

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Albert W. Luper, Fannie Mae Luper
Title:	Luper Family Papers
Inclusive Dates:	1919-1965, undated
Bulk Dates:	1924-1946; 1954-1957
Abstract:	The Luper Family Papers are comprised of correspondence, literary productions, and other materials pertaining to a missionary couple and their experiences during the mid-1900s in Portugal and Brazil.
Accession #:	3801
Extent:	4.70 linear feet (6 document boxes and one oversized box)
Language:	Collection is in English and Portuguese.
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

Albert W. Luper and his wife Fannie Mae Luper were a missionary couple who served churches in Portugal, Brazil, and central Texas in the 1920s through the 1950s.

Albert and Fannie Mae were already married when they received their degrees in 1919 May. Albert graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Theology. Fannie Mae, listed as "Mrs. Albert Luper" on her diploma, graduated from the Baptist Women's Missionary Training School of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on 1919 May 28 with a Bachelor's degree in Missionary Training. Both of these certificates are found within the collection.

Over the next few years, the Lupers put their theological training to work. From 1920 to 1922, the Lupers served as Baptist missionaries to Brazil. Fluent in Portuguese, the Lupers then moved to Lisbon, Portugal, to aid the spread of Baptist missionary efforts in Europe. For eight years, the couple struggled to earn a living from their missionary work at the small Third Baptist Church of Lisbon. The building itself was located in the slums of Lisbon, and the congregation was largely illiterate.

In 1930, as famine and economic depression swept across the United States and Europe, Albert became uneasy regarding his position in Lisbon. He informed the church elders that his financial supporters in central Texas could no longer afford to finance the church in Lisbon due to the Dust Bowl. The Lupers thus returned to central Texas where they remained for twenty-two years. The education of the Lupers' four children (James Daniel, Frances, Albert, and Ray) was also a motivating factor in the decision to move back to the United States. Albert pastored congregations in Corsicana, Texas and the First Baptist Church of Oak Cliff near Dallas.

By 1951, Albert W. and Fannie Mae Luper decided to return to the mission field in Brazil. Working with the Baptist College in Belo Horizonte and Brazil's National Baptist Convention, the Lupers continued to devote their efforts to spreading the gospel.

A few of the Luper children were more well-known than their parents. Albert Thomas Luper, also known as Albert Luper, Jr., was born on 1914 January 10, and was quite musically gifted. He served as a private piano instructor and toured with Texas Christian University Glee Club in 1933. Albert also composed music for the Fort Worth Conservatory of Music and authored several books on music such as *The Music of Argentina* (1942), *Words and Music* (1971), and *The Musical Thought of Mario de Andrade* (1965). He was a faculty member at the University of Iowa where he founded

the musicology program in 1948. He died on 1992 September 18 and is buried in Iowa City, Iowa, alongside his wife Elizabeth.

Frances Luper attended the Baylor College for Women in Belton, Texas in 1933. One year later, the institution was renamed Mary-Hardin Baylor.

James Daniel Luper was born in 1921 shortly after the Lupers had moved to Brazil. As of 1953, James had left the United States to return to Brazil, the nation in which he had grown up. Like his parents, James served as a Baptist missionary.

Ray Fernando Luper was born in the early 1930s after the Luper family had relocated to Corsicana, Texas. In 1953, Ray made his way to Brazil as a member of the Wayland Baptist College traveling basketball team. While there, he visited his parents in their hometown of Belo Horizonte, Brazil. After returning to the United States, Ray earned a Master's degree in music from North Texas State University (1957) and a Master's degree in church music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1968). He earned his doctorate eight years later (1976) at Tulane University. Ray served as a professor in the music department of Baylor University for twenty-five years before his death on 1999 June 16. His wife Myrl and daughter Judy were the donators of this collection.

Sources:

Fogelman, Lori S. "Baylor Mourns Deaths of Retired Faculty." 1999 June 21.

Available at www.baylor.edu/pr/news.php?action=story&story=3663. Accessed 2012 April 10.

"The Descendants of Isom Julian." Available at

<http://www.hctgs.org/Families/Julian/aqwg25.htm>. Accessed 2012 April 10.

Scope and Content:

The Luper Family Papers range from 1919 to 1965 with the bulk of the materials from the 1920s through the 1950s. Correspondence and literary productions from the Lupers' activities as missionaries to Brazil and Portugal comprise most of the collection. A particular emphasis is also placed on correspondence with family and Reverend Albert Luper's pastorates in Texas during the Great Depression.

Organization and Arrangement:

This small collection has been organized into four series. Series I, correspondence, has been divided into general and family correspondence. General correspondence is organized chronologically according to the language in which it is written. Family correspondence is also sorted chronologically as well as alphabetically according to the name of the sender. There are three remaining series: II. Literary Productions, III. Photographic Materials, IV. Artifacts, which are divided according to type.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

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Index Terms:

Baptists -- Brazil.

Baptists -- Portugal.

Baptists -- Texas.

