

# BURKE, JAMES, 1915-1964.

## James Cobb Burke papers, 1933-1964

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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### Collection Stored Off-Site

All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Burke, James, 1915-1964.
<b>Title:</b>	James Cobb Burke papers, 1933-1964
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection No. 1439
<b>Extent:</b>	42 linear feet (42 boxes), 4 oversized papers boxes (OP), 3 bound volumes (BV), and 5 oversized bound volumes (OBV)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Papers of American photojournalist, James Cobb Burke, including correspondence, writings, slides, negatives, and photographs.
<b>Language:</b>	Materials primarily in English with some in Chinese and Hindi.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Special restrictions apply: Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

### Separated Material

The Rose Library also holds books formerly owned by James Cobb Burke. These materials may be located in Emory University's online catalog by searching for: Burke, James, former owner.

### Related Materials in This Repository

William B. Burke papers

*Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.*

**Source**

Gift from Rosemary Burke and Jean B. Crawford, 2017.

**Custodial History**

The Rose Library was given the material from Rosemary Burke and Jean B. Crawford, James Burke's daughters, who, along with their mother, have served as the custodians of the papers since Burke's death and have done some organization of the files throughout the years. Rose Library staff packed the material at the daughters' residence in Annandale, Virginia, and shipped to the Rose Library.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], James Cobb Burke papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Appraisal Note**

Curator of Modern Political and Historical Collections, Randy Gue, acquired the collection as part of the Rose Library's holdings in journalism and American history. During accessioning in 2018, Rose Library staff removed and shredded 0.5 linear foot of duplicate materials consisting of printed material. Appraisal decisions were made by Accessioning and Collections Manager, Meaghan O'Riordan, in consultation with Randy Gue.

**Processing**

Arranged and described at the collection level by Leigh Schlecht in May 2018. Schlecht left materials in the order received and retained the titles provided by the creator. The creator's filing system is noted in square brackets at the end of container titles, though it remains unclear how this filing system functioned.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

James Cobb Burke (1915-1964) was an American photojournalist. Born in 1915 to the Methodist missionary, William B. Burke (1887-1964), James Burke spent his early childhood in China before the family relocated to Macon, Georgia. Burke graduated from Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia) in 1937 with a bachelor's degree in English Literature and then attended Princeton University for one year to study diplomacy.

In 1938, Burke began his career in journalism as a reporter for a St. Simons, Georgia, weekly, *The Star*. He reported for several other newspapers, including *the Macon Telegraph* and *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* (Virginia) where he met and married his wife, Josephine Griffin Burke, in 1940. The pair had two daughters and one son.

In 1942, Burke returned to China to write and research a biography of his father titled *My Father in China* (1942). He remained in China through World War II, becoming a freelance writer based in Peking. He became a staff writer for Time-Life International in New Delhi, India, in 1951, later becoming their bureau chief before transitioning into photojournalism. At age 49 on assignment in northeast India on October 2, 1964, Burke disappeared. It is assumed that he slipped and fell 800 feet off a Himalayan cliff.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of American photojournalist, James Cobb Burke, from 1933-1964, including correspondence, writings by both Burke and others, photographs, slides, negatives, and printed material, including documents relating to the Sino-Indian Border Dispute. There is a significant amount of material relating to Burke's assignments for *Life Magazine*, including correspondence with publishers and annotated drafts of photograph captions, particularly in China, India, Afghanistan, and the Himalayan Mountains. Printed material includes newspaper and magazine clippings, and articles.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged first by record type, then by titles provided by the creator.

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## Container List

### Correspondence

Box	Folder	Content
1	-	Burke, Josephine and <i>Life Magazine</i> , correspondence by, 1950-1956
26	-	Burke, Josephine, correspondence, circa 1940
13	-	Burke, Josephine, correspondence, [IIC 1-34], 1961
9	-	Burke, Josephine, correspondence by, 1964-1965
30	-	Burke, Josephine, correspondence by, 1964-1965
40	-	Calhoun, Katherine, correspondence, 1935-1940
29	-	Correspondence, 1933-1942
11	-	Correspondence, 1942-1943 and 1950-1954
6	-	Correspondence, family, 1936-1951
15	-	Correspondence, including telegraphs, 1950-1955 and 1960-1969
18	-	Correspondence [IIIB 28-38], 1950-1960
7	-	Correspondence, personal, 1930-1933 and 1943-1944
39	-	Correspondence, personal, 1934-1940
19	-	Correspondence, personal [IIIC 1-14, 26, 28-29, 32], 1951 and 1955-1957
21	-	Correspondence, personal [IIIC 34-36, IIID 1-8, 10-11, 15-16, 53], 1943-1944 and 1950-1956
33	-	Correspondence, personal, 1959
9	-	Correspondence, personal, 1963
16	-	Correspondence, personal, 1961 and 1964
10	-	Correspondence, personal, 1961-1964
42	-	<i>Life Magazine</i> , correspondence, 1964

