

**MAY, JAMES W. (JAMES WILLIAM), 1912-  
James W. May papers, 1929-1988**

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** May, James W. (James William), 1912-  
**Title:** James W. May papers, 1929-1988  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 667  
**Extent:** 7.75 linear ft. (16 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Papers of James W. May, Methodist minister, WWII chaplain, and professor of church history, including correspondence, academic records, sermons, and other printed material.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

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

**Source**

Gift, 1978, with subsequent additions.

**Citation**

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

**Processing**

Unprocessed collection.

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## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

James William May (1912- ), born in Union Springs, Alabama, was a Methodist minister, a World War II chaplain, and professor of church history at Emory University.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of James W. May from 1929-1988. The papers include correspondence, academic records, sermons, printed material, and clippings. Materials document his activities as a student at Emory University (1929-1939) and the Union Theological Seminary (1938-1941), his service as a chaplain in the United States Army during World War II, and his career as a professor at Emory University. Of particular interest are letters from May's parents, Susie Eidson and Chester May, which document the onset of the Great Depression, as well as letters written and received by May while he served with the U.S. Army stationed in Germany during and following World War II (1944-1946). The collection also includes printed materials and memorabilia from church organizations relating to school integration (1955-1963); and materials of the Methodist Federation for Social Action (1947-1952) collected by executive secretary, Jack R. McMichael.

### **Arrangement Note**

Unprocessed collection.

