

**Inventory to the
Joseph and Edna Harrington
Collection**

AR 748



Edna and Joseph Harrington

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

December, 2019

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Summary

Main Entry: Joseph and Edna Harrington Collection

Date Span: 1931 – 1983

Abstract: Collection of materials related to Joseph Arnol and Edna Earle Looper Harringtons' service as Southern Baptist missionaries in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Most of the collection includes letters Edna Harrington wrote to her parents primarily between 1931-1968. Subject files contained in the collection include a history of the Baptist College of Mineiro and biography of Edna Harrington (both in Portuguese), and minutes of the South Brazil Mission Executive Committee from 1948.

Size: .5 linear ft. (1 document box)

Collection #: AR 748

Biographical Sketch

Joseph Arnol Harrington was born in Sparta, Missouri, on December 10, 1902, to Almus Clayborne and Dora Marsee Harrington. In 1908 the family moved to Springfield, Missouri. He accepted Christ at age eight and was baptized at First Baptist Church, Brownsville, Texas, in 1927. He attended Tulsa University and earned the Th.B. and M.R.E. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Joseph worked as a merchant before serving as a missionary.

Edna Earle Looper Harrington was born near Cauthron, Arkansas, on August 3, 1904, to Walker Gilmore and Cora Page Looper. In 1915 the family moved to Spiro, Oklahoma. She accepted Christ at age 12 and was baptized at the Baptist church in Spiro, in 1920. She attended East Central College, Central Teachers College, Northeast State Teachers College, and Tulsa University, all in Oklahoma, and earned a diploma in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Edna worked as a public school teacher before serving as a missionary.

The Harringtons married on August 11, 1925. During the Economic Depression, before and after 1930, the Foreign Mission Board could not appoint new missionaries. Many missionaries went financially independent of the Board. Among these were Blonnie Forman, Blanch Simpson, Mildred Cox, Louis and Eloise Glass, Harold Hall, Elmer Lingerfelt, and Joseph Arnol and Edna Earle Harrington. Later, when Dr. Charles Edward Maddry was executive secretary of the Board, most of these missionaries were appointed.

The Harrington's began their service as independent missionaries in 1932. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1938. In Brazil, Mrs. Harrington worked primarily with children and young people through Bible teaching, dramas, the Baptist Student Union, and preparing children's literature for the Baptist Sunday School Board of Brazil. She furthermore shared the Gospel through here singing. Included in the songs she taught Baptists in Brazil were "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "The Beautiful Garden of Prayer," and "Jesus Is All the World to Me." She died on May 23, 1980. Joseph Harrington served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Juiz de Fora, Brazil, and as head of the Baptist College of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte. He served on two different occasions as president of the South Brazil Mission of the Foreign Mission Board, and as vice president of the Brazilian Bible Press.

Scope and Content Note

The Joseph and Edna Harrington Collection (24 folders, 1 document box) documents the Harringtons' service as Southern Baptist missionaries in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The collection primarily includes extensive outgoing correspondence between Edna Harrington and her mother, Cora Harrington. The majority of the correspondence cover the years 1932-1968 and contain descriptions of the Harrington's experiences on the mission field. The correspondence files also include incoming letters from Foreign Mission Board administrators. Five subject files are contained in the collection including a history of the Baptist College of Mineiro and biography of Edna Harrington (both in Portuguese), and minutes of the South Brazil Mission Executive Committee from 1948.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order. Correspondence are arranged in chronological order.

Provenance

Donated by Joseph Arnol Harrington, 1990.

Preferred Citation

Joseph and Edna Harrington Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Harrington, Edna Earle, 1904-1980
 Harrington, Joseph Arnol, 1902-
 Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board.
 Baptist College of Minerio (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)
 Missions – Brazil.
 Baptists – Brazil.

Related Materials

William Hafford Berry Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Container List

- 1.1 Baptist College of Mineiro – 50th Anniversary History and Program (by: J. A. Harrington)
- 1.2 Correspondence, 1931
- 1.3 Correspondence, 1932
- 1.4 Correspondence, 1933
- 1.5 Correspondence, 1934
- 1.6 Correspondence, 1935
- 1.7 Correspondence, 1939
- 1.8 Correspondence, 1940
- 1.9 Correspondence, 1941-1944
- 1.10 Correspondence, 1945-1947
- 1.11 Correspondence, 1948
- 1.12 Correspondence, 1949-1950
- 1.13 Correspondence, 1951-1953
- 1.14 Correspondence, 1954
- 1.15 Correspondence, 1955-1957
- 1.16 Correspondence, 1959-1960
- 1.17 Correspondence, 1961-1963
- 1.18 Correspondence, 1964-1966
- 1.19 Correspondence, 1967-1968
- 1.20 Correspondence, 1971, 1975, 1980, 1983
- 1.21 First Baptist Church – Camden, Arkansas – Program, 1969
- 1.22 Minutes – South Brazil Mission – Executive Committee, 1948
- 1.23 *My Brazil: The Life of Edna Harrington*, 1982
- 1.24 Story of Mary Ruth Carney's Death as Related by Pastor David Gomes, 1955