

2018

## COLLECTION 0172: Melvin Easterday Dieter Papers, 1924

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## **COLLECTION 172: Melvin Easterday Dieter Papers**

### **Administrative Information**

**Title:**

Melvin Easterday Dieter Papers

**Collection Identifier:**

CFT00172

**Creators:**

Dieter, Melvin Easterday

**Size:**

18 boxes

**Repository:**

David Allan Hubbard Library  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
135 N Oakland Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91182  
archives@fuller.edu

**Provenance:**

Unknown

**Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:**

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law

**Language:**

English

**Processing:**

Adam Gossman

**Finding Aid Revisions:**

Andrew Wong, June 2018; Alyson Thomas, March 2020

## Biography

Melvin Easterday Dieter (b. 1924 – d. Oct 6, 2018) worked as the General Secretary of Educational Institutions of the Wesleyan Church and as a historian of the Wesleyan Holiness movement.

Melvin E. Dieter studied at Muhlenburg College; Navy Language Institute, University of Colorado; Eastern Pilgrim College; Lehigh University; and Temple University (Ph.D. 1972). During World War II, he served as a Chinese language specialist. From 1961-1965, he served as president of Eastern Pilgrim College (1954-1968), formerly known as Allentown Bible Institute (1925-1954) and the Beula Park Bible School (1921-1925). Coincidentally, Dieter's father Dr. Harold D. Dieter held the presidency from 1932-1948. In 1967, Melvin Dieter resigned from the presidency of Eastern Pilgrim College to enter the doctoral program at Temple University.

Dieter assisted in the unification of the Pilgrim Holiness Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America into the new Wesleyan Methodist Church (ratified in 1968). At that time, Dieter became the General Secretary of Educational Institutions. His major tasks were to instill commitment to a common vision, and to consolidate the combined denominations' ten schools into six.

Dieter resigned from the Department of Education Institutions in 1975, and joined the faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary. He served as a professor of church history and historical theology. Later, he became vice-president and provost of Asbury Theological Seminary, retiring in 1990.

Publications include:

"Revivalism and Holiness," later published as *Holiness Revival of the Nineteenth Century* (1980; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1996). Dissertation.

*The Church: an Inquiry into Ecclesiology from a Biblical Theological Perspective*, Anderson, Ind. : Warner Press, ©1984.

"The Wesleyan Perspective" in *Five Views on Sanctification* Grand Rapids, Mich. : Zondervan Pub., [1996], ©1987.

Smith, Hannah Whithall. Melvin E Dieter, editor. *The Christian's Secret of a Holy Life: The Unpublished Personal Writings of Hannah Whithall Smith*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Zondervan, ©1994.

Smith, Hannah Whithall. Melvin E Dieter and Hallie A Dieter, editors. *God is Enough*. [Longwood, FL] : Xulon Press, ©2003.

## Scope and Content

The Melvin Easterday Dieter Collection contains correspondence, published and unpublished material, research notes, lecture notes and syllabi as well as tracts, pamphlets and ephemera documentary of the Holiness and Pentecostal Movements. The material in this collection consists of 18 boxes and spans his academic career.

Dieter's personal library is cataloged as the Melvin Easterday Dieter Special Collection. The collection consists of 480 volumes. Topics include the Holiness movement, theology, and hymns. Click here for the [book list URL \(as of March 2020\)](#).

### Subjects:

Holiness movement

Houghton College

Methodism

Pentecostalism

Pilgrim Holiness Church

## Arrangement

The Melvin Easterday Dieter Papers is divided into four series.

Series I: Writings and Notes, Boxes 1-2 (2 Boxes)

Series II: Research, Boxes 3-7 (5 Boxes)

Series III: Papers and Research, Boxes 8-13 (6 Boxes)

Series IV: Houghton College Material and Others, Boxes 14-16 (3 Boxes)

Series V: Pilgrim Holiness Church, Notes, Material, etc, Box 17

Series VI: Binders, Box 18

## Box Inventory

Box	Name	Note
1	Writings and Notes	
2	Writings and Notes	
3	Research	
4	Research	
5	Research	
6	Research	
7	Research	
8	Papers and Research	
9	Papers and Research	
10	Papers and Research	
11	Papers and Research	
12	Papers and Research	
13	Papers and Research	
14	Houghton College Material and Others	
15	Houghton College Material and Others	
16	Houghton College Material and Others	
17	Pilgrim Holiness Church, Notes, Material, etc	
18	Binders	