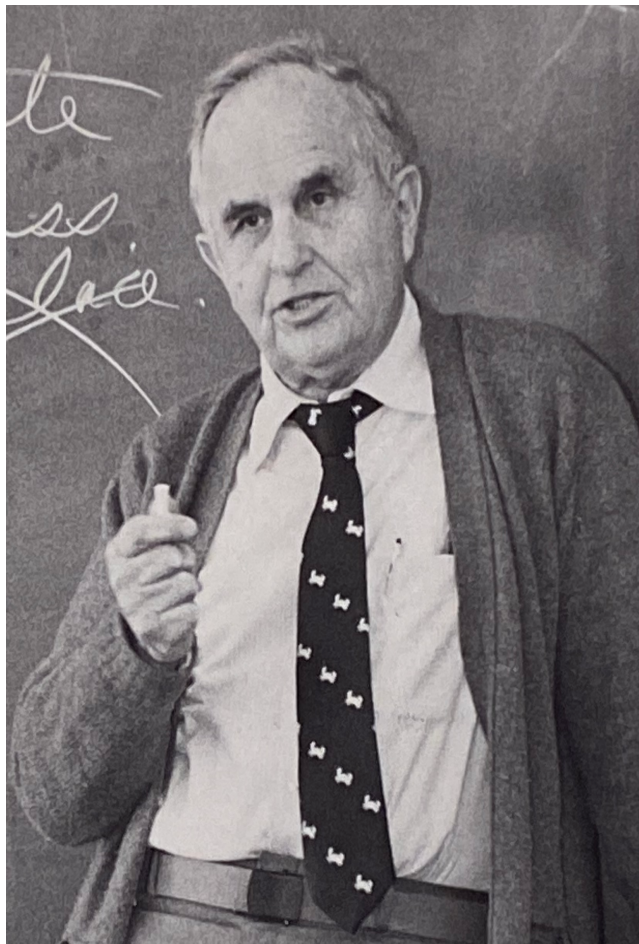


**JULIAN NORRIS HARTT**  
(13 June 1911 – 29 November 2010)

by

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*Julian Norris Hartt*

**Introduction**

Julian Norris Hartt joined the faculty of Berea College in 1940, just after receiving his Ph.D. that same year. He held the following academic degrees: the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree (with Majors in philosophy and psychology) from Dakota Wesleyan University (1932); the Bachelor of

Divinity (B.D.) degree with honors from Garrett Biblical Institute (1937); the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree from Northwestern University (1938); and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree (concentrating in philosophy and theology) from Yale University Divinity School (1940).<sup>1</sup>

Julian N. Hartt, born to Ms. Laura (Beals) and Rev. Albert Hartt on 13 June 1911 in Selby, South Dakota, completed high school in Dolan, South Dakota. Like his father, Julian Hartt entered the ordained ministry of the then Methodist-Episcopal Church. During the two final years of his collegiate education, he served Methodist-Episcopal Churches in southeastern South Dakota. After his graduation from Dakota Wesleyan University in 1932, for two years, he served as minister of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Harrisburg, South Dakota, before beginning his Bachelor of Divinity degree at Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.<sup>2</sup> While beginning his teaching career at Berea College, Hartt's path also led him to Yale University Divinity School and finally to the University of Virginia as well.

### I. Berea College

Berea College initially employed Julian N. Hartt as Instructor in Philosophy and Bible to teach in the then Lower Division of the College.<sup>3</sup> Hartt received his appointment to the teaching position that Walter George Muelder recently had vacated, when Muelder left Berea College to take a new teaching position at the University of Southern California in the academic year of 1940–41.<sup>4</sup>

Hartt taught alongside several other notable colleagues in the Department of Philosophy and Bible, as the College designated the Department during those years: *William Gordon Ross*, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Bible, who taught courses in the then Upper Division of the College; *Willis Williard Fisher*, Associate Professor of Bible and English, who taught courses in the then Lower Division of the College; *Walter Watson Sikes*, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Bible, who taught courses also in the Lower Division; and *Hattie Esther Stowe*, Instructor in Bible and English, who taught courses also in the Lower Division of the College.<sup>5</sup>

