

WALTER GEORGE MUELDER
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by

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Introduction

Walter George Muelder applied and interviewed for, then accepted, a position as Associate Professor of Philosophy and Bible at Berea College in 1934.¹ The President of Boston University at the time, Daniel L. Marsh, in his recommendation of Muelder to William J. Hutchins, then President of Berea College, described Muelder as “a man of pronounced Christian character,” to whom belonged both “a pleasing personality” and “all the instincts of a scholar.”² Marsh’s three complimentary descriptive phrases genuinely characterize Walter G. Muelder’s life and career.

I. Person of Pronounced Christian Character

Born in Boody, Illinois on 1 March 1907, to German immigrants, Ms. Minne Horlitz Muelder and Rev. Epke Hermann Muelder, Walter came from a Methodist Christian home. Walter’s father, Epke Hermann Muelder, served as the pastor of St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Burlington, Iowa, during Walter’s childhood.³ According to Walter himself, his father, “a devotee of [Borden Parker] Bowne and Walter Rauschenbusch” had graduated from both Boston University School of Theology and the Graduate School of Boston University.⁴ Walter himself followed in his father’s footsteps. He completed the following academic degrees: Bachelor of Science Degree, Knox College (1927); the Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree, Boston University School of Theology (1930); and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree, Boston University Graduate School (1933).⁵

Walter also received ordination as an elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church (later the United Methodist Church) in 1930, after completing his Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree at Boston University School of Theology.⁶ During his years in college and graduate school, he also had served as student-minister to several churches: the Methodist Episcopal Church of Gilson and Orange, Illinois (1925–27); the Methodist Episcopal Church in North Stoughton, Massachusetts (1928–30); and the Congregational Church in North Hampton, New Hampshire (1932–33).⁷ Immediately prior to beginning his service at Berea College, Walter Muelder also served as the minister to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Crandon, Wisconsin.⁸

When Walter began his academic career, he continued his participation in and service to the Methodist Church. As his publications alone indicate, he remained actively engaged with his originating Christian community, especially as its values, aims, and projects correlated with his own interests in the developing field of Christian social ethics.⁹ Throughout his career, Muelder remained deeply involved in Methodist ecclesiastical life. The following examples illustrate the extent of this commitment to his Christian community: delegate for the Methodist Church to the Third World Conference on Faith and Order in Lund, Sweden (1952); delegate for the Methodist Church to the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches (1961); delegate for the Methodist Church to the Fourth World Conference on Faith and Order in Montreal, Canada (1963); delegate-observer for the Methodist Church to the Second Vatican Council (1963–64); delegate for the United Methodist Church to the Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (1968); and delegate to the United Methodist General Conference (1970).¹⁰

On 28 June 1934, Martha Jane Grotewohl (b. 22 March 1907) and Walter Muelder (b. 1 March 1907) married in Martha's home in Burlington, Iowa. Martha, also from Burlington, held a B.A. degree from the University of Iowa (1928). Walter's father, Rev. E. H. Muelder (at that time in La Cross, Wisconsin) performed the ceremony. After their wedding trip, Martha and Walter moved to Berea, Kentucky, where Walter assumed his new teaching position at Berea College.¹¹ Martha and Walter eventually had three daughters: Linda, Sonja, and Helga.

II. Possessing All the Instincts of a Scholar

Muelder arrived at Berea College in 1934 with a fresh Ph.D. degree from the Graduate School of Boston University (1933). His academic records reveal him as a superb student. Early in his doctoral studies, Walter had studied for one academic year (1930–31), on an academic fellowship, in Germany at the University of Frankfurt am Main, where he worked primarily with Paul Tillich, Karl Mannheim, and Max Horkheimer.¹² During his doctoral studies in the Graduate School of Boston University, Muelder, a Borden Parker Bowne Fellow in the Department of Philosophy (1932–33), served consecutively as Assistant to Dean Albert C. Knudson (1931–32) and as Assistant to Professor Edgar Sheffield Brightman (1932–33).¹³ Brightman served as the supervisor of Muelder's dissertation: "Individual Totalities in Ernst Troeltsch's Philosophy of History."¹⁴

By the time that Walter had begun his studies at Boston University School of Theology, he had become "a convinced socialist as represented by Eugene V. Debs" (the American labor-leader), as he later described himself.¹⁵ As mentioned previously, early during his graduate studies at Boston University (1930–31), Walter studied at the University of Frankfurt am Main in Germany. As

Ralph Memolo observed, “[Walter’s] year in Germany gave him a close-up view of the burgeoning Nazi movement,” which “strengthened [Walter’s] commitment to socialism”: Walter thought that “only the socialists blocked the way to Hitler’s seizure of complete power.”¹⁶ Walter maintained his commitment to Socialism and his participation in the Socialist party after accepting the teaching position at Berea College in 1934. During his years at Berea College, Walter served as “secretary of the Socialist Party local” and as “delegate to the National Socialist Party Convention in 1936.”¹⁷

Walter G. Muelder’s interests in the intersections of social, political, and economic issues and their relationships to religious commitments led him to support and to advocate many progressive and challenging perspectives on numerous critical contemporary religious and social questions through the decades of his life and professional career.¹⁸ The following few examples merely illustrate the broad scope of Muelder’s moral commitments and application of moral principles.

