

Guide to the Bernard and Katherine Read Papers

RG 157



Compiled by Elizabeth Pipes and Martha Lund Smalley

2000, 2014

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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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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 157

CREATOR: Read, B. E. (Bernard Emms), 1887-1949

TITLE: Bernard and Katherine Read Papers

DATES: 1902-1964

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 11 linear feet (24 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: These papers document Bernard Read's work as a scientist in China from 1909 to 1949, as well as the life of his family in China and his internment during the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, 1941-1945. Bernard Read was not directly engaged by a missionary agency but spent the first part of his career in China at the Peking Union Medical College, a union venture related to various mission agencies. Read left the Peking Union Medical College due to disagreements with its leaders, and went to work for the Henry Lester Institute, an organization financed by an American businessman in Shanghai.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.157>

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.157>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Robert E. Read.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Bernard and Katherine Read Papers (RG 157), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1887 May 17	○ Born in Brighton, England
1895-1903	○ York Place Secondary School
1903-1909	○ Pharmaceutical Training
1903-1907	○ Business training, Hove, Sussex, London
1908-1909	○ College of Pharmacy, M.P.S., Ph.C.
1909-1915	○ Lecturer in Chemistry and Pharmacy, Peking Union Medical College
1916-1917	○ Johns Hopkins Medical School, Biochemistry, with summer classes at Chicago University and Harvard
1917-1918	○ Yale University, Nutrition, M.S.
1918	○ Married Katherine Luella Henderson
1918-1925	○ Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Peking
1923-1924	○ Yale University, Pharmacology, Ph.D
1924	○ University of Chicago, Pathology
1925-1932	○ Professor of Pharmacology, Peking
1932-1936	○ Head of Physiological Sciences, Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai
1936	○ King Gold Medal, Peking Natural History Society
1941-1945	○ Interned by Japanese during WW II
1946	○ Director of Henry Lester Institute
1946-1949	○ Chairman, Chinese Mission to Lepers
1947	○ Chairman, Canadian Aid to China and Nursing Aid Committee, China
1932-1949	○ Member of Union Community Church, Shanghai
1949 Jun 13	○ Died in Shanghai

Scope and Contents

The bulk of this collection relates to Bernard Read's scientific research and writing regarding pharmacology. A full listing of titles of his writings is in the first folder of Series 3. Added to the collection in 2014 was an unpublished typescript manuscript by Read titled "Vegetable and Plant Drugs."

Extensive correspondence of Read records his interactions with colleagues in China and elsewhere. The collection also provides valuable documentation from the period when Read was interned by the Japanese during World War II. Also of interest is the correspondence from Katherine L. Read to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Henderson, who were missionaries in Burma, and correspondence between Katherine and Bernard during their separation caused by World War II.

The collection includes a biography of Bernard Read written by his wife and son, and an annotated copy of a memoir written by Katherine L. Read with Robert O. Ballou, which documents the work of her parents, Albert and Cora Henderson.

Added in 2014 were more than 500 3" x 3" glass slides accompanied by a listing of identification by number. The slides include plant, insect, and animal specimens, microscope slides of chemical compounds, archaeological sites in China, scientific equipment, individuals, class groups, scenes in China.

Arrangement

- I. Family Correspondence, 1918-1949, n.d.
- II. General Correspondence, 1902-1964, n.d.
- III. Writings of Bernard E. Read, 1917-1949, n.d.
- IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1919-1951, n.d.
- V. Glass Slides, 1920s, n.d.

Collection Contents

Series I: Family Correspondence

Katherine L. Read to Family		
b. 1, f. 1-2	KLR to family	undated, 1918-1919 Aug
b. 1, f. 3-4	KLR to family	1925-1931
b. 1, f. 5	KLR to family	1934-1941
Katherine L. Read to Bernard E. Read		
b. 1, f. 6	KLR to BER	1937 Jun-Jul
b. 2, f. 7	KLR to BER	1937 Aug-Dec
b. 2, f. 8	KLR to BER	1941-1945
Bernard E. Read to Katherine L. Read, Robert Read		
b. 2, f. 9-11	BER to KLR	1937 Apr-1941 Oct
b. 2, f. 12	BER to KLR, BER to RER	1941 Nov-1942
Robert E. Read (son of KLR, BER) to parents		
b. 2, f. 13-14	RER to parents	1948 Aug-1949 Nov

Series II: General Correspondence, 1933

b. 3, f. 15	BER Bound Correspondence, A-Z	1933
b. 4, f. 16	BER Bound Correspondence, A-Z	1934
b. 4, f. 17	BER Bound Correspondence, A-K	1935
b. 5, f. 18	BER Bound Correspondence, L-Z	1935
b. 5, f. 19	BER Bound Correspondence, A-K	1936
b. 6, f. 20	BER Bound Correspondence, L-Z	1936
b. 6, f. 21	BER Bound Correspondence, A-K	1937
b. 7, f. 22	BER Bound Correspondence, L-Z	1937
b. 7, f. 23	BER Bound Correspondence, A-L	1938
b. 8, f. 24	BER Bound Correspondence, M-Z	1938
b. 8, f. 25	BER Bound Correspondence, A-K	1939
b. 9, f. 26	BER Bound Correspondence, L-Z	1939
b. 9, f. 27	BER Bound Correspondence, A-Z	1940
b. 10, f. 28	BER Unbound Correspondence, A-Z	1948
b. 10, f. 29	WWII Official Documents	
b. 10, f. 30	WWII Personal Correspondence	1942-1943 Oct
b. 10, f. 31	WWII Personal Correspondence	1943 Nov-Dec
b. 10, f. 32	WWII Personal Correspondence	1944-45
b. 10, f. 33	WWII Personal Correspondence	undated
b. 10, f. 34	Miscellaneous	undated. 1902-1964

