MELVIN EASTERDAY DIETER PAPERS
1924-1990

FINDING AID

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November 2024
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Administrative Information

Title:
Melvin Easterday Dieter Papers, 1924-1990

Creator(s):
Dieter, Melvin Easterday

Collection Identifier:
CFT00172

Extent:
18 Boxes, 16.74 linear feet

Repository:
David Allan Hubbard Library
Fuller Theological Seminary
135 N Oakland Ave
Pasadena, CA 91182

Acquisition Information:
Unknown.

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Language:
English

Preferred Citation:
[Identification of Item], Melvin Easterday Dieter Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:
Collection cataloged to MPLP level and finding aid written by Adam Gossman.

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Biographical History

Historian of the Wesleyan Holiness movement, Melvin E. Dieter (1924-) studied at Eastern Pilgrim College, Muhlenburg College and Temple University (Ph.D. 1972). During World War II, he served as a Chinese language specialist. At age 25, he became the president of Allentown Bible Institute, succeeding his father in this office after his death in 1948.

In 1954 the Institute became Eastern Pilgrim College. In 1965 he resigned from the presidency to enter the doctoral program at Temple University. In the midst of these studies he used his administrative and diplomatic skills to assist in the union of the Pilgrim Holiness Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church which was ratified in 1968.

He then became General Secretary of Educational Institutions of the newly united Wesleyan Church. His major tasks were to instill commitment to a common cause and vision and to consolidate the eleven schools of the combined denominations into six, which he accomplished with a minimum of upheaval. Dieter's Ph. D. dissertation, "Revivalism and Holiness," later published as Holiness Revival of the Nineteenth Century (1980; 2nd ed. 1996).

He then joined the faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary in 1975 where he taught Church History and Historical Theology until his retirement in 1990. He was a regular contributor to several theological journals and contributed the chapter on the Wesleyan view of sanctification in the book *Five Views on Sanctification* (1987).

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The Melvin Easterday Dieter Collection contains correspondence, published and unpublished material, research notes, lecture notes and syllabi as well as tracts, pamphlets and ephemera documentary of the Holiness and Pentecostal Movements.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.

Subjects

Holiness movement
Houghton College
Methodism
Pentecostalism
Pilgrim Holiness Church

Arrangement

The Melvin Easterday Dieter Papers has been organized into the following series:

Series I: Writings and Notes (Boxes 1-2)
Series II: Research (Boxes 3-7)
Series III: Papers and Research (Boxes 8-13)
Series IV: Houghton College Material and Others (Boxes 14-16)

Series V: Pilgrim Holiness Church, Notes, Material, etc. (Box 17
Series VI: Binders (Box 18)

Container List

Boxes 1-18

Box	Description	Date/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	