- (1) Before he began his initial graduate studies at Boston University School of Theology, already he had made a deep commitment to “the morality of interracial solidarity.” Years later, after he had returned to Boston University as Professor and Dean in the School of Theology, he taught Martin Luther King, Jr. Moreover, Muelder and King became friends during King’s time as a student; their friendship continued even after King had become the leader of the civil-rights movement in the U.S.¹⁹
- (2) Walter Muelder also adopted pacifism early in his life, long prior to the Second World War. In 1940, however, he openly spoke against the governmental conscription of citizens into military service during peacetime. Moreover, on the basis of his commitments to pacifism, democratic socialism, and ecumenical Christian ethics, he opposed the entrance of the U.S. into the War. He actively participated in the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an organization dedicated to promoting peace and justice globally, which had its roots in Christian religions. Muelder committed himself to the cause of developing “institutions for world peace and order.”²⁰
- (3) During the Second World War, the U.S. government dis-located, “forcibly relocated,” and interred Americans of Japanese descent. Muelder recounted, especially as African Americans replaced Japanese Americans in “Little Tokyo,” that “racial problems” became “acute in Los Angeles.” During his years at the University of Southern California, Walter served as chairperson of the Race Relations Committee of the Los Angeles Church Federation, as well as participated in the Council for Civic Unity and the Civil Liberties Union. Muelder’s social activism included visiting Japanese-Americans in their “re-location” camps, offering them counsel about the situation as well as “spiritual advice” during that time. His participation in organized groups included working to protect the rights and properties of Japanese-Americans during and after the War.²¹
- (4) Muelder also actively participated in the then-developing Christian Ecumenical Movement. As noted previously, he participated in the World Council of Churches for many years in various capacities: for example, he served as Consultant to the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1954. He participated in various other ecumenical endeavors as well: serving as Delegate to the Consultation on Church Union in

1968; and serving as Chairperson of the Board for the Ecumenical Institute, Chateau de Bossey, in Geneva, Switzerland (1961–68).²²

- (5) As one last example among numerous other examples, Muelder understood the contemporary “university” or higher education more broadly, not merely as a conservator of the *status quo*. Rather, in Muelder’s understanding, human society has “chartered” “the university ... for responsible dissent.” According to Muelder, institutions of higher education occupy the best position in human society “to recognize” the historical conditioning of “all previous foundations of truth and art, of virtue and piety” and that even the “present efforts” of those institutions also stand “under judgment.”²³ Muelder exercised this critical capacity even toward academic institutions themselves. As one example, after Walter had accepted the position at the University of Southern California, but before he had departed from Berea College, he sent a letter to Francis S. Hutchins, then President of Berea College, in which Muelder identified several needs and made several recommendations about how Berea College might improve and might organize the religious activities on campus. After making those recommendations, Walter wrote quite bluntly: “I have never felt that the cabinet [or administrative committee], especially the deans, [was] particularly interested in knowing what the [faculty] in my department believed about these things, nor interested in respecting our recommendations, especially if they hinted at liberalizing the situation somewhat.” Advocating for voluntary participation by students in religious activities, rather than required attendance at Sunday School and weekly worship services in Chapel, Walter declared forcefully: “I have been painfully conscious of doing religious work at Berea within a framework (extra-curricular) which was oriented to cabinet policies of discipline and campus order rather than to the free ideals of accepted religious education.”²⁴ As another instance of Muelder’s application of his understanding about this task of higher education, he delivered the Commencement Address at Berea College in 1974: “In Praise of Human Integrity.” A few days following the Commencement ceremony that year, Rev. Harley Patterson, then Pastor of Church of Christ, Union (or Union Church) in Berea, Kentucky, wrote the following remarks to Willis D. Weatherford, Jr., then President of Berea College.

On Saturday, May 25th, I heard the most outstanding commencement address that I have ever heard. Its greatness consisted of [among other things] its doing battle with the popular and time-serving emphasis on vocational training almost to the exclusion of liberal arts education.²⁵

Walter G. Muelder taught at Berea College from 1934 until 1940. Initially, he taught alongside one other colleague, William Gordon Ross, as the only two professors at that time with appointments to the Department of Philosophy and Bible in the College Department, the designations that both the department and the College (as one among several schools of the institution) carried for many years. Muelder had accepted the position that William Henry Walker had recently vacated, and who had taught at Berea College from 1925 to 1934.²⁶ In 1936, the College added a third person to the departmental faculty: Walter W. Sikes. In 1939, the College added a fourth person to the departmental faculty, moving Willis Williard Fisher, who had previously taught in the Academy of Berea College (later designated as the “Secondary School” and then the “Lower Division”) as Instructor of Bible and English, from the Department of Bible

and The Christian Religion to the Department of Philosophy and Bible in the Upper Division of the College. When Muelder left Berea College to take the academic position at the University of Southern California in 1940, the College hired Julian Norris Hartt to fill the position that Muelder had vacated in the Department of Philosophy and Bible at Berea College.²⁷

During Walter Muelder's years at Berea College, with doctoral credentials in philosophy and as he later recounted, he primarily taught courses in philosophy.²⁸ Indeed, although the College had offered courses in philosophical and Christian ethics prior to Walter Muelder's arrival, his influence significantly influenced curricular revisions in the Department of Philosophy and Bible. Even in 1934, for the first time in its history, the College began to offer the following new courses: "American Thought" and "Social Philosophy." The College described the latter course in the following way.