Although Julian Hartt retained the rank and title of Instructor in Philosophy and Bible in the Lower Division for two years of his appointment, in the summer of 1941, the name of the department changed from the Department of Philosophy and Bible to the Department of Philosophy and Religion.<sup>6</sup> By the academic year of 1941–42, however, Julian Hartt began teaching courses in both major *academic* units of the College at that time: the College of Arts and Sciences; and the Secondary School and Below. The College of Arts and Sciences identified the department's courses of instruction as "Philosophy and Religion," while the Secondary School and Below referred to the departmental curriculum in its academic unit as "Bible and the Christian Religion." By that time, while Hartt's rank remained the same, his title changed slightly to match the primary focus of his teaching: "Instructor of Philosophy and Religion," however, still administratively retained within the Lower Division of the College.<sup>7</sup> By the academic year of 1942–43, after only two years at the rank of "Instructor," Hartt had received promotion to Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, nonetheless, still assigned to the *administrative* unit of the Lower Division.<sup>8</sup>

Julian Hartt's experience as minister and his education uniquely prepared him for academic teaching in the areas of philosophy, religions, and spirituality at Berea College. For example, during his first academic year at Berea College, Hartt taught courses in both the area of "Philosophy" and the area of "Bible": in the first instance, "Ethics"; and, in the second instance, "the History and Literature of the Hebrews."<sup>9</sup> During Hartt's second academic year at Berea College, the range of his teaching began to focus more on courses in the area of "Philosophy," as reflected in his teaching schedule for the academic year of 1941–42: "the History of Philosophy"; "American Thought"; "the History of Political and Social Philosophy"; "Psychology of Religion"; and "Philosophy of Religion."<sup>10</sup>

## **II. Yale University and the University of Virginia**

When the academic year of 1942–43 concluded, Julian Hartt resigned from his position at Berea College to take a new teaching position as Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology in the Divinity School of Yale University.<sup>11</sup> While Hartt taught initially in the Divinity School of Yale University, in 1963, he served as the founding Chairperson of the Department of Religious Studies in the University.<sup>12</sup> Hartt achieved a distinguished career as teacher, administrator, scholar, and colleague during his tenure at Yale University.<sup>13</sup> While at Yale University, Hartt held the Noah Porter Chair in Philosophical Theology. In 1972, Hartt left Yale University to take a position in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. At the University of Virginia, Hartt held the William R. Kenan, Jr. Chair of Religious Studies, until his retirement in 1981.<sup>14</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Even in retirement, Julian Hartt continued to write and teach. Hartt returned to Berea College after he retired from the University of Virginia, accepting an appointment as an Eli Lilly Visiting Professor of Religion during the Fall Semester in the academic year of 1985–86.<sup>15</sup> Hartt had received numerous awards and honors during his career for his various academic achievements, such as several honorary degrees: the D. Litt. degree from his alma mater, Dakota Wesleyan University (1961); the D.D. degree from Bucknell University (1973); and the D.D. degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (1983).<sup>16</sup> Julian Hartt died on 29 November 2010, at 99 years of age in Greenfield, Massachusetts, after a long and distinguished career of teaching and writing.<sup>17</sup>

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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> *Berea College: The General Catalog (Announcements, 1940–41)*, new series, no. 117 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1940), 100, 114, 172, and 183 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky). Photograph of Julian Norris Hartt, courtesy of Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library: Record Group 9.00, Box 101; Sub-Group: College Photo Archives; Description, Faculty and Staff, Photo, File 101-14 [Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

<sup>2</sup> Yale University Divinity School, Office of Public Affairs and Communications, “In Memoriam: Julian Norris Hartt,” *Yale News* (8 December 2010) (<https://news.yale.edu/2010/12/08/memoriam-julian-norris-hartt> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 9:30 a.m.]); and *Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary*, “Our History” (<https://www.garrett.edu/about-us/our-history> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 9:44 a.m.]). The Methodist-Episcopal Church later merged with several other Methodist denominations in the United States to become the United Methodist Church. Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the midwestern United States, merged later with the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois, to become Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

<sup>3</sup> *Berea College: The General Catalog (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); and *Bulletin of Berea College: The General Catalog (1940–41)*, new series, no. 117 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1940), 183 [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

<sup>4</sup> Walter George Muelder had taught at Berea College since 1934: *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). Also, see the following publication: Jeff B. Pool, “Walter George Muelder (1 March 1907–12 June 2004)” (<https://4efrxppj37l1sgsbrlye6idr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/rel/wp-content/uploads/sites/83/2021/10/Walter-George-Muelder-Bio.pdf> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 10:55 a.m.]).

