

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Paul and Charlotte Reynolds Papers

RG 193



Compiled by Kathryn Lund and Martha Lund Smalley

2004

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 193

CREATOR: Reynolds, Paul Russell

TITLE: Paul and Charlotte Reynolds Papers

DATES: 1909-2004

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, collected material, and photographs document the lives and work of Paul R. and Charlotte Reynolds. The Reynolds were missionaries in north China, serving under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (1921-1936).

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.193>

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.193>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Robert Reynolds, 2003.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Paul and Charlotte Reynolds Papers (RG 193), 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 |
|-----------------|---|
| 1891 January 15 | ○ Paul R. Reynolds born in Bushnell, IL, son of Othello and Catherine Caldwell Reynolds |
| 1918 | ○ Following education at Wabash College and Ellsworth College, received B.D. from Chicago Theological Seminary |
| 1918-1920 | ○ In YMCA work during World War I and then in the chaplaincy. Spent two years as secretary of Congregational Education Society. |
| 1921 May 30 | ○ Married Charlotte Belknap of Oak Park, graduate of Oberlin College, a social worker. |
| 1921 May 30 | ○ Paul and Charlotte commissioned as missionaries, serving under American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM); supported by Winnetka Congregational Church |
| 1921 October 13 | ○ Went to China |
| 1922-1927 | ○ After a year in Language School in Beijing (Peking), the Reynolds were stationed in Fenzhou (Fenchow), Shanxi (Shansi) Province in Northwest China. Work was in the field of religious education, involving teaching and supervision of work over a large area in Shanxi (Shansi) and Shaanxi (Shensi) provinces. |
| 1927-1928 | ○ Studied at Union Seminary and Columbia University; awarded M.A. Received D.D. from Chicago Theological Seminary. |
| 1928-1935 | ○ Back in China; Chairman of North China Council Committee on Religious Education, representative of the North China Congregational churches on the National Committee of Religious Education. |
| 1936-1953 | ○ While home on furlough and studying at Berea, KY, Paul was made field secretary of Divinity of Christian Education of the Congregational churches. Paul and Charlotte served as secretaries for the Young Adult and Family Life program. |
| 1954-1957 | ○ Served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN and director of Community Center |
| 1957-1958 | ○ Suffered heart attack and was forced to resign positions in Pleasant Hill. |
| 1960- | ○ Paul and Charlotte members of Board of Directors of Southeast Convention of Congregational churches, Board of Trustees of Southern Union College. |
| 1974 October | ○ Paul died. |

Scope and Contents

This collection provides valuable detailed information about the work of missionaries in the North China Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It complements other missionary

papers available at the Yale Divinity Library, including those of Harold Matthews, Winfield McLean, Percy Watson, Ernest and Olivia Ikenberry, Earle and Thelma Ballou, and the Bright family.

Series I, Correspondence, includes letters written by the Reynolds to and from their family members in the United States as well as letters to and from missionary colleagues and friends, and circular letters.

Series II, Writings and Notes, contains articles and papers by Paul and Charlotte as well as writings of others. A series of letters written by Paul for publication in the *Winnetka Weekly Talk* in 1924 provide vivid and detailed descriptions of his activities in China. There are also notes and talks prepared by Paul and Charlotte relating to Fenzhou (Fenchow) and other areas where they visited, Chinese customs, as well as reports on events and meetings.

Series III, Collected Material, is largely related to the ABCFM North China mission, providing "on the ground" information about schools, buildings, conferences, etc. There is a fairly complete run of the mission publication "Fenchow" from the years when the Reynolds were in China, 1922-1936.

Series IV, Biographical Documentation, includes personal documents, autobiographical statements, and clippings. Of particular note is the extensive compilation, "Charlotte and Paul Reynolds - a Chronicle", which was prepared by Jo Reynolds, wife of the Reynolds' son Robert, in 1988. This privately published volume includes excerpts from the journal of Charlotte, excerpts from letters and talks, and editorial comment providing the context for the primary source documents.

