

Guide to the Lacy Family Papers

RG 223



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2010

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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 223

CREATOR: Lacy, Creighton, 1919-

TITLE: Lacy Family Papers

DATES: 1905-2002

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, and collected material document the life and work of three generations of the Lacy family. William H. Lacy directed the Foochow Mission Press and, after 1903, the Methodist Publishing House in Shanghai, while his wife Emma Nind Lacy taught at the Anglo-Chinese School in Fuzhou (Foochow) and elsewhere. Their four sons and one daughter all served as Methodist missionaries in China. Son George Carleton Lacy spent twenty years as general secretary of the American Bible Society in China and became Bishop of the Methodist China Central Conference in 1941. His son, Creighton Lacy, was a missionary to China from 1946 to 1951 and later taught at Duke University Divinity School.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.223>

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.223>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Creighton Lacy, 2008

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Lacy Family Papers (RG 223), 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

George Carleton Lacy

- 1888 December 28 ○ George Carleton Lacy was born in Fuzhou (Foochow), China, son of William Henry and Emma Nind Lacy, Methodist missionaries in China. William H. Lacy directed the Foochow Mission Press and, after 1903, the Methodist Publishing House in Shanghai, while his wife Emma Nind Lacy taught at the Anglo-Chinese School in Fuzhou (Foochow) and elsewhere. Their four sons and one daughter all of whom served as Methodist missionaries in China. Emma Nind Lacy's mother, Mary Clarke Nind, helped to organize the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in the North Central states in the U.S. and in the 1890s took a world tour of Methodist mission stations. George Lacy was educated at mission schools in Fuzhou (Foochow) and Shanghai
- 1911 ○ B.A. Ohio Wesleyan University
- 1913 ○ B.D. Garrett Biblical Institute
- 1914 ○ M.A. from Northwestern University
- 1914 ○ Appointed as Methodist missionary to China, arriving in Shanghai in September
- 1916-1920 ○ After attending the Nanking Language School, George Lacy was an itinerant missionary in Jiangxi (Kiangsi) Province, President of William Nast College, and District Superintendent.
- 1918 ○ Married Harriet Lang Boutelle, who had gone to Guangzhou (Canton), China as a YWCA secretary.
- 1921-1941 ○ Loaned by Methodist Board of Missions to the American Bible Society; served as Secretary of its China Agency and then of the China Bible House formed with the British and Foreign Bible Society. Also served as China correspondent for *Zion's Herald* and *The Christian Century*
- 1928-1929 ○ Studied at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University in New York while on furlough. Received a second M.A. in 1938. Awarded honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Ohio Wesleyan University and Garrett Biblical Institute
- 1935 ○ Appointed member of the Joint Commission on Unity of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Methodist Episcopal Church, South in China

George Carleton Lacy

- 1941
 - Elected Bishop of the China Central Conference and assigned to the Fuzhou (Foochow) area. Traveled extensively in China when his episcopal area was occupied by Japanese troops.
- 1949
 - George Lacy's tenure as Bishop was set to end but the advent of the Communist government made it impossible to hold General Conference or elections. GCL officially resigned and turned his authority over to Bishop W. Y. Chen but he was not granted an exit permit when other missionaries left and was under house arrest.
- 1951
 - Died of heart attack while being held at Union Hospital, Fuzhou (Foochow).

Biographical / Historical

Creighton Boutelle Lacy

- 1919 July 18
 - Creighton Boutelle Lacy born in Guling (Kuling), China, son of George Carleton and Harriet Boutelle Lacy. He attended Shanghai American School.
- 1941
 - A.B. (summa cum laude) Swarthmore College
- 1944
 - B.D. (magna cum laude) Yale Divinity School
- 1944
 - Married Frances M. Thompson
- 1944-1946
 - Pastor of Grace Methodist Church, New Haven, CT
- 1946-1951
 - Methodist missionary to China: taught philosophy at University of Nanking, Bible at the Anglo-Chinese College in Fuzhou (Foochow), theology at Union Theological School in Fuzhou (Foochow)
- 1953
 - Ph.D. Yale University; thesis: "Protestant Missions in Communist China"
- 1953-1991
 - Taught missions and social ethics at Duke University Divinity School, served as Associate Dean and editor of the *Duke Divinity School Review*. His major publications include *Conscience of India; Moral Traditions in the Modern World* (1965), *Frank Mason North: His Social and Ecumenical Mission* (1967), *The Word-carrying Giant: the Growth of the American Bible Society 1816-1966* (1977), *Coming Home--to China* (1978)
- 1991-2010
 - Professor Emeritus of Parish Ministry at Duke University Divinity School
- 2010 October 8
 - Died

