

# Guide to the Leonard and Marjorie Caldwell Papers

RG 217



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2009

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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  
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 217

**CREATOR:** Caldwell, Leonard Hathaway

**TITLE:** Leonard and Marjorie Caldwell Papers

**DATES:** 1921-1983

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection consists of personal letters, a diary, oral history transcript, printed material, photographs, and memorabilia dating primarily from 1921 to 1926 when Leonard Caldwell was teaching math and physics at the University of Nanking. Caldwell, a Yale graduate, worked as a civil engineer in the U.S. following his return from China. Marjorie Caldwell was a librarian, as well as missionary wife and mother.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.217>

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## 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.217>.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Polly Caldwell, 2008

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University

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## Preferred Citation

Leonard and Marjorie Caldwell Papers (RG 217), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

### Chronology

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1894 Jan 29        | ○ Leonard Hathaway Caldwell born in Jacksonville, FL.   |
| 1895 Jun 29        | ○ Marjorie Russell Rockwood born in Franklin, MA.   |
| 1915               | ○ LHC graduated from Yale University, Sheffield Scientific School, PhB in Civil Engineering with honors.  |
| 1915-1916          | ○ LHC did one year of postgraduate work in Sanitary Engineering at Yale.  |
| 1917Dec-1919 Jul   | ○ LHC served in the U.S. Army, Co. K., 23rd Corps of Engineers, A.E.F. in France.   |
| 1918               | ○ MRR graduated from Simmons College, BS in Library Science.  |
| 1918-1921          | ○ MRR worked as a library first in Williamstown, MA and from 1919 to 1921 Jul 31 in New Haven, CT.  |
| 1920 Fall          | ○ LHC entered Yale School of Religion.  |
| 1921 Sep 5         | ○ LHC and MRR were married and departed immediately for China.  |
| 1921 Oct - 1926Jun | ○ LHC taught at the University of Nanking, initially as head of the Physics department. He also taught math, geology, engineering/surveying.  |
| 1921-1926          | ○ While in Nanking, MRRC served primarily as a missionary wife, and gave birth to three sons. She also taught a YMCA English conversation course, started a book-reading circle with Pearl Buck and other women in Nanking, and served the libraries of the University of Nanking and Ginling College. The Caldwells lived with the Bucks when they first arrived in Nanking. |
| 1927-1929          | ○ LHC worked for Atlanta, GA Contruction Department.  |
| 1929-1931          | ○ LHC worked for Aerotopograph Corporation of America, Washington, DC.  |
| 1932-1938          | ○ LHC worked for U.S. Corps of Engineers research unit in Dayton, OH.   |
| 1938-1947          | ○ LHC worked for Multi-plex Mapping Section of United States Engineers District Office in Little Rock, AR.  |
| 1947-1951          | ○ LHC was in private practice.  |
| 1940s-1977         | ○ MRRC returned to work as a librarian in Little Rock, AR.  |
| 1957 Jul 13        | ○ LHC died in Little Rock, AR.  |
| 1990 Jul 20        | ○ MRRC died in Seattle, WA.   |

See Box 1, Folder 8 for more detailed biographical information.

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## Scope and Contents

Although the Caldwells were in China for less than five years, this collection provides an excellent snapshot of many aspects of the life and work of missionaries. Early letters from Leonard to Marjorie deal with the decision to go to China immediately after their marriage and the concerns of Marjorie's parents. Later letters from the summer of 1925 provide detailed descriptions of Leonard's surveying trip in the Lushan countryside. Marjorie's letters to friends in the U.S. give insight into the daily life of a missionary wife and mother. Typed transcripts of these letters have been prepared by the Caldwells' granddaughter Polly Caldwell. The Caldwells kept in touch with various Nanking missionary colleagues after their return to the U.S. and received letters describing their activities. A diary for 1922, written jointly by Leonard and Marjorie, provides a very detailed day-by-day account of their activities, including Leonard's teaching at the University of Nanking, Marjorie's daily activities, and their Chinese language study. A typed transcript is also available for this diary. The transcript of an oral history interview conducted with Marjorie in 1983 provides additional detailed information about her time in China. Well-identified photographs document a Chinese home, fishing, housing, and other subjects. Collected material includes religious tracts in Chinese and information about the University of Nanking.

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## Arrangement

- Series I: Correspondence, 1921-1942
- Series II: Writings and Notes, ca. 1942, n.d.
- Series III: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1921-1983

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1921-1942

This series is divided into two sections:

Family letters  
Letters to/from others

Family letters		
b. 1, f. 1	Letters from Leonard to Marjorie, postcard to her mother - with typed transcripts  This folder also contains the detailed inventory of the papers prepared by Polly Caldwell.	1921 Aug-Sep
b. 1, f. 2	Letters from Leonard to Marjorie while on trip to Ma Wei Shun and Guling (Kuling); letters from Marjorie to Leonard, fragment - with typed transcripts	1925
Letters to/from others		
b. 1, f. 3	A-H, including Dorothy Annable, Florence Hamilton - with typed transcripts of letters written by Marjorie	1921-1927
b. 1, f. 4	I-S, including Bernice Illick, Albert and Celia Steward, George T. Scott	1930-1942
b. 1, f. 5	U-W, incl. Florence Webster, University of Nanking	1921-1940

**Series II: Writings and Notes, ca. 1942, n.d.**

b. 1, f. 6	By Leonard Caldwell: "Superstitions in China"; "Educational Missions in China"; "The Chinese People"	ca. 1942, n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	By others: incl. "Chinese New Year Customs" by Dr. Macklin and Dr. Gia; unidentified notes; pamphlet by Pearl Buck "Can the Church Lead?"	n.d.

