

# Guide to the Hugh Rechnitzer Papers

MS 1142



Compiled by Ruth Gay

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Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1142

**CREATOR:** Rechnitzer, Hugh, 1850-1906

**TITLE:** Hugh Rechnitzer papers

**DATES:** 1889-1906

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Chiefly photographs of China, ca. 1900-1905, some made during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. Also photographs of Indonesia, Japan, Java, Singapore, and Vietnam where Rechnitzer traveled on business. There is also a small amount of family correspondence, personal photographs, and memorabilia.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1142>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1142>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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 Robert Mahler in 1979.

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## Preferred Citation

Hugh Rechnitzer Papers (MS 1142). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Hugh Rechnitzer: Austrian chemist who emigrated to New York in 1899; in 1900 went to Shanghai for the export-import firm of Charles Stürmann, and also travelled to Java.

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## Scope and Contents

Hugh Rechnitzer was an Austrian chemist who emigrated to New York in 1899. In 1900 he went to Shanghai as a member of the import-export firm of Charles Stürmann and traveled under the firm's auspices to Java in 1901, returning to Shanghai in 1902. He died on July 2, 1906 following an operation in Shanghai.\*

The major part of the collection is made up of 510 photographs (ca. 1900-1905) taken by Hugh Rechnitzer while on business in China, Indonesia, Japan, Java, Singapore and Vietnam. Aside from a small number of personal photographs showing Rechnitzer with friends and associates on business and pleasure trips, and an interesting group documenting daily life in China, the bulk of the pictures record scenes of the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, showing the deployment and action of the foreign troops which ultimately suppressed the rebellion. The nations whose forces are shown in the photographs are France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Italy, Russia and the United States. Of particular interest are the photographs showing troops in action, such as the German navy bombing the Chinese fort at Taku in the Gulf of Chihli, or Chinese troops with the beheaded bodies of their enemies.

Rechnitzer was able to enter Peking, previously barred to foreigners, after a combined international force took the city and the Chinese court fled on August 14, 1900. His forty-eight snapshots of Peking show famous landmarks such as the Summer Palace and the Great Pagoda, European military forces in the city and street scenes.

\* Sources: D. Paul Amara (Y.1981) "Library given collection of Boxer Rebellion photos," *Yale Weekly Bulletin and Calender*, Sept. 1-8, 1980, p.2, and the Papers.

The photographs are arranged alphabetically by place and are further identified by Rechnitzer's annotations on the verso in English or German. A small amount of family and business correspondence, bills and memorabilia complete the collection.

In 1979, Robert Mahler of New York City, a great-nephew of Hugh Rechnitzer, donated the photographs and papers to the Yale University Library.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1889-1906, undated

11" (2 boxes)

	Photographs	(ca.1900-1905)
b. 1, f. 1	Batavia	
b. 1, f. 2	Canada	
	China	
b. 1, f. 3	Buildings, temples, unidentified	
b. 1, f. 4	Harbor, river scenes	
b. 1, f. 5	Industry - Gun factory of Chan Chi Teng	
b. 1, f. 6	Military scenes - Unidentified	
b. 1, f. 7	Persons, unidentified	
b. 1, f. 8	Street scenes	
b. 1, f. 9	Railroad scenes	
b. 1, f. 10	Views, unidentified	
b. 1, f. 11	Work scenes	
b. 1, f. 12	Chinese troops	
b. 1, f. 13	U.S. troops	
b. 1, f. 14	German troops	
b. 1, f. 15	French troops	
b. 1, f. 16	Indian troops	
b. 1, f. 17	Italian troops	
b. 1, f. 18	Russian troops	
b. 1, f. 19	Chefoo	
b. 1, f. 20	Chiangkiang, Chiangwan	
b. 1, f. 21	Foochow	
b. 1, f. 22	Hankow	
b. 1, f. 23	Hangyang	
b. 1, f. 24	Hoang-ho	
b. 1, f. 25	Hong Kong	

## Photographs &gt; China (continued)

b. 1, f. 26	Hsiling	
b. 1, f. 27	Hupee (Province)	
b. 1, f. 28	Kinkiang	
b. 1, f. 29	Nanking	
b. 1, f. 30	Ngankin, Pei-tai-ho	
b. 1, f. 31	Peitang	
b. 1, f. 32	Peking	
b. 1, f. 33	Shanghai	
b. 1, f. 34	Taku	
b. 1, f. 35	Tientsin See also: <a href="#">box 1, folder 14</a>	
b. 1, f. 36	Tong Ku	
b. 1, f. 37	Woosung, Wuhu	
b. 1, f. 38	Yangtse River, Yangsten	
b. 1, f. 39	Yellow River	
b. 1, f. 40	Indonesia - Bogor (Buitensorg)	
b. 1, f. 41	Japan	
b. 1, f. 42	Java - Semarang	
b. 1, f. 43	New York (City)	
b. 1, f. 44	Singapore	
b. 1, f. 45	Vietnam - Saigon	
b. 1, f. 46	Unidentified	
b. 1, f. 47	Rechnitzer and friends on a trip. Views of buildings etc. Not otherwise identified	
b. 1, f. 48	Rechnitzer friends	
<u>Personal Papers</u>		
b. 2, f. 1	Death notices	1906
b. 2, f. 2	Memorabilia	undated
b. 2, f. 3	Passport	1905
b. 2, f. 4	Bills	1900-1904
b. 2, f. 5	Correspondence	1889-1902

Personal Papers (continued)

b. 2, f. 6

Postcards

undated

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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**

Americans -- China

### **Geographic Names**

Asia

China -- History -- Boxer Rebellion, 1899-1901

Indonesia

Japan

Java (Indonesia)

Singapore

Vietnam

### **Genres / Formats**

Photoprints

### **Names**

Rechnitzer, Hugh, 1850-1906