

PAPERS OF WILBERT SHENK  
1967-2008

FINDING AID

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### **Administrative Information**

**Title:**

Papers of Wilbert Shenk, 1967-2008

**Creator(s):**

Shenk, Wilbert

**Collection Identifier:**

CFT00152

**Extent:**

19 Boxes, 7.80 linear feet

**Repository:**

David Allan Hubbard Library  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
135 N Oakland Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91182

**Acquisition Information:**

The gift of Wilbert Shenk (donation of initial material - date unknown and ongoing donation additions received 2017 and 2018).

**Conditions Governing Access:**

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**Language:**

English

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of Item], Papers of Wilbert Shenk, Archives and Special Collections, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

**Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:**

Collection cataloged and finding aid written by Adam Gossman. Finding aid revised by Andrew Wong, August 2018 and Esther Park, July 2021.

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## **Biographical History**

Wilbert Shenk (1935 - 2021), noted missiologist and author, joined the School of Intercultural Studies faculty at Fuller Theological Seminary in 1995. As of 2019, Dr. Shenk taught as Senior Professor of Mission History and Contemporary Culture. His credentials include a BA from Goshen College; MA from the University of Oregon; and a PhD from the University of Aberdeen. Shenk's areas of expertise include mission history, missiology, mission to contemporary culture.

He served as director of the Mission Training Center and associate professor of mission at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (1990-95); director of the Overseas Ministries Division of the Mennonite Board of Missions (1965-90); and a teacher in Indonesia (1955-59).

Shenk helped found the American Society of Missiology, working in various administrative roles such as Secretary-Treasurer (1988-89), Vice-President (1992 – 1994), and President (1994 – 1995). He was also a member of the International Association for Mission Studies. Shenk organized the Missiology of Western Culture Project (1992-98) and was North American Coordinator of North Atlantic Missiology Project/Currents in World Christianity (1994-2000). He took on the role as Coordinator of the Gospel and Our Culture Program and Gospel and Our Culture Network (1993 – 1998). Additionally, Shenk convened the consultation sponsored by Fuller Theological Seminary in 1998 on the topic “Toward a Global Christian History,” with 45 participants from six continents.

He has also authored, co-authored, or served as consulting editor for a variety of books. Among Shenk's publications include: “North American Foreign Missions, 1810-1914: Theology, Theory, and Policy” (2004), “Enlarging the Story: Perspectives on Writing World Christian History” (2002), “By Faith They Went Out: Mennonite Missions, 1850-1999” (2000), and “Changing Frontiers of Mission” (1999). He was a consulting editor of the “Dictionary of Mission Theology: Evangelical Foundations” (2007).

## **Cataloger's Note**

In November 2019, a preservation assessment of “The Papers of Wilbert Shenk” showed that the collection had been processed with MPLP standards, and recently received materials had not been processed into the current collection. The previous arrangement was organized by topic - Missiology Project, The Gospel and Our Culture Project, Missiology of Western Culture Project, North American Missionary Project, and Miscellaneous.

In January 2020, the collection was processed to a folder level standard with new donated materials incorporated with the current materials. The collection was put into appropriate storage containers and filed in a new arrangement. Some materials were re-distributed and new donated materials were added to fit the cataloging format. The new arrangement is organized by topic and sub-categorized by date or alphabetically by name. No items were removed. The finding aid shows updated information and changes that were made. (Esther Park, January 14, 2020)

## **Scope and Content**

The Papers of Wilbert Shenk collection has a date range of 1967-2008. Materials include Shenk's doctoral thesis, meeting minutes, drafts of book chapters, lectures, conference presentations, and correspondence. Shenk's administrative files from the American Society of Missiology, North Atlantic Missiology Project, Gospel and Our Culture Program, and Missiology of Western Culture Program are also included.

## **Subjects**

American Society of Missiology  
Gospel and Our Culture Program  
Missiology of Western Culture Program  
Missions  
North Atlantic Missiology Project

**Container List**

**Box 1: Missiology Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Edith Bernard - Missiology Project	1992 - 1997
2	Missiology Project: Neal Blough	1993 – circa 1999
3	Missiology Project: Anne Fortin -Melkevik	1992 - 1993
4	Missiology Project: Laurel Gasque (1 of 2)	1995 - 1997
5	Missiology Project: Laurel Gasque (2 of 2)	1993 - 1994
6	Missiology Project: Christoffer Grundmann (1 of 2)	No Date - 1995
7	Missiology Project: Christoffer Grundmann (2 of 2)	1996 - 2002
8	L.A. Hoedmaker	1991 - 1997
9	Missiology Project: Mogens Jensen	1993 - 2000
10	Missiology Project: Lars Johansson	1992 - 1996
11	Missiology Project: Andrew Kirk	1991 - 1997
12	Kirk Lectures	Date Unknown - 1993

