

COLLECTION 101: Papers of Jack and Anna Kerr, 1924-2012

Administrative Information

Title:

Papers of Jack and Anna Kerr, 1924-2012

Collection Identifier:

CFT00101

Creators:

Kerr, Anna
Kerr, Jack

Size:

9 Boxes, 6 linear feet

Repository:

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

Provenance:

The gift of Jack and Anna Kerr, FPCH scans given by Arlin Migliazzo

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law

Language:

English

Processing:

Nancy Sanders Gower

Finding Aid Revisions:

Andrew Wong, June 2018

Biography

Jack and Anna Kerr have been longtime members of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood in California. Jack A. (John) Kerr (February 3, 1922 – November 15, 2015) served many years as a professor at the University of Southern California and as a Deacon, Elder, and Missions department volunteer within his church. He also preached monthly at the Los Angeles Union Rescue Mission for thirty years.

Jack's father, Arthur Neal Kerr, discovered butane and propane and started the liquified petroleum business, Imperial Gas. Jack's family moved from Pittsburgh, PA to Long Beach, CA in 1925 and then to Hancock Park c. 1936. Pastor Inwood of the Long Beach Methodist Church recommended they attend the church of a friend, Stuart MacLennan, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. The Kerr family agreed and transitioned to the new church.

When Louis Evans became the new pastor at First Presbyterian Church, the Evans family moved into the Kerrs' neighborhood. According to the Kerrs, Jack was a favorite of Mother Evans, Pastor Evan's mother. Her habit to preach on street corners influenced Jack to pursue ministry work within Los Angeles' Skid Row.

Anna's family moved from Texas to Los Angeles, CA during the United States' Great Depression (1929-1941). The 1933 earthquake created jobs enabling her father, Clinton Linus August Borkemohle, to find employment as a civil, architectural, and structural engineer. Borkemohle contributed to building the Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal (called the Union Station), the original Disney Studios in Burbank, CA; and cantilever hangars at both Los Angeles and New York airports.

The Borkemohle family was part of Presbyterian congregations in Amarillo, TX; Long Beach, CA; Huntington Park, CA; and Coronado, CA. Anna's father, brother, and numerous cousins served as elders. Anna began teaching as a Kindergarten class Sunday school teacher when she was in the 7th grade. By the time she finished high school, she had taught 5th and 6th graders as well. When Anna was a teenager, she began attending the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood's college department class. She traveled each Sunday morning by bus, usually arriving too late to get a seat inside. She listened to Henrietta Mears from the courtyard and was struck by her message as well as by her manner.

When the Kerrs married, they attended First Presbyterian Church together and began to develop their ministry skills there. In 1961, they participated in the Tokyo Christian Crusade in Japan. Dick Halverson, Bill and Vonette Bright, and six men from their Sunday School class also participated, inviting many locals to go to the crusade each night. Bob Pierce spoke accompanied by a translator. The crusade included a 500 voice choir and a 200 piece orchestra. Converts included an industrialist named Mr. Shimamura, and Bob Matsuo.

Jack wrote plays for the First Presbyterian Church congregation, served as a Deacon, then an Elder, and was on the pastoral search team which found Lloyd Ogilvie. Anna developed longstanding relationships with women prayer partners, served as a Deacon and an Elder, and took over the Missions department in 1994. As of 2012, Anna led the Women's' Ministry, organizing an annual conference called Faithlift.

The Kerrs helped organize short term mission groups for many years. They went to Ecuador to photograph the work of Dr. Dilworth, a medical missionary among the Quichua Indians in 1956, shortly after the Aucas people killed five missionaries. The Kerrs made a project of showing slides and speaking to various churches and civic groups to raised funds to build and furnish a hospital. Anna helped revise Dr. Dilworth revise his Masters thesis for the Fuller Seminary School of World Mission (supervisor Dr. McGavran). In 1996, 1998, and 2003 they were part of groups which served at Embangweni Hospital in Malawi, under the auspices of Medical Benevolence Foundation.

Scope and Content

The collection contains materials related to the Kerrs' family histories as well as the 20th century ministry and history of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Inclusive dates range from 1924-2011. Printed materials include documents such as worship bulletins and church newsletters. Materials also include personal correspondence, poems and plays, photographs, digital images. Audio and video recordings include sermons by Henrietta Mears, Bruce Angwin, Elizabeth Dole and Colleen Townsend Evans.