Evangelistic work -- Study and teaching -- Brazil.

Luper, Albert T.

Related Materials: None.

Separated Materials: None.

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	This collection was acquired in one gift on 2007 June 22. Gift from Myrl Luper and Judy Cooper, 2007 June 22.
Citation:	Luper Family Papers, Accession #3801, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Thomas A. DeShong, 2012 April 10.

Container List:

Series I: Correspondence, 1924-1957, undated, 4 document boxes (1.8 linear feet).

This series contains letters written to and from the Luper Family while they served as missionaries to Brazil and Portugal, including letters exchanged between family members such as Fannie's mother, Albert's father, and the couple's children: Ray, James Daniel, Albert Thomas, and Frances. A corresponding family tree can be found as an appendix to the finding aid. The correspondence has been divided by language (English or Portuguese). The Portuguese correspondence was comprised of loose letters or bound in a notebook. These folders are labeled accordingly. The materials are in poor to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	General Correspondence: English	1924-1927
	2	General Correspondence: English	1928 January

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	3	General Correspondence: English	1928 March-May 9
	4	General Correspondence: English	1928 May 18-1929
	5	General Correspondence: English	1930 January-August
	6	General Correspondence: English	1930 September 5-21
	7	General Correspondence: English	1930 September 27-October 10
	8	General Correspondence: English	1930 October 18-November
	9	General Correspondence: English	1930 December 9-23
	10	General Correspondence: English	1930 December 27-1931 January 13
	11	General Correspondence: English	1931 January 24-February 23
	12	General Correspondence: English	1931 February 24-March 18
	13	General Correspondence: English	1931 March 20-30
	14	General Correspondence: English	1931 March 30-1933 November
	15	General Correspondence: English	1933 December-1944
	16	General Correspondence: English: (1 of 2)	undated
	17	General Correspondence: English: (2 of 2)	undated
2	1	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	circa 1924
	2	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1924-1925
	3	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1925 June-1930 April 13
	4	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1930 April 15-September 15
	5	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1930 September 22-December 9
	6	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1930 December 11-1931 January 27
	7	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1931 January 28-February 6

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
2	8	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1931 February 23-June
	9	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters	1930 December-1933
	10	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters: (1 of 3)	undated
	11	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters: (2 of 3)	undated
	12	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Letters: (3 of 3)	undated
	13	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (1 of 34)	1929
	14	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (2 of 34)	1929
	15	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (3 of 34)	1929
	16	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (4 of 34)	1929
	17	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (5 of 34)	1929
	18	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (6 of 34)	1929
	19	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (7 of 34)	1929
	20	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (8 of 34)	1929
	21	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (9 of 34)	1929
	22	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (10 of 34)	1929
	23	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (11 of 34)	1929
	24	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (12 of 34)	1929
3	1	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (13 of 34)	1929
	2	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (14 of 34)	1929
	3	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (15 of 34)	1929
	4	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (16 of 34)	1929

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
3	5	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (17 of 34)	1929
	6	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (18 of 34)	1929
	7	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (19 of 34)	1929
	8	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (20 of 34)	1929
	9	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (21 of 34)	1929
	10	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (22 of 34)	1929
	11	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (23 of 34)	1929
	12	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (24 of 34)	1929
	13	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (25 of 34)	1929
	14	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (26 of 34)	1929
	15	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (27 of 34)	1929
	16	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (28 of 34)	1929
	17	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (29 of 34)	1929
	18	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (30 of 34)	1929
	19	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (31 of 34)	1929
	20	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (32 of 34)	1929
	21	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (33 of 34)	1929
	22	General Correspondence: Portuguese: Book: (34 of 34)	1929
4	1	Family Correspondence: M.E. Hawkins to Fannie Mae Luper	1931-1933, undated
	2	Family Correspondence: Albert Luper, Jr. to Albert and Fannie Luper	1931-1933 October 17
	3	Family Correspondence: Albert Luper, Jr. to Albert and Fannie Luper	1933 October 20- 1940 May

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
4	4	Family Correspondence: Albert Luper, Jr. to Albert and Fannie Luper	1940 June-November, undated
	5	Family Correspondence: Albert Luper, Sr. to Fannie Mae Luper	1924-1933
	6	Family Correspondence: Albert Luper, Sr. to Fannie Mae Luper	1939, undated
	7	Family Correspondence: Cora [?] to Fannie Mae Luper	1930
	8	Family Correspondence: Fannie Mae Luper to Albert W. Luper, Sr.	1931
	9	Family Correspondence: Fannie Mae Luper to Ray F. Luper	1952-1957, undated
	10	Family Correspondence: Frances Luper to Albert and Fannie Luper	1933 September-October
	11	Family Correspondence: Frances Luper to Albert and Fannie Luper	1933 November-1946, undated
	12	Family Correspondence: J.T. Luper to Albert and Fannie Luper	1930-1931
	13	Family Correspondence: James Daniel Luper to Albert and Fannie Luper	1939-1940 February
	14	Family Correspondence: James Daniel Luper to Albert and Fannie Luper	1940 May-July
	15	Family Correspondence: James Daniel Luper to Albert and Fannie Luper	1940 August-1942

Series II: Literary Productions, 1919-1965, undated, 2 document boxes and 1 oversized (2.90 linear feet).

