

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Lennig Sweet Papers

RG 150



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
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CALL NUMBER: RG 150

CREATOR: Sweet, Lennig, 1893-1973

TITLE: Lennig Sweet Papers

DATES: 1915-1974

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Letters, reports, and printed material document the work of the Beijing (Peking) (Beijing) YMCA, which was sponsored by Princeton-in-Peking. Lennig Sweet served the YMCA in Beijing, China between 1916 and 1934. He later worked for United China Relief from 1942 to 1947 and as YMCA Secretary for Overseas Staff and YMCA Secretary in Seoul, Korea.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.150>

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.150>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Sweet family.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Lennig Sweet Papers (RG 150), 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

Date	Event
1893 September 24	○ Born in Denver, Colorado, son of Joyeuse Fullerton and William Ellery Sweet. William Sweet was Governor of Colorado, 1922-1924.
1916	○ B.A., Princeton
1916 September-1917 August	○ Princeton University Center in China YMCA, Beijing (Peking), teacher of recreation and English.
1918 April-1919 January	○ U.S. Army Signal Corps
1918 October	○ Married Helen Firman of Oak Park, IL, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke who later received Master's degree from Columbia and taught home economics at Yenching University. Children: Joyeuse (b.1922), Helen (b.1929), Elizabeth (b.1932)
1919 January-1920 September	○ YMCA Secretary-in-training, Cleveland
1920 September-1936	○ Employee of International Committee of YMCAs of U.S. and Canada
1920-1926; 1930-1934	○ YMCA, Beijing (Peking). Boys work Secretary; Director, Training Center; General Secretary; Yenching University, Peking Lecturer, Group Work and Social Work Administration.
1926-1929	○ Graduate study: Columbia (M.A. 1928, Ph.D. 1930); Union Theological Seminary (Ph.D. 1929)
1935	○ National Committee, YMCAs of China, Personnel Secretary and Director of Training.
1935-1936	○ National Board, YMCAs of U.S., Public speaking and fund raising.
1936 July-1942 March	○ Social Security Administration, Washington, D.C.
1942 May-1947 September	○ United China Relief, N.Y. and Chongqing (Chungking)
1945 January- August	○ UNRRA, China
1948-1956	○ YMCA Secretary for Overseas Staff

Date	Event
1956-1958	○ YMCA Secretary, Seoul, Korea
1973 November	○ Died

Scope and Contents

This small but substantive collection of letters, reports and printed material is particularly useful for its documentation of the work of the Beijing (Peking) YMCA, which was sponsored by Princeton-in-Peking. The papers complement other holdings at YDSL, including the papers of Sweet's colleagues Dwight Edwards (RG 12) and Lyman Hoover (RG 9) and extensive documentation of the Princeton work in China available in the Archives of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (RG 11 and RG 11A).

The Correspondence of Series I includes twenty-seven letters, primarily from Sweet to his parents and grandparents, which provide insightful description and comment of political conditions, famine relief projects and subjects like industry in Beijing (Peking). The reports of Series II are substantive documents, primarily written to provide information to supporters in the U.S.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1916-1932, n.d.
- II. Writings/ Reports, 1916-1946, n.d.
- III. Printed Material, 1916-1935, n.d.
- IV. Biographical Documentation, 1917-1974
- V. Photographs, 1915-1956, n.d.

Collection Contents**Series I: Correspondence, 1916-1932, n.d.**

b. 1, f. 1	Family correspondence	1916-1918
b. 1, f. 2	Family correspondence	1921-1925
b. 1, f. 3	Family correspondence	1930-1932, n.d.

Series II: Writings/ Reports, 1916-1946, n.d

Reports		
b. 1, f. 4	Report letters / drafts	1916-1917
b. 1, f. 5	Report letters / drafts	1920-1921
b. 1, f. 6	Report letters / drafts	1932, 1933, 1946, n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	Annual administration reports, Beijing (Peking) YMCA	1917, 1921
b. 1, f. 8	Annual administration reports, Beijing (Peking) YMCA	1922-1927
b. 1, f. 9	Annual administration reports, Beijing (Peking) YMCA	1933-1934
Other writings by LS		
b. 1, f. 10	Typescript report re: Beijing (Peking) YMCA	1935
b. 1, f. 11	<i>The Measurement of Personal Attitudes in Younger Boys</i> (Association Press)	1929
Writings by others		
b. 1, f. 12	Report of conference of foreign secretaries and their wives re. residences in China	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	Account of journey into Gansu (Kansu) and Tibet by Dean of Canterbury	undated

Series III: Printed Material, 1916-1935, n.d.

b. 1, f. 14	Regarding Beijing (Peking) YMCA	1925-1935
b. 1, f. 15	Regarding Princeton-in-Peking	1916-1925
b. 1, f. 16	Regarding Rotary Club of Beijing (Peking)	undated

Series IV: Biographical Documentation, 1917-1974

b. 1, f. 17	Incl. employment history	1917-1958
b. 1, f. 18	Incl. audiotape of interview for article in the <i>Denver Post</i>	1970-1974

Series V: Photographs, 1915-1956,n.d.

b. 1, f. 19	Portrait of LS	1956
b. 1, f. 19	Princeton-in-Peking representatives	1934
b. 1, f. 19	Sherwood Eddy visit to Beijing (Peking)	1932
b. 1, f. 19	Additional photos related to YMCA and famine relief	1915, 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

Young Men's Christian Associations -- China

Names

Sweet, Lennig, 1893-1973

Corporate Bodies

Princeton University Center in China
United China Relief (U.S.)