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## Richard F. Boeke Collection

### Collection number: GTU 98-2-03

Graduate Theological Union Archives

Graduate Theological Union

Berkeley, California

Processed by:

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Date Completed:

April 2006

Encoded by:

David Stiver

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Richard F. Boeke collection

**Dates:** 1957-1994

**Collection number:** GTU 98-2-03

**Creator:** Boeke, Richard

**Collection Size:** 4.5 linear feet (5 record cartons)

**Repository:** The Graduate Theological Union. Library.

Berkeley, CA 94709

**Abstract:** Richard F. Boeke served as minister of the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, California, 1973-1995. During his ministry, he was involved in the Howard Thurman Educational Trust, the International Association for Religious Freedom, and the Uniquet Foundation among other groups and organizations.

**Physical location:** 5/J/6, 5/K/6

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

Richard F. Boeke collection, GTU 98-2-03 . Graduate Theological Union Archives, Berkeley, CA.

### Acquisition Information

The collection came from Richard Boeke's home, transferred to the GTU Archives by the Archivist.

### Biography / Administrative History

Richard F. Boeke was born and raised in Atlanta. After attending Georgia Tech for two years, he transferred and completed his degree at Iowa State University, graduating in 1951. He received his Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School in 1954, M.A. from Columbia University in 1971, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA, in 1982. He was ordained in the

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Unitarian-Universalist Church in 1955, the same year he entered the U.S. Air Force as a Chaplain. Following this service, he served churches in Flushing, New York; Chico, California; Reno, Nevada, and St. Petersburg, Florida. He accepted the call to First Unitarian Church of Berkeley in 1973, where he remained until 1995. As of 2008, he served as minister of the Unitarian Church in Horsham, West Sussex, England.

Described as internationally minded, Boeke helped found the North American chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), an organization based in the United Kingdom which promotes freedom of religion and belief at a global level. He was a member of the board of trustees for the Howard Thurman Trust. He participated with Viktor Frankl in events sponsored by the Berkeley Unitarian-Universalist Church on logotherapy. He was a founding member of the Partner Church Council, created in 1993 to coordinate Unitarian Universalist Churches around the world after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. Boeke has served as secretary for the World Congress of Faiths, which works to develop better understanding, co-operation and respect between people of different faiths.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

This collection represents Richard Boeke's work with the churches and other religious organizations with which he was involved between the years 1963 and 1994. The extent to which these organizations are represented in the collection varies. It contains Boeke's dissertation on Pistiology (Pacific School of Religion, 1982) and other papers, some of his published writings (various years), sermons (undated), poetry, handwritten journals (1988 and 1990 respectively), handwritten notes, a few of his illustrations, and First Unitarian Church of Berkeley correspondence from the years 1973 through 1975. Other materials include several small publications, usually relating in some way to religion and some with Boeke's writings, and various pamphlets and brochures.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is divided into five series: 1. Boeke's Writings; 2. Church Correspondence; 3. Subject Files; 4. Groups and Organizations; and 5. Audio-visual Materials.

### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

### **Subjects**

Boeke, Richard.  
First Unitarian Church (Berkeley, Calif.).  
Howard Thurman Educational Trust.  
International Association for Religious Freedom.  
Uniquet Foundation.  
Unitarian Universalist churches--California--Berkeley--Clergy.  
Logotherapy.  
Religious pluralism--20th century.  
Dialogue--Religious aspects.

### **Separated Material**

Basic Terms of Shinto: Revised Edition. Tokyo, Japan: Kokugakuin University, Institute for Japanese Culture and Classics, 1985. Transferred to GTU Library circulating collection. Call Number: BL2216.1 I5 1985.

Kyoden: Extracts from the Threefold Lotus Sutra. Tokyo, Japan: Risho Kosei-Kai, 1979. Transferred to GTU Library Rare Books. Call Number: BQ2052.E5 K96 1979.

Maududi, Sayyid Abul A'la, Toward Understanding Islam. Delhi, India: Markazi Maktaba Islami, 17th edition 1993. Page tipped in to front of book: "Welcome to delegates of International Association of Religious Freedom, Sarvadharmha Sammelan 19th Aug to 22nd Aug, 1993 at Bangalore". Transferred to GTU Library Rare Books. Call Number: BP161 M4813 1993.

