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Guide to the American School Kikungshan and American School Kikungshan Association Records

RG 164



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2001, 2004, 2010, 2015

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
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CALL NUMBER: RG 164

CREATOR: American School of Kikungshan

TITLE: American School Kikungshan and American School Kikungshan Association Records

DATES: 1900-2014

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 10 linear feet (23 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Reports, correspondence, photographs, and collected material document the history of the American School Kikungshan and its graduates. The American School Kikungshan was a school for missionary children established by the Lutheran missions in China. The American School Kikungshan Association is the alumni/ae association of the school.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.164>

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.164>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the American School Kikungshan Association.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

American School Kikungshan and American School Kikungshan Association Records (RG 164), 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
1914	○ American School Kikungshan established on Kikungshan with Agnes Kittlesby as first principal. Predecessors included small schools set up by Hauge Synod and American Lutheran Mission
1927	○ School moved to Hankou (Hankow), then evacuated to Shanghai and closed
1928 Fall	○ Reopened in Eric Sovik home in Shekow
1929 Spring	○ Returned to Kikungshan
1930 October	○ Fled to Lutheran Missions Home and Agency in Hankou (Hankow)
1931 January	○ Returned to Kikungshan
1931 February	○ Fled to Lutheran Missions Home and Agency in Hankou (Hankow)
1931 Fall	○ At Redcroft School in Guling (Kuling)
1934 Fall	○ Reopened at Kikungshan
1938 January	○ Evacuated to Cheung Chau, Hong Kong
1941 January	○ Evacuated to U.S.; finished school year at Luther Academy in Wahoo, Nebraska
1946	○ Reopened at Sinyang
1947 December	○ Evacuated to Lutheran Missions Home and Agency in Hankou (Hankow)
1948 March	○ Evacuated to Hong Kong; opened in Ebenezer Home for Blind Girls in Pokfulam
1950 Fall	○ Tutorship school opened in rented house in Tao Fong Shan, Hong Kong
1951 Spring	○ Last high school graduation
1952-1953	○ Lillian Landahl tutored half-time, then left on furlough. No replacement found.
1953-1955	○ Six missionary mothers taught classes in their homes.
1955	○ Home board authorized purchase of station wagon to transport missionary children to Kowloon schools.
1992-2005	○ The American School Kikungshan Association, an alumni/ae association, was incorporated in 1992. It was officially dissolved in 2005 as many of the graduates were no longer able to attend reunions. Since that time some ASK graduates have

Date	Event
	been involved in a new organization, China Venture Services, which seeks to foster the development of meaningful relations between the Christian community in North America and the Chinese community, especially in Henan.

Scope and Contents

These records document the history of a school established in 1915 for the children of Lutheran missionaries in China and the school's alumni/ae association. Because of civil unrest in China, the school was often evacuated from Jigongshan (Kikungshan), a hill resort situated north of the Yangtze River that was the favored summer resort for the foreign residents of Hankou (Hankow) (now Hankou). These records, along with records held at YDSL of the Shanghai American School and North China American School, provide an excellent picture of the lifelong influence of these schools for missionary children.

Series I includes minutes of the Board of the American School Kikungshan, financial records, and correspondence related to the management of the school.

Series II documents the life of the school through its publications - yearbooks and newsletters, as well as programs from school events and compiled information about the school's history. Of particular interest are a 1946 report by Gertrude Sovik that provides detailed information about the operations of the school and a 1994 report about the childhood experiences and health history of ASK graduates.

Series III includes material by and about the alumni/ae and faculty of ASK, including "The Rooster Crows Again: the Story of the American School Kikungshan" by Charlotte Martinson Gronseth and Gertrude Sovik, which includes a summary of the history of the school and reminiscences of alumni/ae.

Series IV documents the American School Kikungshan Association, an alumni/ae group that has an ongoing newsletter and reunions.

Series V contains Collected Materials that relate to the context of the American School Kikungshan, including Lutheran mission reports and periodicals that provide information about the history of ASK.

