

# Guide to the Edwin Rogers Embree Papers

MS 198



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

August 1971

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 198

**CREATOR:** Embree, Edwin R. (Edwin Rogers), 1883-1950

**TITLE:** Edwin Rogers Embree papers

**DATES:** 1903-1956

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.5 linear feet (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of personal and professional correspondence; family journals (1918-1949) of trips to Europe, China, Samoa, Java and Central America; and articles, book reviews and speeches on cultural anthropology (particularly on the Pacific), education, medicine, American race relations, and philanthropic institutions. Among Embree's professional papers are also financial statements and other materials relating to the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation and other philanthropies with which he was associated. Prominent correspondents include James Bryant Conant, Clarence Day, Harold Ickes, Esther Rauschenbush, Walter Reuther, John D. Rockefeller and Harold Taylor.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0198>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0198>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Catherine Embree Harris, 1964, 1967.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 167 instead of the originals.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Edwin Rogers Embree Papers (MS 198). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Existence and Location of Copies

Entire collection also available on microfilm (7,915 frames on 9 reels, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM167.

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## Biographical / Historical

Between 1917-1927, Edwin Rogers Embree served as secretary, director of the Division of Studies, and vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Between 1928-1948, he was vice-president, director of the Division of Human Biology, and president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

### CHRONOLOGY OF EDWIN ROGERS EMBREE

- 1883                      ○ Born 31 July at Osceola, Nebraska; youngest of seven children
- 1883                      ○ Father, Norris Jones Embree, Union Pacific Railroad Company, telegrapher
- 1883                      ○ Mother, Laura Ann (Fee) Embree, daughter of Rev. John Gregg Fee, abolitionist preacher and founder of Berea College (in Kentucky). Family later moved to Wyoming and then Kentucky where young Embree came under the influence of his grandfather, Rev. John Fee. Collection contains correspondence with his brother, William Dean Embree, '02, born in 1880 in Humbolt, Kansas.
- 1906                      ○ B.A. from Yale
- 1906-1907                ○ Reporter, *New York Sun*
- 1907                      ○ 16 July, Married Kate Scott; Embree had three children: John Fee; Edwina Rogers, Mrs. E. A. Devereux; Catherine Day, Mrs. A. L. Harris.
- 1907-1917                ○ Member of administration at Yale:

**CHRONOLOGY OF EDWIN ROGERS EMBREE**

- 1907-1909           ○ Associate Editor, *Yale Alumni Weekly*; Met Clarence S. Day, Jr., '96.
- 1909-1911           ○ Alumni Editor, *Yale Alumni Weekly*
- 1910                ○ Organizer with Clarence S. Day, Jr., of Class Secretaries Bureau
- 1910-1917           ○ Director of Class Secretaries Bureau
- 1911-1917           ○ Alumni Registrar and Executive Assistant to Secretary, Yale University
- 1914-1917           ○ Secretary, Bureau of Appointments
- 1914                ○ M. A. in Philosophy from Yale
- 1917-1927           ○ Association with Rockefeller Foundations:
- 1917-1923           ○ Secretary, Rockefeller Foundations
- 1918                ○ Trip to France as member of Rockefeller Tuberculosis Commission. Met Julius Rosenwald.
- 1924-1927           ○ Director, Division of Studies, Rockefeller Foundation
- 1927                ○ Vice-President, Rockefeller Foundation
- 1920                ○ Trip to Europe
- 1921                ○ Trip to China
- 1922                ○ Trip to China
- 1923                ○ Trip to Puerto Rico and Europe
- 1925-1926           ○ Trip to Pacific
- 1927                ○ Trip to Central America
- 1928-1948           ○ Association with Julius Rosenwald Fund:
- 1928-1930           ○ Vice-President and Director, Division Human Biology, Julius Rosenwald Fund
- 1930-1948           ○ President, Julius Rosenwald Fund
- 1931                ○ Publication - *Brown America*
- 1932                ○ Death of Julius Rosenwald
- 1932                ○ Trip to Samoa
- 1932                ○ Publication - *Prospecting for Heaven A New School for American Samoa*
- 1933                ○ Trip to Java
- 1934                ○ Publication - *Island India Goes To School Trip to Russia*
- 1939                ○ Publication - *Indians of the Americas*
- 1942                ○ Publication - *American Negroes*

## CHRONOLOGY OF EDWIN ROGERS EMBREE

- 1943                   ○ Publication - *Brown Americans*
- 1944                   ○ Publication - *Thirteen Against the Odds*
- 1948-1949           ○ Publication - *Peoples of the Earth*
- 1948-1949           ○ President, Liberia Foundation. Associated with Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. Took trip to Liberia.
- 1949                   ○ Publication - "Timid Billions;" *Investment in People*; Death of Edward Stettinius
- 1949-1950           ○ Consultant John Hay Whitney and Greenwood Foundations
- 1950                   ○ Death of Embree on February 21; death of his son, John F. Embree, and John's daughter, Clare, on December 22.

