

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (RÜCHLIKON, SWITZERLAND)

COLLECTION

AR 649



Administration and Classroom Building, Baptist Theological Seminary, Rüşlikon, Switzerland

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
Prepared by Bill Sumners and Debbie Keen
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Baptist Theological Seminary (Rüschlikon, Switzerland) Collection

AR 649

Summary

Main Entry: Baptist Theological Seminary (Rüschlikon, Switzerland) Collection

Date Span: 1949 – 1992

Abstract: Collection of bulletins, catalogs, clippings, minutes of faculty and trustee meetings, addresses, reports, correspondence, and other material related to the Baptist Theological Seminary in Rüschlikon, Switzerland.

Size: 2 linear ft. (5 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 649

Historical Sketch

The Baptist Theological Seminary was founded in Rüschlikon, Switzerland by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1949. The seminary was handed over to the European Baptist Federation in 1988 and relocated to Prague, Czech Republic, in 1996 – 97.

The history of seminary goes back to the decision of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, to establish a European seminary and to appoint Dr. and Mrs. John D. W. Watts for the work of theological education in Europe. Property in the village of Rüschlikon was purchased, and the seminary doors were open for students in September, 1949. George W. Sadler served as acting president until the appointment of Josef Nordenhaug, who served as president from 1950 until 1960. Trustees for the seminary were selected from several Baptist conventions or unions in the countries of Europe.

Relations with the Foreign Mission Board trustees became strained in the 1980s, and the seminary was handed over to the European Baptist Federation in 1988. The high cost of maintaining the seminary in Switzerland led the seminary to move to Prague in 1996 – 1997 and to rename the seminary the International Baptist Theologian Seminary.

Scope and Content Note

The Baptist Theological Seminary at Rüschlikon collection includes a variety of material related to the seminary, once located in Rüschlikon, Switzerland, and now located in Prague. Included in the collection are bulletins, catalogs, clippings, articles, correspondence, reports, publications, calendars, addresses, and minutes of faculty meetings and trustee meetings. The catalogs/bulletins include significant information on the course offerings and information for students about degrees and programs of the seminary. The faculty and trustee minute files

include agendas, reports, minutes of the meeting, and recommendations of the bodies. The collection includes material only on the period when the seminary was located in Switzerland.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

Provenance

Donated by Carol Woodfin, 1995

Preferred Citation

Baptist Theological Seminary (Rüschlikon) Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Baptist Theological Seminary (Rüschlikon, Switzerland)
 International Baptist Theological Seminary (Prague, Czech Republic)
 Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board.
 Europe – Church history – 20th century
 Theological seminaries, Baptist
 Theological seminaries – Europe
 Baptists – Europe

Related Materials

John David Hughey Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 711
 John Allen Moore Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 752
Link, newsletter of the Rüschlikon seminary
 Pauline Moore Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 734
 Woodfin, Carol Gale. *Rueschlikon : the establishment and early development of an International Baptist Theological Seminary in the heart of post-war Europe*, 1987

Container List

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- 2.19 Fant, Clyde, “The Word Among Us” – Inaugural Address, Sept., 1982
- 2.20 Foreign Mission Board, 1969 – 1976
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- 3.3 Lorenzen, T. – Opening Service, Sept., 1984
- 3.4 Lotz, Denton, “Rüschlikon – meeting place for east and west,” 1977
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- 4.13 News Releases, 1965 – 1984
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- 4.16 Opening chapel – Notes, 1982
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- 4.18 Parker, Keith, “A mission in missions: Rüşchlikon’s Rule
- 4.19 Parker, Keith, “Rüşchlikon’s rule” in commission, Oct., 1972
- 4.20 Parker, G. Keith, “Rüşchlikon: cross cultural center for European Baptists”
- 4.21 Patterson, Morgan – Scroll of Honor
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- 4.23 Policies, 1977 – 1985
- 4.24 Programs, 1959 – 1984
- 4.25 Recommendations, 1964, 1969

- 4.26 Reports, 1959 – 1993 (scattered)
- 4.27 Report on Information Bulletin, 1979
- 4.28 Ruden, Erik, “The Baptists in the European Continent”
- 4.29 Sadler, George W. – Inaugural address
- 4.30 Self-study, 1981
- 4.31 St. Amant, Penrose – Rüschnikon and the Future, 1972
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- 4.36 Verdery, E. Augustus – Scholarship fund
- 4.37 Wagner, Gunter – Report on income, 1970 – 1978
- 4.38 Wagner, Gunter – Chapel address, Oct., 1973
- 4.39 Woodfin, Carol
- 4.40 Woodfin, Yardall, “The faces of individuality,” 1971

Box 5

- 5.1 Recording – Liedtke, Jean, by Carol Woodfin – Liedtke was a student at BITS at Rüschnikon, 1949 – 1953
- 5.2 Recording – Soundtracks of films about Rüschnikon – including “An experiment in international cooperation” – and interview with John Watts, by Paul Stevens (3 tapes)