Subjects:

- Africa
- Amateur plays
- Bible -- Study and teaching
- Hollywood (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Religion.
- Hollywood Presbyterian Church (Hollywood, Calif.)
- Mears, Henrietta C. (Henrietta Cornelia)
- Ogilvie, Lloyd John
- Plays, Christmas
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Arrangement

The collection is organized into 9 boxes, consisting of 5 series as follows:

SERIES I: Jack's Creative Work (Boxes 1 & 2)

SERIES II: Biographical Material of Jack Kerr (Box 2)

SERIES III: Anna Kerr's Family and Writings (Box 3)

SERIES IV: First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood (Boxes 4 - 7)

Subseries 1: Print materials related to the Kerrs' service at FPCH

Subseries 2: Photos & print materials related to the history of the Church

SERIES V: Audio and video recordings (Boxes 7 - 9)

Series Description

SERIES I: Jack's Creative Work

Poems and plays

SERIES II: Biographical Material of Jack Kerr

Biographical material of Jack Kerr and his family

SERIES III: Anna Kerr's Family and Writings

SERIES IV: First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood

Subseries 1: Print materials related to the Kerrs' service at FPCH

Subseries 2: Photos & print materials related to the history of the Church

SERIES V: Audio and Video Recordings

Recordings of Jack's plays, a writing project of Anna's, an interview with the Kerrs, FPCH pastors' sermons and talks by Henrietta Mears, Bruce Angwin, Elizabeth Dole and Colleen Townsend Evans. FPCH document and photo scans on CD.

Box Inventory

Box 1 – SERIES I: Jack’s Creative Work

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Poems: Pineapple Withdrawal, Monday muse, Tuesday rain, Wednesday solitude in the city, Thursday the end, Thanksgiving poems, Pickwickians & Stormy Weather, Happy Birthday to the Amazing Anna!, Mother McJet, A Pome, The Visit, Love’s Last Act, Rain in Buckets, The Unseen String of Jewels, The Steerage Class Angel, The Last Match, Christmas isn’t over, Texas Texas Uberalles, The Sea is Calling, Taking off Blind, All in the Family, King of hearts	
2	Valentine Poems	
3	Easter Poems	
4	Christmas poems. <i>Clifton’s Food for Thot</i> Dec. 1992 - Jack’s 1992 Christmas Poem	
5	Yosemite	
	Bells and Ski Trails	1973
6	Jack and Anna Kerr go to Washington	1977
7	Cathedral Choir Scandinavian Tour. Notes from Jack’s journal	1990
8	Christmas Away from Home: A Partial Poetic Anthology	Dec, 1992
	90 th Jubilee of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood	1993
9	The Inspirational Crusade 1998, Israel. Dr. Louie Evans Jr., Coke Evans. Reported by Jack and Anna Kerr	1998
10	The National Day of Prayer	1999
11	Reflections on a Faith Odyssey: following the footsteps of Martin Luther	Trip to Germany 2000
12	Hawaiian Rainbows: poetic snapshots and other bright sayings about the adventures of Jack and Anna Kerr	Hilo, Hawaii, 2000
13	The Snow flower Anthology: being a poetic summary of my favorite things in the world	2000
14	The High County, a visit to the Bockemohles in Idaho	2001
14	The Northland in August	2002
15	Castaways on the Big Island	Dec 26, 2002 – Jan 3, 2003

Box 2- SERIES I: Jack’s Creative Work (Cont.)

SERIES II: Biographical Material of Jack Kerr

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	On the Cape Buffalo Trail in Africa: Hollywood Presbyterian Tour, On the David Livingstone Trail in Africa	Aug, 2003
2	A Week in London: Poetic memories by Jack Kerr	August 2004