Arrangement

- I. School Organization and Management, 1926-1959
- II. School Life and Publications, 1921-1949
- III. Alumni/ae/ Faculty Records, 1900-1996
- IV. ASK Association Records, 1980-2014
- V. Collected Materials, 1921-2003

Collection Contents

Series I: School Organization and Management, 1926-1959

b. 1, f. 1	Constitution, reports, corres. to David W. Vikner; minutes of American School Board	1926-1932
b. 1, f. 2	Bound volume of minutes of Board and related documents	1929-1934
b. 1, f. 3	Corres. of Casper Skinsnes, Erik Sovik; minutes of Board; financial statement	1933-1934
b. 1, f. 4	Financial accounts, corres. of Earl Dahlstrom to David W. Vikner	1946-1947
b. 1, f. 5	Financial accounts; Board records	1948-1949
b. 1, f. 6	Financial accounts; documents re. repair of house in Hong Kong	1950-1952
b. 1, f. 7	Financial accounts; corres.; Board minutes	1953-1954
b. 1, f. 8	Minutes, correspondence	1955-1959

Series II: School Life and Publications, 1921-1949

School publications		
b. 2, f. 9	ASK Yearbook	1921
b. 2, f. 10	ASK Yearbook	1923
b. 2, f. 11	ASK Yearbook	1924-1925
b. 2, f. 12	ASK Yearbook	1933
b. 2, f. 13	ASK newsletters: "The Kikungshan Geyser" (1932; title page only); Untitled (1936); "Cock-A-Doodle-Do" (1937)	1932-1937
b. OVd-4	Printed newspapers: "The Cock-A-Doodle" (Cheung Chau, Hong Kong), newspaper originals (oversize)	1938-1939
b. OVd-4	Printed newspapers: "The Cock-A-Doodle", photocopies (oversize)	1938-1939
b. 2, f. 14	ASK newsletters: "American Service Kestrel" (1943, 1945); "Chanticleer" (Hong Kong; 1948)	1943-1948
b. 2, f. 15	ASK newsletters: "Chanticleer" and untitled piece about school life	1949
Documentation of School Life		
b. 2, f. 16-17	ASK Commencement Programs	1926-1949
b. 2, f. 18	Misc. (programs, invitations, notices, map of Kikungshan)	1915-1927
b. 2, f. 19	Misc. (programs, invitations)	1933-1949
b. 2, f. 20-21	Christmas programs in German	1939-1940
History and reports about ASK		
b. 2, f. 22	ASK Timeline from 1901-1955; compiled by Francis C. Gamelin	2000
b. 2, f. 23	Lists of faculty, students, graduates, list of ASK family burials in China; compiled by FCG	
b. 2, f. 24	ASK Report by Gertrude D. Sovik: information about the school and its faculty	1946
b. 2, f. 26	ASK Report: information about health services, school supplies	1946
b. 2, f. 27	ASK Report: information about the library, physical education program, extracurricular activities	1946
b. 2, f. 28	Articles, newspaper clippings, letters about ASK, including special issue of <i>Honan Glimpses</i> (1925 Jan); material re. ASK in "True HEars for God in China" by Frank T. Woodward	1916-1948, 1979, 1990
	"The Rooster Crows Again: the Story of American School Kikungshan" by Gertrude Sovik: See Series III, Alumni/ae writings	
b. 2, f. 29	"ASK Childhood Experience and Health" report by Grace Ditmanson Adams, R.N., in consultation with Ellis Benson, M.D.; questionnaire form used for compiling report	1994

Photographs and Memorabilia

b. 4, f. 32	Gertrude Sovik's ASK diploma, school photo album, and a newspaper article about her	
b. 4, f. 33	ASK flour sack towel, school hymnal	
b. 15, f. 111	Photos in China: ASK teachers Kittlesby, Hollestad, Olson	
b. 15, f. 112	Photos in China, undated, students and families	
b. 15, f. 113	Photos in China, 1900-1920, students and families	1900-1920
b. 15, f. 114	Photos in China, 1930s, students and families, school property	1930s
b. 15, f. 115	Photos in China, 1940s, students and families,	1940s
b. 15, f. 116	Photos in the U.S., mostly in Northfield MN	1950s
b. 15, f. 117	ASK memorabilia: school programs, insignia, school songs, a final exam, ASK armband	
b. 18, f. 143	Photos: students of ASK	1916-1936
b. 18, f. 144	Photos: Kikungshan and American School buildings	1916-1936
b. 18, f. 145	Photos: Beloved places on Kikungshan	1916-1936
b. 18, f. 146	Photos: special events of ASK	1916-1936
b. 18, f. 147	Photos: the Guling (Kuling) years	1932-1949
b. 18, f. 148	Photos: 1st flight to Hong Kong	1938 Jan
b. 18, f. 149	Photos: school closed and students left for America, 1947 Jan; post-WWII Sinyang	1932-1949
b. 18, f. 150	Photos: misc.	1932-1949
b. 18, f. 151	Photos: 2nd flight to Hong Kong	1948
b. 18, f. 152	Photos: ASK faculty	n.d.