This course seeks to investigate the foundations of social intelligence and its application to social problems. The chief problems discussed are the definition and method of social philosophy, the nature, structure, and development of social wholes or complexes, and the norms and applications of social values and goals.²⁹

Muelder had studied with Edgar Sheffield Brightman, a progressive American Methodist Christian theologian and philosopher. Brightman, whose thought Borden Parker Bowne had helped to shape, developed the North-American philosophical school of Personalism. While this school of thought most certainly had influenced the thought of Walter Muelder, Muelder perceived the weakness of its social application. Thus, Muelder worked to develop the social-philosophical and social-ethical implications of Personalism.³⁰ To illustrate this point, Muelder struggled against the then-widespread scholarly contrast between love and justice. Following Joseph Fletcher, Muelder later regarded, "[t]rue justice" as "love distributed."³¹ Muelder's work in the burgeoning field of Christian social ethics increased his awareness about the interdisciplinary character of the field. In order to develop his own interdisciplinary competence in the field of social ethics, during the summer breaks of the first two academic years during his service at Berea College, Walter pursued post-graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin in philosophy and psychology (summer, 1935) and Harvard University in humanities and political philosophy (summer 1936).³² By 1937, the College had added additional courses that continued to reflect Muelder's curricular influence: as examples, "The History of Political and Social Philosophy" and "Religion and the Modern Mind." As the academic publications of the College during these years indicate, although other members of the departmental faculty taught a few courses in philosophy, Muelder himself taught the majority of courses in philosophy.³³

Walter G. Muelder also participated extensively in the larger academy beyond the institutional contexts of his own academic service at Berea College (1934–40), the University of Southern California (1940–45), and Boston University School of Theology (1945–72). He held memberships and regularly participated in several professional academic organizations: the American Philosophical Association; the American Theological Society; the Association of Methodist Theological Schools; the American Association of Theological Schools; and the Society of Christian Ethics. Walter Muelder served as Chairperson on the organizing committee of the Boston Theological Institute (BTI), a consortium of theological schools in the Boston area, which began in 1968: he also served as the first president of this consortium. In 1978, Muelder even

served as President for the American Society of Christian Ethics, which eventually became the Society of Christian Ethics in 1980.³⁴

III. Pleasing Personality

As Daniel L. Marsh had written in his recommendation of Walter George Muelder for the teaching position at Berea College, not only did Walter consistently demonstrate both his “pronounced Christian character” and that he possessed “all the instincts of a scholar,” but the “pleasing personality” that also belonged to him made him well-liked in the larger community of Berea College. After Walter had taught at Berea College for only four years, Frederick Hall of Berea, Kentucky wrote a letter to William J. Hutchins, then President of Berea College, recommending Walter as a future President for the College. Even at the beginning of Muelder’s academic career, Hall described Muelder as “... a man in the true Berea tradition,” declaring that “... the institution would never have occasion to be ashamed of him.”³⁵ Indeed, even following Walter’s departure from Berea College after only six years to take a new position as Professor of Christian Theology and Ethics at the University of Southern California (1940–45), and then a few years later to take another position at Boston University School of Theology as Dean and Professor of Social Ethics (1945–72), Walter continued to maintain a vital relationship with Berea College.³⁶ Just a few months after Muelder and his family moved to the University of Southern California, Walter wrote to President Francis S. Hutchins.

To say that at times we have been lonesome for our Berea Colleagues and friends and for the spirit of the College is to put it mildly. It has taken a change in location like this to make us realize how intimately we were entwined with the whole enterprise in Berea. Our hearts are still there.³⁷

Walter Muelder received occasional invitations to return to Berea College to deliver a sermon during a weekly worship service.³⁸ After his retirement as Dean and Professor of Social Ethics at Boston University School of Theology, however, Muelder accepted an invitation from Berea College to teach there as the first Eli Lilly Visiting Professor of Religion for the initial year of his retirement.³⁹ During his academic year as a Lilly Visiting Professor of Religion, for someone who had recently retired from the profession, Muelder kept a rigorous schedule that the College had created for him.⁴⁰ He offered three regular courses for students: “American Thought” and “Philosophy of Religion” (Fall Semester, 1972); and “Christianity in the 20th Century” (Spring Semester, 1973). He also offered a seminar for the College faculty: “Christian Social Ethics in Theory and Practice” (Spring Semester, 1973). In that faculty-seminar, he explored with the faculty several important contemporary topics: “Situation Ethics”; “Issues in Biology and Medicine”; “Environmental and Ecological Issues”; “Conscience and Authority in the Political Order”; and “Christian-Marxist Dialogue.”⁴¹ Additionally, Walter served as a consultant to the College about worship within the unique context of Berea College. Among his several affirmations and observations about worship at the College, he delivered the following pointed remarks.