3	Double Rainbows, Macadamia Nuts, Papayas & Jick & Midge	Dec 26, 2006 – Jan 2, 2007
4	A Short Summer Vacation in Two Parts: Dickens, Trudy Dumont	2007
5	Return to the South	2008
6	Skit: Music Shop	
7	Birthday poems	
8	Anna's Amazing Sunday as told by her admiring and breathless Husband Jack Kerr	
	Plays	
9	The Inner Life of Hudson Taylor – Prologue	1980
10	Christmas Carol	Script, programs
11	The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe	Script, program
12-13	Lights of Paris. Script and score	program for Mother-Daughter banquet 1973
14	Play programs	
15	"Henrietta" the play	Letters in response
16-17	Memories of Henrietta- Bill Bright, Jim Halls of Forest Home, Glint meeting "Mears memories"	Clipping with photo Miss Mears, Billy Graham
	Biographical material for Jack Kerr and his family	
18	Biographical items: Ode to Jack Kerr, letter of appreciation for help with College Briefing, wedding clipping	photocopies
19	Jack's family – Arthur Kerr, Uncle Stanley Kerr	
20	Jack: Writings – The Old Testament	
21	Jack: Writings - My World View	
22	Jack Kerr at Fifteen	
23	Jack: Writings – How I Won World War II Without Ever Leaving Alabama	
24	National Day of Prayer at CBS, Jack on program	May 3, 2012
25	Letter from Jack's best friend John Larsen	2011, eulogy
26	Jack and Anna: article from <i>Excelsior Life</i> , "Kerrs Bring Refugee Family from Palestine to States"	1956
27	Christmas letters from Jack and Anna	1968-2012
28-29	Interview questions and Anna's written responses, Notes on Kerr interview, notes on scanned photos	

Box 3 – SERIES III: Anna Kerr's Family and Writings

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Anna – Excelsior High School 1967 yearbook	Photocopies
2	"Little Things," Anna's father's Valedictorian speech at Ellenwood High School, Kansas	1912. photocopy of handwritten speech
3	Anna's father C.L.A. Borkemohle, chief structural engineer for Holmes & Narver, Inc. The New Union Passenger	Photocopies of program and L.A. Times clipping

	Terminal (Union Station) grand opening program, May 3, 1939. Benediction J. Whitcomb Brouger	
4	Anna: Writings – The Surrender of Robert E. Lee, “First we tried it on the Chickens,” letter to Chester, “May Journey to Japan”	Photocopies
5	Anna: Writings Renaissance Influence on Christopher Wren’s Architecture	1972
6-7	Anna: Writings for the <i>HollywoodPres</i>	Photocopies
8	Anna: A Survey of the Sermonic Discourses of Louis Hadley Evans	Student paper, USC, 1963
9	Anna: article in L.A. Times about Embangweni mission trip. Article about Anna and Jack from e-Pres	1996, photocopy 2012
10	Anna miscellany	
11-12	<i>Glad Tidings</i> Los Angeles Dickens Fellowship newsletter. Kerrs, Presidents	2003-2012
13	Friends of Narnia newsletter	

Box 4 – SERIES IV: First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	Documents related to the Kerr’s services at FPCH. Jack: Elder, Chair of Evangelism Committee, Mission to skid row. Anna: Elder, Faithlift 2009, 2010, Women’s Ministries Christmas Brunch 2010 program, 2011 invitation, 1998 program, 2006 program.	
2	Advent services	2007, 2008, 2009
3	Faithlift packet	2012
4	First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood: A Brief History Edited by Jack and Anna Kerr and others, 1990	Based on a series by George Henriksen
4	First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood: History of Missions 1919-1994. In Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Missions	Compiled by Anna Kerr
5	Lloyd Ogilvie correspondence with Jack and Anna Selected <i>HollywoodPres</i> articles	
6	Worship Celebration of the Ministry of Lloyd Ogilvie program	Feb 26, 1995
7	Letter Betty Blackstone to Anna Kerr	1/5/88
8	Ralph Hamburger letters to Jack and Anna & cassette: Words of J.B. Phillips to 1951 & 1952 Deputation Teams, FPCH (digitized, see Kerr Collection folder).	Oct 6, 2010
9	Christmas letter with family photos from Louie Evans Jr., Coke	
	Kerrs on Missions Committee	
10	Mission Week	1993