1. Boeke Writings 1964-1990

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Box 1 : 1-5      **1. Boeke Writings 1964-1990**

**Physical Description:** 5 folders

box-folder 1 : 1      **Dissertation: Pistiology: An Essay on Faith, Pacific School of Religion, D.Min., 1982**  
box-folder 1 : 2-3      **Journals 1988-1990**  
box-folder 1 : 4      **Papers 1966-1973**  
box-folder 1 : 5      **Published Writings 1964-1973**

## 2. Church correspondence 1973-1995

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Box 1 : 6-26    **2. Church correspondence 1973-1995**

**Physical Description:** 21 folders

box-folder 1 : 6    **Correspondence, General no date**  
box-folder 1 : 7-25    **Correspondence 1973 - 1995**  
box-folder 1 : 26    **Correspondence, loose fragments no date**

### 3. Subject Files 1978-1994

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Box 1 : 27-32, 2 **3. Subject Files 1978-1994**

1-28, 3 : 1-27

**Physical Description:** 60 folders

box-folder 1 : 27 **Androgynous Workshop Experience 1978**  
box-folder 1 : 28 **Asilomar 1991**  
box-folder 1 : 29 **Awkward Ministries 1989-1991**  
box-folder 1 : 30 **Brown, Dwight Paper 1965**  
box-folder 1 : 31-32 **China Files 1989-1994**  
box-folder 2 : 1 **Chosen Faith Class 1990-1992**  
box-folder 2 : 2 **College Centers 1992-1993**  
box-folder 2 : 3-7 **Collegium Journal Publications and submissions 1970-1994**  
box-folder 2 : 10 **Conferences and Retreat Sites 1976**  
box-folder 2 : 11 **Creative Initiative 1984**  
box-folder 2 : 12 **Dalai Lama Visit 1994**  
box-folder 2 : 13-17 **First Unitarian Church of Berkeley General 1980-1987**  
box-folder 2 : 18 **First Unitarian Church Budget 1982-1984**  
box-folder 2 : 19 **First Unitarian Church Correspondence circa 1975 -1989**  
box-folder 2 : 20 **First Unitarian Church Death 1973**  
box-folder 2 : 21 **First Unitarian Church Music 1980-1983**  
box-folder 2 : 22 **First Unitarian Church Music Committee Meeting 1981-1985**  
box-folder 2 : 23-24 **First Unitarian Church Oasis 1970-1983**  
box-folder 2 : 25 **Foundations 1992**  
box-folder 2 : 26 **Hindu 1992**  
box-folder 2 : 27-28 **Japan 1988-1993**  
box-folder 3 : 1 **Sam Keen no date**  
box-folder 3 : 2 **Lawrence Lectures 1983**  
box-folder 3 : 3 **Lectures 1973-1975**  
box-folder 3 : 4 **Admiral John Marshall Lee Remarks 1983**  
box-folder 3 : 5 **Logotherapy 1984**  
box-folder 3 : 6 **Meditations 1981-1991**  
box-folder 3 : 7 **Meetings 1983-1984**  
box-folder 3 : 8 **Mission Statement First Unitarian Church of Berkeley 1994**  
box-folder 3 : 9 **New Theology Series 1978**  
box-folder 3 : 10 **Newsletters various churches 1977-1987**  
box-folder 3 : 11 **Niwano Peace Foundation 1984**  
box-folder 3 : 12 **Nursing Home Protection Act 1984**  
box-folder 3 : 13 **Pamphlets 1973-1983**  
box-folder 3 : 14 **Plays 1985**  
box-folder 3 : 16 **Poetry 1973-1974**  
box-folder 3 : 17 **Presbyterian Ministers Fund 1983-1984**  
box-folder 3 : 18 **Resumes for Chaplaincy 1983**  
box-folder 3 : 19 **Religion Politics and the Media (RPM) TV 1979**  
box-folder 3 : 20 **Retreats 1987-1994**  
box-folder 3 : 21 **Seminars and Seminarians 1992**  
box-folder 3 : 0 **Sermons 1957-1976**  
box-folder 3 : 25 **Starr King Alumni 1973-1974**  
box-folder 3 : 26 **TV Occupations 1983**  
box-folder 3 : 27 **Third World Assembly 1980**