The Photographs and Slides of Series V are well identified and provide a glimpse into the everyday life of the missionaries and the schools and hospitals with which they were involved. In addition to loose photographs, there are seven albums of photographs with extensive captions. The final box of this collection contains glass lantern slides of buildings, scenes, transportation, and people in China. These slides were used by the Reynolds when they visited churches in the U.S. to talk about their work in China.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence
- II. Writings and Notes
- III. Collected Material
- IV. Biographical Documentation
- V. Photographs and Slides

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

| Family correspondence | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Charlotte (CBR) and Paul (PRR) to/from parents in U.S. | 1922-1926 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | CBR and PRR to/from parents in U.S. | 1928-1930 Sep |
| b. 1, f. 3 | CBR and PRR to/from parents in U.S. | 1930 Oct - 1936 |
| b. 1, f. 4 | CBR to/from PRR | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 5 | PRR and CBR to their children | 1950s-1970s |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Bob (son) to PRR and CBR | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 7 | CBR and CRR to/from extended family | 1909-1962 |
| General correspondence | | |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Circular letters of the Reynolds | 1924-1956 |
| b. 1, f. 9 | CBR to/from others, incl. Hern, Hemingways | 1926-1954 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | CBR to/from others, incl. "Mother Marie", Pye | 1936-1954 |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Letters to/from colleagues and friends: Adams - Ballou | 1921-1935 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Barbour - Blair | 1922-1935 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Boynton - Burton | 1922-1931 |
| b. 1, f. 14 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Carlson - Cushman | 1922-1948 |
| b. 1, f. 15-19 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Jim Davies | 1921-1934 |
| b. 1, f. 20 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Danforth - Grimes | 1921-1935 |
| b. 2, f. 21-23 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Robert Gammon | 1921-1935 |
| b. 2, f. 24 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Haswell - Luan | 1921-1952 |
| b. 2, f. 25 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Marsh - McDermott | 1921-1935 |
| b. 2, f. 26 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: McKinney - Myers | 1921-1936 |
| b. 2, f. 27 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Nebraska Y.P. - Reimer | 1921-1947 |
| b. 2, f. 28 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Richards - Seabury | 1920-1935 |
| b. 2, f. 29 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Sheldon - Williams | 1921-1936 |
| b. 2, f. 30 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: Winnetka Church | 1921-1936 |
| b. 2, f. 31 | Letters to/from colleagues and supporters: first names and fragments | 1922-1936 |
| Correspondence of others | | |

Correspondence of others (continued)

| | |
|----------------|--|
| b. 2, f. 32 | Letters of others, B - W |
| b. 2, f. 33 | Letters of others, first names and unidentified |
| b. 2, f. 34-36 | Circular letters of missionary colleagues: B-M |
| b. 3, f. 37-38 | Circular letters of missionary colleagues: N - Y |

Series II: Writings and Notes

| Writings of PRR | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| b. 3, f. 40 | Including letters published in <i>Winnetka Weekly Talk</i> "Reynolds Party Reaches Shensi Where Opium Industry Thrives" "Blinding Sand Storm Envelops Winnetka Missionary's Party" "Reynolds Relates Two Thrillers Concerning Bandits' Operations" (1924) Report on Annual Meeting of the Promotional Board of the North China Mission, Lintsing, Shantung (1930) Article in <i>Chinese Recorder</i> : "Religion and Revolution" (1934) Poems | 1924-1934 |
| b. 3, f. 41 | Incl. "Record of a world trip" | n.d. |
| b. 3, f. 42 | Including "Trip to Pingyang and thru the mountains" and report re: Fenzhou (Fenchow) | undated |
| Writings of CBR | | |
| b. 3, f. 43 | Incl. "The Family in China" | n.d. |
| b. 3, f. 44 | Including notes on Fenzhou (Fenchow), Temples, Chinese Festivals, Dramatics | undated |
| b. 3, f. 45 | Notes and writings re. China | n.d. |
| Writings of others | | |
| b. 3, f. 46 | Incl. "A Desperate Struggle" - essay re. communism in China, re. the "Yu Tao Ho Summer Conference Meeting in Shansi Province, North China for preachers, teachers, bible women and hospital assistants" - writings by Ethel Davis, Gertrude Kellogg, Rev. Han, Erwin Hertz, and others | |

