

Register to the Papers of  
Robert LeMoyne Barrett

James T. Nichols  
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Updated by  
Kelsey Bell & Lorain Wang  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

The papers of Robert LeMoyne Barrett were received by the National Anthropological Archives in 1976 as a donation of Mrs. Marjorie Childs, whose late husband, Herbert Childs, had intended to write a biography of Robert Barrett.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

These papers reflect the early life of Robert LeMoyne Barrett (b. 1871) geographer, traveler, and writer. Included are outgoing correspondence which for the most part was intended for publication, manuscripts on various topics, two published articles on Norway, field notes, sketches, charts, maps, noteslips, photographs and other items relating to his various trips from 1892-1909. The bulk of the material reflects the expeditions of Norway conducted in the summers of 1897-98, the Dixon-Barrett Russia-Siberia Expedition of 1901-02, the Baja Peninsula of 1903-04, the Barrett-Huntington Inner Asia Expedition of 1904-06, and Abyssinia in 1909. There is some material on a trip to Morocco in 1892, the Canadian Rockies in 1893, Colorado-Arizona-New Mexico in 1900. There is only a sketch book for a 1923 journey to the Himalayas.

Also included are class lecture notes from his geography courses at Harvard, some material on Japanese writings, passports, the correspondence of Roland Dixon from Russia to W. M. Davis, and the manuscript of Ghulan Rasul Galwan of Leh, India, Barrett's Ladakhi caravan leader in 1905-06. There is little material that calls attention to his early childhood or later personal life. With one small exception, there is no material on his many journeys after 1909. There is no material on the professional and scientific organizations of which he belonged. There are no incoming letters or any manuscripts of books that were published.

The photograph collection is large with early turn of the century prints and negatives of Norway, Europe, the American Southwest, Baja, California, and Inner Asia. Most of the photographs are of mountainous terrains and geographical features of the various locals of his journeys; however, there are a few pictures of Navajo Indians of the early 1900's and Asians of the same period. The bulk of the photograph collection concerns the Inner Asian Expedition which passed through India, Chinese Turkestan, and China and the many small villages en route with landscape views of the Himalayas predominating. Most of these were taken with a theodolite camera capable of measuring altitude.

A copy of a 1976 biographical sketch of Barrett's life entitled "Robert LeMoyne Barrett, 1871-1969; Last of the Founding Members of the Association of American Geographers," by Geoffrey J. Martin is also included which lists a bibliography of Barrett's publications.

## **EXTENT**

The collection occupies approximately six linear feet of shelf space.

## CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF ROBERT LeMOYNE BARRETT

May 28, 1871	Born in Chicago, Illinois
1892	Made trip to Tangier, Morocco
1893	Visited British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies
1894-98	Bachelor of Arts degree, Harvard University
1897-98	Summers spent in Norway undertaking fieldwork
1900	Visited Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado
1901-1902	Traveled through Russia with Roland Dixon
1902	Became a charter member of the Association of American Geographers
1903-04	Roamed the American Southwest and Baja, California
1904-06	The Barrett-Huntington Expedition of Inner Asia
1909	Journeyed to Abyssinia
June 29, 1913	Married Katherine Ruth Ellis, an established writer
1913-14	Holland, Germany, the Tyrol--Italy
1917	Special expert on labor conditions for the U.S. Shipping Board in England, wrote <i>British Industrial Experience During the War</i>
1923-24	Visited the Himalayas, <i>Servant of Sahibs</i> published
1926	Journeyed to El Teide on Tenerife in Canary Islands
1927	<i>The Himalayan Letters of Gypsy Davy and Lady Ba</i>
1926-27	Traveled to Patagonia
1931	<i>A Yankee in Patagonia</i> published
1932	<i>Cloudtop Mosaics</i> published
March 5, 1969	Died at La Crescenta, California

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTAINER LIST

### **SERIES I: THE LETTERS OF ROBERT LeMOYNE BARRETT, 1892-1909. 10 inches.**

Arranged chronologically by expedition.

While there is some actual correspondence, most of the letters were written with publication intended. Several have been edited, and both original and annotated, as well as, final typewritten forms are present. The letters concern the various expeditions: Morocco, April 1892; the Canadian Rockies, October 1893; the Dixon-Barrett Russia-Siberia Expedition, 1901-02; the Baja Peninsula, 1903-04; the Barrett-Huntington Inner Asia Expedition, 1904-06; and Abyssinia, 1909. The letters of the last two expeditions are bound and ready for publication. The letters are addressed to his parents primarily, others to Thomson, Aunt Mae, Alica, Juli, and Win. They are highly descriptive emphasizing the geographical features, as well as, the people who inhabit these regions.

#### **Box 1**

April 1892  
    Morocco  
October 1893  
    Canadian Rockies  
1901-02  
    Letters from Russia  
1903-04  
    Baja

#### **Box 2**

Dec. 16, 1904 – March 10, 1905; July 28 – August 28, 1905; undated  
    Inner Asian Letters  
March 2 – August 29, 1905  
    Turkestan Letters  
September 4 – December 31, 1905; January 1 – May 20, 1906 (2 folders)

#### **Boxes 3**

March – October, 1909  
    Abyssinian Letters (3 folders)

**SERIES II: MANUSCRIPTS AND PUBLISHED WORKS, circa 1897-1909.**  
**5 inches.**

Arranged alphabetically.