**Series III: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1921-1983**

## Biographical Information

b. 1, f. 8	Incl. newsclippings re. Caldwells, typed "Biographical Highlights" sheets for LHC and MRRC; LHC passport	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9-10	Original and typed transcript of detailed day-by-day diary written by LHC and MRRC	1922
b. 1, f. 11	Typed transcript of oral interview of MRRC, conducted by her son Robert	1983

## Photographs

b. 1, f. 12	Loose photographs #1-21 Photos include a baby tower, funeral procession, Chinese farmers, group photos of Chinese and missionaries incl. Celia Steward and Marjorie Caldwell, Lossing Buck and children, etc. A detailed listing is available in the inventory of the papers located in Box 1 Folder 1.	
b. 1, f. 13	Loose photographs #22-50 Photos include houses, landscapes, Ming Tombs, group photos and portraits incl. Leonard Caldwell, Language School teachers. A detailed listing is available in the inventory of the papers located in Box 1 Folder 1.	
b. 1, f. 14	Loose photographs #51-57 Photos include Summer and Winter Palaces, Beijing (Peking), Chinese scholar in cell of Examination Hall, temple scenes, water buffalo, Caldwell family. A detailed listing is available in the inventory of the papers located in Box 1 Folder 1.	
b. 1, f. 15	Album pages with photographs labeled "At Home with a Chinese Family", "Burden Bearers", "Country Life in China", "Fishing", "Homes", "Rice Planting", "Some of China's Gods", "Typical Street Scenes in Nanking in 1927"	
b. 1, f. 16	Matted photo of Marjorie Caldwell with son Ralph and a Chinese woman	1923
b. 1, f. 17	Matted photos of YMCA teachers, Physics faculty of University of Nanking	1921-1925

## Collected Material

b. 1, f. 18	Seven religious tracts in Chinese with pictures of New Testament stories, published by the Literature Department, Stewart Evangelistic Fund; three large colored woodcuts of Chinese gods; simplified map of Beijing (Peking)	undated
b. 1, f. 19	University of Nanking Handbook; Chinese newspaper	1924
b. 2, f. 20	University of Nanking newsletters	1927-1946
b. 2, f. 21	Newsletters and articles about China, including "China at War" by Dr. T. F. Tsiang, "Faced with Death All Day" - account of Rev. Dr. Frank Price's survival during Nanking incident, "Did Marshall Feng Act Rightly" by George T. B. Davis	1928-1946
b. 2, f. 22	Memorabilia from ship voyage back from China on Dollar Steamship Line, greeting cards, envelopes	1926, n.d.



## Collected Material (continued)

b. 2, f. 23	Booklets: "Nanking Directory of Foreign Residents, Etc. and Handbook of Useful Information" [1923], "Romanization of Chinese Personal Names" by Guy W. Sarvis; Language School lesson; notes; "Alphabetical List of [University of Nanking] Students and Faculty in the Junior and Senior Colleges, Fall, 1922"	1922-1924, n.d.
b. 2, f. 24	Booklets and newsletters: "The Nanking Bulletin of Church and Community" [1926 Jun 12], "Agriculture and Forestry Notes, University of Nanking" [1932 Jun], "From the Looms and the Homes of China" [n.d., published by the Woman's Auxiliary of the University of Nanking - catalog of Chinese crafts for sale], "The China Magazine" [1947 Apr], "When the Methodists Came to China" [ca.1948],	1926-1948, n.d.
b. 2, f. 25-28	University of Nanking, Department of Missionary Training, Special Class for Housewives - Lessons 1-18 [Chinese language lessons for interacting with servants, tradesmen, etc.]	n.d.
b. 2, f. 29	Book: <i>Historic Lushan: the Kuling Mountains</i>	1921
b. 2, f. 30	<i>Geography of China</i> by Horatio B. Hawkins	1913
b. 2, f. 31	<i>Madame Chiang's Messages in War and Peace - War Messages and Other Selections</i> by May-ling Soong Chiang	ca. 1938
b. 3, f. 32	<i>The Linguist</i> - publication of the Student Body of the Nanking Language School of the Department of Missionary Training, University of Nanking - 6 volumes	1922-1926

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## **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**

Caldwell, Marjorie

### **Corporate Body**

Jinling da xue. Nong ye jing ji xi