

**ROBERT G. GARDNER COLLECTION**  
PP0148

**Descriptive Summary**

*Creator* Gardner, Robert Granville, 1924-2014

*Title* Robert G. Gardner Collection

*Accession Number* PP0148

*Physical Description* Mostly paper materials in seven records center boxes, two quarter boxes, and seven slide boxes. The materials are in mostly good condition.

*Inclusive Dates* 1937-2013

*Language Note* English

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**Administrative Information**

*Repository*

Mercer University Library  
Archives and Digital Initiatives  
1501 Mercer University Dr.  
Macon, Georgia 31207  
478-301-2968  
archives@mercer.edu

*Citation*

[after identification of item(s)], Robert G. Gardner Collection. Archives and Digital Initiatives, Mercer University Library, Macon, GA.

*Acquisition*

Gift of Robert G. Gardner

*Processing note*

Inventory prepared by Grace McGibney and Daniel Williams

*Restrictions on access*

Unrestricted access. All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

*Restrictions on use*

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## **Collection Description**

### *Biographical Note*

Robert Granville Gardner was a Georgia Baptist archivist, historian, minister, and professor. He was born on April 26, 1924, in Lima, Ohio, to Ernest Granville and Gertrude Roberts Gardner and spent his childhood in Ohio, Michigan, and Oregon. After service in the United States Air Force (1943-46), he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Christianity at Mercer University in 1949, the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Duke University in 1952, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in church history from Duke in 1957. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1947 and served as pastor of four churches in Georgia and North Carolina. He married Sara Anne Fargason, a Tift College alumna, in 1947, and together they were the parents of Susan and David. He taught for 37 years (1957-1994) in the Religion Department of Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, before retiring to Macon and working as Senior Researcher in Baptist History in Mercer University Library Archives from 1995 to 2012. He also taught as visiting professor at Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary (1967) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1976, 1983). He was the author of six books on Baptist history as well as numerous pamphlets, articles, book chapters, and reviews. He was instrumental in the Georgia Baptist Historical Society and the Baptist History and Heritage Society, and he received numerous awards for his work in Baptist history.

### *Scope and Content Note*

The Robert G. Gardner collection contains class materials, correspondence, drafts of publications, lecture notes, photographs, research, sermons, speeches, and various personal papers. The bulk of these materials are grouped and arranged by year in Series 2. Series 1 contains biographical and bibliographic material prepared by Gardner himself, including a list of his major publications and speeches and a detailed autobiography written in 1990. Series 3 contains lecture notes, slides, tests, and syllabi from courses Gardner taught at Shorter College and elsewhere, arranged by course. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically in Series 4.

### *Subjects*

Baptists—Georgia

Baptists—Georgia—History

Baptist universities and colleges—Georgia

### *Related Material*

See the bibliography in Box 1 and the library catalog.

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## **Series Description**

Series 1: Autobiography and Bibliography

Series 2: Chronological Materials

Series 3: Classes

Series 4: Correspondence

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**Container List**

SERIES 1: AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND BIBLIOGRAPY

Box 1/8: Bibliographic materials

SERIES 2: CHRONOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Box 2/8: 1937-1955

Box 3/8: 1955-1966

Box 4/8: 1967-1975

Box 5/8: 1976-1991

Box 6/8: 1991-2002

Box 7/8: 2003-2013

Box 7/8a: Unfinished Research Box—Luther Rice in Georgia; *Towaliga Messenger* index

SERIES 3: CLASSES

Box 7/8: Class Materials

Box 7/8b: World Religions Slides—(1) Christianity, Primal, Shinto

Box 7/8c: World Religions Slides—(2) Shinto, Hinduism

Box 7/8d: World Religions Slides—(3) Hinduism, Baha'i, Buddhism

Box 7/8e: World Religions Slides—(4) Buddhism

Box 7/8f: World Religions Slides—(5) Buddhism, Islam

Box 7/8g: World Religions Slides—(6) Islam

Box 7/8h: World Religions Slides—(7) Islam

SERIES 4: CORRESPONDENCE

Box 8/8: Correspondence