

2018

COLLECTION 0911: R. Kenneth Strachan Papers

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COLLECTION 911: Papers of R. Kenneth Strachan

Administrative Information

Title:

Papers of R. Kenneth Strachan

Collection Identifier:

CFT00911

Creators:

Strachan, R. Kenneth

Size:

26 Boxes

Repository:

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

Provenance:

Acquired Jan. 26, 2012 from Harry W. Strachan and Grace Strachan Roberts Dyrness

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law

Language:

English

Processing:

Adam Gossman

Finding Aid Revisions:

Andrew Wong, August 2018; Alyson Thomas, April 2020

Biography

Robert Kenneth Strachan (b.1910, Tandil, Argentina - d. Feb 1965, Pasadena, California) was a missionary for twenty-nine years, and general director of the Latin America Mission (LAM), formerly the Latin America Evangelization Campaign. His parents founded the LAM, and Strachan served as their deputy with leadership responsibilities for six years prior to his official directorship from 1945-1965. During his tenure, Strachan sought to transfer control of the organization into Latin American hands, a task finally accomplished in 1971.

Strachan's other notable efforts included coordinating the Billy Graham Crusade in the Caribbean region in 1958. He is also credited with the so-called "Strachan theorem", which states "The growth of any movement is in direct proportion to its success in mobilizing its total membership in the constant propagation of its beliefs." Strachan began the Evangelism-in-Depth movement, which aimed to harness individual participation in concentrated evangelistic activities within single, highly visible Latin American republics. Strachan participated in three movements: Nicaragua (1960), Costa Rica (1960-1961), and Guatemala (1962). The initiative extended to other Latin American countries over the course of the decade.

Strachan studied at Wheaton College (1923-1935), Dallas Theological Seminary (1935-1936), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Master of Theology, 1942-1943). He married Elizabeth Walker in 1940. Strachan contributed articles to the *Evangelist* magazine and the *International Review of Mission*. He also wrote *The Inescapable Calling: The Missionary Task of the Church of Christ in the Light of Contemporary Challenge and Opportunity* Grand Rapids, Mich. : Eerdmans, 1968.

Strachan's declining health caused him to retire from missionary work. His family moved to Pasadena, CA. Strachan worked at Fuller Seminary as a Visiting Professor of Christian Missions from 1964-1965.

For more information, see:

Randall Herbert Balmer, *Encyclopedia of Evangelicalism*, p. 661.

W. Dayton Roberts, "The Legacy of R. Kenneth Strachan," in *Occasional Bulletin of Missionary Research* (January 1, 1979).

Scope and Content

The Papers of R. Kenneth Strachan consist of personal papers, notebooks, journals, files, and correspondence.

Subjects:

Evangelistic work

Missions

Social movements

Latin America

Arrangement

This collection is organized into 26 boxes consisting of 5 series as follows:

Series 1: Personal papers, letters, and materials (Boxes 1-13)

Series 2: Files and Correspondence (Boxes 14-20)

Series 3: Notebooks and Journals (Boxes 21-22)

Series 4: Note Cards and Post Cards (Boxes 23-25)

Series 5: Miscellaneous (Box 26)