

EDWARD T. AND ANTOINETTE M. DEMBY
PAPERS

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DEMBY, EDWARD THOMAS (1869-1957) AND ANTOINETTE M. RICKS (1870-1960). PAPERS, 1893-1957.
3 boxes.

Biography

Bishop Edward Thomas Demby was a native of Wilmington, Delaware, born in 1869. He received his religious education at the divinity schools of Howard and Wilberforce universities, the University of Chicago, and the seminary of the Episcopal Diocese in Denver, Colorado. He was ordained Deacon at St. Paul's Church, Memphis, in 1899; ordained a priest in 1899; elected as Bishop Suffragan of Arkansas (for Colored People) and the Southwest Province in 1918 -- the only black bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States at that time. His career as an Episcopal clergyman spanned some forty years between 1899 and 1939, when he retired from the Diocese of Cleveland. Bishop Demby received a number of honorary degrees from Wilberforce University and other institutions. He died in 1957.

Antoinette Ricks Demby was a native of Cleveland, Ohio, born around 1870. She was an alumna of Oberlin College and was a member of Howard University's first class of nursing school graduates in 1896; she may also have studied at Tuskegee Institute. In 1902, Antoinette Ricks married Edward Demby. During the Spanish American War and World War I, she served as a nurse. She was also a Red Cross nurse in Cleveland during both World Wars, the first black registered nurse known to practice in that city. Throughout her career, Mrs. Demby practiced in a number of hospitals and private settings around the country, including Freedman's Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas, where she was head nurse. In addition, Mrs. Demby was principal of the parochial school of St. Michael's Church in Cairo, Illinois while her husband was vicar at the church in 1903. Mrs. Demby also died in 1957. The Dembys had one child, Thomas Benjamin, who died sometime before 1960.

Note: Various editions of Who's Who in Colored America, Who's Who In America were consulted, in addition to materials in the collection to compile the biographies of the Dembys.

Scope and Content

The Edward T. and Antoinette M. Demby Papers are divided into two series: the Edward Thomas Demby papers and the Antoinette Ricks Demby papers, covering the years from 1893 to 1957, with a number of undated items.

The EDWARD THOMAS DEMBY series contains two subseries. The first of these, Personal Papers, includes: a diary with a few entries of a non-personal nature, a golden anniversary marriage scrapbook, and financial papers. The second subseries, Professional Papers, includes primarily incoming correspondence dealing with Bishop Demby's work as a clergyman, before and after his retirement, numerous undated sermons, two scrapbooks on his clerical career, and miscellaneous literature and notes dealing with the Episcopal Church and his career within the church. Several of the items in this series provide evidence of his extensive knowledge of classical languages, such as Greek and Hebrew.

The ANTOINETTE RICKS DEMBY series is also divided into two subseries. The first, Personal Papers, includes: Mrs. Demby's last will and testament, correspondence, receipts, and two scrapbooks, one of them a thirty-fourth wedding anniversary memento from her husband and the other, a collection of clippings from an etiquette column, including a few miscellaneous items. The Professional Papers subseries contains Mrs. Demby's professional notes and examination notebooks along with other papers, supplemented by miscellaneous unbound notes also related to her nursing career.

Additional collections of papers for Bishop Demby can be found at the Episcopal Diocese in Cleveland, Ohio and at the Wilmington, Delaware Diocese.

Provenance

Gift of Miss Dorothy Demby, 1982.
SCM 82-59

W.T. Edomobi/D. Lachatanere
August 21, 1986

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		EDWARD THOMAS DEMBY
1	1	Personal Papers
	2	Dairy, 1956
	Volume 1	Scrapbook - Marriage, 1952
	3	Financial Papers, 1943-1955
		Professional Papers
	4	Correspondence, 1937-1939
	5	Correspondence, 1944-1949
	6	Correspondence, 1950-1957
	7	Sermons, n.d.
	8	Miscellaneous, 1949, n.d.
	9	Gravesite, 1991-1993
2	Volume 1	Scrapbook - Religious Career, ca. 1955
	Volume 2	Scrapbook - Religious Career, ca. 1955
		ANTOINETTE RICKS DEMBY
3		Personal Papers
	1	Last Will and Testament, 1948
	2	Correspondence, 1953-1954
	3	Financial Papers, 1948-1952, 1955-1956, n.d.
	Volume 1	Scrapbook - Marriage, 1936
	Volume 2	Scrapbook - Etiquette Clippings, etc., n.d.
		Professional Papers
	4	Professional Papers, 1884, 1895, 1915, n.d.
	5	Miscellaneous, 1916-1917, 1936, 1957

SEPARATION RECORD

The following items were removed from:

Name of Collection/Papers Edward T. & Antoinette M. Demby Papers

Accession Number SCM82-59

Donor: Ms Dorothy Demby

Date received: August 1982

Date transferred: September 1982

The item(s) listed below have been sent to the division indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

Schomburg Photographs and Print Division:

1 box of photoqraphs

Accessioned by: D.Lachatanere

Date: Sept. 1982