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Papers, 1906-1983, 2000. 9.00 linear ft.

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Abstract

The papers of William Robertson Angus, Jr., missionary to China and the Philippines. Rutgers University Class of 1922; Hartford Seminary Class of 1925; graduate work at Yale University; licensed by the Classis of Bergen, 1925; commissioned by the RCA board of Foreign Missions, 1925; Amoy Mission service, 1925-1952; Honorary Doctorate of Divinity, Rutgers, 1947; recommissioned and sent to the Philippines as a missionary, 1952-1967. The collection includes Angus' metrical paraphrases of books from the Old Testament, New Testament, and Apocrypha; drafts of the poetry volume *South Fukien*; articles, essays, sermons and lectures; RCA missionary service materials; an oral history transcript; correspondence; and photographs and slides of RCA China missions.

Accession No.: H00-1381
Provenance: William R. Angus, Jr.
Donor: William R. Angus, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Jack Hill
David Robertson Angus
Photographs: 310 images (30 slides) (Box 1); one image Box 2
Processed by: Rebecca A. O'Shesky, July 1991
Alicia Irvine, September 2000
David Andrews, December 2000

Biography

William Angus was born on October 4, 1901, in New York City. He went to local schools in the city and at Oradell and Park Ridge, New Jersey. In 1922, Angus earned his B.S. in Agriculture (Soil Fertility) at Rutgers University. He took his theological training at Hartford Seminary, receiving his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1925. Angus later undertook graduate work at Yale University Language School, 1946-1947.

After getting his B.D., Angus was licensed by the RCA Classis of Bergen. While studying the Amoy Chinese Dialect, he met his future wife, Agnes Buikema, who preferred to be called by her middle name, Joyce. Once commissioned by the RCA Board of Foreign Missions, Angus departed for the Amoy Mission district in 1925 to become an evangelist to the country churches of China. Joyce was also sent to China to be an English instructor. They were married on July 5, 1927. They had three children: Margery Anne, David Robertson, and John Galen Angus.

In 1930, the Anguses' home city of Changchow was overrun by the forces of Mao Tse-tung, and the family was forced to flee the city. Afterward, they took a year's furlough, spent in Princeton, New Jersey, and returned to their work in China. Events following the 1941 U.S. entry into World War II caused the family to be separated for five years. William, traveling the countryside on mission business, was not allowed back to find his family. Joyce and the three children were made prisoners of war and eventually repatriated to the U.S. on the first *S. S.*

Gripsholm voyage, July-August 1942. Joyce and the children lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, until reunited with William in 1946.

The family took another furlough, during which Rutgers University awarded William an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity in 1947. Later that same year, the Anguses returned to missionary work in China. They stayed until 1952, when Communist pressure forced them to leave. The Anguses were recommissioned and sent as missionaries to the Philippines. They remained there until William retired in 1967.

Moving to Orange City, Iowa, the Anguses opened their home to Chinese and Philippine students studying at Northwestern College. William continued his private work on metrical paraphrases of books of the Bible and on a collection of poems on his China service. After battling terminal illness, Joyce died in 1974. William created a scholarship in her name at Northwestern for American and foreign students going into mission work, and foreign students needing financial aid. He died on October 8, 1984, and his name was added to the memorial scholarship. The Angus house in Orange City has since become a part of the Northwestern campus.

Scope and Content

The William Angus, Jr. Papers span the years 1906-1983, with memorial materials from the year 2000. Box 1, and one-quarter of Box 2, contain diverse papers from Angus' lengthy missionary service, including correspondence, articles by Angus and others, newsletters and news clippings, some verse works, an oral history transcript, and photographs and slides of China and the Philippines.

Boxes 2-5 contain manuscript and typescript drafts and bound copies of Angus' decades-long efforts at paraphrasing books of the Bible in the meter of blank verse. Angus' original attempts at publication resulted in small, bound volumes of Old and New Testament books entitled "Exercises in Metrical Paraphrase," some of which are collected in Box 2. Angus also used this title as a working title for early drafts in the series he later titled *The Bible in Verse: A Metrical Paraphrase*. Advancing this project occupied Angus from the late 1960s until his death.

One quarter of Box 5, and all of Box 6, collect the drafts and bound copies of *South Fukien: A Missionary's Miscellany*, the collection of narrative poems about his China years that Angus edited and arranged into book form during the 1950s. Where his versification of the Bible is considered and eloquent in its simplicity of language, *South Fukien*, through its many drafts and formal changes, is superlative at elevating a personal narrative to a work of universal appeal and historical importance. Angus shares the gifts of novelist Graham Greene for spotting dramatic situations amid everyday life in the Orient, and for pointing out a clear cut moral above ideological confusions.

