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Guide to the Duane and Marian Wain Papers

RG 181



Compiled by Dionis Gauvin and Martha Lund Smalley

2002

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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CALL NUMBER: RG 181

CREATOR: Waln, Duane V.

TITLE: Duane and Marian Waln Papers

DATES: 1905-1962

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Journals, correspondence, and mission station "diaries" provide thorough and detailed documentation of work at the Chilessso Station of the ABCFM in Angola from 1905 to 1962. Also of interest in the collection are Duane Waln's papers on the Ovimbundu people and their customs, Umbundu language grammars and dictionaries, writings of the Walns relating to life on Chilessso Station and biographies of the native Christians. Duane and Marian ("Peggy") Waln were American missionaries in Angola from 1929 to 1962, serving primarily at the Chilessso Station of the West Central Africa Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Duane Waln was involved in mission administrative work and evangelism. Peggy Waln's major project at Chilessso Station was founding and running a school for women, which had a home economics program.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.181>

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.181>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Waln family.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Duane and Marian Waln Papers (RG 181), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

The Walns were engaged in language study in Portugal from 1928-1929 before going to the Chillesso Station of the ABCFM West Central Africa Mission, where they served from 1929 to 1962. Duane Victor Waln was acting director of the Currie Institute in Dondi for a brief period, but the Walns were primarily stationed at Chillesso.

Duane was engaged in evangelistic work, but also supervised construction and operation of the mission schools, hospital, and residences. Marian Ingram Waln (known as "Peggy") ran a Home Economics School for women and was much occupied by hospitality for mission colleagues and visitors. The Walns had two sons: Duane, Jr. and Robert.

Scope and Contents

The personal journals, letters, and station diaries contained in this collection provide exceptionally detailed documentation of the life and work of the Walns in Angola. Series I, Writings of Duane Waln, includes his journals from 1930 through 1962 plus material related to his graduate work while on furlough, and a series of biographical sketches of native Christians in Angola. The Writings of Marian ("Peggy") Waln in Series II also include biographical sketches of native women Christians as well as various drafts of talks and articles related to her work in Africa. Series III, Correspondence of Marian ("Peggy") Waln consists primarily of typescript carbons of letters written by her to family members, friends, and supporters in the United States. In particular, letters to women in supporting churches in the U.S. provide detailed accounts of Peggy's work in the field of women's education in Angola. Series IV includes various notes and published materials related to the Ovimbundu people and Umbundu language while Series V includes documentation related to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions work in Angola. Series VI includes writings of a missionary colleague, books about Angola, and samples of the wood of various Angolan trees that Duane Waln collected.

Arrangement

- I. Writings of Duane V. Waln
- II. Writings of Marian ("Peggy") Waln
- III. Correspondence of Marian ("Peggy") Waln
- IV. Ovimbundu/ Umbundu Materials
- V. ABCFM Angola Mission Records
- VI. Collected Materials

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings of Duane V. Waln

b. 1, f. 1	Personal journals / diaries: 8 bound volumes	1930-1941
b. 2, f. 2	Personal journals / diaries: 5 bound volumes	1942-1956
b. 3, f. 3	Personal journals / diaries: 4 bound volumes	1953-1962
b. 4, f. 4	Thesis submitted for M.A., Kennedy School of Missions, Hartford Seminary, Department of Anthropology: "The Economic Life of the Ovimbundu"	1941
b. 4, f. 5	Answers to exam questions: "Problems of the New Africa," "Women's Status in Africa," and "How Christianity Can Become a Way of Life for Africa"	1941, n.d.
b. 4, f. 6	Sketch of African church members and evangelists (in letter to Dr. D. Brewer Eddy)	1942
b. 4, f. 8	Notebook of notes for talks	

Series II: Writings of Marian "Peggy" Waln

b. 4, f. 9	Personal stories of deaconesses and female church members
b. 4, f. 10	Speech, "The Christian Women of Angola," on the event of the World Day of Prayer
b. 4, f. 11	Typescript writings about Africa and the Angola mission
b. 4, f. 12	Typescript writings about the missionary projects of the Chilesso Church
b. 4, f. 13	Typescript writings regarding the women's school and the educational program of mission schools in general
b. 4, f. 14	Typescript and holograph sketches of the life, inhabitants, and projects of Chilesso Station

Series III: Correspondence of Marian "Peggy" Waln

b. 4, f. 15	Primarily to family members in U.S., from Angola	1947-1952
b. 4, f. 16	To family members and friends in the U.S, circular letter, letters re. mission accounts; from Angola	1957 May-Aug
b. 4, f. 17	To/from family, friends, and supporters; to John Reuling, ABCFM	1957 Aug-Sep
b. 4, f. 18-19	Primarily to/from family, friends, and supporters	1957 Oct-1958 Jan
b. 4, f. 20-21	To family, friends, and supporters	1958 Feb-Mar
b. 4, f. 22	Primarily to family, friends, and supporters	1958 May
b. 4, f. 23	Primarily to family, friends, and supporters; to John Reuling, ABCFM	1958 Jun
b. 4, f. 24-27	Primarily to family, friends, and supporters	1958 Jul-Dec
b. 4, f. 28	To/from supporters	1959
b. 4, f. 29-31	Primarily to family, friends, and supporters	1960 Jan-Mar
b. 5, f. 32	Primarily to family, friends, and supporters; to John Reuling, with enclosed description of her work	1960 Apr
b. 5, f. 33-39	Primarily to family, friends, and supporters	1960 May-1962

Series IV: Ovimbundu/Umbundu Materials

b. 5, f. 40	"Notes on the Ovimbundu of Andulo" by Duane Waln
b. 5, f. 41	"Ovimbundu Customs" by Duane Waln
b. 5, f. 42	Sketches of the lives of the Ovimbundu people of Chilesso Station
b. 5, f. 43	Umbundu-English dictionary, E to P
b. 5, f. 44	Umbundu-English dictionary, P to Y
b. 5, f. 45	English-Umbundu dictionary, A to H
b. 5, f. 46	English-Umbundu dictionary, H to Z
b. 5, f. 47	Misc. pages from an Umbundu-English dictionary, Waln's Umbundu grammar notes
b. 5, f. 49	Umbundu grammar
b. 5, f. 50	Umbundu Lessons: Book One
b. 6, f. 51	Umbundu Lessons: Book One
b. 6, f. 53	Hymnal in Portuguese and Umbundu, a biblical history in Umbundu, an edition of Pilgrim's Progress in Umbundu
b. 7, f. 54	"Popular Proverbs" in Umbundu and Portuguese and an Umbundu hymnal

Series V: ABCFM Angola Mission Records

b. 7, f. 55	Misc. papers about Chilesso Station, an American Board publication about mission work in Angola	
b. 7, f. 56	Chilesso Station diaries	1905-1929, 1920-1949
b. 7, f. 56a	Currie Institute, Dondi - record of graduates 1914-1936	

Six: Collected Materials

b. 8, f. 57	Selected Writings by Leona Stukey Tucker (missionary to Angola)
b. 8, f. 58	Books about Angola and Portugal, arranged by author
b. 8, f. 59	Wood samples of Angolan trees collected by Duane V. Waln

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

Mbundu (African people)
Missionaries
Missions -- Angola
Umbundu language

Names

Waln, Duane V.
Waln, Marian

Corporate Body

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions

Contributors

Waln, Duane V.
Waln, Marian