



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the George Barbour papers, 1921-1969

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	George B. Barbour papers
Date:	1920-1971
Identifier:	NAA.1973-04
Creator:	Barbour, George B. (George Brown)
Extent:	2.29 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Related Materials

The Human Studies Film Archives holds a film by George B. Barbour (HSFA 1981.5.6).

The Hoover Institution Library and Archives and the University of Cincinnati, Archives and Rare Books Library hold George B. Barbour papers.

Processing Information

Photographic prints and negatives have not been matched.

Preferred Citation

George Barbour papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Photographic negatives may require advance notice to view.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

George Brown Barbour was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1890. He entered the University of Cambridge in 1912, but his education was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. For his part, Barbour's service was largely spent in Italy as an ambulance driver and medical aide. Despite the war, Barbour was able to continue his studies and received his BA in 1916 and MA in 1918. In 1919, Barbour moved to the United States and began doctoral studies at Columbia University.

In 1920 Barbour married Dorothy Dickinson, a graduate of Columbia and active spokesperson for Christian education. That same year, the Barbours moved to Peking, China where Barbour had accepted a professorship at Yenching University. Dorothy occasionally taught classes there as well.

While in China, Barbour conducted research and fieldwork on Chinese geology, and was associated with colleagues at the Geological Survey of China. From 1929-1931 Barbour engaged in research contributing to dating "Peking Man", discovered in 1929 by Pei Wenzhong.

Barbour received his PhD from Columbia University in 1929. Due to an illness of one of their sons, the Barbours returned to the United States in 1931. Unable to get visas to return to China due to the political revolution, Barbour accepted a temporary teaching position at the University of Cincinnati in 1932. Between 1933 and 1936 Barbour served as an editor for the Geological Society of America, and taught at the University of London. During this time, Barbour again went to China to conduct field research, this time alongside Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, French paleontologist and geologist. In 1937, Barbour returned to the faculty of the University of Cincinnati, this time as professor of geology. Barbour retired in 1960, having spent much of his tenure as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to his work in China, Barbour also conducted research in South Africa. Dorothy continued with her promotion of Christian education in China and was an active member of the League of Women Voters of Cincinnati, serving on a "China Study" committee within the organization.

George Barbour died on July 12, 1977.

Scope and Contents

The George B. Barbour papers contain correspondence, field notebooks, newspaper clippings, notes, photographs, and ephemera documenting his work with the Geological Survey of China. Barbour's South Africa research is not included in this collection.

Dorothy's interests are reflected in the papers which include newsletters, notes, and other material relating to Dorothy's work with the League of Women Voters and Christian education in China.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Biological anthropology
- Fossil hominids
- Geology

Names:

- League of Women Voters of Cincinnati
- Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre

Places:

- East Asia
- Zhangjiakou (China)

Container Listing

Series 1: Papers, 1921-1971

Scope and Contents: Series 1: Papers comprise Barbour's field notebooks from China containing field notes and drawings, a small amount of correspondence, printed material and newsclippings relating to China, China geology lecture notes, and several maps, including a carbon rubbing of a 7th century map of China. Also included are some of Dorothy Barbour's papers pertaining to her work with the League of Women Voters and other organizations dealing with Christian education.

Box 1, Folder 1	Notebook - Skankung, 1921-1925
Box 1, Folder 2	Notebooks 2 and 3 - Kalgan, Tsinafu, Kailan mining area, 1921-1922
Box 1, Folder 3	Notebooks - Kalgan II and III, 1923
Box 1, Folder 4	Notebooks - Kalgan IV and V, 1923-1924
Box 1, Folder 5	Notebooks 6 and 7 - Bedford Augen Gneiss, Chou-kou tien, Chaitang Basin, Panshan, 1925-1930 Notes: Also includes loose photographs and notes.
Box 1, Folder 6	Notebooks 8a and 9 - Saratsi, Paotou, Suiyuan, P.T.H, Manchuria, Shansi, Taiku, Fenchow Yutahao, Ching-hsing, Tatung, 1930-1931
Box 1, Folder 7	Notebooks 10 and 11 - Choukoutien, Tsinghua, Peipiao, Hata, Ulanhata, Hulatao, Honan, Shensi, Kansu, Lanchow, 1931
Box 2, Folder 1	Notebooks 12 and 14 - Chokoutien, Nanking, Chinkiang, Hangchow, Maoshan, Lower Yangtze, Middle Yangtze, 1931-1934
Box 2, Folder 2	Notebook 15 - Upper Yangtze, Taiku, E. Tsingling, Honan, 1934
Box 2, Folder 3	Loose notes, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Notebooks - datebook, "geological separates" notebook, 1932, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1928-1969
Box 2, Folder 6	Correspondence re: University of California expedition to South Africa, 1947
Box 2, Folder 7	Peking man - notes, correspondence, clipping, 1929-1937, undated Notes: Includes note from Pei Wenzhong.
Box 2, Folder 8	Geography lecture notes, 1936

Box 2, Folder 9	League of Women Voters - notes and printed material for China study, 1967-1970
Box 2, Folder 10	Notes for League of Women Voters China study, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Newsletters - China Bulletin/China Notes, 1961-1971
Box 3, Folder 2	Newsletters and printed material re: China, 1946-1971, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Newspaper clippings re: China, 1968-1972, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Brochures, booklets, ephemera re: China, 1931-1971, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Carbon rubbings of maps of China, document in Chinese, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Illustrations re: China, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Maps of China, 1937, undated

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Series 2: Photographs, 1929-1936

Scope and Contents: Series 2: Photographs comprise prints and negatives from Barbour's geologic research in China, including his work with Teilhard de Chardin. Several lantern slides are also present. Some photos are annotated on verso with identifications, but most are not.

Box 4, Folder 1-3; Box 6	China - general (3 folders), undated
Box 4, Folder 4	China - general (lantern slides), undated
Box 4, Folder 5-8; Box 6	China - Kalgan (4 folders), undated Notes: Includes images of Kalgan flood.
Box 4, Folder 9; Box 6	China - Shansi and other locations, circa 1929
Box 4, Folder 10	China - Shansi and Panshan, 1930 Notes: see also notebook 9.
Box 4, Folder 11-12	China - with Teilhard de Chardin (2 folders), 1934
Box 4, Folder 13	China - Shensi - Tai-yuon with HH Kung in his airplane, 1934
Box 4, Folder 14	China - landscapes, undated
Box 4, Folder 15	China - trip to Lenchow, undated
Box 4, Folder 16	"F" series - index of Leica films (35mm), undated
Box 4, Folder 17	China - ("F" series 4-6) Shansi and other locations, 1930-1931
Box 5	"F" series negatives (35mm), 1930-1936
Box 6	Mixed negatives (nitrate), undated

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