

Guide to the Carroll and Helen Yerkes Papers

RG 153



Compiled by Shari Laist

1998

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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CALL NUMBER: RG 153

CREATOR: Yerkes, Carroll Harvey, 1876-1971

TITLE: Carroll and Helen Yerkes Papers

DATES: 1869-1971

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Letters and collected material document the work of the Presbyterian Church in Shandong (Shantung) Province, China from 1869 to the 1940s. Carroll and Helen Yerkes were American Presbyterian missionaries in Shandong (Shantung) Province from 1904 to 1925. The parents of Helen Nevius Eckard Yerkes were Presbyterian missionaries stationed in Chefoo from 1869 to 1874.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.153>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.153>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Elizabeth Y. Kline.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Carroll and Helen Yerkes Papers (RG 153), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1876 August 18	○ Born in Fox Chase, Philadelphia, PA
1895-1896	○ Attended International Conventions of Christian Endeavor at which he heard Dwight L. Moody, Robert E. Speer, Amos R. Wells and others who influenced his life.
1901	○ A.B. degree, Lafayette College
1903	○ Worked with settlers on the prairie of No. Dakota
1904	○ A.M. degree, Princeton Theological Seminary
1904 July 12	○ Married Helen Nevius Eckard (1876-1967)
1904 September 12	○ Arrived in Shanghai as missionary for the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
1905	○ Opened station at Yixian, Shandong (Yih sien, Shantung Province)
1912	○ Furlough
1921	○ Honorary D.D., Lafayette
1925	○ Returned to U.S. because of Helen Yerkes' health
1925-1957	○ Served as pastor of various churches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania
1971 April 19	○ Died in Seattle, Washington

Scope and Contents

The Yerkes papers document the work of the Presbyterian Church in the Shandong (Shantung) Province of China from 1869-1874 when Helen Yerkes' parents were stationed in Chefoo and from 1904-1950. Although they left China in 1925, Yerkes stayed in contact with his missionary and Chinese friends. Yerkes was involved with evangelical work as well as the administrative tasks of running the station. Among his duties, he served on the China Council and acted as treasurer of the station. From 1923 until his departure from China, he worked with the American Consulate, R.P. Tenney, to secure the release of foreign captives after the wreck of the "Blue Express" on May 6, 1923 and continued to supply information about the bandit situation in his area.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1870-1950
- II. Collected Material, 1904-1941, n.d.
- III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1904-1971

IV. Photographs, ca.1870-1954

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1870-1950

Family correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Letters from Helen Yerkes' father, Leighton W. Eckard, to his family, from Chefoo	1870, n.d.
b. 1, f. 2-5	To "Dear Father" (Leighton Eckard?)	1905-1914, n.d.
b. 1, f. 6	Other family members	1917-1923

General correspondence

b. 1, f. 7	Allison, Abbott	1925-1941
b. 1, f. 8	Butler - Cunningham	1924-1936
b. 1, f. 9	E - Frame	1925-1953
b. 1, f. 10	Gordon - Lowrie	1922-1929
b. 1, f. 11	Romig - Soderberg	1918-1940
b. 1, f. 12	Thompson - Winter, unidentified	1925-1941
b. 1, f. 13	Circular letters, Shandong (Shantung) Mission	1918-1950

Series II: Collected Material, 1904-1941, n.d.

b. 1, f. 14	Bible in Chinese, misc. items	n.d.
b. 1, f. 15	China Council Ad Interim Committee minutes	1930-1932
b. 1, f. 15	The China Council Bulletin	1926, 1931
b. 2, f. 16	The China Council of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.	1925, 1927, 1930
b. 2, f. 17	"Chinagram"	1929
b. 2, f. 18	Chinese documents - calling cards, correspondence, money, etc.	n.d.
b. OVd3	Chinese posters and prints, including "The Chinese Family", Mission tract "colored by one of my school boys", Biblical quotations, etc.	n.d.
b. OVd3	Acupuncture chart, n.d.	
b. 2, f. 19	Print depicting "God of Agriculture and Silk Worm Culture", unidentified print	n.d.
b. 2, f. 20	Cities Evangelization Centers reports	1924-1926
b. 2, f. 21	"First Chinese Mission Tract" (by Leighton Eckard)	ca. 1869
b. 2, f. 22	Government proclamation re. missionaries	1904
b. 2, f. 23	Miscellaneous	1920-1940, n.d.
b. 2, f. 24	Newsclippings	1904-1971
b. 2, f. 25	Shantung Mission Council, Shandong	1925, 1926, 1930
b. 2, f. 26	Station reports: Chefoo	1917-1918
b. 2, f. 27	Station reports: Ichoufu	1925-1932
b. 2, f. 28	Station reports: Tenghsien	1925, 1930-1931
b. 2, f. 29-30	Station reports: Yixian (Yih sien) (including general China Station information, building diagrams, staff resumes)	1918-1941, undated
b. 3, f. 31	Station reports: Yixian (Yih sien)	

Series III: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1904-1971

b. 3, f. 32	Commission, marriage certificate, passports, Chinese documents, etc.	1904-1925
b. 3, f. 33	Letters of reference re. pastorate	1927
b. 3, f. 34	Material re: Yerkes' role in the release of captives from the wreck of the "Blue Express" on May 6, 1923; including information re: bandit situation around Yixian (Yih sien)	1923
b. 3, f. 35	"Recollections of a Long Life" (autobiographical) and other biographical material and tributes	1963-1971

Series IV: Photographs, ca.1870 -1954

b. 1, f. 1	Sunday School class of Leighton Eckard	ca. 1870
b. 3, f. 36	Family and friends	1905-1923, 1954
b. 3, f. 37	Missionary groups	1904-1918
b. 3, f. 38	Scenes from Ichoufu, Yixian (Yih sien), Shanghai; coal mining, railroads, agriculture, markets, etc.	circa 1905-1925
b. 3, f. 39	Student groups and hospital scenes, local church members (Yixian (Yih sien) and outstations)	circa 1911-1925

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

Missionaries
Presbyterian Church -- Missions -- China

Names

Eckard, L. W. (Leighton Wilson), 1845-1925
Yerkes, Carroll Harvey, 1876-1971
Yerkes, Helen

Contributors

Yerkes, Carroll Harvey, 1876-1971
Yerkes, Helen