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# The Josef L. Hromádka Manuscript Collection

## Collection Summary

**Creator:** Princeton Theological Seminary. Library. Special Collections  
**Dates:** 1929-1989  
**Extent:** 5 boxes (1.8 linear feet)  
**Language(s):** English, Czechoslovakian  
**Repository:** Princeton Theological Seminary Libraries. Special Collections.

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## Chronology

1889 June 8	Born, Hodslavice, Moravia
1912	Ordained, Lutheran Church
1918	Chaplain, Austrian army, Eastern front
1920-1927	Professor extraordinarius, Protestant Theological Faculty of the Charles University in Prague
1927-1966	Professor ordinarius, Protestant Theological Faculty of the Charles University in Prague
1938-1946	Visiting professor, Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary
1948	Elected to the Central Committee, World Council of Churches
1954-1961	Served on Executive Committee, World Council of Churches
1969	Died

## Biographical Information

Josef Lukl (J.L.) Hromádka was born on June 8, 1889, in the village of Hodslavice, Moravia, then in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He conducted his theological studies in Vienna, Basel, Heidelberg, and Aberdeen (under D.S.

Cairns). He was deeply influenced by the growing Socialist movement of the day and by the historical school of Ernst Troeltsch. Dr. Hromádka served as a pastor in the Czech Lutheran Church and a military chaplain in the First World War before beginning a teaching career at the Protestant Theological Faculty of the Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia. From 1939 to 1947, he was a visiting professor of theology and ethics at Princeton Seminary. Dr. Hromádka also held various posts in the World Council of Churches, was the founding father of the Christian-Marxist European dialogues in the early 1960s, and founded the Christian Peace Conference. Dr. Hromádka , who died in 1969, was the subject of a special conference at Princeton Seminary, October 27-28, 1989.

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## **Scope and Content**

This is a constructed collection of material by or about Josef Hromádka . Included in the collection are student lecture notes of his courses at Princeton, published writings, papers from a Hromádka symposium, items regarding the Christian church in Czechoslovakia, a Czech-English dictionary, bibliography, obituaries and biographical items, photographs, Christian peace movement literature, and various other materials.

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## **Subjects**

Hromádka, J.L. (Josef Lukl), 1889-1969--Manuscripts.

Princeton Theological Seminary. Library. Manuscript collections.

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Processing Information**

These items were gathered from a variety of sources. The student lecture notes (1942-45) of the Reverend Bokko Tsuchiyana were given to the Seminary through the agency of Dr. Charles West in July of 1989. The student lecture notes (1939-40, 1945-46) of the Reverend William O. Ragsdale were given to the Seminary Archives in October of 1990. In 1974 Allan Joseph Mesko, Princeton Seminary Th.M. 1964 and a native of Czechoslovakia, donated various materials to the Seminary which he had collected in the 1960s. Dr. Charles West contributed some items relating to the Christian peace movement in Europe and Marxist-Christian dialogue. These items were organized as a manuscript collection by Raymond D. Cannata, under the direction of William O. Harris,

Archivist, in January of 1997. The finding aid was edited in January of 2009 by Sarah A. Seraphin.

## **Access**

There are no special restrictions placed on the use of this collection. It is available to library patrons under the normal rules and conditions of Special Collections.

## **Use of Materials**

The following is the acceptable citation for publication: The Josef L. Hromaadka Manuscript Collection. Special Collections, Princeton Theological Seminary Library.

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## **Related Material**

See also the following materials in Special Collections:

The C.A.R.E.E. Manuscript Collection

[The Carl C. McIntire Manuscript Collection](#)

The following collections contain student lecture notes from Dr. Hromádka'S courses at Princeton Seminary:

[The Frederick Corum Manuscript Collection](#)

[The William R. Dupree Manuscript Collection](#)

[The Charles R. Ehrhardt Manuscript Collection](#)

[The Wallace N. Jamison Manuscript Collection](#)

The R.L. Moreland Manuscript Collection

The Harold L. Myers Manuscript Collection

[The William H.K. Narum Manuscript Collection](#)

PTS Class Notes Collections, Robert Stuart Vogt, Class of 1946

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# Contents

## Box 1

- Finding Aid
- Letter from Bokko Tsuchiyana to Charles West, regarding gift of his student lecture notes to Princeton Seminary. (July 22, 1989)

## Series 1: Bokko Tsuchiyana's Student Lecture Notes, 1942-45.

- Philosophy of Religion
- Christian Ethics
- Church and State
- Theology of Ecumenical Conferences
- Social Implications of Christian Ethics
- Theology of Crisis

## Series 2: William O. Ragsdale's Student Lecture Notes, 1939-40, 1945-46.

- Christian Ethics
- Philosophy of Religion
- Theology of Crisis

## Series 3: Biographical Materials

- Papers delivered at the Centenary Symposium on the Life and Work of Josef L. Hromádka , Prague, Czechoslovakia. June 3-9, 1989
- "Josef L Hromádka : No 1 Protestant Defender of Communism," by Carl McIntire circa 1959
- Obituaries and miscellaneous biographical materials

## Box 2

## Series 4: Major Published Czech Works by Hromádka

- Zakladv Theolocricke Ethiky 1929
- "Prirozene Nabozenstvi" 1930
- Pole Je Tento Svet circa 1964
- Mezi Vychodem a Zapadem 1945
- Evanqelium o Ceste La Clovekem 1958

### **Box 3**

#### **Series 5: Allan Joseph Mesko collection on J.L. Hromádka**

- Bibliographies and published articles, through 1964. 1964
- "Church in Communist Society: A Study in J.L. Hromádka 's Theological Politics," by Matthew Spinka, with introduction by Reinhold Niebuhr (Hartford, Conn.: Hartford Seminary Press) [signed]. 1954
- Index card box of English translation of quotes on Hromádka 's sayings on Marxism.
- Pamphlets and journals of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University. 1925-1926
- Pamphlets and journals of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University. 1922
- Czech article on Hromádka by Marxist Machoree. 1962
- "Na Prahu Dialogu" ("On the Threshold of a Dialogue"), paper by Hromádka . 1963
- "Joseph Hromádka : A Critical Evaluation of the Conception of Kulturchristentum," a term paper for Dr Charles West by Allan J Mesko, Princeton, New Jersey. 1962
- Photographs
- Miscellaneous

### **Box 4**

#### **Series 5, continued**

- Od reformace K Zitrku. 1956
- Documents of the Third Session of the Christian Peace Conference. 1960
- Masarvk Mezi Vcereiskem a Zitrkem.
- Komunismus A Krestanstvi by Hroma?dka. 1946
- "Cim Je Nam Dnes Jezis Kristus?". 1940
- Copies of *KJ* [newspaper]. 1964
- *Krestanska Revue* [journals]. (1960, 1963-64)
- Peace movement photographs
- Czech-English pocket dictionary
- Miscellaneous Czech language items

**Box 5**

**Series 5, continued**

- Protestant Churches in Czechoslovakia [monthly newsletters published by the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Czechoslovakia]. 1962-1963
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