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## Scope and Contents

The Edwin Rogers Embree Papers consist of approximately 3,000 items, filed in nine archive boxes. The collection contains personal and professional correspondence (especially with Clarence Day), as well as correspondence concerning several of Embree's books. Also included in the collection are the journals of his trips abroad and articles, book reviews, and speeches on cultural anthropology, education, medicine, nursing, race relations, and religion. These materials have been arranged into the following five series.

SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE is arranged alphabetically by correspondent or subject and chronologically within the files; a chronological file of general correspondence precedes the alphabetical listing. Of particular note is the rather extensive correspondence with Clarence Day between 1926 and 1936. It should also be noted that correspondence exists within other series in this collection, especially where it concerns articles or books that Mr. Embree wrote.

SERIES II. FAMILY JOURNALS contains the journals that Edwin Embree kept on his travels around the world. The journals (1918-1949) covering travel in all major areas of the world, was usually mimeographed and sent to friends and family. For additional accounts of these trips see the journals of Edwin's son, John Fee Embree. (Historical Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University).

SERIES III. ARTICLES, SPEECHES, AND TALKS is arranged alphabetically by general subject and chronologically within the subject files. Included is some correspondence regarding various speeches and articles by Embree, especially the article "Timid Billions" which appeared in the March, 1949, issue of *Harpers* and reflected on Embree's many years working with philanthropic foundations.

SERIES IV. BOOKS contains little manuscript material, but includes correspondence, publicity, and reviews of his various books arranged chronologically by title.

SERIES V. MISCELLANEOUS, contains such items as clippings, diplomas, and passports.

The papers are the gift of Mrs. Catherine Embree Harris, 1964, 1967.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in five series: I. Correspondence. II. Family Journals. III. Articles, Speeches, and Talks. IV. Books. V. Miscellaneous.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: CORRESPONDENCE

Note: Reel column indicates microfilm reel and frame number (i.e., reel:frame).

b. 1, f. 1-6, reel 1:2, 1:57, 1:143, 1:231, 1:328, 1:474reel 1U	General Correspondence	1912-1950; 1956
b. 1, f. 7, reel 1:520reel 1U	Adams, Maude	1928
b. 1, f. 8-9, reel 1:531reel 1U	Bureau for Intercultural Education	1948 September - 1948 February; 1949 March - 1950 February
b. 1, f. 10, reel 1:670, 858reel 1U	Bureau for Intercultural Education—Testimonial Dinner	1949 April 4
	Chase, Harry Woodburn (*) See: <a href="#">box 3, folder 29</a>	
b. 2, f. 11, reel 2:2reel 2U	Chicago Commission on Human Relations	1948 September - 1949 October
b. 2, f. 12, reel 2:38reel 2U	Chicago Industrial Health Association	1949 March - 1950 February
b. 2, f. 13, reel 2:101reel 2U	Connecticut State Department of Education	1949 March - November
b. 2, f. 14-17, reel 2:181, 2:250, 2:367, 2:418reel 2U	Day, Clarence	1926-1936
b. 2, f. 18, reel 2:490reel 2U	Day, Clarence—Subj. [PM, clippings]	
b. 2, f. 19, reel 2:550reel 2U	Embree, William	1927-1937
b. 2, f. 20, reel 2:623reel 2U	Embree Family [photographs]	1903-1950
b. 2, f. 21, reel 2:690reel 2U	Fisk University	1948 August - 1950 February
b. 2, f. 22, reel 2:842reel 2U	Ford Foundation	1948 December - 1949 April
	Ickes, Harold L. (*) See: <a href="#">box 3, folders 32-33</a>	

