 1965. (E813 .A75)
Barth, Karl. *Against the Stream: Shorter Post-War Writings 1946-1952*. 1954.
 (BX9410 .B3 1954)
Beach, Waldo (ed.). *Christian Ethics: Sources of the Living Tradition*. 1955.
 (BJ1201 .B4 1955)
Bennett, John C. (ed.). *Nuclear Weapons and the Conflict of Conscience*. 1962.
 (BR115 .A85 B4)
Boehme, Jacob. *The Way to Christ*. 1947. (BV5080 .B7 W413 1947)
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. 1949. (BT380 .B66 1949)
Breakthrough to Peace. 1962. (JX1974.7 .B68)
Brunner, Emil. *The Word and the World*. 1931. (BT15 .B7)
Bultmann, Rudolf. *The Presence of Eternity: History and Eschatology*. 1957.
 (D168 .B779)
Butterfield, Herbert.
 Christianity and History. 1950. (BR115 .H5 B8 1950)
 International Conflict in the Twentieth Century: A Christian View. 1960.
 (JX1395 .B87)
Cailliet, Emile. *The Clue to Pascal*. 1943. (BX4735 .P26 C3 1943)
Chase, Stuart. *The Proper Study of Mankind...An Inquiry into the Science of Human
 Relations*. 1948. (H91 .C5) (notes)
Cogley, John (ed.). *Religion in America: Original Essays on Religion in a Free*

- Society*. 1958. (BR516 .C68)
- Corrigan, Robert W. (ed.) *The New Theatre of Europe: Five Contemporary Plays From the European Stage*. 1962. (PN6112 .N47)
- Dallin, David J.
Russia & Postwar Europe. 1943. (DK266 .D26) (notes) (reviews)
The Real Soviet Russia. 1944. (DK267 .D185) (notes)
- Dante Alighieri. *The Vision or Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise of Dante Alighieri*. 1929. (PQ4315 .C4 1929) (notes)
- de Lig, B. *Vrede Als Daad*. 2 vols. 1931, 1933. (Dutch) (notes)
- Djilas, Milovan. *The New Class: An Analysis of the Communist System*. 1957. (HX365.5 .D49 1957) (notes) (reviews)
- Dvorin, Eugene P. *Racial Separation in South Africa: An Analysis of Apartheid Theory*. 1952. (DT763 .D8)
- Einstein, Albert. *Ideas and Opinions*. 1954. (AC35 .E526) (notes) (reviews)
- Farmer, H. H. *The World and God: A Study of Prayer, Providence and Miracle in Christian Experience*. 1935. (BT165 .F3 1935) (notes)
- Ferre, Nels F. S. *The Christian Faith: An Inquiry into Its Adequacy as Man's Ultimate Religion*. 1942. (BT40 .F4)
- Fischer, Louis. *Men and Politics: An Autobiography*. 1941. (D413 .F5 A3 1941)
- Florinsky, Michael T. *Toward an Understanding of the U.S.S.R.: A Study in Government, Politics and Economic Planning*. 1939. (DK266 .F54 1939) (notes)

Box 3

PERSONAL LIBRARY (cont.)

- Friedell, Egon.
A Cultural History of the Modern Age: The Crisis of the European Soul From the Black Death to the World War. 1930. (CB357 .F73)
- Gilson, Etienne.
The Spirit of Mediaeval Philosophy. 1936. (B721 .G4 1936)
The Unity of Philosophical Experience. 1937. (B72 .G5) (notes)
- Gollancz, Victor. *Our Threatened Values*. 1947. (D826 .G6 1947)
- Hartshorne, Charles.
Beyond Humanism: Essays in the New Philosophy of Nature. 1937. (B821 .H36 1937) (notes)
The Divine Relativity: A Social Conception of God. 1948. (BL205 .H37)
Man's Vision of God and the Logic of Theism. 1941. (BL200 .H35 1941) (notes)
- Heard, Gerald. *Man the Master*. 1941. (HM101 .H434)
- Hentoff, Nat, editor. *The Essays of A. J. Muste*. 1967. (added to collection by Richard Kruiuzenga, January 2004)
- Hofstadter, Richard. *The American Political Tradition And the Men Who Made It*. 1948. (E178 .H727) (notes)
- Horowitz, David. *The Free World Colossus: A Critique of American Foreign Policy in the Cold War*. 1965. (E744 .H665 1965) (notes)
- Horsch, John. *Mennonites in Europe*. Vol. 1, 1942. (BX8115 .H62 1942)
- Kahn, Herman. *On Thermonuclear War*. 1960. (UF767 .K25 1960)

- Koestler, Arthur. *The Yogi and the Commissar and Other Essays*. 1945. (PR6021 .O4 Y6 1945)
Komroff, Manuel (ed.). *Apocrypha*. 1936. (PR2851 .B7)
Lynd, Robert S. and Helen Merrell. *Middletown: A Study in Contemporary American Culture*. 1929. (HN57 .L8) (notes)
Lyons, Eugene. *Assignment in Utopia*. 1937. (D413 .L9 A3)
Mannheim, Karl. *Man and Society In an Age of Reconstruction*. 1941. (CB425 .M36)
Maurer, Herrymon. *Collision of East and West*. 1951. (DS518.1 .M3) (notes)

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PERSONAL LIBRARY (cont.)