**Box 2: Missiology Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Missiology Project: Mary Motte	1993 - 1995
2	Missiology Project: Charles R. Taber (1 of 3)	1992 - 1994
3	Missiology Project: Charles R. Taber (2 of 3)	1995 - 1999
4	Missiology Project: Charles R. Taber (2 of 3) – Floppy Disk	1999
5	Missiology Project: Werner Ustorf	1993 - 1997
6	Missiology Project: G. J. Van Butselaar (1 of 2)	1993- 1995
7	Missiology Project: G. J. Van Butselaar (2 of 2)	1996 - 1999
8	Missiology Project: Miroslav Volf	1991 - 1995
9	Missiology Project: David Lowes Watson – photographs included	1992 - 1998

**Box 3: Missiology Project, Gospel and Our Culture Program**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Missiology Project: J-F Zorn	1993 - 1995
2	Epistemology Consultation	1996
3	Missiology Project: Finances	1999
4	Missiology Project: Publications	1994 - 1996
5	Missiology Project: Steering Committee	1995 - 1996
6	Gospel and Our Culture Program: World Council of Churches (WCC) Contacts – 1990-92	1990 - 1992
7	Gospel and Our Culture Program: Pew Charitable Trusts – Correspondence 1990 - 1992	1990 - 1992
8	Gospel and Our Culture Program	1990 - 1994
9	Gospel and Our Culture Program: 1988 – 1990 – Minutes, Correspondence	1998 - 1990

10	Gospel and Our Culture Program: Correspondence – Minutes	1990 - 1991
11	Gospel and Our Culture Program: Correspondence – Reports – 1992	1991 - 1994

**Box 4: Gospel and Our Culture Program**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Centre for New Religious Movements (CENERM) – Sally Oaks College – Birmingham	1989 - 1997
2	First World Training Institute: Gospel and Our Culture Program (GOCP) – 1990	1990
3	Gospel and Our Culture Program 1982 – 1988 (1 of 2)	1982 - 1987
4	Gospel and Our Culture Program 1998 – 1992 (2 of 2)	
5	The Gospel as Public Truth – Consultation on “The Gospel and Our Culture” Program	1992
6	Gospel and Our Culture Program: Survey in Europe 1990 (1 of 2) – photographs included	1983 - 1990
7	Gospel and Our Culture Program: Survey in Europe 1990 (2 of 2)	1990 - 1993

**Box 5: Gospel and Our Culture Program**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Gospel and Our Culture (North America) Newsletter	1987 - 2002
2	Gospel and Our Culture Network (North America) 1990 - 1994	1990 - 1996
3	North America – Gospel and Our Culture Network (1 of 2)	Date Unknown - 1990
4	North America – Gospel and Our Culture Network (2 of 2)	1991 - 1994
5	Gospel and Our Culture Network – 1992	1991 - 1999
6	Gospel and Our Culture Network (1995 - )	1992 - 2003
7	Gospel and Our Culture Network – 1993	1994 - 1998

**Box 6: Missiology of Western Culture Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Missiology of Western Culture (M.W. C.) Project: Books (Prospectuses)	1996 – circa 1997
2	Missiology of Western Culture – Correspondence	1991 - 1992
3	Missiology of Western Culture – Project – Correspondence 1993 - 1997	1993 - 1997
4	Missiology of Western Culture Program – January 9 – 13, 1992	Date Unknown - 1992
5	Missiology of Western Culture: Paris – 1993	1992 – Date Unknown
6	Missiology of Western Culture: Project Statements	Date Unknown - 1992
7	Missiology of Western Culture Project: Finances/Reporting – Pew Charitable Trusts	1991 - 1993

8	Missiology of Western Culture Project 1990 – 1997 (1 of 2)	1990 - 1994
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**Box 7: Missiology of Western Culture Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Missiology of Western Culture Project (an initiative funded by Pew Charitable Trusts) 1990 – 1997 (2 of 2)	1990 – circa 1999
2	Missiology of Western Culture Project: Pew Charitable Trusts 1991 – 1992	Date Unknown - 1999
3	Missiology Project: Symposium – Sept. 1997 (1 of 2)	1995 - 1998
4	Missiology of Western Culture: Toward a Missiology of Western Culture Symposium (2 of 2)	Circa 1997
5	Academic Papers - Missiology: Intercultural Identity (Miroslav Wolf) – 1991	Circa 1997
6	David Lowes Watson – Essays in Ecclesiology (1 of 2)	Date Unknown - 1999
7	David Lowes Watson – Essays in Ecclesiology (2 of 2)	Date Unknown - 1996