### Maps

37	-	Bound map of Himalayas, undated
OP2	5	Map of Almora, undated
OP2	6	Map of Bhutan, undated
OP2	8	Map of Darjeeling, undated
OP2	9	Map of India, undated
OP2	4	Map of Kulu, undated
OP2	2	Map of Myasaland, undated
OP2	1	Map of Philippines, 1957
OP2	3	Map of Rimkin, undated
OP2	7	Map of Southeast Asia, undated
7	-	Maps of the Caribbean, undated

### Photographs, negatives, and slides

- OP1 4 Afghanistan, photographs, 1964
- OP1 13 Birla Industries, photographs, undated
- 8 - Burke's funeral, photographs, 1964
- OP1 2 Chandigarh construction, photographs, 1950s
- OP1 20 Elderly on New York sidewalk, photograph, undated
- 27 - Elephants, Himalayas, slides, 1964
- OP1 3 For Susan Green, photograph, undated
- OP1 9 Ganges, photographs, 1953
- OP1 11 Gomateswara, photographs, undated
- 42 - Greece, slides, 1959-1960
- OP1 21 Greek royal family, photographs, 1959
- 41 - Himalaya aerals, slides, 1958-1961
- OP1 16 Horace Holmes, photographs, undated
- OP1 8 Jodphur wedding, photographs, undated
- 11 - Ike in Athens, photographs, December 1959
- 1 - Italy, Pakistan, Metsova [IA 1-23, 59-64], photographs, 1959-1964
- 13 - Jaipur tiger shoot, photographs, 1964
- OP1 7 Kalimpong, photographs, undated
- 34 - Kashmir, Indian cities and tribes, Chandigarh, slides, undated
- 2 - Laos, Gibbon, Sumatra Rebellion, Philippine Elections [IA 25-57], photographs, 1959-1963
- OP1 17 Monsoon, photographs, undated
- 42 - Monuments to Julius Caesar, slides, undated
- 25 - Negatives, including Nikita Krushchev in India, undated
- 14 - Negatives [IIC 35-42, IID 1-12, 20], 1959
- 12 - Negatives, 1950-1963
- 13 - Negatives, 1950-1954 and 1962-1963
- OP1 15 Nehru in Kashmir, photographs, undated
- 36 - Nepal coronation, Himalayas, Darjeeling, slides, 1958-1961
- OP1 5 Nepal coronation, photographs, 1950s
- OP1 14 Orissa boy, photographs, undated
- 26 - Photographs and negatives of friends, family, and work, circa 1950-1960
- 28 - Photographs and negatives of friends, family, and work, 1950-1964
- 11 - Photographs [IIA 38-39, IIB 1-15], 1958-1963
- OP1 10 Photographs, 1960-1962
- 33 - Pilgrimage sites, photographs 1953
- 36 - Rhodesia, slides, 1962
- 26 - Slides of Himalayas, undated
- 35 - Slides, undated
- 24 - Slides, 1950-1964

- 32 - Slides, 1960-1963
- OP1 12 St. Francis Xavier, photographs, undated
- OP1 6 Vinova Bhave, photographs, undated

### Personal papers

- 23 - Addresses [IIID 57, IIIA 56], undated
- 14 - Artwork, Burke's children, 1956-1960
- 8 - Children's school records [ID9-15], 1955-1957
- BV2 - Emory Diploma, 1937
- 42 - Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia), yearbook, 1937
- 15 - Invoices and legal documents, circa 1950
- 23 - Medical information, 1951-1979
- 24 - Prints, 1953
- 7 - Passport, 1934
- 22 - Receipts and income tax, 1964-1981 [IIIA 52-55, IIID 18-56]
- 10 - Schoolwork, Burke's children [IIA 17-37], 1959-1962
- 29 - Theater playbills, circa 1930-1940
- 31 - Tibetan prayer flags, 1963
- BV2 - "Tiger Shoot Special" Banner, undated
- OP1 18 "Training Elephants in Thailand," drawings from photographs by Burke, undated
- 14 - Will and estate, 1951
- 29 - Yearbook from Miller Lanier High School (Macon, Georgia), 1933

### Printed material

- OP3 7 *Ariana* (Afghanistan magazine), 1961 June
- OP3 8 *Ariana* (Afghanistan magazine), 1961 October
- OP3 6 *Ariana* (Afghanistan magazine), 1961 November
- OP3 10 *Ariana* (Afghanistan magazine), 1962 April-May
- OP3 9 *Ariana* (Afghanistan magazine), 1962 June-July
- OP3 5 *Ariana* (Afghanistan magazine), 1962 September-October
- OP3 12 *The Asia Magazine*, 1963 September 1
- OP3 14 Bunte und Münchner Illustrierte, 1960 October
- OP3 15 Bunte und Münchner Illustrierte, 1960 October
- OP3 16 Bunte und Münchner Illustrierte, 1960 October
- 29 - Chandigarh, correspondence and clippings, 1955
- OP3 1 Clippings from *Life Magazine*, circa 1950-1960
- OP3 2 Clippings from *Life Magazine*, circa 1950-1960
- OP3 3 Clippings from *Life Magazine*, circa 1950-1960
- 31 - Clippings of published articles, 1963
- 31 - Clippings related to Burke's death, 1964

