

Guide to the Claude Barnett and Etta Moten Barnett Papers Concerning Trips to Africa

GEN MSS 2158



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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2158

CREATOR: Barnett, Claude, 1889-1967

TITLE: Claude Barnett and Etta Moten Barnett papers concerning trips to Africa

DATES: 1935-1978

BULK DATES: 1947-1957

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.59 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The collection contains photographs and ephemera produced and collected by Claude Barnett and Etta Moten Barnett during their trips to various countries in Africa, including Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Swaziland (later Eswatini). Also present are photographs of Africa and other locations the Barnetts collected on their trips and in the course of Claude's work with the Associated Negro Press. Most of the collected photographs were produced by the British Information Services and Central Office of Information. Collected photographs depict daily life and colonial administration in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Kenya, Togoland (later Togo and Ghana), Jamaica, and other unidentified locations.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.barnettafrica>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.barnettafrica>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Langdon Manor Books LLC on the Walter Jennings Memorial Fund, 2022.

Conditions Governing Access

This material is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Claude Barnett and Etta Moten Barnett papers concerning trips to Africa is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Claude Barnett and Etta Moten Barnett Papers Concerning Trips to Africa. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Yale Archival Processing Manual.

Biographical / Historical

Claude Barnett (1889-1967) was a journalist, Pan-Africanist, and founder of the Associated Negro Press, a news agency that began in Chicago in 1919 and expanded to serve over 250 Black newspapers in the United States and Africa. In 1934, he married Etta Moten (1901-2004), an actress, singer, and radio host. The Barnetts were activists and philanthropists with a particular interest in Black expatriation to Africa and independence movements in African colonies. As a prominent Black couple, the Barnetts were considered unofficial diplomats and made several trips to Africa in the 1940s through 1960s.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains circa 54 photographs and ephemera produced and collected by Claude Barnett and Etta Moten Barnett during their trips to various countries in Africa, including Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Swaziland (later Eswatini). Also present are circa 131 photographs of Africa and other locations the Barnetts collected on their trips and in the course of Claude's work with the Associated Negro Press. Most of the collected photographs were produced by the British Information Services and Central Office of Information. Collected photographs depict daily life and colonial administration in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Kenya, Togoland (later Togo and Ghana), Jamaica, and other unidentified locations. The papers also

contain 10 personal photographs and ephemera unrelated to the Barnetts' Africa trips, circa 1935-1978.
Materials were removed from the photograph album in Box 2 prior to acquisition by the Library.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-2	Personal photographs of Africa	circa 1947-1957
b. 1, f. 3	Africa trip ephemera	1947
b. 1, f. 4	Collected photographs of Nigeria	1945-1947
b. 1, f. 5	Collected photographs of Sierra Leone	circa 1947
b. 1, f. 6-7	Collected photographs of Ghana	circa 1947
b. 1, f. 8	Collected photographs of Sierra Leone and Nigeria	circa 1952
b. 1, f. 9	Collected photographs of Kenya	circa 1952
b. 1, f. 10-12	Collected photographs of Ghana	1957
b. 1, f. 13	Collected photographs of Jamaica	circa 1940s-1950s
b. 1, f. 14	Collected photographs of other locations	circa 1940s-1950s
b. 1, f. 15-16	Other personal photographs and ephemera	circa 1935-1978
b. 2	Empty photograph album Materials in the collection were removed from this photograph album prior to acquisition by the Library. Title from front cover: Afrika 1947 Claude and Etta	circa 1947

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

Africa -- Description and travel
Africa -- Pictorial works
Eswatini -- Pictorial works
Ghana -- Pictorial works
Great Britain -- Colonies -- Africa
Kenya -- Pictorial works
Liberia -- Pictorial works
Nigeria -- Pictorial works
Sierra Leone -- Pictorial works
Togo -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Subjects

African American journalists
African Americans -- Africa
African American women
Journalists -- United States

Corporate Body

Associated Negro Press

Contributors

Barnett, Claude, 1889-1967
Barnett, Etta Moten, 1901-2004