

Stephen D. Pyle Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2012085754>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019034>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019

Collection Summary

Title: Stephen D. Pyle Papers

Span Dates: 1924-1927

ID No.: MSS85754

Creator: Pyle, Stephen D. (Stephen Donald), 1888-1969

Extent: 25 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with some items in Arabic.

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2012085754>

Summary: Baptist minister. Correspondence and associated miscellany, photographs, and ephemera primarily addressed to Pyle from American Colony in Jerusalem members Jacob E. Spafford and G. Eric Matson.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Matson, G. Eric (Gästgifvar Eric), 1888-1977--Correspondence.

Pyle, Stephen D. (Stephen Donald), 1888-1969.

Spafford, Jacob--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Colony (Jerusalem)

Subjects

Christian communities--Jerusalem.

Religion.

Voyages and travels.

Places

Jerusalem--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Clergy.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Stephen D. Pyle were purchased by the Library of Congress in 2012.

Processing History

The papers of Stephen D. Pyle were arranged and described by Andrea J. Briggs in 2019.

Transfers

A photograph album has been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of the Stephen D. Pyle Papers. The album contains over 450 photographs taken by American Colony photographers between 1898 and 1929 which portray life in the colony and Jerusalem during the period. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Prints and Photographs Division in advance of a research visit.

Related Material

Related material in the Manuscript Division includes the G. Eric Matson and Edith Matson papers (see <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010210>), the John D. Whiting Papers (see <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008123>), and the American Colony in Jerusalem Collection (see <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010123>). Digitized images from the G. Eric Matson and Edith Matson Photograph Collection in the Prints and Photographs Division are available on the Library of Congress Web site (see <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/matpc/colony.html>).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Stephen D. Pyle papers is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Stephen D. Pyle are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Stephen D. Pyle Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Reverend Stephen Donald Pyle (1888-1969) was a Baptist minister in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Born in Virginia on September 13, 1888, he graduated from Brown University in 1910 and received a master's degree in religious education from Columbia University. In the 1930s, Pyle was the pastor of the Peking United Church in Beijing, China. After retirement, Pyle moved to Oakland, California, where he died on January 3, 1969.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Stephen D. Pyle consist chiefly of correspondence written to him by two members of the American Colony in Jerusalem, Jacob E. Spafford and G. Eric Matson. The American Colony was established in Jerusalem in 1881 as a Christian utopian society led by Anna and Horatio Spafford, Jacob E. Spafford's adoptive parents.

Spafford's letters date from 1924 to 1927 and document daily life and social events in the American Colony, the travels of some American Colony members, and occasional philosophical musings on religion. A few letters contain photographs and other ephemera. Two pieces of Arabic writing, a handwritten "Arabic grammar" and an illuminated printed page from an unidentified text, were enclosed with the letters. Also included are three printed Christmas cards from the American Colony.

Matson's letter of September 18, 1924, discusses the travels of mutual acquaintances of his and Pyle's, as well as a brief description of his struggle to obtain a marriage license to Edith Yantiss Matson.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by correspondent and chronologically therein.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Matson, G. Eric, 1924, 18 Sept.
BOX 1	Spafford, Jacob E., 1924-1927