Robert Carl Spain Papers, 1920s-1990

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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.
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.”

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

1 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.

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**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 -- 20th 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)