- May, Rollo, PhD. *Man's Search for Himself*. 1953. (BF67 .M39)
More, Paul Elmer. *Pages From an Oxford Diary*. 1937. (PS2431 .P3 1937)
Muller, Herbert J. *The Loom of History*. 1958. (DS155 .M8)
Muste, Abraham. *Non-Violence in an Aggressive World*. 1940 (H172.4 M978)
Niebuhr, H. Richard.
 Christ and Culture. 1951. (BR115 .C8 N5 1951) (notes)
 The Meaning of Revelation. 1941. (BT127 .N5 1941) (notes)
Niebuhr, H. Richard, Wilhelm Pauck and Francis P. Miller. *The Church Against the World*. 1935. (BR479 .C55 1935) (notes)
Niebuhr, Reinhold.
 The Children of Light and The Children of Darkness: A Vindication of Democracy and a Critique of its Traditional Defence. 1944. (JC571 .N5) (notes)
 Christian Realism and Political Problems. 1953. (BR115.P7 N54 1953) (notes)
 Faith and History: A Comparison of Christian and Modern Views of History. 1951. (D16.9 .N5) (notes)
 The Self and the Dramas of History. 1955. (BT701 .N53) (notes)
Northop, F. S. C.
 Ideological Differences and World Order: Studies in the Philosophy and Science Of the World's Cultures. 1949. (CB19 .N59)
 The Taming of the Nations: A Study of the Cultural Bases of International Policy. 1953. (CB425 .N59) (notes)
Ramsey, Paul. *Basic Christian Ethics*. 1954. (BJ1241 .R3) (notes)
Rapoport, Anatol. *Operational Philosophy: Integrating Knowledge and Action*. 1953. (B820 .R38 1953)
Ratner, Joseph (ed.). *The Philosophy of John Dewey*. 1928. (B945 .D41 R2)
Regamey, Pius., O.P. *Non-violence and the Christian Conscience*. 1966. (BT736.6 .R413 1966)
Riesman, David. *The Lonely Crowd: A Study of the Changing American Character*. 1950. (BF755 .A5 R5)(notes)
Rossi, A. *The Russo-German Alliance August 1939-June 1941*. 1951. (D754 .R9 R69 1951) (notes)
Rousset, David. *The Other Kingdom*. 1947. (D805 .G3 R6415)

- Sabine, George H. *A History of Political Theory*. 1954. (JA81 .S3 1954)
Salter, Andrew. *What Is Hypnosis: Studies in Auto and Hetero Conditioning*. 1944.
(BF1141 .S27 1944)
Schneider, Herbert Wallace.
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Religion in 20th Century America. 1952. (BR525 .S34)
Schweitzer, Albert.
Christianity and the Religions of the World. 1939. (BR127 .S3 1939)

Box 5

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- Schweitzer, Albert. (cont.)
Out of My Life & Thought. 1933. (CT1098 .S45 A282)
Selznick, Philip. *The Organizational Weapon: A Study of Bolshevik Strategy and Tactics*. 1952. (HX56 .S4 1952) (notes)
Sevareid, Eric. *Not so Wild a Dream*. 1946. (PN4874 .S3 A3)
Sorokin, Pitrim A., PhD.
The Sociology of Revolution. 1925. (HM281 .S6 1925)
Social Philosophies of an Age of Crisis. 1950. (HM19 .S628)
The Reconstruction of Humanity. 1948. (BJ1582 .S6x)
Spring, Howard. *And Another Thing...* 1946. (PR6037 .P68 A7) (notes)
Spykman, Nicholas John. *America's Strategy in World Politics: The United States and the Balance of Power*. 1942. (E183.7 .S7) (notes)
Stevenson, Elizabeth. *Henry Adams: A Biography*. 1955. (E175.5 .A1782) (notes)
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Tawney, R. H. *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. 1926. (BR115 .E3 T3 1926a)
Tillich, Paul. *The Protestant Era*. 1948. (BX4817 .T53) (notes)
Toynbee, Arnold J. *A Study of History*. vols. V and VI, 1940. (CB63 .T613 v.5 & v.6) (notes)
Troeltsch, Ernst. *The Social Teachings of the Christian Churches*. vols. 1 and 2, 1931.
(HN31 .T752 v.1 & v.2) (notes)
Underhill, Evelyn. *Worship*. 1937. (BV10 .U5 1937)
White, Morton. *Social Thought in America: The Revolt Against Formalism*. 1957.
(H53.U5 W5 1957)
Whyte, Lancelot Law. *The Next Development in Man*. 1948. (CB19 .W5 1948) (notes)
Wieman, Henry N. *The Source of Human Good*. 1946. (BD232 .W52)

Box 6

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- Wilder, Amos Niven. *Eschatology and the Ethics in the Teaching of Jesus*. 1950.
(BS2417.E7 W5 1950)

Williams, Daniel Day. *God's Grace and Man's Hope*. 1949. (BR121 .W53)
Zeitlin, Solomon. *Who Crucified Jesus?* 1942. (BT431.5 .Z45 1942)
Zweig, Stephan. *Erasmus of Rotterdam*. 1934. (PA8518 .Z83)