Berea is not just another small private college where one holds a teaching or staff position and develops a moderate middle-class style of security. If a considerable

number of the faculty and staff are only nominally committed to Christian ultimate concerns, they need either to reconsider their values or to be dealt with (pruned) as incompatible personnel.⁴²

During his year at Berea College as the first Eli Lilly Visiting Professor of Religion, Walter Muelder participated fully in the life of the community. In addition to teaching courses, Walter delivered a sermon during worship in Phelps-Stokes Chapel: entitled “The Vocation of Politics” or “Politics as Vocation.” In that sermon, he articulated a conviction that corresponds to a distinctive feature in the historic trajectory of Berea College, perhaps even more relevant today than when he first shared this thought: “Let us not forget that the Christian voter should be in every place a voice for those who have no voice and to sustain those who show promise of the vocation of politics.”⁴³ The College also enlisted Walter to deliver the main address during the ceremony to recognize students who graduated in the middle of the academic year. In his address, “Spot Values and Field Values,” again, Muelder astutely illumined an essential feature in the historic ethos of Berea College: “in Berea we are dedicated to the love of truth and to the truth of love; and we must address ourselves to the crisis of truth and the crisis of love that beset the intellectual, the emotional, and the moral dimensions of world society.”⁴⁴ Once again, that which Muelder stated in 1972 remains equally as relevant today, more than half a century later. Near the end of his academic year as the first Eli Lilly Visiting Professor of Religion, Muelder delivered an additional lecture of great importance for the historic mission of the College: “The America of Martin Luther King, Jr.”⁴⁵

During his lengthy and distinguished career, Walter G. Muelder received much recognition for his achievements, many awards, and several honorary degrees. Notice of Muelder’s academic promise began during his education itself: graduating *magna cum laude* with the B.S. degree from Knox College (1927); receiving a prestigious appointment as fellow of the Institute of International Education at the University of Frankfurt am Main, in Germany (1930–31); receiving another appointment as Fellow in Systematic Theology in the Boston University School of Theology (1931–32); and receiving an additional appointment as the Borden Parker Bowne Fellow in Philosophy at the Boston University Graduate School (1932–33). Later, during his teaching career at Boston University School of Theology, in 1965, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences elected Walter to membership as a Fellow of the Academy.⁴⁶ In addition, the Society for Religion in Higher Education also elected Walter as a Fellow of the Society.⁴⁷ Walter also participated in the Massachusetts Council of Churches, which conferred on him the Forest L. Knapp Award in Ecumenics and Social Justice. Upon Walter Muelder’s retirement as Dean and Professor of Social Ethics from Boston University School of Theology in 1972, in profound appreciation for his enormous contributions to the institution, the school established The Walter G. Muelder Chair in Social Ethics.⁴⁸

Across the latter one-third of Walter G. Muelder’s career, he had received a number of additional honorary doctoral degrees: the D.H.L degree from Claflin University (1960); the L.H.D. Degree from West Virginia Wesleyan University (1963); the L.H.D. Degree from Knox College (1969); the D.S.T. Degree from Boston College (1971); and the D.D. Degree from Colby College (1972).⁴⁹ The profound and dynamic relationship between Berea College and Walter Muelder continued throughout Muelder’s career and life. In 1974, the year after Muelder’s academic service as the first Eli Lilly Visiting Professor of Religion at Berea College, the President of the College invited

Walter to deliver the commencement address for the academic year (1973–74), to which Muelder gave the following title: “In Praise of Human Integrity.” At that time, the College also conferred on Muelder an honorary doctoral degree: *Doctor of Humane Letters*.⁵⁰

In conjunction with Muelder’s retirement from Boston University School of Theology, his former student, Paul Deats, Jr., organized and published a *festschrift* in honor of Muelder’s significant contributions to the fields of Christian theology and ethics. Only a few of the notable contributors to this *festschrift* serve as important indicators of Muelder’s academic influence and renown in academic circles with respect to the fields of his work and contributions, especially Christian social ethics, which he had helped to begin and to develop: *C. Eric Lincoln*, Professor of Sociology and Religion, Union Theological Seminary in New York City; *James M. Gustafson*, at that time, teaching at Yale University; *Alan F. Geyer*, at that time, teaching at Colgate University and formerly serving as Editor of *The Christian Century*; *Tex S. Sample*, at that time, teaching at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City; *J. Philip Wogaman*, at that time, teaching at Wesley Theological Seminary; *Fransçois Houtart*, at that time, serving as Secretary-General of the International Federation of Institutes of Social and Socio-Religious Research, University of Louvain, Belgium; *George McGovern*, then Democratic Senator from South Dakota; *Preston N. Williams*, at that time, teaching at Harvard Divinity School; *James K. Mathews*, then serving as resident bishop of the United Methodist Church in the Boston area; and *L. Harold DeWolf*, serving, at that time, as Dean and Professor at Wesley Theological Seminary.⁵¹