b. 2, f. 23, reel 2:857reel 2U	Income Tax	1938-1948
	Johnson, Charles S. (*) See: <a href="#">box 2, folder 21</a>	
	Jordan, Wilbur K. (*) See: <a href="#">box 3, folder 31</a>	
	Kilpatrick, William H. See: <a href="#">box 1, folders 8-9</a>	
b. 2, f. 24, reel 2:973reel 2U	Labor Foundation	1949 March - September
b. 3, f. 25-26, reel 3:2, 3:108reel 3U	Liberia Company	1948 January - December
	Lohman, Joseph D. See: <a href="#">box 3, folder 28</a>	
	McAllister, Frank (*) See: <a href="#">box 3, folders 32-33</a>	
b. 3, f. 27, reel 3:194reel 3U	Martin, Newell	1935 February - 1936 February
b. 3, f. 28, reel 3:223reel 3U	National Committee on Segregation in the Nation's Capital	1948 September - 1949 December
b. 3, f. 29, reel 3:256reel 3U	New York University	1948 December - 1950 January
	New York University School of Education, Center for Human Relations Studies (*) See: <a href="#">box 1, folders 8-9</a>	
b. 3, f. 30, reel 3:345reel 3U	Pearl, Raymond	1928 March - 1939 May
b. 3, f. 31, reel 3:408reel 3U	Radcliffe College	1948 October - 1950 February
	Rausenbush, Esther (*) See: <a href="#">box 4, folders 36-38</a>	
	Reuther, Walter See: <a href="#">box 2, folder 24</a>	
b. 3, f. 32-33, reel 3:498, 3:630reel 3U	Roosevelt College	1948 August - 1950 February
b. 3, f. 34, reel 3:765reel 3U	Rosenwald Fund	1927 November - 1928 May



b. 3, f. 35, reel 3:777reel 3U	Somoan Correspondence	1932-1934
b. 4, f. 36-38, reel 3:795, 4:2, 4:121reel 3U	Sarah Lawrence College	1948 August - 1950 February
	Sparling, Edward, J. (*) See: <a href="#">box 3, folders 32-33</a>	
	Taylor, Harold (*) See: <a href="#">box 4, folders 36-38</a>	
b. 4, f. 39, reel 4:261reel 4U	Yale University and Yale Club	1948 November - 1950 February

**Series II: FAMILY JOURNAL**

Note: Reel column indicates microfilm reel and frame number (i.e., reel:frame).

b. 4, f. 1, reel 4:324reel 4U	Family Journal	1918 (France)
b. 4, f. 2, reel 4:368reel 4U	Family Journal	1920 (Europe)
b. 4, f. 3-4, reel 4:411, 4:433reel 4U	Family Journal	1921, 1922 (China)
b. 4, f. 5, reel 4:453reel 4U	Family Journal	1923 (Puerto Rico)
b. 4, f. 6, reel 4:458reel 4U	Family Journal	1923 (Europe)
b. 4, f. 7, reel 4:476reel 4U	Family Journal	1925-1926 (Pacific)
b. 4, f. 8, reel 4:519reel 4U	Family Journal	1927 (Central America)
b. 4, f. 9, reel 4:532reel 4U	Family Journal	1932 (Samoa)
b. 4, f. 10, reel 4:617reel 4U	Family Journal	1933 (Java)
b. 5, f. 11, reel 5:2reel 5U	Family Journal	1934 (Russia)
b. 5, f. 12, reel 5:63reel 5U	Family Journal	1948-1949 (Liberia)

**Series III: ARTICLES, SPEECHES, TALKS**

Note: Reel column indicates microfilm reel and frame number (i.e., reel:frame).