Series III: Alumni/ae and Faculty Records, 1900-1996

Writings/oral histories of alumni/ae

b. 3, f. 30	"In Those Days" by Elliot C. Aandahl [Added to Library's cataloged collection: <i>One Crowded Hour</i> by Elliot Aandahl; <i>In the Crucible</i> by Palmer Anderson]	
b. 3, f. 30	"Harp of my Heart" by Grace Jewel Jensen Buster	
b. 3, f. 30	"The Pearl and the Dragon" by Winifred Jacobson	
b. 3, f. 30	"In Stride with God" by Paul J. Lindell	
b. 3, f. 30	"China Memoir" by Hilda Benson Powicke	
b. 3, f. 30	"To Be a Pilgrim" by Frances E. Scherer [Added to Library's cataloged collection: <i>Aunt Edith and Lora</i> by Frances Scherer]	
b. 3, f. 30	"Angel in Muddy Trousers" by John H. Schlosser	
b. 3, f. 30	Transcript of oral history interview of Gertrude Sovik, Midwest China Oral History Project - 3 volumes	
b. 4, f. 31	"Closing of the American School of Kikungshan" by Gertrude Sovik	
b. 4, f. 31	"The Rooster Crows Again: the Story of the American School Kikungshan" by Gertrude Sovik (1985)	
b. 13, f. 99	<i>The Rooster Crows Again: the Story of the American School in Kikungshan</i> by Gertrude Sovik and Charlotte Martinson Gronseth, master copy	1985
b. 13, f. 100	<i>The Rooster Crows Again</i> promotion and correspondence	1978-1995
b. 14, f. 101-104	<i>The Rooster Crows Again</i> originals	
b. 14, f. 107	Letter from Carrie Olson in <i>Evangelists Seier</i>	
b. 14, f. 108	Misc writing of ASK Alumni: "Returning Home" H. Daniel Friberg; "As a Spectator in a Chinese service" Agnes M. Thorson; "Beauty Spots in Kikungshan" John Scholsser.	
b. 14, f. 109	Cora Martinson's autobiography, from the Cora Martinson Collection	1924
b. 14, f. 110	Correspondence between early ASKites, from the Cora Martinson Collection	1913-1919
b. 4, f. 31	Summary of oral histories done by Midwest China Oral History Project	
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b. 19, f. 154	Dahlstrom-Meyer	
b. 19, f. 155	Nelson-Wieneke	
b. 19, f. 156	Ekstrand, Dorothy: correspondence, "The Story of Dorothy Ekstrand", obituaries/life history	1979-1996
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ASK Faculty Files (continued)

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b. 19, f. 161	Sovik, Gertrude: personal school memorabilia, correspondence	1936-1938
b. 19, f. 162	Sovik, Gertrude: memoir of China, autobiography, article "The Closing of ASK"	
b. 19, f. 163	Sovik, Gertrude: ASK trip to China	1982
b. 19, f. 164	Sovik, Gertrude: ASK information sheets, life history, obituary	
b. 19, f. 165	Sovik, Gertrude: newspaper clippings, photographs	

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b. 19, f. 168	Alexander, Edith, Mildred and Henry James	
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ASK Student Files (continued)

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Series IV: Records of the ASK Association, 1980-2014

