

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Hugh Hubbard Papers

RG 137



Compiled by Shelly Rambo and Martha Lund Smalley

2000, 2015

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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 137

CREATOR: Hubbard, Hugh W.

TITLE: Hugh Hubbard Papers

DATES: 1943-1974

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 linear feet (15 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, and collected material document the life and work of Hubbard. Hugh W. Hubbard was an American missionary serving in North China under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.137>

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.137>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Hubbard family.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Hugh Hubbard Papers (RG 137), 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

Hugh Hubbard was born in Turkey of missionary parents. He was educated in Switzerland and received a B.A. from Amherst College, from which he also later received a D.D. In 1908 Hubbard accepted a short term appointment under the YMCA to Tianjin (Tientsin), China, where he served as a teacher and athletic coach. There he met Mabel Ellis, who was serving under the Women's Board of Missions. Returning to the U.S., Hugh attended Oberlin Seminary, married Mabel Ellis, and returned to China in 1913 under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The Hubbards had four children.

A 1959 tribute to the Hubbards describes their mission work in China as follows: "Assigned to Paoting, the Hubbards began at once to seek for more effective ways of carrying the Good News into all areas of life throughout that station's exceptionally large rural field. Some years later it was the marked success of literacy campaigns in the Paoting field which led Dr. James Yen of "Thousand Character" fame to select one of its county seats as the headquarters of the Mass Education Movement. "The Christian Farmer," a magazine for new literates, was another achievement, as was the North China Christian Rural Service Union, later described by the Agricultural Missions Foundation as the most significant advance in rural evangelism in a quarter of a century. The National Christian Council requisitioned Hugh's services for a time to promote nation-wide literacy efforts; and the Fan Family Village Experiment in evangelism was showing great promise when interrupted by the Japanese invasion of 1937. Pearl Harbor caught Dr. Hubbard serving as Executive Secretary of the Church and Missions. But two years of life in an internment camp only gave their talents for leadership opportunities of a different sort. The Hubbards had barely returned from a post-war furlough when in 1947 Hugh was again requisitioned, this time by UNESCO, to direct for two years a pilot project in Fundamental Education. The Hubbards were the last American Board family to leave China after Communist control was established, staying by under increasing limitations until April 1952...."

"Hugh was an ardent hunter, one of the best tennis players in North China, and as an ornithologist published in collaboration with Dr. George Wilder the best handbook on the birds of North China. Both Hubbards had exceptional command of the Chinese language, written and spoken."

Hugh and Mabel Hubbard worked for the American Board Office of Communication following their return from China. They retired in January, 1958. Additional biographical documentation can be found in Series II.

Scope and Contents

[I. Correspondence](#)

[II. Biographical Documentation](#)

[III. Writings](#)

[IV. Subject Files](#)

Though a collection of this size cannot do full justice to the wide range of activities undertaken by Hugh Hubbard during his many years of service in China, the letters, writings, and collected material contained here provide an interesting glimpse into his life and work. These papers are complemented by papers of other American Board missionaries held by the Yale Divinity Library, as well as by the American Board archives on microfilm, and its periodical, pamphlet, and report literature.

A monograph that Hubbard contributed to *The Healthy Village; an Experiment in Visual Education in West China* is available in the Library's cataloged collection.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence
- II. Biographical Documentation
- III. Writings
- IV. Subject Files

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

Family correspondence

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b. 1, f. 2	Hubbard, Crescens and Julia
b. 1, f. 3	Hubbard, Dave and Sterl (Grandsons)
b. 1, f. 4	Hubbard, Emma Rose (daughter)
b. 1, f. 5	Hubbard, Emma Spenser (mother)
b. 1, f. 6	Hubbard, Gladys and Lloyd (Swift)
b. 1, f. 7	Hubbard, Gladys and Lloyd (Swift)
b. 1, f. 8	Swift, Larry and Marilee (grandson)
b. 1, f. 9	Hubbard, Mabel
b. 1, f. 10	Hubbard, Martin (nephew)
b. 1, f. 11	Hubbard, Nan (Sister-in-law)
b. 1, f. 12	Hubbards (Peel, Faith, Spenser, etc.)
b. 1, f. 13	Hubbard, Theodore and Ruth
b. 1, f. 14	Hubbard, Ward and Arline
b. 1, f. 15	Swift, Alan (grandson)
b. 1, f. 16	Swift, Eric (grandson)
b. 1, f. 17	Swift, Jon (grandson)
b. 1, f. 18	Hubbard, general family, miscellaneous

General Correspondence

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b. 2, f. 22	Babcock, Everitt	
b. 2, f. 23	Baily, Harold -- Ballou, Earle	
b. 2, f. 24	Barnes -- Barnett	
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b. 2, f. 32	Cary -- Chandler
b. 2, f. 33	Chang
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b. 2, f. 35	Chuan -- Clack
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b. 2, f. 51	Foto -- Fowle
b. 2, f. 52	Franzen -- F (misc)
b. 2, f. 53	Gallup -- Goodrich
b. 2, f. 54	Guest -- G (misc.)
b. 3, f. 55	Galt

General Correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 56	Goodsell -- Grant
b. 3, f. 57	Greater -- Gregorian
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b. 3, f. 61	Harvey -- Hausske
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b. 3, f. 63	Hayford -- Hazleton
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b. 3, f. 76	Huggins
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b. 3, f. 78	Writings: Hunter, J.A.
b. 3, f. 79	Correspondence: Hunter, J.A.
b. 3, f. 80	Hunter, J.A., includes pictures
b. 3, f. 81	Ih-Chi -- Isaacs
b. 3, f. 82	Jack -- Jacques
b. 3, f. 83	deJaegher, incl. photos
b. 3, f. 84	Jenkins, Alfred
b. 3, f. 85	deJaegher -- Judd
b. 3, f. 86	J
b. 4, f. 87	Kandle -- Kang
b. 4, f. 88	Kattwinkel -- Kees

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b. 4, f. 90	Kelly -- Kenco
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b. 4, f. 118	Menge -- Mersereau
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b. 4, f. 120	Meyers -- Mills
b. 4, f. 121	Miller -- Mook
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b. 4, f. 127	North -- Nystrom
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b. 4, f. 129	Orr -- Owyang
b. 4, f. 130	Parker -- Peabody
b. 4, f. 131	Peake -- Pennsylvania
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b. 8, f. 213	North China Mission History
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b. 8, f. 217	Sermons and Speeches
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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

Missions -- China

Names

Hubbard, Hugh W.

Corporate Body

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions -- China