Box 3 : 28-45, 4 **4. Groups and Organizations 1978-1994**

1-31, 5 : 1-16

**Physical Description:** folders

- box-folder 3 : 28-31 **Howard Thurman Educational Trust 1968-1992**
- box-folder 3 : 32-33 **Uniquet (includes drawings and photos of Starr King) 1974-1990**
- box-folder 3 : 34 **Unisoul Institute 1974**
- box-folder 3 : 35 **Unitarian Society Shawnee Mission no date**
- box-folder 3 : 36-38 **Unitarian Universalists Brochures and Pamphlets Advance 1975-1992**
- box-folder 3 : 39 **World Citizen Assembly Committee V Tokyo 1980**
- box-folder 3 : 40-41 **World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) 1983-1996**
- box-folder 3 : 42 **World Parliament of Religions 1991-1993**
- box-folder 3 : 43 **World Religions 1992-1993**
- box-folder 3 : 44 **World Religions Series 1982-1983**
- box-folder 3 : 45 **World Theology for Parents 1992-1993**
- box-folder 4 : 1-16 **International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) 1967-1994**
- box-folder 4 : 17 **Commission II 1980**
- box-folder 4 : 18 **Commission III 1980-1987**
- box-folder 4 : 19 **Correspondence 1980-1986**
- box-folder 4 : 20 **Newsletters 1977**
- box-folder 4 : 21 **Proceeding 27th World Congress 1990**
- box-folder 4 : 22 **Tsubaki Shrine 1980-1988**
- box-folder 4 : 23 **U.S. Chapter 1993-1994**
- box-folder 4 : 24-28 **World Congresses 1983, 1984, 1987, 1990**
- box-folder 4 : 29-31 **World Parliament, Japan 1990-1994**

Box 5 : 1-17, GTU **Audio-visual Materials 1978-1994**

Slide box 4B

**Physical Description:** 19 items

- box-item 5 : 1     **Richard Boeke, "The Way of Elizabeth O'Connor" 11/20/1977**
- box-item 5 : 2     **Memorial Service for Lyon Phelps, Follen Church 10/15/1983.**
- box-item 5 : 3     **Richard Boeke at the home of Lucile Isitt , IARF (International Association for Religious Freedom) and World Community Spring 1984**
- box-item 5 : 4     **Wedding of B. Brandon and R. Miller, includes P.H.C. Garrison's Reunion and wedding 9/20/1986**
- box-item 5 : 5     **Memorial Service for Howard Hauze, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Berkeley, CA 9/9/1989**
- box-item 5 : 6     **Gangaji Satsang, San Rafael, CA 6/31/1993**
- box-item 5 : 7     **IARF Congress Service, Japan circa 1990-94**
- box-item 5 : 8     **Richard Boeke in a Tokyo Bar (karaoke) circa 1990-94**
- box-item 5 : 9     **Workshop IARF Japan circa 1990-94**
- box-item 5 : 10    **Unidentified Japanese Music no date**
- box-item 5 : 11    **Mother's Day Service, First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, Richard Boeke Preaching no date**
- box-item 5 : 12    **Nancy Schimmel no date**
- box-item 5 : 13-16 **Uniquet sessions conducted by Joseph Fabry to enhance the Festival of Meaning. Explaining Logotherapy and Viktor Frankl. (Slides to accompany the tapes are found in GTU Slide Box 4/B) 1977**
- box-item 5 : 17    **Videocassette "Tubaki Grand Shrine" circa 1990-94**
- box GTU Slide Box **Slides 3810-3815, International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) meeting San Francisco CA 10/1977**  
4/B
- box GTU Slide Box **Slides 3816-3839 to accompany the Uniquet sessions conducted by Joseph Fabry to enhance the Festival of**  
4/B.               **Meaning. Explaining Logotherapy and Viktor Frankl. See Audio tapes 13-16. 1977**