Container List

Box 1

Articles

"Chinese Preaching to Villagers," 1938

- “Country Pastors in China,” 1938
“Notes from China,” 1938
“The Tiger, the Bull, and the Fox,” 1938
“Two Friends of Evangelism,” 1938
Biographical, 1956, 1974, n.d.
Board of Foreign Missions, RCA, Newsletter, 1937-1938
China Notes, Newsletter, 1969-1970
Chinese Art Reference Material, 1964, 1970, n.d.
Correspondence
 1942-1943
 1944
 1945-1946
 1950-1951, 1968, 1971, 1962, 1974-1975, 1977, 1982
Essays
 “Behind the White Screen,” n.d.
 “Pieces of China, n.d.
Lecture Notes, ca. 1965-1970
Maps, n.d.
News Clippings, Magazine Articles, 1942, 1967, 1969, n.d.
Note, Card, Drawing, n.d.
Notes on Chinese Customs, n.d.
Oral History Project Transcript, 1977
Paraphrased Psalms sent to Hymnbook Committee, 1981
Philippines Service
 Church and Community Newsletter, Correspondence, Notes, Articles,
 1967-1970
 Church Literature
 United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Commission on Philippine-Chinese
 Mission, Proceedings, 1964-1965
Photographs
 Amoy Mission Region, 1948, n.d. (14 images)
 Chinese Groups, 1925. 1948, n.d. (35 images)
 Missionary Groups, ca. 1906, 1947, n.d. (11 images)
 “Recollections of Toa-bo” (booklet), 1921
 The Sin Family, 1926, 1938, 1939, 1947, n.d. (87 images)
 “The Single Girls,” 1933, 1940, n.d. (54 images)
 Tong-An and An-Khoe areas, 1932 (70 images)
 William and Joyce Angus, 1967, n.d. (9 images)
 William and Joyce Angus and Miss Go Teaching Choirs, Easter Services, n.d. (10
 images)
Psalms set to Christmas Carols, n.d.
RCA Church Literature, 1946, 1969, 2000, n.d.
RCA Chinese Mission Reports, 1941-1946, n.d.
Reference Articles
 “Chinese Church Living with More Persecutions,” *The Presbyterian Journal*,

March 4, 1970

“Good News for Everyone,” *American Bible Society Record*, January 1977

Research Paper, “Mao Tse-Tung,” n.d.

Sermons and Prayers, 1968-1970, n.d.

Slide Show Scripts, 1967, n.d.

Slide box

Slides: China, Hong Kong, Philippines, U.S. (boxes, packets), n.d. (30 images)

Gift, Tie Clip, n.d.

Box 2

Photograph, Hangchow, China, 1949

Speech, “China Remembered,” Outline, 1970

Theatrical, “A Pageant: Be of Good Cheer,” n.d.

Thesis, “The Many Roles of Harry Lewis,” David Robertson Angus, 1970

Exercises in Metrical Paraphrase

Old Testament Books 1-8, 1963-1967

New Testament Books 1-4, 1959-1961

New Testament Books 8-8, 1961-1963

The Bible in Verse: A Metrical Paraphrase

Genesis, 1982

Exodus, 1982

Leviticus, 1982

Numbers, 1981

Deuteronomy, 1981

Joshua, n.d.

Judges, n.d.

Ruth, n.d.

Isaiah, 1971

Box 3

The Bible in Verse: A Metrical Paraphrase (cont.)

Jeremiah

1970

26-52, Draft, n.d.

I Samuel, n.d.

II Samuel, n.d.

I Kings, n.d.

II Kings

n.d.

Manuscript Draft, n.d.

I Chronicles, Manuscript Draft, n.d.

II Chronicles, Manuscript Draft, n. d

Ezra

1975
Draft, n.d.
Nehemiah
1975
Draft, n.d.
Esther
1970
Draft, 1970
Job, 1974
Proverbs, 1972
Ecclesiastes
1967
Draft, 1967

Box 4

The Bible in Verse: A Metrical Paraphrase (cont.)

Ezekiel
1970
1-24, Draft, n.d.
25-48, Draft, n.d.
Matthew, Draft, 1969
Mark, Draft, 1968
Luke
Draft, n.d.
Draft, 1968
John, Draft, 1968
Acts, Draft, 1967
Romans, n.d.
I Corinthians, n.d.
II Corinthians, n.d.
Epistles: I and II Peter, I-III John, Jude, 1969
Revelation, 1975
The Apocrypha
The Additions to Esther, 1983
Baruch, n.d.
I Esdras, 1982
II Esdras, 1982
Judith, 1983
Jesus the Son of Sirach, 1-38:30, n.d.

Box 5

The Bible in Verse: A Metrical Paraphrase (cont.)

The Apochrypha (cont.)

Tobit, 1982

The Wisdom of Solomon, 1983

Errata Sheets, n.d.

Manuscript Passage Paraphrases, n.d.

Sample Verse Passages, n.d.

Transcripts of Taped Readings in Matthew and Mark, n.d.

Bound Copies

The Psalms, 1973

Matthew, 1969

Mark, 1969

Luke, 1969

John, 1969

Acts, 1967

The General Epistles, 1969

Revelation, 1970

South Fukien: A Missionary's Miscellany

Poems

Folder 1, 1925-1951

Folder 2, 1925-1951

Folder 3, 1925-1951

Folder 4, 1925-1951

Folder 5, 1925-1951

Box 6

South Fukien: A Missionary's Miscellany (cont.)

Poems (cont.)

Folder 6, 1925-1951

Folder 7, 1925-1951

Early Typescript

Section One: Love Poems, n.d.

Section Two: Amoy and Points West, n.d.

Section Three: War Years, n.d.

Section Four: The Mammon of Inflation, n.d.

Typescript

Amoy and Points West, n.d.

The Mammon of Inflation, n.d.

The War Years, n.d.

Last Years, n.d.

Amoy and Points West

Folder 1, 1954

Folder 2, 1954
Forty-Eight Selections, n.d.
Bound Copies, Blue Carbon
Index of Titles, n.d.
Book One: Change, n.d.
Book Two: Unrest, n.d.
Book Three: War, n.d.
Book Four: Inflation, n.d.
Book Five: Communists, n.d.