**Box 8: Missiology of Western Culture Project, North Atlantic Missiology Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Final Narrative Report – A Missiology of Western Culture January 1, 1995 – December 31, 1997 ( 1 of 3)	1972 - 1997
2	Final Narrative Report – A Missiology of Western Culture January 1, 1995 – December 31, 1997 ( 2 of 3)	1992 - 1999
3	Final Narrative Report – A Missiology of Western Culture January 1, 1995 – December 31, 1997 ( 3 of 3)	1994 – Date Unknown
4	Missiology of Western Culture - “Structures” Ms. (1 of 2)	Date Unknown - 2001
5	Missiology of Western Culture - “Structures” Ms. (2 of 2)	Date Unknown
6	North Atlantic Missiology Project (Casson and Stanley)	1996 - 2004
7	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) 1997 Consultation – Madison	Circa 1996 – Circa 2002

**Box 9: North Atlantic Missiology Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) 1998 Consultation - Pasadena	1996 - 2001
2	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) Consultation 1999 – McMaster University	1997 - 1998
3	North Atlantic Missiology Project – Correspondence 1996	1996
4	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Financial Forms/Records	1996 - 1998
5	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Inquiries	1997
6	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Prospectus	1995 – Date Unknown

7	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Bank Statements/Report Receipts	1996 - 2002
8	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Receipts	1997 - 2001
9	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Steering Committee	1996 - 1998
10	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) 1994 – 1995 (1 of 2)	1994 - 1980

**Box 10: North Atlantic Missiology Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) 1994 – 1995 (2 of 2)	1995 - 1997
2	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) (1 of 2)	1996 - 2001
3	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) (2 of 2)	Date Unknown - 1996
4	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) - Newsletter included	1997
5	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) - 1998 Symposium (1 of 2)	1997 - 1998
6	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) - Symposium (2 of 2)	1997 - 1998
7	University of Cambridge: Currents in World Christianity: The Oxford Consultation – Position Papers (1 of 3)	1999
8	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Research Forum Papers (Student) (2 of 3)	1998

**Box 11: North Atlantic Missiology Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Research Forum Papers (Student) (3 of 3)	1998
2	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 1 – 25 (2 of 3)	1996
3	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 1 – 25 (2 of 3)	1996
4	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 1 – 25 (3 of 3)	1997
5	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 26 – 50 (1 of 3)	1997
6	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 26 – 50 (2 of 3)	1997

**Box 12: North Atlantic Missiology Project**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 26 – 50 (3 of 3)	1997 - 1998

2	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 51 – 100b. (1 of 4)	1998
3	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 51 – 100b. (2 of 4)	1998
4	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 51 – 100b. (3 of 4)	1998
5	North Atlantic Missiology Project (N.A.M.P.) – Position Papers 51 – 100b. (4 of 4)	1998

**Box 13: American Society of Missiology, Christianity and Religious Plurality in Historical Perspective**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	American Society of Missiology (ASM) (1 of 2)	1973 - 1992
2	American Society of Missiology (ASM) (2 of 2)	1993 - 2004
3	American Society of Missiology – History	1987 – circa 1999
4	American Society of Missiology (ASM) - Task Force	1995 - 1997
5	Associations of Professors of Mission	1990 - 1993
6	American Society of Missiology (ASM)/Association of Professors of Mission (APM) – 1995 Program Planning	Date Unknown - 1995
7	Christianity and Religious Plurality in Historical Perspective (1 of 3)	Circa 2003
8	Christianity and Religious Plurality in Historical Perspective (2 of 3)	Circa 2003 - 2004
9	Christianity and Religious Plurality in Historical Perspective (3 of 3)	2001 – circa 2003
10	History of the American Society of Missiology, 1973-2013	2013

**Box 14: Consultation Projects – Copenhagen, Global Historiography, India, Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Copenhagen – Summer 1997	1988 - 1997
2	Global Histiography Consultation	Circa 1995
3	Consultation: Toward a Global Historiography	Circa 1998 - 2001
4	India – July 28 – Aug. 22, 2003	Date Unknown - 2003
5	Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (2004 Forum for World Evangelization) (1 of 3)	Circa 2004
6	Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (2004 Forum for World Evangelization) (2 of 3)	Circa 2003 – Circa 2004
7	Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (2004 Forum for World Evangelization) (2 of 3)	Circa 2004
8	Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (2004 Forum for World Evangelization) – Conference Binder Materials (CD included)	Circa 2004