11	Missions Sunday	May 2002, Apr 2008
12	<i>Reaching Out: News for our Church's Mission and Community Outreach</i>	Scattered issues
13	Mission Assessment Report	2008
14	Missions Handbooks	2003-2005, 2008-2010
15	Minute for Missions: current reports from the fornt lines. Mission committee newsletter. Dodson, Peterson, Eiler, McPheeter, Hispanic Ministry, Claire Wagner of Wycliffe	Apr, 1986
16	Our Church in Mission booklet	1987- Radachy
17	Missions and Community Outreach	1990-1991– Radachy
18	Missions and Community Outreach	1992-1993
19	Missions miscellany	
	Mentors in the congregation	
20	90 th Jubilee of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood	1993
21	Bereans Bible Study. Sermon on the Mount	2011
22	Invitation to Kerrs' 50 th wedding anniversary celebration, Mears Center. Program	2003
23	Jack's 90 th Birthday celebrarion program	Feb 4, 2012
24	Photos: Margaret Hartsock 1941, FPCH c. 1945, Jack and Lloyd Ogilvie, Anna and Connie Kang c. 2010	
	First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood	
25	The Chimes of Hollywood, Dedicatory Number, FPCH. Steward P. Mac Lennan, minister	November, 1924
26	Wylie Chapel booklet	1949
27	Reaching Out for that which lies ahead: 1903-1968	1968
28	Were You There? 1922-1969. Robert Bruce Young, Jr.	1969
29	Annual Report	1976
30	First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood 1903-1978, a 75 year retrospective. Pages marked where Kerrs appear and others of interest to Fuller	1978

Box 5- SERIES IV: First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood (Cont.)

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	The First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood booklet A 100-Year History of Hollywood's Church	photocopies
2	Cathedral choir Centennial Concert 2003, Requiem 2012, ticket for Cabaret 2009	
3	First Press Sept 1989, worship bulletin 12/21/69	1969, 1989
4	Officers Luncheon program, Dec, 1962	photocopy
5	Raymond Lindquist	Clipping, memorial
6-7	Louis Evans – Easter sermon 1953, clippings, memorial service bulletin	Photocopies Originals
8	Louis Evans CD – When Home is Heaven	Note from his daughter, Lolly

	College department, Henrietta Mears, Forest Home	
9	Henrietta Mears: Woman of God. My memories of Miss Mears	Barbara Hudson
9	My Memories of Henrietta C. Mears	
10	Forest Home Women's Auxiliary Book of Remembrance	1962-2012
11	Photo of college department	1955
12	Leadership in the Evangelistic Sunday School by Henrietta Mears	Photocopy
12	Three pamphlets containing Henrietta Mears essays: "The way out of temptation," "The Lord Jesus Christ in my everyday life," "You have a special Friend."	Gospel Literature International, 1978.
13	Faces and Facets in the life of Henrietta C. Mears. 12 page photo history booklet. Published by FPCH	1961
14	"Sunday School Teachers Honored by National Observance" pioneer Henrietta Mears remembered for revolutionizing resources	<i>L.A. Times</i> clipping
	First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood	
15	Letter from assistant pastor Henk Vigeveno and his resume	1970
16	A Light to the Nations conference	1980
17	<i>Christianity Today</i> article on Halverson as Senate chaplain	1981-1995
18	Mears Center dedication and opening	1987
19	The Life of Louis Zamperini: a true adventure story	Photocopy
20	<i>Gothic Tower</i> . Notice that Hubbard is to speak at Christmas banquet	October 1970
21	<i>Gothic Tower</i>	May 1973
22	FPCH miscellany. Photocopy of <i>Homebuilders News</i> Feb, 1953, housed in oversize file cabinet #1, drawer 5.	
23	Special events: Bangkok Bazaar for Voyagers, Christmas Carol Play (by Jack), Elders & Ministers' Luncheon, April in Paris for Voyagers 1961, American Holiday for Voyagers.	Sixties
24	Special events: Arts, DOOR, Centennial	2003
25	Dan Baumgartner sermon on Ephesians	2003
26	Bulletin for worship service	Apr 29, 1990
27	Bulletins for worship services	1994, 1995
28	Bulletins for worship services	2009, 2010
29	2010 leaflets from FPCH literature rack	
30	Bulletins for worship services	2011
31	Bulletins for worship services	2012, 2013

Box 6 – SERIES IV: First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood (Cont.)