- OP3 4 I-Yuen Chi Artist's Book, undated
- OP4 4 *Life Magazine* 1961 March
- OP4 6 *Life Magazine*, 1963 January
- OP4 8 *Life Magazine*, 1963 January
- OP4 9 *Life Magazine*, 1963 February
- OP4 5 *Life Magazine*, 1963 March
- OP4 7 *Life Magazine*, 1963 March
- OP4 10 *Life Magazine*, 1963 June
- OP4 14 *Life Magazine*, 1963 November
- OP4 12 *Life Magazine*, 1963 December
- OP4 13 *Life Magazine*, 1963 December
- OP4 11 *Life Magazine*, Volume 30, Issue 10
- OP4 16 *Life Magazine*, 1969 August
- OP4 15 *Life Magazine*, Moon landing special issue
- OP4 17 *Life Magazine*, 1972 December
- OP3 13 The Meenkashir Temple, undated
- 4 - Native Americans, newspaper clippings, 1953-1954
- 9 - Newspaper clippings, 1940-1943
- 21 - Newspaper clippings, Chinese, 1949
- 3 - Newspaper clippings [IB 1-158], 1950-1956
- OP4 3 *Picture Post*, 1952 February
- OP4 1 *The Saturday Evening Post*, 1949 October
- OP4 2 *The Saturday Evening Post*, 1949 December

### Scrapbooks

- BV3 - Scrapbook, articles by Burke in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 1939-40
- 12 - Scrapbook, Burke family [IIB 16-27], 1956-1957
- OBV1- Scrapbook, Burke's son in India, 1956
- OBV4- Scrapbook, first European vacation, 1935
- OBV5- Scrapbook, *Life Magazine* articles, 1950s-1960s
- OBV3- Scrapbook, news clippings, 1942
- BV1 - Scrapbook of articles by Burke in the *Macon Telegraph*, 1938-39
- OP1 19 Scrapbook of New York and China, undated
- 20 - Scrapbooks, personal [IIIC 15-31, 33, 37, IIID 9, 12-14, 17, 19], 1951-1955
- OBV2- Scrapbook, stories related to China, 1945-1946
- 9 - Scrapbook with prayer flags, 1961-1962
- 10 - Scrapbook, 1944-1956
- 7 - Scrapbooks [ID 1-8], 1960-1963

### Writings and research files

- 31 - Afghanistan, report and research, 1963
  - 16 - Alexander the Great in Asia, research [IIIA19-51], 1958-1960
  - 6 - Articles by Burke [IC 25-80], undated
  - 32 - China, family photographs, 1942-1949
  - 33 - China, negatives, 1943-1949
  - 37 - China, research and captions by Josephine Burke, 1965-1971
  - OP1 1 Chinese state visit to India, photographs, undated
  - 37 - Contact sheets, 1958-1963
  - 20 - Drafts for *Life Magazine*, 1952-1955
  - 17 - Everest assignment, 1953
  - 17 - Ganges assignment, 1953
  - 16 - Himalayas, notes, 1964
  - 37 - Himalayas research, circa 1960
  - 8 - Hong Kong, newspaper clippings, 1957
  - 29 - Hong Kong, photographs 1957-1958
  - 19 - Hong Kong, research, 1957-1958
  - OP3 11 *Illustrated Weekly of India*, 1963 October 20
  - 4 - India and Pakistan [60-79], photographs, undated
  - 8 - India and Southeast Asia, photographs, 1963
  - 5 - India Development, Kashmir [IC 1-24], survey photographs ,1950-1958
  - 30 - India notebooks, 1950-1956
  - 22 - Indian elections, photographs, 1952-1955
  - 41 - Italy, India, Istanbul, Afghanistan, Greece, slides, undated
  - 6 - Minya Konka, Living Buddha story materials, undated
  - 40 - *My Father in China* original drafts and related correspondence, undated
  - 19 - Newspapers, Chinese and Indian, 1949
  - 17 - Notebooks, 1935-1960
  - 17 - Philippines assignment [IIIB 1-27], 1957
  - 38 - Philippine elections, contact sheets, undated
  - 10 - Printed material about China, 1959
  - 40 - Research for stories, 1963
  - 38 - Rhodesia essay, contact sheets, 1959
  - 15 - Sino-Indian Border Dispute, pamphlets [IID 13-29, IIIA 1-18], 1961-1962
  - 32 - Story scripts, 1950, 1957, and 1959-1960
  - 38 - Turkish revolution, contact sheets, 1960
  - 29 - Typescripts for *Life Magazine*, 1950-195
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