Series III: Writings of B.E. Read, 1917-1918

b. 11, f. 35	Collected papers	1917-1918
b. 11, f. 36	Bound Papers	1920-1925
b. 11, f. 37	Chalmoogra Studies	1924-27
b. 11, f. 38	Bound Papers	1925-1928
b. 12, f. 39	Bound Papers	1933-1940
b. 12, f. 40	Short Papers	1923-1926
b. 12, f. 41	Ph.D. Dissertation, Yale University	[1924]
b. 12, f. 42	Short Papers	1925-1931
b. 13, f. 43	Animal Drugs	1931
b. 13, f. 44	Papers	1932-33
b. 13, f. 45	Avian Drugs	1932
b. 13, f. 46	Dragon and snake drugs	1934
b. 13, f. 47	Chinese Medicinal plants	1936
b. 14, f. 48	Industrial Health in China	1936
b. 14, f. 49	Minerals and Stones; Turtle and Shellfish Drugs	1936
b. 14, f. 50	Papers	1938-1939
b. 14, f. 51	Fish Drugs	1939
b. 14, f. 52	Papers	1939-1940
b. 15, f. 53	Papers	1940-1941
b. 15, f. 54	Insect Drugs	1941
b. 15, f. 55	Papers	1941-1949
b. 16, f. 56	Dept. and Pharmacology Journal (3 vol.)	1920-1932
b. 17, f. 57	Papers of Ephedrine (2 vol.)	1924-1930
b. 17, f. 58	Division of Physiological Sciences. vol. 1-2	1933-1935
b. 18, f. 59	Division of Physiological Sciences, vol 3-7	1936-1940
b. 19, f. 60	Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society	1938,40,46,48
b. 19, f. 61	Chihili Flora (BER Contributor)	1927

b. 22, f. 2	<p>"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - Foreword by K.C. Wong, Director of the Library and Museum, Chinese Medical Association (1951), Preface by Bernard Read (1949), Records 1-99</p> <p>An unpublished typescript manuscript by Read, taken from "Bencao gangmu" the late 16th century "Index of Native Herbs," a materia medica listing herbal drugs and their applications.</p>	1949, 1951
b. 22, f. 3	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #100-199	1949
b. 22, f. 4	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #200-299	1949
b. 22, f. 5	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #300-399	1949
b. 22, f. 6	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #400-499	1949
b. 22, f. 7	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #500-599	1949
b. 22, f. 8	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #600-699	1949
b. 22, f. 9	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #700-799	1949
b. 22, f. 10	"Vegetable and Plant Drugs" - #800-876, Indices	19149

Series IV: Personal Items and Memorabilia

b. 22, f. 1	"Golden Days in China" - biography of Bernard Read, by Katherine L. Read and Robert E. Read	2000
b. 21, f. 1	Annotated copy of <i>Bamboo Hospital: the Story of a Missionary Family in Burma</i> by Katherine L. Read with Robert O. Ballou.	1961
b. 19, f. 62	Newspaper clippings	
b. 19, f. 63	Photographs and X-Rays	
b. 19, f. 64	Chinese Acupuncture maps	
b. 19, f. 65	King Medal	1936
b. 20, f. 66	Diary of KLR	1919
b. 20, f. 67	Official Condolences upon death of BER	1949-50
b. 20, f. 68	Obituaries and Tributes- BER	
b. 20, f. 69	Memorabilia- BER Funeral	
b. 20, f. 70	Donations in BER name	
b. 20, f. 71	Personal Condolences, A-H	
b. 20, f. 72	Personal Condolences, I-R	
b. 20, f. 73	Personal Condolences, S-Z and Cables	
b. 20, f. 74	Membership list- (Union Church, Shanghai?)	
b. 20, f. 75	Memoir of George E. Read (BER's father)	1938
b. 20, f. 76	Pictures and Portraits	
b. 20, f. 77	Yu Wang Fu and Old China Hands addresses	1945

Series V: Glass Slides

b. OV-1-OV-2	Numbered glass slides	1920s, no date
	More than 500 3" x 3" glass slides are accompanied by a listing of identification by number. The slides include plant, insect, and animal specimens, microscope slides of chemical compounds, archaeological sites in China, scientific equipment, individuals, class groups, scenes in China.	

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

Missionaries
Missions -- China
Pharmacology -- China

Names

Read, B. E. (Bernard Emms), 1887-1949
Read, Katherine L.

Corporate Bodies

Beijing yi xue yuan
Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research

Contributors

Read, B. E. (Bernard Emms), 1887-1949
Read, Katherine L.