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b. 16, f. 119	ASK association records: Board of Directors, minutes, agendas, financial reports	1991-2003
b. 16, f. 120	Endowment, established 1998	1998-2001
b. 16, f. 121	ASK correspondence	1979-2001
b. 16, f. 122	ASK database/address lists	1940-1998
b. 16, f. 123	Newhouse Project - China Missions Video: contract, mission, correspondence	1998-99
b. 16, f. 124	Award to David Edwins from the Association for Foreign and Chinese Cultural Friendship	1993
b. 16, f. 125	Memorials/funeral services for former ASKites	1992-2002
b. 16, f. 126	Moongate memorial: correspondence, photos, reports, plans	1990s
Publications		
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b. 4, f. 35	Chanticleer II newsletter	1997-2000
b. 16, f. 127	Chanticleer II newsletter	1993-2003
b. 4, f. 36	ASK directory	1980, 1985, 1988
b. 4, f. 37	ASK directory	July 1991
Reunions		
b. 4, f. 38	ASK reunions and directories	1958, 1960
b. 4, f. 39	ASK reunion	1980
b. 4, f. 40	ASK reunion, directories from 1960 to 1980	1980
b. 4, f. 41	Post-reunion correspondence and newspaper clippings	1980
b. 5, f. 42	ASK reunion	1985
b. 5, f. 43	ASK reunion: information and programs	1985
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b. 5, f. 45	ASK reunion: planning committee letters/minutes	1988
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b. 5, f. 49	ASK reunion: ASK Association articles and by-laws, program committee meeting minutes and correspondence	1991
b. 5, f. 50	ASK reunion: post-reunion correspondence, newspaper articles, report about the reunion	1991
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b. 5, f. 52	ASK reunion: post-reunion correspondence, ASK Association financial report	1994
b. 17, f. 128	1997 ASK reunion: student/faculty lists; timeline; financial report; misc	1997
b. 17, f. 129	1997 ASK reunion: presentations; programs and services	1997
b. 17, f. 130	1997 ASK reunion: logistics, registration, retreat center	1997
b. 17, f. 131	1997 ASK reunion: correspondence	1997
b. 17, f. 132	2000 ASK reunion: student/faculty lists; database information; timeline; archives list	2000
b. 17, f. 133	2000 ASK reunion: programs, presentations, reports	2000
b. 17, f. 134	2000 ASK reunion: logistics, registration, retreat center information	2000
b. 17, f. 135	2000 ASK reunion: correspondence, misc.	2000
b. 17, f. 136	2003 ASK reunion: registration, schedule, logistics, banquet speaker	2003
b. 17, f. 137	2003 ASK reunion: service and hymns	2003
b. 17, f. 138	2003 ASK reunion: histories, correspondence, Moongate update	2003
Reunion and Alumni/ae Photographs		
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b. 5, f. 54	Misc. photographs of former students and their families	
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b. 5, f. 57	1980 reunion photographs	1980
b. 5, f. 58	1980 reunion photographs: banquet	1980
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b. 5, f. 60	1980 reunion photographs: alumni/ae and their photographs from various trips to modern-day Kikungshan	1980
b. 5, f. 61	1980 reunion: group photographs	1980
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b. 6, f. 64	1988 reunion: group photographs	1988

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b. 6, f. 70	1994 reunion photographs	1994
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b. 17, f. 140	2003 reunion photographs	2003
b. 17, f. 141	1982 ASK tour to China: photos	1982
b. 17, f. 142	1982 ASK tour to China: reports and misc.	1982
	Addendum	1974-2010
b. 23, f. 1	ASK Association Certificate of Incorporation, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and associated documentation	1987-1992
b. 23, f. 2	ASK Association minutes of Annual meeting (2003), Executive Committee (2004); correspondence re. ASK Scholarship Fund, dissolution of organization in 2005	2003-2004
b. 23, f. 3	Correspondence re. ASK Association mini-reunion with report re. work of China Venture Services in Jigongshan (Kikungshan)	2010
b. 23, f. 4	VHS tape of Dorothy Bruhl Anderson-Galloway at 2003 ASK Reunion	2003
b. 23, f. 5-6	Writings of American School Kikungshan graduates: "I Remember" by Magda G. Lindbeck; "Growing Up in China" by Ruth Vikner Gamelin; Booklet for 90th anniversary of Union Lutheran Theological Seminary in Shekow, Hubei (Hupeh) by Waldo Wold	1974, 2003, 2004
b. 23, f. 7	Reunion information; obituaries for ASK alumni Arne and Edward Sovik	2014
b. 23, f. 7	Historical statement: "Roots of ASK"	n.d.
b. 23, f. 7	Information about China Service Ventures, including DVD "Near to Heaven: Jigongshan and Missionary History", from Charlotte Gronseth	

