EDMISTON, ALTHEA BROWN, 1874-1937.
Althea Brown Edmiston papers, 1918-1981

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Edmiston, Althea Brown, 1874-1937.
Title: Althea Brown Edmiston papers, 1918-1981
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 883
Extent: .5 linear ft. (1 box)
Abstract: Personal papers of Althea Brown Edmiston, an African American missionary to Africa, including missionary materials, Sunday School materials printed in Africa, hymnals, and other printed material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

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
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Source

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Althea Brown Edmiston papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Althea Brown Edmiston (1874-1937), African American missionary to Africa, was the daughter
of Robert and Molly Suggs Brown of Ruseville, Alabama. In 1876 the family moved to
Rolling Fork, Mississippi. In the fall of 1892, she left Mississippi to study at Fisk University
for the next nine years. After graduating from Fisk, she applied to be a missionary in the
American Presbyterian Congo Mission and left for Africa in August 1902. In the Congo, she
was made mistress of the Maria Carey Home for Girls, a day school in Ibanche. She survived the
destruction of the mission at Ibanche during the Bakuba uprisings in the Congo in 1904. Fleeing
to Luebo, she met and later married Reverend Alonzo L. Edmiston on July 8, 1905. They had
two children Sherman Lucius Edmiston (b. 1906) and Alonzo Leaucourt Edmiston (b. 1913).
The Edmistons made their home at the newly rebuilt village of Ibanche. In 1906 she returned to
America because their child had become ill, her husband joined her a year later and they settled
in Tuscaloosa, Alabama until 1911. After raising enough money, they returned to Africa, but
left their son in America. He too became ill, so she took him to America and left both children
with relatives so that she could return to her mission work. They came back to America in 1920
to raise money for the mission and returned to Africa in 1921, taking their children with them.
Althea Brown Edmiston wrote the first dictionary of the Bakuba language. She died in 1937 in
Africa of sleeping sickness and malaria.

Scope and Content Note
The collection contains the personal papers of Althea Brown Edmiston. The papers include
Presbyterian conference materials, missionary newspapers, Sunday School materials printed in
Africa, hymnals, and other printed material.

Arrangement Note
Unprocessed collection.
## Container List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<td>Biographical information for A.L. Edmiston</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Notebook: Bible in Bukuba language</td>
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<td>Notebook: Sermons</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Notebook: School work</td>
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