Robert H. Mitchell Papers

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135 North Oakland Ave.
Pasadena, California 91182
(626) 584-5311
archives@fuller.edu
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2019
Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert H. Mitchell Papers

Dates: 1921-2002

Collection Number: CFT00017

Creator/Collector: Mitchell, Robert H.

Extent: 46 Boxes, 30 linear feet

Repository: Fuller Theological Seminary-David Allan Hubbard Library Archives

Pasadena, California 91182

Abstract: Robert H. Mitchell (1921-2002) studied landscaping at the University of Redlands, but after his conversion, influenced by Henrietta Mears, gravitated toward church music, graduating with a B.A. in Music from the University of Redlands (1947). Throughout his career, including on strategically located sites for sabbatical leaves, Mitchell collected hymnals and the literature needed to interpret that corpus. The resulting collection contained 9,000 items. The archival materials include published and unpublished works, correspondence, church music ephemera and documentary resources for Mitchell’s life and ministry.

Language of Material: English

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Preferred Citation
Robert H. Mitchell Papers. Fuller Theological Seminary-David Allan Hubbard Library Archives

Acquisition Information
Gift of the Mitchell Family, 2004

Biography/Administrative History
Robert H. Mitchell (1921-2002) studied landscaping at the University of Redlands, but after his conversion, influenced by Henrietta Mears, gravitated toward church music, graduating with a B.A. in Music from the University of Redlands (1947). He then studied at the Claremont Graduate School (M.A. 1961). His subsequent career was devoted to music ministry and teaching at California Baptist Seminary at Covina, CA and at American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, CA (1954-1986). He also served as on the music staffs of Walnut Creek Presbyterian, Hollywood Presbyterian, and Covina Baptist Church. In 1984, Mitchell was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree by American Baptist Seminary of the West. Throughout his career, including on strategically located sites for sabbatical leaves, Mitchell collected hymnals and the literature needed to interpret that corpus.

Scope and Content of Collection
The archival materials include published and unpublished works, correspondence, church music ephemera and documentary resources for Mitchell’s life and ministry. Also interested in liturgy and the arts, Mitchell assembled a significant collection of books documenting the traditions of Christian art and liturgy. Particular attention was devoted to material from outside North America. About 1200 hymnals in 210 languages other than English were collected.

Indexing Terms
Art and religion
Christian art and symbolism
Hymns--History and criticism
World music
Mears, Henrietta C. (Henrietta Cornelia)
California Baptist Theological Seminary, Covina, Calif.
Hymn Society of America

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