

# Guide to the Lewis and Lois Gilbert Papers

RG 144



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1998, 2010

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 144

**CREATOR:** Gilbert, Lewis Loder, 1898-1978

**TITLE:** Lewis and Lois Gilbert Papers

**DATES:** 1925-1980

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters and photographs provide documentation of religious and political conditions in North China from 1929 to 1941 and document Lewis Gilbert's work at Yali 1925-1926. Lewis and Lois Gilbert were missionaries in North China from 1929 to 1941 serving under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Lewis Gilbert was also an instructor at Yali, Yale-in-China, Changsha from 1925 to 1926.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.144>

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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.144>.

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 Josephine Cowin Gilbert.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Lewis and Lois Gilbert Papers (RG 144), 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

Date	Event
1898	○ Lewis Loder Gilbert born in New Haven, CT
1920	○ Graduated from Wesleyan University
1923	○ B.D., Yale Divinity School
1924	○ Married Lois Chandler
1925	○ Went to China as instructor in Religion at Yali, Yale-in-China, Changsha, Hunan Province
1927-1929	○ Enforced home visit
1929	○ Returned to China, attending language school in Beijing (Peking), and then serving the ABCFM in Linqing (Lintsing) and Tehchow
1935-1936	○ Furlough
1936-1941	○ Work in Dezhou (Tehchow), Tianjin (Tientsin), Tongzhou (T'ungchow)
1946	○ Plans to return to China as professor of New Testament at Cheeloo University were abandoned because of health problem. Gilbert was involved in UCC work in Ohio, Vermont and Massachusetts until his retirement.
1969	○ Lois Chandler Gilbert died
1970	○ Married Josephine Cowin
1978	○ Died in Oberlin, Ohio

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## Scope and Contents

The Gilbert papers provide valuable documentation of religious and political conditions in North China from 1929 to 1941, and document Lewis' work at Yali, 1925-1926. The original handwritten or typed letters of Series I are primarily from Lewis and Lois Gilbert in China to their families in the U.S. The bound letter copybooks of Series II contain primarily letters from Lewis Gilbert to family members. A few of the earlier volumes also include listings of headlines from Chinese newspapers. The bound volumes of correspondence of Series III were edited and compiled by Josephine Cowin Gilbert and have photographic illustrations interspersed.

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## Arrangement

I. Original Letters, 1925-1941

- II. Letter Copybooks, 1937-1941
- III. Compiled Volumes, 1925-1980
- IV. Biographical Documentation, 1925-1926, n.d.
- V. Addendum: 2010, 1925-1946, n.d.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Original Letters, 1925-1941

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b. 1, f. 1-12	Primarily from Lewis and Lois Gilbert in China to their families in the U.S	1925 Aug-1934 Mar
b. 2, f. 1-5	Primarily from Lewis and Lois Gilbert in China to their families in the U.S	1935 Jan - 1941 Apr

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**Series II: Letter Copybooks, 1937-1941**

b. 2, f. 6	Volume 1	1937 May-Aug
b. 2, f. 6	Volume 2	1937 Aug-Dec
b. 2, f. 7	Volume 3	1937 Dec - 1938 Jul
b. 2, f. 7	Volume 4	1938 Jul-Dec
b. 2, f. 8	Volume 5	1938 Dec - 1939 Jun
b. 2, f. 8	Volume 6	1929 Jun - 1940 Jan
b. 2, f. 9	Volume 7	1940 Jan-Sep
b. 3, f. 1	Volume 8	1940 Sep - 1941 May

**Series III: Compiled Volumes, 1925-1980**

b. 3	Volume I. Changsha	1925
b. 3	Volume II. Changsha	1926
b. 3	Volume III. Beijing (Peking)	1929-1930
b. 3	Volume IV. Linqing (Lintsing)	1930-1931
b. 3	Volume V. Linqing (Lintsing)	1931-1932
b. 3	Volume VI. Linqing (Lintsing)	1932
b. 3	Volume VII. Linqing (Lintsing)	1933
b. 3	Volume VIII. Tehchow	1934
b. 4	Volume IX. Tehchow	1934
b. 4	Volume X. Tehchow	1936-1937
b. 4	Volume XI. Tianjin (Tientsin) / Hebei (Hopei)	1937
b. 4	Volume XII. Tianjin (Tientsin), Dezhou (Tehchow) / Tongzhou (T'ungchow)	1938
b. 4	Volume XIII. Tehlin / Tongzhou (T'ungchow)	1939
b. 4	Volume XIV. Tehchow	1939-1940
b. 4	Volume XV. Tongzhou (T'ungchow) and out	1940-1941
b. 4	Volume XVI. Appendix	1938-1980



**Series IV: Biographical Documentation, 1925-1926, n.d**

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b. 4, f. 1	Journal: "How We Got to China"	1925-1926
b. 4, f. 2	Biographical statement re. Lewis Gilbert written by Josephine Gilbert	n.d.