<sup>5</sup> *Berea College: The General Catalog (Announcements, 1940–41)*, new series, no. 117 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, 1940), 172, 182, 183, 189, 190, 191 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky). Also, see the following publication: Jeff B. Pool, “William Gordon Ross (28 July 1900–20 April 1990)” (<https://4efrxppj37l1sgsbrlye6idr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/rel/wp-content/uploads/sites/83/2021/07/12a†.-Webpages-Dept.-for-Studies-of-Religions-and-Spirituality-Wm.-Gordon-Ross.pdf> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 11:20 a.m.]). In terms of the “administrative units,” Berea College consisted of three units during this period: the Upper Division of the College (the two final years in the College); the

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Lower Division of the College (the last two years of high school [grades eleven and twelve] and the first two years in the College); and the Foundation School (all grades from elementary school through the first two years of high school [grades nine and ten]). Berea College, at this time, included two major academic units: the College of Arts and Sciences; and the Secondary School and Below (*Bulletin of Berea College: The General Catalog [1940–41]*, new series, no. 117 [Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1940], 53 [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

<sup>6</sup> *Bulletin of Berea College: The Summer Session (1941)*, new series, no. 118 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, March 1941, 11 [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

<sup>7</sup> *Bulletin of Berea College: The General Catalog (1941–1942)*, new series, no. 121 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1941), 97, 114, 173, and 184 [Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky]).

<sup>8</sup> *Bulletin of Berea College: Special Announcement*, new series, no. 125 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1942), 18, 19, 31, and 37 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky).

<sup>9</sup> *Bulletin of Berea College: The Summer Session (1941)*, new series, no. 118 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1941), 14 and 20 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky).

<sup>10</sup> *Bulletin of Berea College: Announcement of Courses, The College of Arts and Sciences (1941–42)*, new series, no. 119 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, May 1941), 27 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky).

<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, the College does not include Hartt among the Faculty in the following academic year of 1943–44: *Bulletin of Berea College: The General Catalog (1943–44)*, new series, no. 129 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, November 1943), 126–34 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College: Berea, Kentucky).

<sup>12</sup> Yale University Divinity School, Office of Public Affairs and Communications, “In Memoriam: Julian Norris Hartt,” *Yale News* (8 December 2010) (<https://news.yale.edu/2010/12/08/memoriam-julian-norris-hartt> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 9:30 a.m.]); and *Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary*, “Our History” (<https://www.garrett.edu/about-us/our-history> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 9:44 a.m.]); and Yale University, “Religious Studies” (<https://religiousstudies.yale.edu> [accessed: Saturday, 4 December 2021, 9:40 a.m.]).

<sup>13</sup> See the following selected publications: Julian Norris Hartt, *The Lost Image of Man*, Rice University, Rockwell Lecture Series (Houston, Texas) (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 1963); idem, *A Christian Critique of American Culture*, 1st ed. (New York, New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1967); and idem, Ray L. Hart, and Robert P. Scharlemann, *The Critique of Modernity: Theological Reflections on Contemporary Culture*, Papers Presented at the Virginia Lectures on Individual and Society (March 1984) (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1986).

<sup>14</sup> Yale University Divinity School, Office of Public Affairs and Communications, “In Memoriam: Julian Norris Hartt,” *Yale News* (8 December 2010) (<https://news.yale.edu/2010/12/08/memoriam-julian-norris-hartt> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 9:30 a.m.]); and University of Virginia, “Department of Religious Studies,” “People” (<https://religiousstudies.as.virginia.edu/faculty-emeriti> [accessed: Saturday, 4 December 2021, 10:10 a.m.]).

<sup>15</sup> *Berea College Catalog: 1985–1987*, series 43, no.4 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, September 1985), 202 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College [Berea, Kentucky]). Also see Jeff B. Pool, “Eli Lilly Endowed Chairs in Studies of Religions, Spirituality, and Culture”

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(<https://www.berea.edu/rel/endowed-professorships/eli-lilly-endowed-chairs-in-studies-of-religions-spirituality-and-culture/> [accessed: Wednesday, 15 December 2021, 4:16 p.m.]).

<sup>16</sup> *Berea College Catalog: 1985–1987*, series 43, no.4 (Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Press, September 1985), 202 (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College [Berea, Kentucky]); and “News Release: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, RE: Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree Conferred on Dr. Julian Norris Hartt” (20 May 1983), File 40: “RG 9.0 Hartt, Dr. Julian N.”; Berea College Archives, Record Group No. 9.00, Box no. 33 / Record Group: Faculty and Staff / Description of Records: HANH–HANV (Special Collections and Archives, Hutchins Library, Berea College [Berea, Kentucky]).

<sup>17</sup> Yale University Divinity School, Office of Public Affairs and Communications, “In Memoriam: Julian Norris Hartt,” *Yale News* (8 December 2010) (<https://news.yale.edu/2010/12/08/memoriam-julian-norris-hartt> [accessed: Friday, 3 December 2021, 9:30 a.m.]).