Handwritten, typewritten, and printed copies, most of which has been edited and illustrated by Barrett. The Rasul's manuscript is the account of Ghulam Rasul Galwan of Leh, India, Barrett's Ladakhi caravan leader in 1905-06. This was written in 1920 and edited by Mrs. Barrett. The authorship of "Rawzan the Wicked" and other tales filed with it are undetermined; however, they do concern Inner Asia.

**Box 4**

"Baja" (1903)

"A Bear Hunt in Siberia" (1902)

"Experiences of an Inexperienced Donkey Driver in Russian Turkeystan" (1902)

"Features of Norway and its People" (appeared in *The Journal of School Geography*) (October 1901)

"An Indian Stone in New Mexico" (1900)

"The Meanders in the Cone-dog-winet Creek and the Juniata" (undated)

Rasul's manuscript (1920)

"Rawzan the Wicked" and others (undated)

"Scandinavian Geography" (circa 1897)

"Sundal Drainage System in Central Norway" (appeared in the *Bulletin of American Geographical Society*, vol. 32, no. 3, 1900)

**SERIES III: MATERIALS RELATING TO EXPEDITIONS, 1897-1923.**  
**5 inches & oversize.**

Arranged chronologically by expedition.

Field notes, notebooks, sketchbooks, map sketches with notes, Dixon's correspondence, and general note observations. There is an incomplete set of material for any one expedition. In general, these are on the spot notes and sketches made in a haphazard fashion by Barrett of what he saw on his journeys to Norway, 1897-98; France, Italy, Norway, 1899; Colorado, 1900; Siberia, 1909-02; Nevada-California, 1903; Inner Asia 1905-06 and the Himalayas in 1923. Also included are Roland Dixon's correspondence from Russia to W. M. Davis (Harvard geography professor and founder of the Association of American Geographers) and his general observations of Siberia.

**Box 5**

Norway – 3 books of general notes & sketches, 5 pp. of miscellaneous field notes (1897-98)

France, Italy, Norway general notes (1899)

Colorado field notes (1900)

Russia-Siberia (1901)  
Dixon's letters to Davis (1901)  
General observations on Siberia (1901)  
Siberia field notes (1902)  
Nevada-California field notes (1903)  
Himalayas sketchbook (1923)

**Box 6, oversize missing 1/25/07**

Inner Asia sketches and field notes (1905-1906)

**SERIES IV: NOTE SLIPS, 1903-1909. 6 inches.**

Arranged chronologically.

3" x 5" noteslips in leather index boxes. Includes general notes on various topics in the first box. These are indexed under subject. There are headings for Baja and under this are topics concerning medicinal cures and Barrett's health statistics. This box ends with the subject India Physical. The second box consists of slips on small villages of Inner Asia, and could possibly be linked with the photographs of that expedition in 1905-06. The third box concerns Abyssinia of 1909 and includes a crude lexicon of the language spoken there (Romanized).

**Box 7**

General notes on various topics  
Notes on villages of Inner Asia  
Field notes on Abyssinia (includes lexicon)

**SERIES V: MISCELLANY. 2.5 inches.**

Arranged alphabetically.

Includes: a bibliography of California in United States and Mexico, biographical sketch of Barrett's life by Geoffrey J. Martin, class lecture notes from geography courses taken at Harvard, materials on Japanese writing, passports issued by U.S. Department of Agriculture and the American Embassy in Tokyo, and an X-Ray report on Barrett in 1940 and other information on bones. Of special interest is the biographical sketch written in 1976 which includes a bibliography of Barrett's publications. The passports are very ornate.

**Box 8**

Bibliography of California in USA & Mexico  
Biographical sketch of Barrett's life by G. J. Martin, includes bibliography of Barrett's publications (1976)  
Class lecture notes from geography courses at Harvard

Japanese writing materials

Passports issued by Department of Agriculture and American Embassy in Tokyo

X-Ray report on Barrett in 1940 and other information on bones

**SERIES VI: PHOTOGRAPHS. 1897-1906. 39 inches.**

Sorted chronologically by place with little arrangement within boxes.

Prints, negatives, with some noteslips attached, mounting cards with annotations but most photographs removed, some 8" x 10" enlargements of smaller ones. Photographs of travels to Norway, 1897-98; Europe, June 1897 and January 1899; Arizona-New Mexico-Colorado, 1900; Baja Expedition, 1903-04; and the Inner Asia Expedition, 1905-06. Most of the photographs are of the geographical terrains with views of mountains predominating. There appears to be much duplication. There are a few pictures of native inhabitants, buildings, caravans, and other non-geographical views. The Arizona-New Mexico-Colorado box contains a few photographs of Navajo Indians. The Inner Asia boxes contain pictures of mountains taken with a theodolite camera capable of measuring altitude. In the last box on Inner Asia is a faded photograph of Barrett with a native Asian. Also in this box are some 8" x 10" enlargements of the Himalayas and annotated mounting cards with respective prints unattached. The negatives that were originally in Box 9 are nitrate and have thus been separated.

**Box 9**

Descriptions of Norway negatives (1897-98)

**Box 10**

Europe, prints and negatives (June 1897 and January 1899)

**Box 11**

Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado (1900)

Baja (1904)

**Box 12**

Inner Asian Expedition, prints and negatives (1905-1906)

**Box 13**

Barrett with native Asian

8 x 10 enlargements of mountain scenes

Mounting cards with respective photos separated.