Conclusion

Berea College continued to hold Walter Muelder in the highest esteem and to regard him as one of its own. Clearly, Walter’s adherence to the philosophy of personalism and its implications for Christian social ethics resonated with the historic spirit and trajectory of Berea College and its community. In 1938, near the end of Walter’s first period of teaching at Berea College, the College invited Herman R. Muelder, then Chairperson for the Department of History at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, one of Walter’s two also highly-accomplished brothers, to speak on “Founder’s Day” (20 April 1938). Herman Muelder’s address, “the Academic Ancestry of Berea,” revealed historical factors about the spiritual and intellectual genealogy of Berea College that clearly had prepared both the College and Walter for one another. Herman Muelder traced the relationships among the formation of several institutions of higher education during the nineteenth-century in the United States: the Oneida Institute (New York) and Lane Seminary (Cincinnati, Ohio); Knox College (Galesburg, Illinois); Oberlin College (Oberlin, Ohio); and Berea College.⁵² Even twenty-five years after Berea College had conferred an honorary doctoral degree on Walter, on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, Larry D. Shinn, then president of Berea College, rightly declared that “[f]ew people exemplify the great commitments of [Berea] College more forcefully and persuasively than does Walter Muelder.”⁵³

ENDNOTES

¹ *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1934–35)*, new series, no. 94 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1934), 85, 174 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky). Photographs of Walter George Muelder, courtesy of Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9.00, Box 102; Record Group: College Photo Archives; Description of Records — Faculty and Staff, Jones, Loyal – Murray, J.; Muelder, Walter G. – Photo, File 102-76 [Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

² Daniel L. Marsh (President of Boston University) (Boston, Massachusetts), Letter of Recommendation for Walter G. Muelder to William J. Hutchins (President of Berea College) (Berea, Kentucky) (10 January 1934) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-22, “Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible I”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

³ “Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder” (1972), p. 1 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-24, “Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible III”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁴ Walter G. Muelder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 296.

⁵ Walter G. Muelder, “Descriptive Blank for a Possible Worker in Berea College” (Date of Application: 15 January 1934) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-22, “Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible I”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁶ William L. Stidger, “New Theological Dean,” *Zion’s Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts: 23 May 1945) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-22, “Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible I”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky); “Walter George Muelder” (c.v.) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions, Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, “Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–1956, 1972–1973]”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁷ “Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder,” page 1, File 57-24, “Muelder, Walter George 1934–? III” (Berea College Archives: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff, Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

⁸ “Descriptive Blank for a Possible Worker in Berea College: Walter G. Muelder” (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 15 January 1934) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-22, “Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible I”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁹ As major illustrations of his involvement in the Methodist Church, see the following significant publications: Walter George Muelder, *In Every Place a Voice* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Women’s Division of Christian Service, Board of Missions, the Methodist Church, 1957); and idem, *Methodism and Society in the Twentieth Century*, vol. 2, Methodism and Society Series, Project Director, Nils Ehrenstrom (Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 1961).

¹⁰“Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder,” page 1, File 57-25, “Muelder, Walter (Lilly Professor) 1972” (Berea College Archives: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff, Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

¹¹“Marriage of Martha Grotewohl and Walter Muelder Recorded,” *The Daily Iowan* (Iowa City, Iowa: Sunday, 1 July 1935), page 2; and “Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder,” page 1, File 57-24, “Muelder, Walter George 1934–? III” (Berea College Archives: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff, Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

¹²“Descriptive Blank for a Possible Worker in Berea College: Walter G. Muelder” (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 15 January 1934) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder, File 57-22, “Meulder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible I”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky); Walter G. Meulder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 298.

¹³“Descriptive Blank for a Possible Worker in Berea College: Walter G. Muelder” (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 15 January 1934) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder, File 57-22, “Meulder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible I”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky); Walter G. Meulder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 296, 298.

¹⁴See Walter G. Meulder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 295–320. After Walter began teaching at Berea College, he and Brightman published a small book together: Walter George Muelder and Edgar S. Brightman, *Historical Outline of the Bible* (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1936).

¹⁵Walter G. Meulder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 296. Also see Ralph Memolo, “Walter G. Muelder: Conscience of the University,” *Bostonia* (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, April 1972): 32, 33.

¹⁶ Ralph Memolo, “Walter G. Muelder: Conscience of the University,” *Bostonia* (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, April 1972): 32; and Walter G. Meulder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 298.

¹⁷ Ralph Memolo, “Walter G. Muelder: Conscience of the University,” *Bostonia* (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, April 1972): 32, 33; and Walter G. Meulder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 299.

¹⁸ Many of Muelder’s publications, lectures, and presentations demonstrate how he developed Christian social ethics as an interdisciplinary academic area of study that drew from sociology, political science, and economics in order to develop social ethics on the basis of Christian convictions and commitments. See especially the following major publications: Walter George Muelder, *Foundations of the Responsible Society* (Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon

Press, 1959); idem, *Moral Law in Christian Social Ethics* (Richmond, Virginia: John Knox Press, 1966); and idem, *Religion and Economic Responsibility* (New York, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953).

¹⁹ Ralph Memolo, "Walter G. Muelder: Conscience of the University," *Bostonia* (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, April 1972): 32, 33, 34; and Walter G. Muelder, "Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response," in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 299.