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	<i>Emissary</i>	Fall 1990
2	<i>First Press & Hollywood Pres</i>	Apr 1981- Dec 1992
3	<i>Reaching Out</i> , the missions section of <i>Hollywood Pres</i>	Autumn 1994 – Spring 2004

4	<i>HollywoodPres</i>	Jan 1993-Nov 1996
5	<i>HollywoodPres</i>	Jan 1997 – May 2002
6	<i>HollywoodPres</i>	June 2002 – Fall 2006

Box 7 – SERIES IV: First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood (Cont.), Oversize Items

Folder	Item	Date/Note
1	“The Martyrs’ Widows Return to Teach in Jungle”	<i>Life</i> May 20, 1957
1	“A Prayer Denied” Tensions over youth and money tear asunder a Hollywood church	<i>La Weekly</i> . Jan 5, 2006 p. 13, 16.
33 rpm LP	In Memoriam: Memorial Service for Henrietta Mears	Mar 23, 1963

Box 8-9 – SERIES V: Audio and Video Recordings

Item	Format	Description	Note
1	CD	Forest Home Adult conference audio recordings: Dr. Cowie, Dr. Warren, Dr. Cramer. Booklet: The Challenge of Forest Home	8/18-20/58
2	CD	FPCH CCC photos #2 and excel inventory	
3	2 CD’s	Scanned documents and photos from Arlin Miggliazzo, Henrietta Mears scholar. Notes from Arlin.	Archives copy Working copy
4	CD	The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, June 5, 1983	Act 1
5	CD	The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe	Act 1, Disc 2
6	CD	The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe	Act 2 Disc 1
7	CD	Hudson Taylor’s Spiritual Secret, Feb 1, 1981	2 copies
8	CD	Lights Over Paris	
9	VHS/DVD	Henrietta: A Musical based on the ministry of Henrietta Mears	Feb 1988, FPCH
10	VHS/DVD	A Christmas Carol: A Christian Musical Adaptation	Video Outreach, Inc.
11	CD	All You Need is Love	Dr. Lindquist
12	CD	A Friend at Your Side	Dr. Lindquist
13	CD	Greatest Opportunity	Henrietta Mears
14	CD	Storms of Life	Henrietta Mears
15	CD	When Home is Heaven	Louis Evans Sr.
16	CD Cassette	Morning Worship and Keynote Address: Truth through the Ages – The Beatitudes Afternoon Worship and Keynote - Beatitudes	Colleen Townsend Evans
17	CD	Women’s Brunch, FPCH Dec 2, 1995	Colleen Evans
18	CD	Remembering Teacher, FPCH Women’s Association, Feb 22, 2000	Bruce Angwin

19	CD	Touch Point, June 5, 1996	Elizabeth Dole
20	CD	The Cambridge Papers	Jack Kerr, 1974
21	CD	Cambridge Reunited #2, Summer 1977	Jack A. Kerr, Ph.D.
22	CD	Cross-generational Mentoring	Lisa Blake, Anna Kerr, Catherine Rundle
23	Cassette	A Man Called Jesus – Narrator Dick Reed	By Jack Kerr
24	VHS/DVD	Betty Blackstone, Vera Anley	5/31/92, 2 copies
25	VHS/DVD	Walt James, Ralph Hamburger	1/4/92
26	VHS/DVD	FPCH Missions Centennial Celebration: Betty Blackstone – China and Hollywood, Ruth McCreery – Ethiopia and Kenya	Red Boots Media
27	VHS/DVD	Hollywood First Presbyterian Story	1995
28	VHS/DVD	Memorial Service for Richard C. Halverson	Dec 11. 1995, Fourth Presbyterian Church
29	VHS/DVD	Mission to Malawi 2003 – 21 min	Red Boots Media
30	VHS/DVD	Jack and Anna Kerr 50 th Anniversary Celebration Video	June 2003
31	DVD	Anna Kerr – Irvine Writing Project: Lee’s Surrender at Appomattox	
32	DVD	10’ Reasoner – Brazil	Feb 1993
33	DVD	Run the Last Mile	
34	DVD	Christmas Eve, Hollywood 1 st Presbyterian Church	1991
35	Books	Books by Louis H. Evans: <i>Your Thrilling Future, Can You Really Talk to God?, The Kingdom is Yours, Make Your Faith Work</i>	
36	Books	Books by William Evans: <i>Facing Calvary</i> . Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1928; <i>The Shepherd psalm; and Looking beyond</i> . Chicago, IL. : Moody Press, 1921, 1932; <i>Looking beyond</i> . Chicago, IL. : Moody Press, 1932;	