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GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

**LUTHERAN CHURCH ARCHIVES**

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Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082-1498

**Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Church Archives,  
St. Peter, Minnesota**

**Akins, Ethel Muriel. Personal Papers of Ethel Akins, 1913-1980.**

**LCA Collection 18**

**Akins, Ethel Muriel. Personal Papers of Ethel M. Akins, 1913-1980. LCA Collection 18. 1 Records Center Carton, ½ Hollinger box, and ½ legal Hollinger box.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Ethel M. Akins Personal Papers collection consists of correspondence to and from Ethel Akins, eight diaries, and various photos from Ethel Akins's journeys to China, Japan, Tanganyika, Yemen, and Ethiopia. The collection also includes various essays on Japan, China, and Taiwan, various testimonials, *The Changing China Scene* by Gustav Carlberg, two Watertown High School commencement programs from the Class of 1913, and the "Midwest China Oral History and Archives Collection" volume on Ethel Akins.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Ethel Muriel Akins was born 7 March 1895 in Watertown, Minnesota. She attended the University of Minnesota and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. After teaching for three years in Minnesota and South Dakota, Akins became a missionary to China in 1921. She was commissioned by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Akins attended the College of China Studies in Beijing from 1921-22 and served in China as an educator and evangelist in several locations from 1922-48. Between 1949-51 she worked in Japan for the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church of America at its Girls' School in Kumamoto. Akins served as an Augustana missionary in Taiwan from 1951-62. Akins died in Minneapolis on 27 December 1980.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The collection is divided into four sections:

**Correspondence, 1921-1974:** This includes Akin's correspondence with Mr. J. P. Akins, Eleanor Anderson, Mrs. Ed Newstrom, Mrs. R. G. Ecklow (Maud Akins), Selma Hall, Berenice Newstrom, Lillie Wilson, Winnie Lundin, Mrs. S. V. Johnson, and Mrs. J. V. Johnson, as well as correspondence to and from Akins' prayer partners, and miscellaneous correspondence.

**Diaries, 1948-1980:** Contained in this series are Ethel Akins' handwritten diaries.

**Photographs, 1920-1962:** Portraits as well as photographs from Akins' journeys to China, Taiwan, Tanganyika, Yemen, and Ethiopia.

**Miscellaneous, 1913-1980:** Programs from the Watertown, MN Commencement Exercises for the Class of 1913; five of Ethel Akins' passports dated 1929-62; two blank wedding announcement cards; assorted essays on China, Japan, and Taiwan; the Midwest China Oral History and Archives Collection Interview of Ethel Akins; *The Changing China Scene* by Gustav Carlberg; a copy of the Agreement between Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and Foreign Missions of the ALC; and various religious testimonials from Akins and other missionaries.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

There are no restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the Lutheran Church Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

Akins, Ethel Muriel. Personal Papers of Ethel M. Akins, 1913-1980. LCA Collection 18. Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Church Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

**PROCESSED BY:**

Birgitta Maj Johnson, student worker, processed this collection and developed the finding aid during October 2010.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Akins, Ethel Muriel, 1895-1980.

Lutheran Church -- Missions.

Missions – Taiwan.

Missions – China.

Missions – Japan.

Missionaries – Correspondence.

Missions and Missionaries -- Collected Correspondence.

Schools – China.

Schools – Japan.

<b>LCA Collection 18</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Correspondence, 1931-73</b>		
Correspondence to J. P. Akins, 1921-27	1	4
Correspondence to Eleanor Anderson, 1963	1	5
Correspondence to Mrs. R. G. Ecklow (Maud Akins), 1921-46	1	6
Correspondence to Mrs. R. G. Ecklow (Maud Akins), 1947-63	1	7
Correspondence to Selma Hall, 1931-55	1	8
Correspondence to Mrs. J. V. Johnson, 1923-58	1	9
Correspondence to Mrs. S. V. Johnson, undated	1	10
Correspondence to Mrs. Thyra Lawson, 1937-48	1	11
Correspondence to Winnie Lundin, 1941-64	1	12
Correspondence to Berenice Newstrom, ca. 1925	1	13
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1921-22	1	14
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1923-24	1	15
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1925-26	1	16
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1927-29	1	17
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1930	1	18
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1931-33	1	19
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1934-35	1	20
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1936-38	1	21
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1940-47	1	22
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, 1949-63	1	23
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom, undated	1	24
Correspondence to Nora Newstrom from others, 1934-74	1	25
Correspondence to Lillie Wilson, ca. 1944-62	1	26
Miscellaneous Correspondence from Ethel, ca. 1964	1	27
Correspondence to Ethel, ca. 1955-64	1	28
Correspondence to Friends, 1950-64	3	1
Correspondence to Prayer Partners, 1950-62	3	2
Correspondence to Unidentified, ca. 1922-59	3	3
<b>Diaries, 1948-80</b>		
Diaries, 1948-53	1	40
Diaries, 1954-63	1	41
Diaries, 1964-73	2	1
Diaries, 1974-80	2	2
<b>Photographs, ca. 1920-70</b>		
Photographs taken in China, ca. 1920-30s	1	33
Photos taken in Japan, ca. 1949-50	1	34
Photographs in Taiwan after 1950	1	35
Photographs taken in Tanganyika, 1962	1	36
Photographs taken in Tanganyika, 1962	1	37
Photographs taken in Yemen and Ethiopia, 1962	1	38
Portraits, ca. 1940-70	1	39
<b>Miscellaneous, 1913-1980</b>		

Ethel Akins Biographical Information	1	1
“Midwest China Oral History and Archives Collection” booklet on Ethel Akins, 1980	1	2
<i>The Changing China Scene</i> , Gustav Carlberg	1	3
Commencement Programs, 1913	1	29
Passports, 1929-62	1	30
News Clippings, ca. 1959	1	31
Agreement between Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and Foreign Missions of the ALC, undated	1	32
Various Testimonials, ca. 1972-1977	3	4
Essays on Japan, China, and Taiwan, ca. 1950-73	3	5
Ship Schematics and Viola Fischer Photos	Map Case	--