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Yale Divinity Library

Eugene A. Turner Papers

RG 206



Martha Lund Smalley

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 206

CREATOR: Turner, Eugene Alfred

TITLE: Eugene A. Turner Papers

DATES: 1824-1948 1913-1948

BULK DATES: 1913-1948

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, and collected material document the life and work of Eugene A. Turner, who served under the YMCA in China from 1913 to 1947. Turner was involved in student and city work for the Y.M.C.A. in China and was a keen observer of Chinese customs and political events.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.206>

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.206>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Nancy Turner Parlette, 2006

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University

Preferred Citation

Eugene A. Turner Papers (RG 206), 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

Eugene A. Turner was born in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He had completed a Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and Law Degree at Wake Forest College by 1906. After a year of teaching at a preparatory school, Turner became Y.M.C.A. Secretary at the Georgia School of Technology. In 1913 Turner went to China under the Y.M.C.A. and worked with students in the city of Hangzhou (Hangchow). According to a biographical sketch, Turner "built up a Y.M.C.A. which, in a short time, enlisted the support of government officials and the literati. He also helped to train an efficient staff of Chinese to whom he relinquished the executive work, remaining as an advisor. He organized, coached and conducted the first inter-scholastic football league ever attempted in Hangzhou (Hangchow). Other activities were pioneered: debates, oratorical contests, essay contests, etc. He organized Bible study groups among the students." After a furlough, Turner returned to China in 1928 and was sent to Wuchang and served as Y.M.C.A. General Secretary. He later served in Nanchang, home of the New Life Movement and had personal contact with General and Madame Chiang Kai-shek. Turner was a leader in the Christian Rehabilitation Center in Jiangxi (Kiangsi) Province, which was involved in the rehabilitation of districts previously held by Communist forces. Turner was married to Mary Effie Lee Turner and was the father of Frank Turner and Eugene Alfred Turner, Jr., who was also involved in Y.M.C.A. work.

Scope and Contents

The Eugene A. Turner Papers complement other collections of China Y.M.C.A. workers held at the Divinity School Library, including the papers of Lyman Hoover, Dwight W. Edwards, Lennig Sweet, and Austin Long, as well as China Y.M.C.A. records in the archives of the World Student Christian Federation.

The majority of the family correspondence is from the war years when Eugene Turner was separated from his wife and children. General correspondence includes letters to and from Madame Chiang Kai-shek, as well as Y.M.C.A. colleagues. The reports from China in Series II are excellent substantive reports of Turner's work with the Y.M.C.A. dating from 1913 to 1947. He also comments on political events and describes Chinese customs. The documentation of these reports is supplemented by writings in Series III.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1914-1948
- II. Writings and Notes, 1913-1948, no date
- III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1929-1943, no date
- IV. Collected Material, 1824-1937, no date

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1914-1948

Family Correspondence

Letters to/from Eugene and Mary

b. 1, f. 1	From Hangzhou (Hangchow)	1937 November-1939 March
b. 1, f. 2	From Qingdao (Tsingtao), Chengdu (Chengtu), Chongqing (Chungking), Kunming	1940 January - 1941 March
b. 1, f. 3	Kweiyong, Kanshein, at sea, Kolkata (Calcutta)	1941 April - 1942 December
b. 1, f. 4	From Kolkata (Calcutta) - with Armed Forces	1943 January - 1943 March
b. 1, f. 5	With Armed Forces: China, Burma, India	1943 Apr- 1943 May
b. 1, f. 6	With Armed Forces: China, Burma, India	1943 Jun-Jul
b. 1, f. 7	With Armed Forces: China, Burma, India	1943 Aug-Sep
b. 1, f. 8	With Armed Forces, Kunming	1945 Sep- Oct
b. 1, f. 9	With Armed Forces, US Consulate	1945 Nov
b. 1, f. 10	From Chongqing (Chungking), Shanghai	1945 December
b. 1, f. 11	From Wuchong, Hankou (Hankow)	1946 January
b. 1, f. 12	From Hankou (Hankow)	1946 February
b. 1, f. 13	From Hankou (Hankow)	1946 March - April
b. 1, f. 14	From Hankou (Hankow)-Kiun Kiang-Nanchang	1946 May - June
b. 2, f. 15	From Hankou (Hankow)-Shanghai	1946 July
Letters to/from sons		
b. 2, f. 16	From Hangzhou (Hangchow)-Shanghai	1935 May 1937 October- December
b. 2, f. 17	From Hangzhou (Hangchow)-Shanghai	1938 January
b. 2, f. 18	From Hangzhou (Hangchow)-Shanghai	1938 February- April
b. 2, f. 19	From Shanghai-Hangzhou (Hangchow)	1938 May- August

