

Yale University Library  
Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Wood Family Ephemera Collection

RG 334



Riley Harrison

2024

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

[divinity.library@yale.edu](mailto:divinity.library@yale.edu)

<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 334

**CREATOR:** Wood, Chester Frank, 1892-1961

**TITLE:** Wood Family Ephemera Collection

**DATES:** 1920 - 1997

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 10.5 linear feet (1 archival box and 9 oversize boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains substantial ephemera the Wood family gathered during their years as missionaries in Szechuan Province, from 1920-1937, including textiles and wood. Further materials include a written memoir and digital copies of correspondence and family photographs.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.334>

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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.334>.

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 Brian Reed, 2023.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Preferred Citation

Wood Family Ephemera Collection (RG 334), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

## **Biographical / Historical**

Chester F. Wood (1892-1961) graduated from Colby College in 1914 and received a theological education at Newton Theological Institute from 1914-1917 and Harvard University in 1918;. He married Dorothy Shaw (1898-1938) in 1920. Together, they served as Baptist missionaries in Szechuan Province, China in the areas of Chengtu and Suifu from 1920-1926 and 1930-1937. In China, Dorothy ran a local kindergarten and Chester served in churches both in the cities and in the countryside. From 1926-1930, during a time of unrest in China, they returned to the U.S., where Chester served as pastor of East Milton Baptist Church.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The collection contains various ephemera, including cloth and shoes, as well as digital materials containing correspondence, photographs, and an inventory of the artifacts. Further information on the Wood family's life in China can be found in Elizabeth Shaw (Wood) Reed's memoir, *My First 76 Years*. The collection begins with the written and digital materials and moves into ephemera.

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## **Arrangement**

### Arrangement

- I Writings, c. 1997
- II Digital materials, n.d.
- III Ephemera, 1920-1937

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, c. 1997

b. 1, f. 1	Memoir	c. 1997
	Contains first 44 pages of memoir titled My First 76 Years, by Elizabeth Shaw (Wood) Reed	

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## Series II: Digital Materials, n.d.

b. 1, f. 2	Scanned Letters Contains scanned letters
b. 1, f. 3	Photographs Contains two albums of Wood Photos from China
b. 1, f. 4	Inventory of Artifacts Contains inventory of collected artifacts

**Series III: Ephemera, 1920–1937**

b. 2	Clothing and Linens Includes various linens, children's clothing, and traditional Chinese clothing
b. 3	Clothing and Linens Includes various linens, children's clothing sets and hats
b. 4	Clothing and Linens Includes linens and clothing
b. 5	Shoes Includes shoes for children and adults
b. 6	Tapestries Contains silk tapestries
b. 7	Small Stems Includes jewelry, hair accessories
b. 8	Small Stems Includes bowls, ceramic figurines, and wooden carvings
b. 9	Carvings and Castings Includes wooden, metal, and ceramic carvings and castings
b. 10	Additional ephemera Contains wooden artifact

## **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**

Americans -- China  
Baptists -- Clergy  
Children of missionaries  
Missionaries -- China  
Missionaries -- China -- Biography

### **Genres / Formats**

Ephemera

### **Names**

Wood, Chester Frank, 1892-1961

### **Contributors**

Wood, Chester Frank, 1892-1961  
Wood family