Southern Baptist Convention
Foreign Mission Board
Historical Files

AR 551-8

Summary
Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board. Historical Files.

Date Span: 1846-1996

Abstract: The Foreign Mission Board Historical Files contain various documents concerning the history of this entity of the SBC. Contents include nineteenth century annual reports as well as committee reports, nineteenth century correspondence between FMB leaders and leaders of the Convention, various FMB publications (Foreign Mission Journal, Home and Foreign Fields, The Commission, etc) from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, reports of Southern Baptist Convention and Foreign Mission Board conferences, consultations, and planning sessions of the 1960s to 1980s related to missions strategy, correspondence of Corresponding and Executive Secretaries dating from 1847-1996.

Size: 17 linear feet

Collection #: AR 551-8

Historical Note
The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention organized in 1845 as a result of the unified American Baptists, under the Triennial Convention, splitting into Northern and Southern branches. The Foreign Mission Board sought to continue the mission activity of Baptists begun with the Triennial Convention on behalf of Baptists living in the South. The FMB opened its first mission in China then expanded to include Africa, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, and Japan in its work. Based out of Richmond Virginia, the Foreign Mission Board oversaw missionary work and served as a liaison between missionaries and the Convention. In 1997, the Southern Baptist Convention voted to change the name of the Foreign Mission Board to the International Mission Board. Today, the IMB works in hundreds of nations with a missionary force of nearly 5,000.

Scope and Content
The Foreign Mission Board Historical File contains materials spanning the years 1845-1990 that have sufficient historical value but do not clearly fit within the other major series of Foreign Mission Board records. The Historical File contains the Foreign
Mission Board’s first annual report written in 1846. Other important documents from the nineteenth century are also included such as the annual report from 1849, committee reports concerning the missions to China, Africa and Brazil, and early FMB financial records. Correspondence related to topics such as the Baptist 75 Million Campaign (predecessor to the current Cooperative Program), interdenominational cooperation, “Colored Baptist Ministry,” and missions education are included. Also included is correspondence from prominent Southern Baptists such as William B. Johnson, J.M. Frost, and other early SBC figures. Material by, and containing information regarding, FMB leaders such as James B. Taylor, Henry Allen Tupper, Robert J. Willingham, James F. Love, Charles E. Maddry, M. Theron Rankin, and Baker James Cauthen are also included in this collection. Manuscripts by, and about FMB missionaries and their experiences as well as books concerning the nature and theological foundations of missions are contained in this collection. Also includes reports related to missions strategy from the 1970’s and 1980’s. Finally, the Historical File also contains copies of many of the various publications of the Foreign Mission Board. Included are copies of The Commission ranging from the 1840’s to the 1990’s. Copies of The Foreign Mission Journal from 1874-1915, and its successor Home and Foreign Fields from 1916-1936 are included as well.

**Arrangement**

The arrangement of the boxes and files in this series is based on the box sequence of the FMB and IMB. The internal arrangement of each box has retained the arrangement given by the IMB which is generally alphabetical, then chronological.

**Provenance**


**Preferred Citations**

Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board Historical Files, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Access Restrictions**

None

**Subject Terms**

Afro-American Baptists  
Barton, Arthur James  
Cauthen, Baker James  
Formation of the Southern Baptist Convention  
Johnson, William Bullein  
Love, James Franklin  
Maddry, Charles Edward  
Missions, Foreign  
Parks, R. Keith  
Rankin, Milledge Theron
Ray, Bronson
Taylor, James Barnett
Tupper, Henry Allen
Willingham, Robert Josiah
Women in missionary work

Related Materials


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