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James David Bales Papers, 1938-1991

James David Bales

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[identification of item], [file or folder name], James David Bales Papers, 1938-1991. Center for Restoration Studies MS #82. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

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**James David Bales
Papers, (1938-1991)**

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts #82

Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives
Brown Library
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, TX 79699-9208

31 August 2022

About this collection

Title: James David Bales Papers

Creator: James David Bales, (1915-1955)

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #82

Physical Description: 4.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

Dates (Inclusive): 1938-1991

Dates (Bulk): 1938-1991

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: The collection contains several manuscripts concerning debates, the deaconate, Christianity before and after modernism, the views of divorce in the Old and New Testament, and sermon outlines. One of the debates included here was between Bales and Burton Barber where they examine whether instrumental music ought to be used as an aid in worship or not. The second was conducted between Bales and Woolsey Teller, concerning the existence of God. Correspondence requesting clarification and additional information for future debates has also been kept. The collection also contains a notebook from Bales with notes on biographical psychology. Finally, the collection includes an edited manuscript of Bales's "The Scope of the Covenants" and 35mm slides concerning his research and speaking on communism. An accrual included a group photograph from the Twenty-Second Annual Air War College National Security Forum; two gospel meeting posters; bulletins from the College Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas; two folders containing some of Dr. Bales' correspondence; articles on evolution; and additional photographs and negatives.

Biographical Note: James David Bales was born in Tacoma, Washington, on November 5, 1915 and passed in Searcy, Arkansas, on August 16, 1995. Bales obtained his BA at Harding College, his masters at George Peabody College, and his doctorate at University of California at Berkeley. After he completed his studies Bales returned to Harding College and taught Bible classes. He went on to become well known at the college where he became the National Education Program chief researcher. Bales was also part of various debates concerning atheism, communism, and evolution. He retired in 1981.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Acquired by McGarvey Ice in stages from about 2007-2011 and 2022 from a private collector. Contained among Bales' papers was correspondence from George S. Benson, which has been separated into MS #81.

Date of Acquisition: 2014-2019; 2022

Accession Number: R2013.032, R2014.117, R2017.038, R2019.008, and R2022.015, R2022.044

Date of Accession: 4 November 2014, 25 April 2016, 13 April 2017, 8 February 2019, 11 July 2022, and 31 August 2022

Accessioned by: Brady Cox, Troy Wade, Kayla Sanderson, and Amanda Dietz

Processor and Date of Processing: Natali Gonzalez, Audrey Schaffner, and Brady Cox, 31 March 2014

Finding Aid Creator and Date: Natali Gonzalez, Audrey Schaffner, and Brady Cox, 31 March 2014

Finding Aid Update: Mac Ice, Amanda Dietz, and Avery Reinoehl, 11 July 2022; Erica Pye, 31 August 2022

Using this collection

Processing Status: Processed

Conditions Governing Access: Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

Conditions Governing Use: Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

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Arrangement of Materials: The processors retained the original order as received. The material in each box has kept the authors' original order and is in alphabetical order.

Inventory

Box 1

[First Folder] Finding Aid
Correspondence
Debate/ Bales-Teller
Galatians
Instrumental Music: Barber Debate
Deacons MSS, 1
Deacons MSS, 2
Manuscript on Divorce
Miracles? Debate
Questions Between Bales and Deaver
Rooted in God's Eternal Purpose
Sermon Outlines
Sins of the Pagan World
Scriptures
The Impossibles
The National Education Program/ Freedom Forum Manual
Scrapbook Materials- George S. Benson
Trojan Horse: MSS
MS- Pride
The Scope of the Covenants- Edited Manuscript (1 of 2)
The Scope of the Covenants- Edited Manuscript (2 of 2)
[Notecards and Slides]

Box 2

Divorce Correspondence
Jesus the Master Respond (Manuscript, DV.)
Harding College Correspondence (1954)
Oklahoma Christian College- Citizenship Seminar
Pamphlets
Bates- Envelopes

Box 3

The Patriarchal Age, The Gentiles, and Cornelius
Bales-Barber Debate
Be Silent Where the Bible Is Silent
The Ruler Has Rules
Will They Really Splinter?
Messiah's Mission

[Miscellaneous; Evolution, Correspondence]
[Photographs; Christian Economist]
[J.D. Bales- Correspondence]
[College Church of Christ, Abilene, TX Bulletins]
[Gospel Meeting Posters]
Mal. 4:1-6
Mills, Wilbur Rep.
[loose materials on Mormonism]
[materials from orange binder]
[materials from pink binder]
Charts About Chinese Communists (1958)
Bales Term Paper (Harding College)
Fred R. Jewell Dissertation (Ball State University 1975)