This series contains literary productions collected by the Luper family including programs concerning where they traveled, newspaper clippings regarding Baptist influences in Brazil, books, church directories, and Albert and Fannie Mae's diplomas. The materials are in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
5	1	Literary Productions: Book: <i>Arizona: Land of Fair Color</i> : (1 of 4)	1957
	2	Literary Productions: Book: <i>Arizona: Land of Fair Color</i> : (2 of 4)	1957
	3	Literary Productions: Book: <i>Arizona: Land of Fair Color</i> : (3 of 4)	1957

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
5	4	Literary Productions: Book: <i>Arizona: Land of Fair Color</i> : (4 of 4)	1957
	5	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1954-1955 June
	6	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1955 September-October
	7	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1955 November 24
	8	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1955 December 22
	9	Literary Productions: Clippings: General: (1 of 2)	1956 January 5
	10	Literary Productions: Clippings: General: (2 of 2)	1956 January 5
	11	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1956 February 10-14
	12	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1956 February 23-August
	13	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1957 July 18
	14	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1957 August 22
	15	Literary Productions: Clippings: General	1965, undated
	16	Literary Productions: Clippings: Wayland Baptist College	1953
	17	Literary Productions: Periodicals	1955-1956, undated
	18	Literary Productions: Map: South America: Baptist Missions	circa 1963
	19	Literary Productions: Brochures: Ships	undated
	20	Literary Productions: Postcards	undated
6	1	Literary Productions: Directory: First Baptist Church of Oak Cliff	undated
	2	Literary Productions: Directory: Oak Cliff Savings	undated
	3	Literary Productions: Programs: Brazil	1946-1956 June
	4	Literary Productions: Programs: Brazil	1956 July-1957
	5	Literary Productions: Programs: Brazil Baptist Convention	1955-1957
	6	Literary Productions: Programs: Brazil Baptist Convention	undated
	7	Literary Productions: Program: Niagara Falls	1950
	8	Literary Productions: Programs: Pan American World Airways	undated

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
7 OVZ	1	Literary Productions: Diploma: Fannie Mae Luper: Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	1919 May 28
	2	Literary Productions: Diploma: Albert W. Luper: Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	1919 May 30
	3	Literary Productions: Book: <i>Belo Horizonte</i>	1958 June
	4	Literary Productions: Book: <i>Brasil modern</i>	1953

Series III: Photographic Materials, 1933, undated, 3 folders.

This series contains photographs, prints of negatives, and a picture frame collected by the Luper family. The photographs are pictures of another missionary family, the Bagbys. These materials are in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
6	9	Photographic Materials: Photos: Bagbys	1933, undated
	10	Photographic Materials: Prints: Negatives	undated
7 OVZ	7	Photographic Materials: Picture Frame: Egypt	undated

Series IV: Artifacts, 1956-1957, 2 folders.

This series contains buttons and ribbons that Albert and Fannie Mae Luper received at the Brazil Baptist Convention in 1956 and 1957. These materials are in excellent condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
7 OVZ	5	Artifacts: Buttons: Brazil Baptist Convention	1956
	6	Artifacts: Ribbons: Brazil Baptist Convention	1957

Notes:

Although Albert W. Luper and his son Albert Thomas Luper do not share the same middle name, letters within the collection often reference the former as Albert Luper, Sr. and the latter as Albert Luper, Jr.

Fannie Mae Luper's name is spelled both "Fannie" and "Fanny" within the collection, but to maintain continuity, only the former spelling is used in the finding aid.

Appendix: List of Family Members

The following list of family members has been confirmed either through the collection or through online sources. An explanation of who the individual is can be found within the parentheses.

M.E. Hawkins	(mother of Fannie Mae Luper)
Cora?	(sister of Fannie Mae Luper)
Nora?	(sister of Fannie Mae Luper)
J.T. Luper	(father of Albert W. Luper)
Ray Fernando Luper	(son of Albert W. and Fannie Mae Luper)
Myrl Luper	(wife of Ray F. Luper, donator of the collection)
Robert Luper	(son of Ray F. Luper)
Judy Cooper	(daughter of Ray F. Luper, donator of the collection)
Terri Luper	(child of Ray F. Luper)
Janet Luper	(daughter of Ray F. Luper)
Frances Luper	(daughter of Albert W. and Fannie Mae Luper)
Albert Thomas Luper, Jr.	(son of Albert W. and Fannie Mae Luper)
Elizabeth Luper	(wife of Albert T. Luper, Jr.)
Frances Elizabeth Luper	(daughter of Albert T. and Elizabeth Luper)
James Arthur Luper	(son of Albert T. and Elizabeth Luper)
James Daniel Luper	(son of Albert W. and Fannie Mae Luper)