²⁰ Walter G. Muelder, "Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response," in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 299, 319; Ralph Memolo, "Walter G. Muelder: Conscience of the University," *Bostonia* (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, April 1972): 32, 33; and William L. Stidger, "New Theological Dean," *Zion's Herald* (Boston, Massachusetts: 23 May 1945) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions, Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, "Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–1956, 1972–1973]": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky). Also see "Fellowship of Reconciliation, U.S.A." (<https://forusa.org>).

²¹ See Walter G. Muelder, "Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response," in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 300; and Ralph Memolo, "Walter G. Muelder: Conscience of the University," *Bostonia* (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, April 1972): 34.

²² "Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder," page 1, File 57-25, "Muelder, Walter (Lilly Professor) 1972" (Berea College Archives: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff, Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

²³ Walter G. Muelder, "Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response," in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 320.

²⁴ Walter G. Muelder (Berea College: Berea, Kentucky), Letter to Francis S. Hutchins (President, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky) (28 July 1940), p. 1 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder, File 57-22, "Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible [Left June 1940] I": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

²⁵ Harley Patterson (Pastor, Church of Christ, Union: Berea, Kentucky), Letter to Willis D. Weatherford, Jr., President of Berea College (Berea College: Berea, Kentucky) (28 May 1974) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder, File 57-23, "Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible [9/72] II": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

²⁶ William Henry Walker, who came to Berea College as Associate Professor of Religious Education and Philosophy, held the following academic degrees: the Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from Andover-Newton Theological Seminary; the Ph.D. degree from the University of Strassburg; and the Doctor of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary. Later, Walker's title changed to Professor of Philosophy and Bible, following the change of the departmental name as well to the Department of Philosophy and Bible. See the following records for Walker: *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog* (November 1925), new series, no. 57 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1925), 41; *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog* (November 1926), new series, no. 60 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1926), 43; *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: College Catalog, Announcement (1931–32)*, new series, no. 81 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1931), 122; *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: College Catalog (1930–31)*, new series, no. 76 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1930), 85; and *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1934–*

35), new series, no. 94 (November 1934) (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Printing Department, 1934), 85, 174 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky).

²⁷ *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1934–35)*, new series, no. 94 (November 1934) (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Printing Department, 1934), 85–87, 174, 177 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky); *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1935–36)*, new series, no. 97 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1935), 89, 101, 158, 159, 167 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky); *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1936–37)*, new series, no. 101 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1936), 164 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky); *Bulletin of Berea College: General Catalog (1937–38)*, new series, no. 105 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1937), 94–95, 168, 170, 182, 184, 185 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky); *Bulletin of Berea College: General Catalog (1938–39)*, new series, no. 109 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1938), 99, 172, 174 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky); *Bulletin of Berea College: General Catalog (1939–40)*, new series, no. 113 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1939), 101, 174, 175, 184, 189, 191 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky); *Berea College: The General Catalog (Announcements, 1940–41)*, new series, no. 117 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1940), 100, 114, 172, 183 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky);

²⁸ Walter G. Muelder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 299.

²⁹ *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1934–35)*, new series, no. 94 (November 1934) (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Printing Department, 1934), 8, 85–86 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky).

³⁰ See Walter Muelder, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 295–320.

³¹ Walter Muelder, *Moral Law in Christian Social Ethics* (Richmond, Virginia: John Knox Press, 1966), 170; and idem, “Communitarian Christian Ethics: A Personal Statement and Response,” in *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder*, ed. Paul Deats, Jr. (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University Press, 1972), 314.

³² “Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder,” page 1, File 57-25, “Muelder, Walter (Lilly Professor) 1972” (Berea College Archives: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff, Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

³³ *Bulletin of Berea College: Announcement of Courses, The College of Arts and Sciences (Upper Division and Third Year [Freshman] of Lower Division (1937–38) Schedule of Classes*, new series, no. 103 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1937), 16 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky). For example, Muelder taught the following courses just prior to the conclusion of his tenure at Berea College: “Logic”; “Ethics”; “the History of Philosophy”; “American Thought”; “the History of Political and Social Philosophy”; “Psychology of Religion”; and “Philosophy of Religion” (*Bulletin of Berea College: Announcement of Courses, The College of Arts and Sciences [1939–40] Schedule of Classes*, new series, no. 111 [Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1939], 29 [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

³⁴ “Faculty Data Sheet: Walter G. Muelder” (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9-A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty / Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—

Muelder, File 57-25, "RG 9a: Muelder, Walter [Lilly Professor] 1972" Berea College; Berea, Kentucky). Originally, from 1959–1964, the Society of Christian Ethics had operated as "the American Society of Christian Social Ethics." In 1964, the organization changed its name to "The American Society of Christian Ethics." In 1980, the organization changed its name again to the "Society of Christian Ethics" (see Edward LeRoy Long, Jr., *Academic Bonding and Social Concern: The Society of Christian Ethics 1959–1983* [Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1985], 25; idem, *Academic Bonding and Social Concern: The Society of Christian Ethics 1959–1983* [Notre Dame, Indiana: Religious Ethics, 1984], 25; also see Edward LeRoy Long, Jr. and Christine Gudorf, "Society of Christian Ethics: History and Practice," *The Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin* 32 [no. 2] [2003]: 55–58).