b. 5, f. 1, reel 5:74reel 5U	Embree Bibliography	
b. 5, f. 2, reel 5:95reel 5U	Book Reviews by E. R. E.	
b. 5, f. 3-4, reel 5:170, 5:432reel 5U	Cultural Anthropology	1922-1944
b. 5, f. 5-7, reel 5:611, 5:718, 5:793reel 5U	Cultural Anthropology—Notes on the Pacific	
b. 6, f. 8-13, reel 6:2, 6:166, 6:247, 6:312, 6:414, 6:461reel 6U	Education	1928 April-1950 February
b. 6, f. 14-15, reel 6:623, 6:659reel 6U	Medicine and Nursing	1923-1930
b. 6, f. 16-17, reel 6:703, 6:816reel 6U	Miscellaneous	1928-1949
b. 7, f. 18, reel 7:2reel 7U	Miscellaneous (undated)	
b. 7, f. 19, reel 7:114reel 7U	Race Relations (American)	1929-1950
b. 7, f. 20, reel 7:213reel 7U	Religion	1926-1936
b. 7, f. 21, reel 7:276reel 7U	Social Sciences (other)	1926-1950
b. 7, f. 22, reel 7:321reel 7U	"Timid Billions" (drafts) English	
b. 7, f. 23, reel 7:431reel 7U	"Timid Billions" (reprints, reviews) English	
b. 7, f. 24, reel 7:564reel 7U	"Timid Billions" (correspondence) English	1948
b. 7, f. 25-28, reel 7:579, 7:681, 7:754, 7:889reel 7U	"Timid Billions" correspondence English	1949 January - December

**Series IV: BOOKS**

Note: Reel column indicates microfilm reel and frame number (i.e., reel:frame).

b. 8, f. 1, reel 8:2reel 8U	<i>Brown America</i> - correspondence, publicity English	1931-1932
b. 8, f. 2, reel 8:90reel 8U	<i>Brown America</i> - reviews English	
b. 8, f. 3, reel 8:141reel 8U	<i>Brown America</i> - correspondence, reviews English	1948-1949
b. 8, f. 4, reel 8:159reel 8U	<i>Investment in People</i> - correspondence English	1948-1949
b. 8, f. 5, reel 8:251reel 8U	<i>Peoples of the Earth</i> - correspondence	1948-1949
b. 8, f. 6, reel 8:442reel 8U	<i>Prospecting for Heaven</i> - contributor's correspondence	1931-1932
b. 8, f. 7, reel 8:541reel 8U	<i>Prospecting for Heaven</i> - correspondence, publicity, reviews, etc.	1932-1934
b. 8, f. 8, reel 8:674reel 8U	Other books	
b. 8, f. 9, reel 8:753reel 8U	<i>Institute for Psychoanalysis</i> and <i>The World at the Crossroads</i> (copies) English	

**Series V: MISCELLANEOUS**

Note: Reel column indicates microfilm reel and frame number (i.e., reel:frame).

b. 9, f. 1, reel 9:2reel 9U	Diplomas, degrees, certificates	
b. 9, f. 2, reel 9:9reel 9U	Clipping re: E. R. E.	1905-1950
b. 9, f. 3, reel 9:92reel 9U	Obituary notices, tributes	
b. 9, f. 4-5, reel 9:217, 9:267reel 9U	Rosenwald Fund—Statements of Accounts; closing of fund	1948
b. 9, f. 6, reel 9:274reel 9U	Passports	
b. 9, f. 7, reel 9:328reel 9U	Miscellaneous print and near-print materials	
b. 9, f. 8, reel 9:478reel 9U	Original drawings by Howard Greg for <i>Indians of the Americas</i> by E. R. E.	
b. 9, f. 9, reel 9:482reel 9U	Biographical material	
b. 9, f. 10, reel 9:523reel 9U	Miscellaneous	

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

African Americans  
Anthropology  
Charities  
Charity organization  
Education -- Aims and objectives  
Endowment of research  
Endowments  
Humanitarianism  
Social service

### Geographic Names

Africa  
Asia  
Europe  
Europe -- Description and travel  
Latin America  
Soviet Union  
United States -- Race relations

### Names

Chase, Harry Woodburn, 1883-1955  
Conant, James Bryant, 1893-1978  
Conklin, Edwin Grant, 1863-1952  
Day, Clarence, 1874-1935  
Embree, Edwin R. (Edwin Rogers), 1883-1950  
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952  
Johnson, Charles Spurgeon, 1893-1956  
Jordan, W. K. (Wilbur Kitchener), 1902-1980  
Kilpatrick, William Heard, 1871-1965  
Lohman, Joseph D. (Joseph Dean), 1910-1968  
Raushenbush, Esther, 1898-1980  
Reuther, Walter, 1907-1970  
Rockefeller, John D., Jr. (John Davison),  
1874-1960  
Sparling, Edward James, 1896-  
Taylor, Harold, 1914-1993

### Corporate Bodies

Julius Rosenwald Fund  
Liberian Foundation, Inc  
Rockefeller Foundation  
Yale College (1887- ). Class of 1906