Family Correspondence > Letters to/from sons (continued)

b. 2, f. 20	From Shanghai-Hangzhou (Hangchow)	1938 September-December
b. 2, f. 21	From Qingdao (Tsingtao), Kaifeng, Shanghai	1939 January-December
b. 2, f. 22	From Shanghai, Qingdao (Tsingtao)	1940 January-December
b. 2, f. 23	From Hangchung, Chengdu (Chengtu), Kunming, Kolkata (Calcutta), Sons in U.S., Mrs. Tryon, NC	1941 January - 1943 September
b. 2, f. 24	From Eugene Jr.-Marine Corps. Chaplin- China	1945 Jan-Dec
b. 2, f. 25	From Tryon, NC-, Eugene Turner, Jr. China, NJ	1946 Jan-Jul
Letters to Aunt Effie		
b. 2, f. 26	From Shanghai, Kolkata (Calcutta)	1937-1942
General Correspondence		
Letters of Eugene Turner to/from others		
b. 2, f. 27	To/from Mary Connally, several from Frank Lenz, Educational Secretary of the YMCA	1914 -1927
b. 2, f. 28	Several from A. Wayne Hanson	1929-1931
b. 2, f. 29	From Eugene Barnett, Herschleb	1932 Jun- Dec
b. 2, f. 30	From Herschleb, Barnett, to Chairman and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek	1933-1937
b. 3, f. 31	From Barnett- to Madame Chiang	1938 Jan-Sep
b. 3, f. 32	From "Sister Mary", Barnett, Madame Chiang	1939 Feb-1941 Jul
b. 3, f. 33	Some re. stamp collecting, Hugh Hubbard	1942-1944
b. 3, f. 34	From Jay Oliver- incl. letter of Eugene, Jr to Oliver also	1941-1943, 1945-1948
b. 3, f. 35	Letters to/from Dwight Edwards	1941-1943
Correspondence of others		
b. 3, f. 36	Includes description of fall of Nanking by George Fitch	1915, 1931-1948
b. 3, f. 37	Letter fragments	no date

Series II: Writings and notes, 1913-1948

b. 3, f. 38	Eugene Turner reports from Hangzhou (Hangchow), including description of life in city, address by Governor at opening of YMCA, Sherwood Eddy campaign (1914), athletic and educational work, political unrest	1913-1916
b. 3, f. 39	Eugene Turner reports from Hangzhou (Hangchow) and Shanghai, including re: YMCA membership campaign, travels throughout China, patriotic demonstrations	1917-1920
b. 3, f. 40	Eugene Turner reports from Hangzhou (Hangchow), including re: World Student Christian Federation meeting in Beijing (Peking), political unrest, campaign of popular education	1922-1924
b. 3, f. 41	Eugene Turner reports from Hangzhou (Hangchow) and Wuchang, including re: Chinese customs, burning of the kitchen god, YMCA membership campaign, "popular education in the meaning of citizenship"; move from student work to city work	1925-1928
b. 3, f. 42	EAT reports from Wuchang, including re. membership campaign, Feng Yu-shiang the Christian General, civil war, visit of Dr. Kirby Page	1929-1931
b. 3, f. 43	Eugene Turner reports from Wuchang, Guling (Kuling), Tryon NC, including regarding flood relief, Japanese troops, return home due to YMCA financial situation, engagement as teacher of English Literature at Central China College, Wuchang, return to YMCA work, New Life Movement; appointment as Regional Secretary for Shandong (Shantung)	1932-1938
b. 3, f. 44	Eugene Turner reports from Qingdao (Tsingtao), Hankou (Hankow), and elsewhere in China; war rehabilitation work, retirement	1939-1947
b. 4, f. 45	Annual reports of Eugene Turner from Hangzhou (Hangchow) and Shanghai	1914-1919
b. 4, f. 46	Articles by EAT, including "Injecting leaven into the lump"	1922, 1923, 1937
b. 4, f. 47	Articles by Eugene Turner, including regarding Japanese occupation of Hangzhou (Hangchow), "Some reasons for disturbed conditions in China," "Life sketch of Wen Shih-Tsen"	1938, undated
b. 4, f. 48	Notes of EAD: textiles in China, for talks, sermons	n.d.
b. 4, f. 49	Writings of others: "Report on China situation," "The Bible marches on," "A new variety of 1905", report on work of Eugene A. Turner, Jr. for Home Missions Council of North America	1941-1943, no date
b. 4, f. 50	Broadcast bulletins: China	1940-1941
b. 4, f. 51	NCCC bulletins	1939-1940
b. 4, f. 52	Regarding Y.M.C.A.: broadcasts, newsletters, report letters of S.C. Leung, Lyman Hoover	1938-1948

Series III: Personal items and memorabilia, 1929-1943

b. 4, f. 53	Biographical sketch, photographs, passports and health certificate, financial records, tribute	1932-1941, no date
b. 4, f. 54	Information regarding stamp collecting	1941
b. 4, f. 55	Newsclippings regarding E.T.	1929-1943

Series IV: Collected material, 1824-1937

b. 4, f. 56	Misc. photos and newsclippings	1937, no date
b. 4, f. 57	Chinese language items	No date
b. 4, f. 58	Chinese language items	No date
b. 5, f. 59	Church bulletins, programs, poems	1920-1946
b. 5, f. 60	Booklets, articles including "An Outline of the Organization of the Kuomintang and the Chinese Government", "Bulltown" newspaper for American troops in China and India, "A Letter from Madame Chiang Kai-shek to Boys and Girls Across the Ocean"	1940-1943, no date
b. 5, f. 61	Postcards, money, miscellaneous	1940, no date
b. 5, f. 62	Leaflets regarding YMCA	No date
b. 5, f. 63	Typescript copy of journal of Elisha Loomis, who was among the first company of missionaries to Hawaii; journal documents Loomis's tour of Hawaii in 1824-1826	1824-1826
b. 5, f. 64	"Shanghai's Schemozzle" (reprinted cartoons and "In Parenthesis" observations from North China Daily News)	1937

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

Corporate Body

Young Men's Christian Associations of China