³⁵ Frederick Hall (Berea, Kentucky), Letter of Recommendation for Walter G. Muelder as Next President of Berea College to William J. Hutchins (President of Berea College) (Berea, Kentucky) (1 May 1938), page 2 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-22, "Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible I": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

³⁶ Walter George Muelder, (Boston, Massachusetts), *Curriculum Vitae* (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, "Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–56, 1972–1973]": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky). Also see Charles T. Morgan, "Berea Loses Muelder," *The Berea Alumnus*, vol. 10, no. 8 (Berea, Kentucky: Alumni Association of Berea College, Berea College Press, May 1940): 238–40.

³⁷ Walter George Muelder, (University of Southern California), Letter to Francis S. Hutchins, President of Berea College (Berea, Kentucky) (12 December 1940) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-22, "Muelder, Walter G., Professor of Philosophy and Bible [Left June 1940] I": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

³⁸ For example, Robert A. Cornett, then Coordinator of Religious Activities and Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion, confirmed his previous invitation to Muelder to deliver a sermon at the "Sunday Night Chapel Service at Berea College" on 4 March 1956. Walter responded to confirm his own plans for travel and to share the title of his sermon for the service: "New Occasions Teach New Duties" (see the following correspondence: Robert A. Cornett, [Berea College: Berea, Kentucky], Letter to Walter G. Muelder [Boston, Massachusetts] [Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 1 February 1956], page 1; and Walter G. Muelder [Boston, Massachusetts], Letter to Robert A. Cornett [Berea, Kentucky] [Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University School of Theology, 17 February 1956], page 1) (Berea College Archives, Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, "Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–1956, 1972–1973]": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky). The College had appointed Robert A. Cornett as Coordinator of Religious Activities and Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion in 1953. Cornett held the following academic degrees: B.A., Cincinnati Bible Seminary (1943); B.A., Butler University (1944); B.D., Princeton Theological Seminary (1946); M.A., University of Illinois (1948); and Ph.D., University of Illinois (1953) (*Berea College Bulletin: College Catalog Issue*, series twelve, no. 1 [Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, September 1954], 87 [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

³⁹ Berea College News Bureau, "News Release on Dr. Walter George Muelder" (Berea College: Berea, Kentucky: 1972), pp. 29–30 (Berea College Archives, Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, "Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–1956, 1972–1973]": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky); "Muelder to Return as Visiting Prof at Berea Next Year," *The Berea Citizen* (Berea, Kentucky: 15 June 1972) (Berea College Archives, Record Group 9.00, Box no. 56; Record Group: Faculty and Staff; Subgroup: "Monu–Mund", File 56-25, "RG 9.0: Muelder, Walter G. 1936–1973]": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky); and "Dr. Muelder Chosen Visiting Lecture [*sic*] of Religion at BC," *Richmond Daily Register*, section B, page 1 (Richmond, Kentucky: 16 June 1972) (Berea College Archives, Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, "Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–1956, 1972–1973]": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky). Also see *Berea College Bulletin: College Catalogue Issue (1972–1973)* (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1972), 133 (Special

Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College [Berea, Kentucky]). Walter George Muelder, the first scholar appointed to the new Eli Lilly Visiting Professorship in Religion, had taught at Berea College from 1934 to 1940. See the following records: *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1934–35)*, new series, no. 94 (November 1934) (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1934), 85, 174; *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1935–36)*, new series, no. 97 (November 1935) (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1935), 89, 172; *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: Announcement of Courses / The College of Arts and Sciences (1936–37)*, new series, no. 99 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1936), 25; *Bulletin of Berea College and Allied Schools: General Catalog (1936–37)*, new series, no. 101 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1936), 164; *Bulletin of Berea College: Announcement of Courses, The College of Arts and Sciences (Upper Division and Third Year [Freshman] of Lower Division) (1937–38)*, Schedule of Classes, new series, no. 103 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1937), 27–28; *Bulletin of Berea College: General Catalog (1937–38)*, new series, no. 105 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1937), 94–95, 168, 182; *Bulletin of Berea College: General Catalog (1938–39)*, new series, no. 109 (November 1938) (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1938), 99, 172; *Bulletin of Berea College: Announcement of Courses, The College of Arts and Sciences (1939–40)*, Schedule of Classes, new series, no. 111 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, May 1939), 29; *Bulletin of Berea College: The General Catalog (1939–40)*, new series, no. 113 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1939), 101, 114, 174, 189; and *Berea College: The General Catalog (Announcements, 1940–41)*, new series, no. 116 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, October 1940), 165–91. For additional information on the Eli Lilly Professorships in Religion, see the following webpage: “Eli Lilly Endowed Chairs in Studies of Religions, Spirituality, and Culture” (<https://www.berea.edu/rel/endowed-professorships/eli-lilly-endowed-chairs-in-studies-of-religions-spirituality-and-culture/>).

