BURKE, JAMES, 1915-1964.
James Cobb Burke papers, 1933-1964

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Burke, James, 1915-1964.
Title: James Cobb Burke papers, 1933-1964
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1439
Extent: 42 linear feet (42 boxes), 4 oversized papers boxes (OP), 3 bound volumes (BV), 5 oversized bound volumes (OBV), and 15.4 MB born digital material (79 files)
Abstract: Papers of American photojournalist, James Cobb Burke, including correspondence, writings, slides, negatives, and photographs.
Language: Materials primarily in English with some in Chinese and Hindi.

Administrative Information

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

Access to processed born digital materials is only available in the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (the Rose Library). Use of the original digital media is restricted.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
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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.

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Related Materials in This Repository
William B. Burke papers

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.

Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Brenna Edwards, 2020. Born digital materials include files taken from one flash drive. Forensic disk images were created from the flash drive using GuyMager. Individual files were extracted using FTK Imager and scanned for viruses using McAfee’s anti-virus software; none were found. Duplicate and system files have been removed, and files were scanned for personally identifiable information; none were found. Text-based files were migrated to PDF using Adobe Acrobat. Access copies retain original folder titles and file names.

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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 (1887-1947), 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 1942. 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, while on assignment in northeast India on October 2, 1964, Burke slipped and fell off a cliff in the Himalaya mountains.

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.
## Container List

### Correspondence

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