

Ray E. (1889-1967) and Dora (1892-1967) Phillips

Papers, 1932-1966 (bulk 1957-1966)

MS 4632

5.5 linear feet

No Access Restrictions

Processed by Jessica Steytler, August 2000

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Introduction

Ray E. Phillips was born in Hawthorne, Wisconsin on September 3, 1889. His wife, Dora Phillips, was born in Clarkfield, Minnesota on January 28, 1892. Both went to Carleton College for a Bachelor of Science and graduated in 1914. They were married in 1915. Dr. Phillips continued with his education at Yale Divinity School, 1917. His final degree was from Yale again in 1937: a Ph.D. in sociology.

The Phillipses spent forty years as American Board missionaries in South Africa, 1918-1958. An opponent of apartheid, Dr. Phillips helped found the following organizations while in South Africa: Bantu Men's Social Center, South African Institute for Race Relations, and Johannesburg Coordinating Council for Non-European Welfare Organization. He was also director of the Jan H. Hofmeyr School of Social Work.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Phillips spent a great deal of time after they returned to the states traveling from state to state, speaking to various organizations about their experiences in South Africa. In 1958, the same year the Phillips returned to the States, Dr. Phillips was moderator for the general council of the Congregational Christian Churches, a post he held until 1961. He was also associate minister, 1959-1960, and then interim minister, 1962-1963, for the Pilgrim Congregational Church in St. Louis, Missouri. When they moved to Claremont, California in 1964, Dr. Phillips took over the directorship for personal relations for Pilgrim Place, the community in which they lived.

This collection does not cover the Phillips' years as missionaries, except for the "Phillips' News, 1918-1958," which is a pamphlet of the newsletters that Dr. and Mrs. Phillips sent to friends and relations while they were in South Africa. The bulk dates are from 1958 to 1966, the year before both Ray and Dora died.

Dr. Phillips wrote a few books on his experiences in South Africa. "African Youth and Sex Hygiene," 1925; "The Bantu are Coming," 1930; "The Bantu in the City," 1938; "The Crux of the Race Problem" 1947.

Mrs. Phillips's name has been included in the title of this collection because her work, while in the minority, is intermingled with her husband's. It is clear that she worked very closely with Dr. Phillips, therefore her name in the title.

Scope and Content

Series A, Correspondence 1934, 1944, 1952-1966

The letters in this series include ones to and from Dora Phillips as well as Ray. These are general correspondence files. The subseries cover (1) the files organized by Ray as mission-related and (2) the letters that had been kept separate and were to or from Dora Phillips. The files are in chronological order, but the order within the files themselves is not necessarily chronological. The Phillipses received a great deal of mail from fellow missionaries. There is a separate series (G) for Appointments, considering that the Phillipses spent most of their retirement at public speaking engagements.

Series B, Organizations, 1958-1966

These are arranged in alphabetical order. The organizations are either political or church-related.

Series C, Personal writings (includes some from D.P.), 1958-1966

Again, these are in alphabetical order. The files include sermons, newspaper articles, lectures and manuscripts.

Series D, Personal Information

This series includes a small amount of biographical information and legal documents (passports, immunization records, contracts).

Series E, Africa Files, 1957-1966

These folders contain records pertaining to African organizations or activities.

Series F, Special Interest Pamphlets, 1934, 1956, 1961

These are mostly published tracts that were on subjects that interested the Phillipses. Most have to do with African political or social policies.

Series G, Appointments, 1958-1966

These records have to do with Dr. and Mrs. Phillips's public speaking engagements. There are letters pertaining to upcoming engagements as well as event schedules and material collected while at events. These folders are arranged roughly in chronological order. The contents of this series were originally in binders. The original order was kept; therefore the chronology for some folders is not precise.

Series H, Church Files, 1950s-1966

Pilgrim Church and Pilgrim Place feature in this series, as well as a large binder from the General Council dating from 1958-1961.

