

JOHN ALLEN MOORE PAPERS

AR 752



Belgrade Baptist Church group, 1930's

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John Allen Moore Papers

AR 752

Summary

Main Entry: John Allen Moore Papers

Date Span: 1938 – 1982

Abstract: Moore was a Southern Baptist missionary to Yugoslavia and Hungary, a professor at Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland, director of European Baptist Press, and worked in post-war relief efforts. His papers include correspondence, photographs, materials relating to the founding of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Switzerland, and documents concerning his work as a missionary.

Size: 3 linear ft. (two boxes)

Collection #: AR 752

Biographical Sketch

John Allen Moore was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, December 10, 1912, and grew up there and in Tupelo, Mississippi. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi College (1934) and the Master of Theology (1938) and the Doctor of Philosophy (1944) from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Moore married Pauline Willingham in Rome, Italy, January 10, 1940. They have two children, Edward and Marilyn, adopted in 1951.

Moore was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1938 and served until 1941 in Yugoslavia, where he helped to start a seminary. The Moores had to flee Yugoslavia in 1941 as the German army invaded the country. They spent eight months working in Hungary and then returned to the United States. The Moores worked among Yugoslavian refugees in Egypt, from 1944 – 1945, with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Moore taught at Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama, from 1945 – 1947, and at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, from 1947 – 1948.

In 1948, the Moores returned to Europe to help found and teach at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. From 1955 to 1957, Moore was stationed in Vienna and made periodic trips into Yugoslavia to work with Baptists. In 1956, following the Soviet invasion of Hungary, the Moores worked among refugees in Vienna. In 1957, the Moores returned to the seminary in Ruschlikon. In 1961, Moore became the first director of the European Baptist Press Service, news agency of the European Baptist Federation, serving for five years. In 1969, Moore became Field Representative for the Foreign Mission Board in Europe and, later, fraternal representative to Baptist Unions in Eastern Europe. After retiring in 1978 to Brownwood, Texas, the Moores remained active through speaking, writing, and other projects.

Moore is the author of Der starke Jorg (Kassel: Oncken, 1955), about the Anabaptist leader Jorg Blaurock; Qen Kristne Skribenten (Oslo: Norsk Litteraturselskap Filadelfiaforlaget, 1955) and Write for the Religion Market (Palm Springs: ETC publications, 1981), both on religious journalism; Anabaptist Portraits (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1984); chapters on Yugoslavia and Hungary in Europe: Whither Bound? (comp. Nan Weeks; Nashville: Broadman, 1951); and numerous articles in The Commission and other Southern Baptist publications. He edited Baptist Witness in Catholic Europe (Rome: Baptist publishing House, 1973).

Scope and Content Note

The collection occupies three linear feet and contains correspondence, photos, material relating to the founding of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, the Ruschlikon Link (news and alumni bulletin of the seminary), correspondence, and biographical material concerning Moore's work as a missionary in Yugoslavia, Austria, and Switzerland over the course of forty years. Other material on the seminary include trustee minutes from the 1950s, a historical sketch by George W. Sadler, program for graduations and other events, a lecture by Bishop Stephen Neill, delivered at Ruschlikon in 1953 on "Discipline in the Christian Life", promotional bulletins, and correspondence with Foreign Mission Board personnel regarding the seminary's founding. Two folders contain material on the European Baptist Press Service and Moore's tenure as its first director.

The strongest part of the collection is Moore's correspondence. He wrote frequent letters, usually to his family in the United States, which describe his work and conditions in Yugoslavia beginning in the late 1930s and continuing through the 1970s. A 1938 journal provides a record of Moore's journey to Yugoslavia and his first impressions of that country and his work there. The Moore papers provide not only a record of the work of a missionary in Europe but also a unique perspective on modern European history, particularly that of Yugoslavia.

Photos dating back to 1938 are a valuable supplement to the collection. Topics include Yugoslavian Baptist life, refugee camps in Egypt and Austria, the Ruschlikon seminary, and Moore's travels to Afghanistan, Beirut, Taiwan, Italy, and many other places.

For further information on Moore in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives see The John Allen Moores: Good News in War and Peace by Mary and Trent Butler (Nashville: Broadman, 1985; Call No. BV 2855.6. M66 B87 1985); and Ruschlikon: The Establishment and Early Development of an International Baptist Theological Seminary in the Heart of Post-War Europe by Carol Gale Woodfin (M.A. thesis, Wake Forest University; Call No. BV 4070 R83 W66 1987). Anabaptist Portraits, Der starke Jorg, Den Kristne Skribenten, and Write for the Religion Market are part of the Moore papers. Europe: Whither Bound? containing chapters on Yugoslavia and Hungary by Moore, has the Call No. BV 2855. S3 E8 1951. Baptist Witness in Catholic Europe has the call number BX 6275 B26 1973.

Moore's doctoral dissertation, "American Churches and the Free Church Movement in Europe" is Microfilm No.4441. See Southern Baptist Convention Annuals, under the Foreign Mission Board reports, for periodic reports by Moore. Baptist Biography #2675 contains Moore's biographical information, as well as a personal description by his colleague John D. W. Watts.

Arrangement

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

Provenance

Donated by John Allen Moore, 1991.

Preferred Citation

John Allen Moore Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Moore, Pauline Willingham, 1912 –
 Baptist Theological Seminary (Ruschlikon, Switzerland)
 European Baptist Press Service
 Missions – Hungary
 Missions – Yugoslavia
 Missions, Foreign
 War relief

Related Materials

Baptist Theological Seminary (Ruschlikon, Switzerland) Collection. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. AR 649.

John David Hughey Papers. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. AR 711.

Pauline Willingham Moore Papers. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. AR 734.

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- 1.3 Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland – Bulletins, 1951 – 1953
- 1.4 Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland – Bulletins, 1953 – 1955
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- 1.22 Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland – “Introduction to Theological Study” (bibliography), 1960
- 1.23 Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland – [Ruschlikon Link](#), December, 1953 – December, 1957
- 1.24 Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland – [Ruschlikon Link](#), April, 1958 – April, 1961
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