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## Inventory of the Norman C. Mealy Collection of 18th Century Methodist Hymnals

### Collection number: GTU 96-8-01

Graduate Theological Union Archives  
Graduate Theological Union  
Berkeley, California

Processed by:

David Stiver

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

David Stiver

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Norman C. Mealy collection of 18th Century Methodist Hymnals

**Dates:** ca. 1983

**Collection number:** GTU 96-8-01

**Collector:** Mealy, Norman (1923-1987)

**Creator:** Wesley, John (1703-1791)

**Collection Size:** .5 linear feet (2 archives boxes)

**Repository:** The Graduate Theological Union. Library.  
Berkeley, CA 94709

**Abstract:** The collection contains photocopies of significant 18th century Methodists hymnals with notes and indexes of the hymns by Professor of Music Church Music Norman Carleton Mealy.

**Physical location:** 1/E/2

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

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

Norman C. Mealy collection of 18th Century Methodist Hymnals , GTU 96-8-01. Graduate Theological Union Archives, Berkeley, CA.

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Margaret W. Mealy in August 1996.

### Biography / Administrative History

Norman Carleton Mealy (1923-1987) was Professor of Church Music at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific from 1952 to 1987 and the GTU from 1965 to 1987. He was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1960. He served as the Director of Music at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley from 1947 to 1961.

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According to his wife Margaret Mealy, "This Norman Mealy collection of 18th century hymnals (photocopies) is part of the John Wesley family of tune books. All are edited by John Wesley, who chose the hymns and their musical arrangement, except for *Harmonia Sacra*, from which Wesley selected some hymns. These hymnals reflect Wesley's insistence that all sing at Methodist meetings. His work culminated in *A Collection of Hymns for the use by the People Called Methodists*."

The Rev. Mealy spent several sabbaticals studying these Wesley materials at the library of the British Museum and the Methodist Archives at Manchester. In 1975, he wrote, "In 1970 I had begun a study of the Wesley family of tune books and first became fascinated with the congregational music of a church in the midst of renewal...(Now)I hope to bring back photographic reproductions of the more important collections to add to our hymnological resources...In addition to indexing melodies, I hope to study the curious stylistic changes in congregational music from the syllabic tune of the 17th century to the graceful sound of the 18th."

In 1983, as part of a sabbatical request, he proposed "to complete a study of the 1780 *A Collection of Hymns for the use by the People Called Methodists*. This hymnal (525 texts) was the last to be edited by John Wesley and became the foundation for all subsequent revisions." Illness and death prevented the completion of this project.

Active in developing new music within the Episcopal Church, he served on several commissions on service music and liturgy and assisted in collecting music for several Church publications: *Hymns and Carols* (1966); *Songs for liturgy and more hymns and spiritual songs* (1971); *Book of Canticles* (1979); and *The Hymnal* (1982). Other publications include *Sing for Joy; A Songbook for Young Children* (1961) with his wife, Margaret; *Skier's Song Book* (1950) with David Wyckoff Kemp; and *Music, Dance, and Religion: The Performing Arts in Worship* (1985) and *Performer as Priest and Prophet: Restoring the Intuitive in Worship through Music and Dance* (1988) with the dancer, Judith Rock.

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

The collection contains photocopies of six 18th century hymnals edited by John Wesley and one printed by Thomas Butts with notes and indexes of the hymns by Norman Carleton Mealy.

### **Indexing Terms**

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

### **Subjects**

Wesleyan Methodist Church--Hymns.

Methodist Church--Hymns.

Hymns, English.

### **Genres and Forms of Material**

Hymns.

Hymns, English.

Hymns, Methodist Church.

### **Index Terms Related to this Collection**

Butts, Thomas, 1759-1846.

Mealy, Norman.

Wesley, John, 1703-1791.

### **Other Finding Aids**

GTU 97-5-01, *Hymns, Our Common Christian Heritage*, Commentary by Norman Mealy. MSS 253, Norman Mealy Research Material on British Library Hymn Collection, Pitt Theology Library, Emory University, consisting of index cards and notebooks on hymnals published in England from 1539 to 1795.

Box 1 : 1-5 - 2 : **18th Century Methodist Hymnals (photocopies) 1742-1785**

**Physical Description:** 7 folders

- box-folder 1:1     **A Collection of Tunes Set to Music As They are Commonly Sung at the Foundry, London, British Museum copy 1742**
- box-folder 1:2     **A Collection of Hymns For the Use of the People Called Methodists, 2nd ed. and 3rd ed, just the index 1765/1782**
- box-folder 1:3     **Sacred Harmony or a Choice Collection of Psalms and Hymns Set To Music in two and three parts for the Voice, Harpsichord and Organ 1780**
- box-folder 1:4     **Sacred Melodies or A Choice Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes 1761**
- box-folder 1:5     **Hymns on the Great Festivals and Other Occasions, British Museum, no notes. 1746**
- box-folder 2:1     **The Divine Musical Miscellany being, A Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes: great part of which were never before in print, copy from Harbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary 1754**
- box-folder 2:2     **Thomas Butts collection, Harmonia-Sacra, or A choice Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes. Also index from later edition ca. 1760/1785**