Series I, Photographs

None of the photographs have dates or have any of the individuals identified.

Series H, Notes

Dr. Phillips kept subject files that he used for sermons and papers. There are hand-written notes and newspaper clippings and kept in approximately the same order in which Dr. Phillips kept them, given that the files had to be divided into four boxes.

Folder List		
Box	Topic	Year
1		
Series A: Correspondence, 1934, 1944, 1952-1966 (there is one file of correspondence in the oversize box)		
Subseries 1: Mission Correspondence, 1958-1961		
Subseries 2: Dora Phillips's Correspondence		
	From Ray	1960s
	General	1960s
	General	No date
Series B: Organizations, 1958-1966		
	Carleton College	1961-1966
	Midolo Ecumenical Foundation	1963-1963
	National Council, USA	1958-1964
	Speakers Bureau, Waery	1958-1964
	Stevenson, Adli Campaign	1960
	UCBWM	1962-1966
	World Council	1950-1961
	YMCA	1962-1965
2		
Series C: personal writings (includes some from D.P.), 1958-1966		
	"The American Board Among the Bantu of South Africa"	nd
	"Bantu are Coming"	1931
	"Bantu in the City"	nd
	Completed Sermons	1958-1965
	Essays/Sermons	Nd
	Family Problems (DP)	ca. 1960s
	"An Intimate Account of Forty Years With South Africans," correspondence,	1958-1963
	Lectures/Articles	1958-1963
	"My Friends Are South Africans,"	1966
	"Let My People Go," by Albert Luthuli; forward by RP	No date
	Newspaper Articles	ca. 1960s,
	Note Books	
	Notes and Articles (DP)	1960s

	Papers and Notes (DP)	No date
	Preface	ca. 1961
	“Simple Faith for the Space Age”	ca. 1960s
	“Talks In Africa”	nd
Series D: Personal Information		
	Biographical Information	ca. 1960s
	Insurance, Contracts	
	News clippings	
	Travel Documents	1957-1958
	Financial and Bureaucratic: Missionary Related	1958-1961
Series E: Africa Files, 1957-1966		
	Retirement	1961
	Christian Council Of South Africa	1965-1966
	Johannesburg and Hoffmeyr School	1962-1966
	Rotary Club of Johannesburg Resignation	1954
	South African Institute of Race Relations	1961-1966
	South African Mission	1960-1965
	US-South Africa Leader Exchange Program	1965-1966
	Visiting South Africans	1961-1966
	X-Ray Report	1957-1959
Series F: Special Interest Pamphlets, 1934, 1956, 1961		
	Africa And the United States	1961
	Background Information for Church and Society	1961
	Diary of a Travel Through Africa	1956
	The Education of a South African Tribe	1934
	Interpreters’ Manual, National Council of Churches	1961
	The Liquidation of Adams College	
	South Africa’s Apartheid Policy...	1956
3		
Series G: Appointments, 1958-1966		
Series H: Church Files, 1950s-1966		
	Congregational Merger	1960
	Advanced Discussion Group	1964
	Film, Filmstrips	1961
	Fund Raising, Los Alamos	1960-1966
	General Council (bound)	1958-1961
	New Task of Church	1961
	Pilgrim Church	1950s-1966
	Pilgrim Place	1959-1964
	Pilgrim Place, Get Well Wishes	1966
	Visitors to Claremont	1961, 1965-1966
Series I: Photographs		
	Hoffmeyr Schoo	
	Ray and Dora	nd, 1958
	Photos, unidentified, 3 Oversize: - separate file	

4		
Series D: Personal Information		
	pocket diaries	
5-9		
Series J: Notes		
	Notes compiled by RP for sermons, lectures and books.	
10	Oversize	
	Phillips' News (Series A)	
	Clippings (Series F)	1918-1958
	Correspondence (A)	1956-1958
	"The Bantu Are Coming" (C)	
	Pathfinders (B)	1931
	South Africa Social Action Groups (E)	1957