**Box 15: Contributor Book Projects**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Bicentennial Project	1983 - 2008
2	Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions – Gerald H. Anderson	1993 - 1996
3	Dictionary of Mission Theology: Ed. John Corrie (IVP) U.K.	Circa 2004 - 2007
4	Encyclopedia of Protestantism (Routledge)	1998 - 2003
5	Evangelical Dictionary of World Mission	1996 - 1997
6	Jongeneel Festschrift	1978 - 2003
7	Religion in Geschichte/Gegenwart (1 of 2)	1997 - 1998
8	Religion in Geschichte/Gegenwart (2 of 2)	1999 - 2005

**Box 16: Contributor Book Projects, Trinity Press International, Contributor Conference Projects and Research Projects**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	“The Abak Story” Manuscript	1972
2	Trinity Press Int. – Correspondence with authors A – K	1994 - 2000
3	Trinity Press Int. – Correspondence with authors L – Z	1993 - 1999
4	Japan Itinerary (Photos included)	1982 – Date Unknown
5	DM Ministry Project – “Nurturing a Growing Church” (Dissertation)	Circa 2011
6	Midwest Fellowship of Professors of Missions	Date Unknown - 1995
7	Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC)/ Research Enablement Program (REP) Colloquium – June 2 – 5, 1994	Date Unknown - 1995
8	Skirball Institute Forum (Feb. 22 – 23, 1996)	1967 - 1996
9	Society of Divine Word Consultation – December 8 – 11, 2000	1999 - 2000

**Box 17: Shenk’s Book & Thesis Projects and Lectures**

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Trinity Press International: Harold Rast – Laura Barrett (Spiral Bound Booklet included) (1 of 2)	1992 - 1995
2	Trinity Press International: Harold Rast – Laura Barrett (Spiral Bound Booklet included) (2 of 2)	1996 - 2002
3	Trinity Press Int. – Prospectus	1991 – Date Unknown
4	Barret, Peter (South African Science and Religion Forum)	1995 - 2002
5	Cragg, Kenneth	1994 - 1996
6	Kerner/Milner (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School)	1995 - 1998
7	Sam Matthews – D. Min Proj. (floppy disk included)	1999 - 2001
8	Book Chapter and Blog Post – Wilbert Shenk (Evangelical, Ecumenical, and Anabaptist Missiologies in Conversation)	2005 - 2006
9	Church Missiology Society (WRS Doctoral Research) 1973 - 78	1974 - 1984

10	Shenk's Lectures on Missiology – “Newbigin in His Time” (CD included)	1992 - 1997
11	Wesley Duewel Writing – Manuscript	1976 - 2008

**Box 18: Shenk's Thesis**

Item	Description	Date/Note
1	Hardcover Book: Henry Venn – Missionary Statesman: Thesis for the Degree of Ph.D.	1978

**Box 19: A/V Materials – VHS and Cassette Tapes**

Item	Description	Date/Note
1	VHS Tape: Ghana's Hidden Mission Field, Ghana's Northern Mission Field, The Church's Mission in Africa	Date Unknown
2	VHS Tape: “The Challenge of Dependency: Focusing on Mission Established Institutions	1998
3	VHS Tape: World Vision Australia – Introduction to the Workshops: Biblical Holism – Where God, People, & Deeds Connect	1994
4	Cassette Tape: Pastor's School, Wake Forest U. – Dr. William J. Abraham – “Ecclesial and Spiritual Renewal” (Tape 1)	1992
5	Cassette Tape: Pastor's School, Wake Forest U. – Dr. William J. Abraham – “Ecclesial and Spiritual Renewal” (Tape 2)	1992
6	Cassette Tape: Pastor's School, Wake Forest U. – Dr. William J. Abraham – “Ecclesial and Spiritual Renewal” (Tape 3)	1992
7	Cassette Tape: Pastor's School, Wake Forest U. – Dr. William J. Abraham – “Ecclesial and Spiritual Renewal” (Tape 4)	1992
8	Cassette Tape: Teleconference – Dr. Emilio Castro	1995
9	Cassette Tape: As Africa Sees It Today – Stephen Neill	1974
10	Cassette Tape: The Word and The World - Stephen Neill	1974
11	Cassette Tape: Stephen Neil – “The Word & The World”	Date Unknown
12	Cassette Tape: “The Contextualization of the Gospel” – Rene Padilla	Date Unknown
13	Cassette Tape: Continuity in Christian History – Andrew F. Walls	1985
14	Cassette Tape: The History of Christian Expansion Reconsidered – Andrew F. Walls	1985
15	Cassette Tape: Conversion in Christian History – Andrew F. Walls	1985
16	Cassette Tape: Cultural Identity & Christian Identity – Andrew F. Walls	1985
17	Cassette Tape: The Last Frontier? Christianity and the West – Andrew F. Walls	1985
18	Cassette Tape: W. Wink – Stories re Evil	Date Unknown