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**Series V: Addendum - 2010, 1925-1946, n.d.**

## Correspondence

b. 6, f. 1	Printed circular letters of Lewis and Lois Gilbert	1930-1941
b. 6, f. 2	Typescript circular letters of Lewis Gilbert written from Hsiachin and Linqing (Lintsing), Shandong (Shantung), including re: Japanese occupying troops, flood relief efforts	1938, 1939
b. 6, f. 3	Typescript letters from Lewis Gilbert to American Board office in Boston, including re: flood relief efforts in Linqing (Lintsing) area	1939 August, undated
b. 6, f. 4	Typescript letter fragments, probably from Lewis Gilbert, incl. to Earle Ballou	1938, n.d.
b. 6, f. 5	Circular letters and bulletins from other missionaries: Arthur Allen family, Earle Ballou, Albert and Clara Hausske, Lucia Lyons, Alice Murphy, David Paton, Alice Reed	1934-1942
b. 6, f. 6	Circular letters and bulletins from other missionaries: Harold W. Robinson (including long letter re: political situation in Tehchow, Shandong (Shantung) area in 1938), Robert Whitaker, unidentified	1937-1940
b. 6, f. 7	Circular letters from Yale-in-China missionaries Phillips Greene and William Pettus, one issue of Yali News Bulletin	1934, 1941-1942
b. 6, f. 8	Correspondence, newsclippings, and commentary re. "Tehchow Incident" in which an American Board missionary doctor Francis F. Tucker shot and killed a thief who was stealing items from the mission hospital	1931
Collected material		
b. 6, f. 9	Typescript documents re. Sino-Japanese situation in northern China	1932-1940
b. 6, f. 10	Miscellaneous typescript documents, including autobiography of H.C. Li, translated by L.L. Gilbert, and "The Grace of God Comes to the Flood Victims" by Chou Ming Lin, translated by Lucia Lyons	1942, n.d.
b. 6, f. 11	Pamphlets and reports Including:  "To Our Friends from Alice and Willard Simpson, Horticultural Experiment Station, East Cliff, Peitaiho Beach China / How May Chinese Agriculture Be Improved?" "The Anti-Christian Movement" (A collection of papers originally issued by the Anti-Christian Movement and translated for the Student Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations of China, Shanghai, 1925) "The American Board in Shantung" by Luella Miner "A Statement to Chinese Friends" by a group of Nanking missionaries (re. Nanking Affair, 1927) "Constitution of the North China Christian Rural Fellowship" Report of the Peking Union Bible Training Institute for Women (1941)	1925-1941, undated
b. 6, f. 12	Poster: with translation "If the Communist Devil does not die wild turmoil can never end - To tolerate Communism and oppose Japan is the destruction of China. Awake quickly and establish a happy land."; schematic map of American Board mission in Baoding (Paotingfu)	circa 1938, undated

## Collected material (continued)

b. 5, f. 1	American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM): China Bulletin	1942-1945
b. 5, f. 2	ABCFM: China newsletter, Harold Matthews	1945-1946
b. 5, f. 3	ABCFM: Post-War Japan Bulletin, Alice Cary	1945-1946
b. 5, f. 4	ABCFM: Reports and letters, including regarding North China Christian Rural Service Union, "The Mission Mirror", "Report of Visitation in the North" by E.L. Chapple, Auburndale Missionary Conference, North China Kung Li Hui, China Committee	1935-1942
b. 5, f. 5	ABCFM, Reports and letters, including to/from Wynn C. Fairfield, report on Lu Ho Middle School, Sian, Shaanxi (Shensi)	1943-1945 March
b. 5, f. 6	ABCFM: Reports and letters, including from Harold Matthew, re. reestablishment of North China mission after war, North China Christian Rural Service Union	1945 Apr- Nov
b. 5, f. 7	ABCFM: Reports and letters, including from Harold Matthew, re. reestablishment of North China mission after war, relief work in the Te-Lin area	1945 Dec- 1946 Jan
b. 5, f. 8-9	ABCFM: Circular letters of individuals, including Earle Ballou, Grace Boynton, Margaret Dow, Elmer Galt, Albert Hausske, Samuel Leger, Alice Reed, Harold Robinson,	1940s
b. 5, f. 10-16	National Christian Council of China (NCCC): radio broadcast transcripts	1937-1941
b. 5, f. 17-18	NCCC: News Bulletin, Alice Gregg	1938 Jun -1940 Mar
b. 5, f. 19	NCCC: Letters and reports	1937-1940, n.d.

## **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**

Gilbert, Lewis Loder, 1898-1978

Gilbert, Lois Chandler

### **Corporate Bodies**

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign

Missions -- China

Yale-in-China Association

### **Contributors**

Gilbert, Lewis Loder, 1898-1978

Gilbert, Lois Chandler