

EUGENE E. BARNETT PAPERS

1888 – 1967

Collection Number: MSS 033

Size: .21 linear feet

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1888 - 1967

Biography/History

Eugene Epperson Barnett was born in 1888 in Leesburg, Florida. He received a B.A. from Emory University in 1907; post-graduate study in the School of Religion at Vanderbilt University, 1907-1908; and received Honorary Degree of LL.D., from Emory University in 1944, and University of North Carolina in 1946.

He was the General Secretary of the National Council of YMCA's from 1908-1910. He continued his work with the International Committee of the YMCA. From 1910-1936 he worked in China. While in China, he observed many religious and political changes including the downfall of Chiang Kai-Shek and the resurgence of Communism. After leaving China, he continued to work for the YMCA until his retirement in 1953. He traveled extensively before and after retirement. He died in 1970.

The autobiographical manuscript written by Eugene E. Barnett gives detailed information on his family background (the Barnett and Epperson Families), his boyhood, his college years with his involvement with the YMCA, the lives of his family both at home and abroad, and his many experiences. The memoir covers in great detail the following subjects:

- Physical descriptions of Shanghai and Hangchow
- YMCA work in Hangchow
- Boxer Rebellion
- Collapse of Ch'ing Dynasty
- Economic Depression
- Cultural Life in China
- Anti-American Sentiment
- World War I
- Japanese Invasion of Manchuria
- Siege of Shanghai by Japanese Forces
- Marxism
- Communism
- USSR (Soviet Union)

Although intended to be a three-chapter autobiographical manuscript, the last chapter was not written.

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Scope and Contents

This .21 linear feet collection contains correspondence, vita, book review, and an 304-page typescript autobiographical manuscript. The manuscript is divided into 20 sections and has been put in file folders by section number.

Correspondence – Outgoing

July 4, 1967 – to Woodrow W. Wasson

Correspondence – Incoming

December 6, 1966 – from Sherman P. Carter

Book Review

Prophet of Plenty: The First Ninety Years of W. D. Weatherford
by Wilma Dykeman, University of Tennessee Press, 1966

Manuscript

*As I Look Back: Recollections of Growing up in America's Southland
and of Twenty-Six years in Pre-Communist China, 1888-1936*

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Vita

Dated January 18, 1960