

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Lillian Picken Papers

RG 159



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

2001

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 159

CREATOR: Picken, Lillian

TITLE: Lillian Picken Papers

DATES: 1921-1974

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.5 linear feet (12 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, and collected materials document Picken's work and the work of the ABCFM in India beginning in 1928. Lillian Picken was an American missionary in India, serving under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, American Marathi Mission, later known as the United Church Board for World Ministries. She took part in educational, industrial, social, and evangelistic work in the Satara area of western India.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.159>

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.159>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from New York offices of United Church Board for World Ministries, 2000.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Lillian Picken Papers (RG 159), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Lillian Picken was born in Eureka, Kansas and graduated from Kansas State Teachers College (1908) and Colorado College (1912). She was assigned to Mumbai (Bombay) when she first went to India under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1914, but transferred to the Satara area in 1919, where she engaged in educational, industrial, social, and evangelistic work. She founded the Child Welfare Center in Waduth, the Spiritual Life Center at Nasrapur, and an inter-denominational welfare center at Satara. With her close colleague Louise Fisher she founded the Rural Roadside Leprosy Control Clinic in 1954. Picken retired in 1957.

Scope and Contents

These papers provide valuable documentation of the work of an American woman missionary in western India. With her colleague Louise Fisher, Picken became deeply involved in social welfare, as well as evangelistic work, in the Indian villages where she served.

Series I, Correspondence of Lillian Picken, contains a long run of circular letters to Picken's supporters, which provide excellent detail regarding her missionary work. These letters are complemented by more personal correspondence, primarily with mission and Indian colleagues and friends. Picken maintained correspondence with Indian colleagues, particular her "adopted son" Sumitra Palve after her retirement. Series II, Correspondence of Others, contains a run of circular letters from Picken's colleague Lousie Fisher that supplements the documentation in Picken's correspondence, since they worked together closely.

Series III, Writings, includes writings of Picken on spiritual and mission topics as well as writings of others, mostly mission colleagues. The Notes of Series IV are primarily for Bible studies or talks that Picken gave while in the United States on furlough or after her retirement.

Series V, Subject File, contains material about the work of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Satara, the Navraspur Spiritual Life Center, leprosy work, the Dohnavur Fellowship and Indian Girl Guides. Two notebooks provide extensive information about the Satara misison. In combination with annual reports and periodicals of the ABCFM, this material would provide valuable documentation of the character of mission work in this area, and the lives of the missionaries involved.

Series VI, Personal Items and Memorabilia, contains biographical documentation, documentation of Picken's speaking engagements, and various collected printed material of an inspirational character. Series VII, Photographs, includes photographs of Picken, Louise Fisher, Indian colleagues, etc.

Series VII includes Photographs and Slides of Lillian Picken and her colleagues as well as of the Nasrapur Spiritual Life Center, and other scenes in India.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence of Lillian Picken
- II. Correspondence of Others
- III. Writings
- IV. Notes
- V. Subject File
- VI. Personal Items and Memorabilia
- VII. Photographs and Slides

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence of Lillian Picken

	Circular letters to supporters	
b. 1, f. 1-18	Letters	1922 -1968
b. 1, f. 19	Fragments	
	Correspondence with family and friends	
b. 1, f. 20-21	To/from family and friends	1951-1955
b. 1, f. 22	From Louise Fisher	1947-1966, n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	Early family corres.	1921, 1926
	Correspondence with others	
b. 1, f. 24	A - B	
b. 1, f. 25	Bhonsle, P. S.	
b. 1, f. 26	Crozier, Mr. and Mrs. John	
b. 1, f. 27	C - D	
b. 1, f. 28	Dudley, Raymond A.	
b. 1, f. 29	E - K	
b. 2, f. 30	Kehinde, Wande	
b. 2, f. 31	Laubach, Frank	
b. 2, f. 32	M - N	
b. 2, f. 33	Ng, Wai Yee	
b. 2, f. 34	Packard, Frank	
b. 4, f. 75-77	Palve, Sumitra (corres. in subject file)	
b. 2, f. 35	Pandit, S. R.	
b. 2, f. 36	Manorama Powar	
b. 2, f. 37	Rotary Club (incl. letters from J. C. Penney)	
b. 2, f. 38	R - S	
b. 2, f. 39	T - W, unidentified	
b. 2, f. 40	Westchester churches (supporting Picken)	

Series II: Correspondence of Others

b. 3, f. 41-45	Louise Fisher to supporters (circular letters)	1936-1970
b. 3, f. 46	Lousie Fisher - personal correspondence	1947-1959
b. 3, f. 47	Frank Packard letters	

