

# Guide to the Chester and Phebe Fuson Papers

RG 143



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1998

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

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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 143

**CREATOR:** Fuson, Chester Garfield, 1881-1965

**TITLE:** Chester and Phebe Fuson Papers

**DATES:** 1905-1965

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters, writings, collected material, and photos document religious work and political conditions in South China from 1905 to 1929. Chester Garfield and Phebe Meeker Fuson were American Presbyterian missionaries in South China from 1905 to 1929. Chester Fuson taught at Canton Christian College (later Lingnan University) from 1905 to 1917. Thereafter he was an administrator and educator for the South China Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.143>

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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.143>.

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 William Fuson.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Chester and Phebe Fuson Papers (RG 143), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## 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)".

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## Biographical / Historical

### Chester Fuson

- 1881                   ○ Born in Wakeeney, Kansas
- 1905                   ○ B.A., College of Emporia
- 1905-1917           ○ Taught at Canton Christian College (later known as Lingnan University)
- 1908-1909           ○ Accompanied American scientist on magnetic survey, traveling 5,500 miles from Beijing (Peiping) through Henan (Honan), Shaanxi (Shensi), Gansu (Kansu), Xinjiang (Sinkiang), over the Kunlun (Kwenlun) and Himalaya mountains to India. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society for participation in this survey.
- 1909                   ○ Married Phebe Meeker. Children: Ben, Nelson, William.
- 1917                   ○ Appointed by Board of Foreign Missions of Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to serve its South China Mission. While in Guangzhou (Canton), Chester Fuson was Executive Secretary of the Board of Primary Education of the provincial Christian Education Association and was on the faculty of Pui Ying Middle School as Director of Teacher Training.
- 1924                   ○ Ordained by Topeka Presbytery
- 1930                   ○ Litt. D., College of Emporia
- 1938                   ○ Transferred to Lianzhou (Linhsien/Linchow) where Chester Fuson aided in educational work, was in charge of country churches and was acting superintendent of the Linhsien Hospital from 1941 on. He was South China Mission Executive Secretary until furlough in 1944.
- 1946                   ○ Returned to Lianzhou (Linhsien) following furlough; was active in relief and rehabilitation work.
- 1949                   ○ Retired
- 1965                   ○ Died in Duarte, California

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## Scope and Contents

The Fuson Papers provide valuable documentation of religious and political conditions in South China from 1905 to 1949. The family correspondence in Series I includes more than 200 letters from Chester and Phebe Fuson to their sons and other family members; it is most substantive for the years 1938 to 1940. General correspondence includes printed and typescript report letters, early letters to the Trustees of Canton Christian College (1906-1908) that are particularly interesting for their descriptions of College athletic activities, correspondence with members of the First Presbyterian Church of Pueblo, Colorado,

which supported CGF as its foreign pastor, and miscellaneous other correspondence to or from the Fusons. Writings by the Fusons, collected material and memorabilia provide additional documentation of their life and work in South China.

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## **Arrangement**

- I. Correspondence, 1906-1950
- II. Writings, 1905-1940, n.d.
- III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1915-1965, n.d.
- IV. Collected Material, 1924-1949, n.d.
- V. Addendum, 1907-1959, n.d.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1906-1950

Family correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	Letters	1918, 1934-1935
b. 1, f. 2-10	Letters	1938-1949
General correspondence		
b. 1, f. 11-18	Letters	1906-1948, n.d.

**Series II: Writings, 1905-1940, n.d**

Of Chester Fuson		
b. 2, f. 19	Account of first trip into Guangzhou (Canton) city	1905
b. 2, f. 19	Account of village clan fights near CCC campus	1908
b. 2, f. 19	"First Book in Geography"	c.1910-1915
b. 2, f. 19	Narrative of 2nd South China track meet held in Guangzhou (Canton) including CCC and many other schools	1907
b. 2, f. 19	Narrative of expedition from Guangzhou (Canton) to Lianzhou (Linh sien)	1907
b. 2, f. 19	Untitled	1918
b. 2, f. 19	"The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Pui Ying Middle School"	1931
b. 2, f. 19	"Linh sien Station Report"	1939
b. 2, f. 20	"Interesting Developments Due to War Conditions"	1940
b. 2, f. 20	"When Christ Came to China"	1945
b. 2, f. 20	"An Incident in the Jap-Chinese War"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 20	"The Orphan of Chau"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 20	"Lovest Thou Me"	n.d.
Of Phebe Meeker Fuson		
b. 2, f. 21	"Calls in Canton"	1924
b. 2, f. 21	"If You Were Bombed-?"	1938
b. 2, f. 21	"Personal Report of Mrs. Chester G. Fuson"	1939
b. 2, f. 21	"In a Sedan Chair"	1940
Anonymous		
b. 2, f. 22	"The First Protestant Martyr in China"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 22	"Light Out of Darkness" (a skit)	n.d.

