

Abilene Christian University

## Digital Commons @ ACU

---

Center for Restoration Studies Archives,  
Manuscripts and Personal Papers Finding Aids

Finding Aids

---

10-24-2022

### Robert Carl Spain Papers, 1920s-1990

Robert Carl Spain

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/findingaids>

---

#### Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [file or folder name], Robert Carl Spain Papers, 1920s-1990. Center for Restoration Studies MS #306. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Finding Aids at Digital Commons @ ACU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Restoration Studies Archives, Manuscripts and Personal Papers Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ ACU.

**Robert Carl Spain  
Papers, (1920s-1990)**

Center for Restoration Studies  
Manuscripts #306

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

24 October 2022

## **About this collection**

---

**Title:** Carl Spain Papers

**Creator:** Carl Spain, (1917-1990)

**Identifier/Call Number:** Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #306

**Physical Description:** 3 linear feet (2 box)

**Dates (Inclusive):** 1920s-1990

**Dates (Bulk):** 1920s-1990

**Location:** Center for Restoration Studies

**Language of Materials:** English

**Scope and Content Note:** Ephemera, audio cassette recordings of sermons by Carl Spain and photographic materials.

**Biographical Note:** Following biographical note excerpted from the *Gospel Advocate* obituary:

“Dr. Robert Carl Spain, 73, Abilene Christian University Bible professor emeritus and director of ACUs preacher placement service, died December 21, 1990 at his home in Abilene, Texas.

Spain was born in Chattanooga, TN. He attended school in Opelika, AL, and graduated from David Lipscomb University in 1936 and ACU in 1938. He received his masters degree and another bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University in 1946. In 1963, he received his doctorate of theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

He joined the ACU faculty in 1954 after teaching at Harding University and holding the Bible Chair at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He also served churches in Paducah, Handley, Irving, Lubbock and Houston, TX; Auburn, AL; and Searcy, AR., before going to ACU.

He received 20th Century Christian magazines Christian Educator of the Year Award in 1978 and was a staff writer for the magazine for 30 years. He was to have received the Award in Christian Communication for 20th Century Christian.

Spain was elected president of the Southwest Regional Chapter of the American Academy of Religion in 1969 and also served on the board of directors of the national academy. He also made evangelical trips to Europe, Russia, South America and Central America. Spain also was known as a pioneer in the campus ministry movement and a courageous speaker against racial segregation in the church and in the Christian college system. He was a member of the Minter Lane Church of Christ.

Spain is survived by his wife, Mildred McClung Spain of Abilene; two daughters, Carla Trammell and Claudette Rogers, both of Houston; two sisters, Lorene McCartney of Tampa, FL., and Elaine Spain Gay of Opelika, AL.; and three grandchildren.”<sup>1</sup>

**Administrative Information**

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Claudette Rogers

**Date of Acquisition:** 2014 September 2019

**Accession Number:** R2014.137, R2021.060

**Date of Accession:** 14 May 2015, 15 November 2021

**Accessioned by:** Kayla Sanderson, Amanda Dietz

**Processor and Date of Processing:** Kayla Sanderson, May 2015; Amanda Dietz, November 2021

**Finding Aid Creator and Date:** Kayla Sanderson, May 2015; Amanda Dietz and Mac Ice, November 2021

**Finding Aid Update:** Mac Ice, Amanda Dietz, Ashlen Planes, 24 October 2022

---

<sup>1</sup> History of the Restoration Movement Gospel Advocate Obituaries, “Spain, Robert Carl.”  
<https://www.therestorationmovement.com/ga/gas05.htm>

## **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.

**Preferred citation:** [identification of item], [file or folder name], Robert Carl Spain Papers, 1920s-1990. Center for Restoration Studies MS #306. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

**Copyright notice:** Unless transferred in writing to Abilene Christian University, copyright is retained by the authors of these materials, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States Copyright Law (Title 17 US Code). Researchers are responsible for using these materials in conformance with copyright law.

**Arrangement of Materials:** Materials were kept in the order they were received as much as possible.

**Separated Materials:** None.

### **Subjects and Keywords**

Churches of Christ -- History -- 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Churches of Christ -- Texas -- Abilene  
Manuscripts

## **Inventory**

---

### **Box 1**

[First Folder] Finding Aid

Photograph-Holy Land- 1969

Early- Church established by Lee James (Stepfather of Carl) in Opelika, AL (copies of originals)

Tributes and letters to Dr. Carl Spain

Lubbock- Broadway Church of Christ/M. Norvel Young Minister, Associate Minister- Carl Spain. Began the Bible Chair near Texas Tech

ACU Bicentennial Year (2005, Claudette read portion of Carl's 1960 speech- pictures with Dr. Jerry Taylor

Photos: Carl/Family/Friends

Dr. Robert Carl Spain Doctorate/Graduation/South Western Baptist Theological Seminary, 1963

Photos: Carl Spain and Awards and Diplomas (copies)

Abilene Christian College- 1954 - Carl became an Associate Professor in the Bible Department

Carl Spain- Minister at Central church of Christ, Houston, TX 1951-54

New York World's Fair, 1965

Recognition Dinner- Friday, April 27, 1984

Program/Article/Funeral/Special Reflection by Claudette Spain Rogers

Copy of 1960 speech, "Modern Challenges to Christian Morals", Dr. Carl Spain, Abilene Christian University (photograph of Carl and Batsell Barrett Baxter)

Tape 2 - November 1970 - Exposition on Timothy

Tape 3 - May 1971 - My Words Will Be Your Judge

Tape 4 - October 1971 - Worship and Reverence

Tape 5 - April 1971 - Formula for a Happy Marriage

Tape 6 - April 1973 - Side A: Conversion (Side B blank)

Tape 7 - January 1974 - Side A: Discipleship Speaker (Side B blank)

Tape 8 - March 1973 - Side A: The Face of Christ

Tape 9 - April 1979 - Growth of Jesus in Stature, Wisdom, and Favor with God and Man

Tape 10 - April 1975 - Fellowship of Helping

Tape 11 - September 1975 - Practical Preaching

Tape 12 - October 1977 - Side A: Walking in the Light

Tape 13 - August 1978 - Side A: Comfort of the Scriptures

Tape 13 - May 1984 - Side B: Submission - I Timothy 2

Tape 14 - December 1978 - God and Human Suffering

Tape 15 - April 1983 - The Lord's Supper - Then and Now

### **Box 2, Oversize**

2 Folders of diplomas and certificates

Abilene Christian University Retirement Award Citation

Photographs

Magnetic tape titled "Carl Spain"

Reel to reel labeled "wedding -?-"

---

Tapes on original list, but not physically present:

Tape 1 - April 1984 - Side A: Remembering, Renewing and Reaching Forward; Side B: The  
Fragrant Aroma

Tape 16 - July 1973 - Ron and Claudette's (Rogers) Wedding

Tape 17 - November 1986 - Preacher's Day Celebration - Side A: Carl Spain; Side B: Clifton  
Rogers

Tape 18 - December 1990 - Funeral Service (Carl Spain)

Also listed - February 1960 - Modern Challenges to Christian Morals (Abilene Christian College  
Lectureship)