Series III: Collected Material

Related to North China Mission (ABCFM)

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| b. 3, f. 47 | Obituaries | |
| b. 3, f. 48 | Mission schools and students | |
| b. 3, f. 49 | Mission buildings, etc. | |
| b. 3, f. 50 | Evangelism reports | |
| b. 3, f. 51 | Conference reports, minutes, misc. | |
| b. 4, f. 52 | Chinese language material | |
| b. 4, f. 53-57 | <i>Fenchow</i> - publication of the Fenzhou (Fenchow) Station, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) | 1922-1936 |
| b. 4, f. 58 | China newsletters | 1947-1963 |
| | Re. China in general | |
| b. 4, f. 59 | Newsclippings | 1922-1950 |
| | Personal items and memorabilia | |
| b. 4, f. 60 | Programs from events | |
| b. 4, f. 61 | Meetings and conferences | |
| b. 4, f. 62 | Cards and collected poems | |
| b. 4, f. 63 | Tributes to and reminiscences of Charlotte's mother | |
| b. 4, f. 64 | Biblical scrapbook by children | |
| b. 4, f. 65 | Miscellaneous items | |

Series IV: Biographical Documentation

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| b. 5, f. 67 | Personal histories, ordination, commissioning to China, other services, obituary | |
| b. 5, f. 68 | Documents - military, wills, insurance, etc. | |
| b. 5, f. 69 | Births and dedications of children; death of Happy | |
| b. 5, f. 70 | Memoirs of Robert B. Reynolds, Sr., son of CBR and PRR | 2004 |
| b. 5, f. 71 | Newsclippings re. Reynolds; misc. re. life in China, including scripts for Christmas plays, church services | 1929-1934 |
| b. 5, f. 72 | "Charlotte and Paul Reynolds - A Chronicle" compiled and edited by Jo Reynolds | 1988 |

Series V: Photographs and Slides

Photographs

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 5, f. 73 | Reynolds family | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 5, f. 74 | Missionary friends and others; hospital | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 5, f. 75 | Mission schools and students | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 5, f. 76 | Chinese families and groups | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 5, f. 77 | Occupations, transportation, processions | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 5, f. 78 | Church-related, buildings | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 6, f. 79 | Album: Catherine S. Harwood Bible Training School, Fenzhou, Shanxi (Fenchow, Shani): including photographs re: Woolwork Department, Agricultural Department, Department of Animal Husbandry, Nursery Department, Religious Education projects, Social Service projects | circa 1936-1937 |
| b. 6, f. 80 | Album: Fenzhou (Fenchow) - scenes from area, Fenchow Hospital, Harwood Hospital, Girls School, Anti-Opium Day | circa 1924-1926 |
| b. 6, f. 81 | Album: Fenzhou (Fenchow), Book I : scenes from area - transportation, cave homes, Chinese groups, etc. | circa 1920s |
| b. 6, f. 82 | Album: Fenzhou (Fenchow), Book II: scenes from area - village life, transportation, etc. | circa 1920s |
| b. 6, f. 83 | Small albums: Lydia Lord Davis Girls School, Fenzhou (Fenchow) YMCA, Ming I Memorial High School | circa 1922-1936 |
| b. 7, f. 85 | Album: travels, Chinese people, animals | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 7, f. 86-87 | Groups - some with Reynolds | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 7, f. 88 | Chinese family groups | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 7, f. 89 | Individual Chinese young men | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 7, f. 90 | School and assorted groups | ca. 1922-1936 |
| b. 7, f. 91 | Chinese wedding and scenes | ca. 1922-1936 |

Slides

| | | |
|------|--|---------------|
| b. 8 | Glass lantern slides - buildings, scenes, transportation, groups | ca. 1922-1936 |
|------|--|---------------|

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 -- China

Names

Reynolds, Charlotte Belknap
Reynolds, Paul Russell

Corporate Body

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions

Contributors

Reynolds, Paul Russell
Reynolds, Charlotte Belknap