Series V: Collected Material, 1921-2003

Related to Lutheran missions in China

b. 6, f. 73	"China" - pamphlet re. work of Augustana Synod	1945
b. 6, f. 74	Lutheran United Mission reports	1921, 1922, 1923
b. 6, f. 75	Lutheran United Mission reports	1924, 1925
b. 6, f. 76	Lutheran United Mission reports	1926, 1929, 1930
b. 6, f. 77	Lutheran United Mission reports	1931, 1932, 1933
b. 7, f. 78	Lutheran United Mission reports	1934, 1935, 1936
b. 7, f. 79	Lutheran United Mission reports	1937, 1938, 1940
b. 7, f. 80	Gleanings Magazine	1932 Jul, 1937 Jan
b. 7, f. 81	China Gleanings Magazine	1937 Apr, Jul
b. 7, f. 82	China Gleanings	1937 Oct

Miscellaneous

b. 7, f. 83	Guide to Kikungshan (2 copies)	1925
b. 7, f. 84	Kuling American School newsletters	1933, 1937
b. 7, f. 85	Unidentified photo album	
b. 7, f. 86	Photo album FCU Faculty	1950 September
b. 7, f. 87	Photograph album presented to Sister Christine Johnson by the teachers of I Kwong Girls' School	1936
b. 7, f. 88	"Sister Christine's Children" - pamphlet arranged by Mrs. Eric Sovik	
b. 8, f. 89	Books re. China: <i>China in Revival</i> , <i>The Changing China Scene</i> by Gustav Carlber, <i>Tjugu Ar Kina</i> by John L. Benson, <i>Giants Walked Among Us: The Story of Paul and Ina Bartel</i> , by Anthony G. Bollback, <i>This Mountain is Mine</i> , by Margaret Epp, and <i>Jigongshanzhi</i> by Henanrenmin Chubanshe (in Chinese)	
b. 8, f. 90	Smith, Ray H. "The Call of Tibet: William Ekvall Simpson"	1998
b. 8, f. 91	Chinese language material: a novel, and "Religious Instruction for Secondary Schools"	
b. 8, f. 92	Copies of Hymns	
b. 8, f. 93	Articles "Old China Hands" author unknown, and "View of Old China", Jerry Hulse	
b. 8, f. 94	Stamps, travel guides, postcard	1997, undated
b. 9, f. 95	16 audio cassettes: miscellaneous, including related to reunions, memorial service, lectures by ASK alumni/ae	

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b. 10, f. 96	Videocassettes: 1988 ASK Reunion at Gustavus, Chas Roberts and 1987 Underground Church - Changsha; Moongate Dedication, 1998; Chinese Video of ASK Moongate Groundbreaking and subsequent banquet with Sinyang Authorities and Tourist Promotion beginning with Jigongshan; 1992 Return to China; The Christian Church in China: A Story of Faith; Service at Kingkushan Church, 1992; Moongate Dedication, 9/21/1998 produced by Jade Tree Trail	1988-1998
b. 11, f. 97	2 Scrolls. One is a calligraphy done by Rev. Yin Yang for the 2003 ASK reunion. The other is a sign from the 1994 reunion.	1994, 2003
b. 12, f. 98	Misc. slides: ASK Reunion, 1980; Slides from Kittlesby Plaque Dedication, 1981; China, May-June 1982; Presentation by Katherine Edwins Schumm at 1988 ASK Reunion, "Remembering ASK Parents Missionaries to Chinese in Honan"	

Series VI: Addendum - 2021

Material received from Arne Sovik and Charlotte Gronseth

History of ASK

b. 24, f. 1	"Roots of ASK" - historical sketch written by teacher ca. 1916; ASK timeline; ASK staff; "The Lives and Times of the American School Kikungshan" - spiral-bound booklet tracing history of ASK in context with other historical events; letter from teacher at ASK Ruth Gilbertson (1940)	ca. 1916-1998
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Publications

b. 24, f. 2	Chanticleer newsletter - 8 issues	1948-1949
b. 24, f. 3	Chanticleer II newsletter (ASK Association) - 28 issues	1993-2003

Alumni/ae

b. 24, f. 4	Directories	1980, n.d.
b. 24, f. 5	Reunion documentation and annual meeting minutes	1980-2012

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

Children of missionaries -- China
Missions -- China -- Educational work

Corporate Body

American School of Kikungshan