⁴⁰ Norris B. Woodie, Memorandum to the Faculty and Staff RE: Schedule of Walter G. Muelder, Eli Lilly Visiting Professor of Religion (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 1 September 1972) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, “Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–56, 1972–1973]”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁴¹“Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder,” page 1, File 57-25, “Muelder, Walter (Lilly Professor) 1972” (Berea College Archives: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff, Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

⁴²Walter G. Muelder, “Consultation on Worship: Worship in Berea College in Relation to Its Commitment and Purpose” (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 16 May 1973) (File 57-23, “Muelder, Walter, 9/72, Sp. Agr” II [Berea College Archives: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff, Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder {Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky}]).

⁴³ Walter G. Muelder, “Politics as Vocation” (or “The Vocation of Politics”), sermon (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 5 November 1972), p. 4 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, “Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1955–56, 1972–1973]”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky). This sermon, for biblical basis of which Muelder took Jeremiah 20:1–13, the College printed copies for wide distribution.

⁴⁴ Walter G. Muelder, “Spot Values and Field Values,” Recognition Service for Graduating Seniors (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 17 December 1972), pp. 1–2 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan—Muelder, File 57-23, “Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible [9/72] II Sp. Agr.”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky); also see “Berea College Recognition Service for Graduates” (“Address—‘Spot Values and Field Values,’ Walter Muelder, Ph.D., Visiting Professor of Religion”), p. 1 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, Phelps-Stokes Chapel, 17 December 1972) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, “Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1944–1956, 1972–1973]”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁴⁵ Walter G. Muelder, "The America of Martin Luther King, Jr. (Lecture)," (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 9 May 1973) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 5.05, Box no. 5; Record Group: Administrative Divisions; Subgroup: Campus Christian Center, File 5-3, "Correspondence and Clippings: Walter G. Muelder [1944–1956, 1972–1973]": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁴⁶ "Walter George Muelder," *American Academy of Arts and Sciences: Member Directory (1780–2019)* (<https://www.amacad.org/directory>), p. 433 (accessed 17 September 2021, 6:40 a.m.).

⁴⁷ "Faculty Data Sheet: Walter G. Muelder (Lilly Professor) 1972," (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder; File 57/25, "RG 9.0 Muelder, Walter [Lilly Professor] 1972": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁴⁸ "School of Theology Faculty Pledges \$55,000 toward Muelder Chair," *Boston University Currents* (Boston, Massachusetts: Boston University, 24 March 1972) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9.00, Box no. 56; Record Group: Faculty and Staff; Subgroup: "Monu–Mun; File 56/25, "RG 9.0 Muelder, Walter G. 1936–1973": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁴⁹ "Faculty Data Sheet: Walter George Muelder" (1972), p. 1 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder; File 57/24, "Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible [9/72] II Sp. Agr.": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky). See the following information about the institutions that awarded these honorary academic degrees: Boston College (<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/about/mission.html>); Colby College (<https://www.colby.edu/about/colby-history/>); Claflin University (<https://www.claflin.edu/about/history>); Knox College (<https://www.knox.edu/about-knox/our-history>); and West Virginia Wesleyan College (<https://www.wvwc.edu/about/>). The occasion of Walter G. Muelder's reception of an honorary doctoral degree from his collegiate alma mater was quite unusual. At that time, Knox College awarded the three highly-accomplished Muelder brothers, all alumni of the College, with honorary doctoral degrees during the same ceremony. Walter's brothers also had made their own significant contributions to the larger academy: Dr. Milton E. Muelder, then Dean of the Graduate School at Michigan State University; and Dr. Hermann R. Muelder, former academic dean and professor of history at Knox College (see David Yount, News Director, "Alumni Brothers Honored at Knox," *Knox College News* [Galesburg, Illinois: Knox College, 1969], p. 1 [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9–A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files; Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder; File 57/25, "RG9a: Muelder, Walter [Lilly Professor] 1972": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky]).

⁵⁰ Walter G. Muelder, "In Praise of Human Integrity," Commencement Address at Berea College (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 25 May 1974). Professor George Parker, then chairperson for the Department of Philosophy and Religion, presented Muelder for this honor: George Parker, "Presentation of Walter G. Muelder for the Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters" (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 25 May 1974) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9-A, Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-23, "Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible [9/72] II Sp. Agr.": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁵¹ Paul Deats, Jr., ed., *Toward a Discipline of Social Ethics: Essays in Honor of Walter George Muelder* (Boston, Massachusetts, 1972), vii, viii.

⁵² See Herman R. Muelder, "The Academic Ancestry of Berea" (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 20 April 1938) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 11.11, Box no. 4; Record Group: "Programs, Conferences and Awards"; Subgroup: "Programs", Description of Records: "Family–Intensive, File 4-10, "RG.11.11, Box 4/10–Founder's Day–1938, Muelder Address": Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).

⁵³ Larry D. Shinn, "A Message in Honor of Dr. Walter G. Muelder on His Ninetieth Birthday," (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College, 12 April 1997) (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9-A,

Box no. 57; Record Group: Faculty/Staff; Subgroup: Personnel Files, Description of Records: Morgan–Muelder, File 57-23, “Muelder, Walter G. / Professor of Philosophy and Bible [9/72] II Sp. Agr.”: Berea College; Berea, Kentucky).