**Series III: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1915-1965, n.d.**

b. 2, f. 23	Autobiography of CGF (183 p.)	1952
b. 2, f. 24	Autobiographical sketch	n.d
b. 2, f. 24	Farewell messages to Fusons on their retirement	1949
b. 2, f. 24	Miscellaneous personal memoranda (incl. financial statement and instructions regarding burial)	1950-1955
b. 2, f. 24	Memorial Minute regarding CGF	1965
b. 2, f. 25	Miscellaneous printed items that document the work of the Fusons	1915-1960



**Series IV: Collected Material, 1924-1949, n.d.**

b. 2, f. 26	Photograph of Linhsien Presbytery	1949
b. 2, f. 26	Canton Station report	1924
b. 2, f. 26	South China Mission report	1935
b. 2, f. 26	Lianzhou (Linchow) Station report	1935
b. 2, f. 26	Ming Sum School for the Blind, Guangzhou (Canton) - report	1938
b. 2, f. 26	Circular letters, bulletins	1938-1940
b. 2, f. 26	Unidentified Chinese language material	n.d.

**Series V: Addendum, 1907-1959, n.d.**

b. 3, f. 27	Letters to family from Fusons, incl. written from Manila, Hong Kong	1938
b. 3, f. 28-29	Letters to family from Fusons, written from Lianzhou (Linchow and Linhsien)	1939-1949, undated
b. 3, f. 30	Letters to Fusons: from Chinese friend, farewell letters from church and hospital, and from a leper	1943, 1949
b. 3, f. 31	Letters from Fusons to churches in U.S. and "Dear Friends"; circular letters of other missionaries, incl. from Florence Meeker Raetz, who was in charge of Door of Hope Mission, Guangzhou (Canton)	1927-1951
b. 3, f. 32	Writings by Chester Fuson: "A Trip to Loh Fau Mountain"; "A Modern Chinese Wedding"; "Three Weeks in Kwangtung and Kwangsi"	1907, ca. 1920s, 1935
b. 3, f. 33	Writings by Fusons: "The Taai Cheung Ling Paai (Aborigine settlement)"; Station report; "A Trip to Macao"	ca. 1938-1948, n.d.
b. 3, f. 34	Autobiographical writings by Chinese students	n.d.
b. 3, f. 35	"Literary Grandmothers" by E. Marshall; "Principal's Report" by Wan Kam Ming (Pui Ying Middle School in Hong Kong)	1959, n.d.
b. 3, f. 36	Photocopied selections from autograph book of Phebe Fuson, with explanatory notes by son William M. Fuson; program from memorial meeting for Mrs. Van Etten, Lianzhou (Linchow)	circa 1938-1940
b. 3, f. 37	Photographs (loose) - including Canton Christian College staff, Presbyterian mission staff, Bible study group, Canton Christian College soccer team, Sunday School group photo, students, Christmas play, illustrations of Robert Morrison	1905-1933, undated
b. 3, f. 38	Photographs (matted) - including first year high school class at Canton Christian College, faculty of Pui Ying School, Chinese teachers' wives, modern Chinese wedding	1905-1920, undated
b. 3, f. 39	Photograph of mission staff and children on occasion of Machle retirement, with sheet providing identification of all	1928
b. OVd1	Oversize panoramic photo of students and staff of Union Normal School, Guangzhou (Canton)	1930s

## **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  
Presbyterian Church -- Missions -- China

### **Names**

Fuson, Chester Garfield, 1881-1965  
Fuson, Phebe

### **Corporate Body**

Canton Christian College