Series III: Writings

By Lillian Picken

Published material

b. 3, f. 48 Prayer, Bible study outline

Typescript material

b. 3, f. 49 Re. India: "India's Quest", "The Indigenous Church in India", etc.

b. 3, f. 50 Bible studies: "How much do I love my church?" 1947 Jun

b. 3, f. 51 Bible studies: "Victorious life in Jesus Christ" 1935-1936

b. 3, f. 52 Paper: "The meaning of the Holy Spirit for today" 1954 Apr

b. 3, f. 53 Paper: "The relevance of the Trinity" 1954 Apr

b. 3, f. 54 Paper: "The healing ministry of Jesus" 1954 May

b. 3, f. 55 Paper: "My reactions to the following feet - Ancilla" 1954 May

b. 3, f. 55a Paper: "The Christian faith in life everlasting" 1954 May

Writings of others

b. 3, f. 56 A - K

b. 3, f. 57 L - S

b. 3, f. 58 T - W

b. 3, f. 59 Unidentified

Series IV: Notes

b. 4, f. 60-62	LP: Personal Bible studies	
b. 4, f. 63	LP: Notes for talks	
b. 4, f. 64-68	LP: Notes from retreats	1938-1958, n.d.
b. 4, f. 69	Notes of others	

Series V: Subject File

ABCFM/ American Marathi Mission in India

b. 4, f. 70, 71	Satara Mission	
b. 4, f. 72	Satara Mission, leprosy work	
b. 7, f. 101, 102	Satara Mission - two notebooks of history compiled by Louise Fisher	
b. 4, f. 73	Vadala Mission	
b. 4, f. 74-77	Vadala - Sumitra Palve - Director of agricultural work	1963-1974
b. 4, f. 78	Nasrapur Spiritual Life Center	1958-1962
India		
b. 7, f. 103	Dohnavur Fellowship	
b. 7, f. 104	Indian Girl Guides	
b. 7, f. 105	News items	
b. 7, f. 106-108	Indian religions	
Miscellaneous		
b. 5, f. 79	East Africa revival	1951
b. 5, f. 80, 81	Sahel Famine, West Africa - Lady Bug project	1973-1974
b. 5, f. 82	News excerpts, reports, Fellowship of the Least Coin, etc.	

Series VI: Personal Items and Memorabilia

b. 5, f. 83, 84a	Material re. healing ministries
b. 5, f. 84	Fisher - Picken financial records
b. 5, f. 85	Biographical documentation
b. 5, f. 86, 86a, 87	Poems, quotations, tributes
b. 5, f. 88	Programmes and pamphlets
b. 5, f. 89	Info. re. speaking engagements
b. 6, f. 90, 91	Miscellaneous memorabilia, incl. personal New Testament and Ink/stamp set
b. 12	Miscellaneous diplomas and documents

Series VII: Photographs and Slides

b. 6, f. 92	Lillian Picken
b. 6, f. 93	Lillian Picken with others
b. 6, f. 94	Louise Fisher
b. 6, f. 95	Sumitra Palve
b. 6, f. 96	Wai Yee Ng
b. 6, f. 97-99	Various individuals
b. 6, f. 100	Scenes and sketches
b. 6, f. 100	FEAD Centre (women sewing, making baskets); Osmanabad Vikas Karya; Satara n.d.
b. 8	Slides: Box 1: Fatepursikri and Delhi
b. 8	Slides: Box 2: Vadala?
b. 8	Slides: Box 3: Unidentified - India - groups
b. 8	Slides: Box 4: Nasrapur
b. 9	Slides: Box 5: Nasrapur - individuals and gorups
b. 9	Slides: Box 6: Nasrapur - inc. Bishop Newbiggin, Dr. Laubach
b. 9	Slides: Box 7: Nasrapur Spiritual Life Center: camps, conferences
b. 9	Slides: Box 8: Lillian Picken, groups, scenery
b. 9	Slides: Box 9: South India temples, Nasrapur
b. 9	Slides: Box 10: Taj Mahal
b. 9	Slides: Box 11: Agriculture, primitive homes
b. 10	Slides: Box 12: Satara
b. 10	Slides: Box 13: Satara
b. 10	Slides: Box 14: Satara
b. 10	Slides: Box 15: Satara, with accompanying pages of identification
b. 11	Slides: Box 16: Hawaii, Grand Canyon
b. 11	Slides: Box 17: Honolulu, Hawaii
b. 11	Slides: Box 18: Travel in U.S.

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
Missions -- India
Rural development -- Religious aspects --
Christianity

Names

Fisher, Louise
Picken, Lillian

Corporate Body

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions -- Missions -- India