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, writings, and collected material document the life and work of three generations of the Lacy family. Of particular interest are the missionary circular letters and other documents gathered by Creighton Lacy when preparing his dissertation about Protestant missions and the Chinese church at the time of the Communist takeover. Creighton Lacy also gathered biographical information about the Lacy family and transcribed diaries written by his father, Carleton. Papers related to Creighton Lacy's teaching career at Duke University Divinity School are contained in the Creighton Lacy Papers held there.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1937-2002

- II. Writings, 1932-1995
- III. Research Files, 1948-1952
- IV. Collected Material, 1940-1994
- V. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1905-1997

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1937-2002

The letters in Box 1 Folders 5-9 have been digitized and are available under the [Lacy Family Papers](#) in the Divinity Library AdHoc Digital Image and Text Database.

Carleton Lacy

b. 1, f. 1	Letters of George Carleton Lacy (GCL) to "My dear Family" written en route to China and from Shanghai	1937 Dec - 1938 Jan
b. 1, f. 2-4	GCL to family from Shanghai	1938 Feb-1939 Apr
b. 1, f. 5-6	George Lacy to family, primarily from Fuzhou (Foochow), including regarding arrival of Communist army, and regarding activities of Creighton (Corky) who was also in Fuzhou (Foochow)	1949 June-December
b. 1, f. 7-9	George Lacy to family from Fuzhou (Foochow) - regular detailed letters regarding his activities following the Communist takeover and regarding activities of Creighton (Corky) who was also in Fuzhou (Foochow)	1950 January-December
b. 1, f. 10	George Lacy to family from Fuzhou (Foochow), including regarding operations of Methodist Church in China	1951 January-May
b. 1, f. 11	George Lacy to family from Fuzhou (Foochow), including from Union Hospital, including regarding questioning by police	1951 June-December
b. 1, f. 12-13	Mimeographed circular letters sent by GCL describing his work in China	1945 Mar - 1950 Jul
b. 1, f. 14	GCL to/from others: A-J, including Eugene Barnett, William Richard Johnson	1919-1951
b. 1, f. 15	GCL and Harriet Lacy to/from others: M-Z, including Carlisle Phillips	1938-1951
b. 1, f. 16	Correspondence of others, including Methodist Board of Missions, Lucy C. Wang	1949-1951

Creighton Lacy

b. 1, f. 17	Letters from his mother in China while he was at Swarthmore; to his father from Swarthmore, to/from uncles and cousins	1939-1941, 1962, 2001-2002
b. 1, f. 18	Circular letter from "Corky" and Fran Lacy while at University of Nanking (1948); letters to CBL, including from Miner Searle Bate, Kenneth Scott Latourette	1947-1993

Series II: Writings, 1932-1995

By Carleton Lacy

b. 2, f. 19	"Lacy-Logues" - 2 printed booklets describing the Lacy family travels in 1932 and 1937; typescript document intended as 1944 sequel to Lacy-Logues, found and edited by CBL in 1995	1932-1944
b. 2, f. 19	Newspaper article "Aeroplane to Szechuen" from <i>North China Daily News</i>	1935
b. 2, f. 20	Articles: "Creative Imagination", "High Spots in the Central Conference" in <i>The China Christian Advocate</i> ; "China, Peace and Propaganda" in <i>The Christian Century</i> ; "The Missionary in the Post-war China" (typescript)	1941-1944
b. 2, f. 21	Transcripts of diaries of George Lacy, including regarding his calling as a missionary, his trip to China, his work in Nanchang, Shanghai, and Kuantse, Fujian (Fukien)	1914-1916
b. 2, f. 22	Transcripts/excerpts from diaries of GCL	1947-1949
b. 2, f. 23	Booklet: "Jesus for Chinese Youth" - based on M.A. thesis Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University	1937

By Creighton Lacy

b. 2, f. 24-26	"Democracy in China" - Honors thesis at Swarthmore College	1941
b. 2, f. 27	Student papers and published articles, including "The Democracy of China" in <i>Asia and the Americas</i> , "Missions are Missing" in <i>Intercollegian</i> , "Frontiers of Faith" in <i>World Outlook</i>	1936-1948
b. 2, f. 28	Papers and published articles, including "Christian Missions Confront Communism, 1921-1948", "Five Months to Freedom or Lessons in Liberation", "When Christians Support Marx" in <i>The Christian Century</i> , "The Missionary Exodus from China" in <i>Pacific Affairs</i>	1949-1958
b. 2, f. 29	Papers and published articles, including "God's Love... Our Mission" in <i>The Reveille</i> , "Christianity and Communism" in <i>Adult Student</i>	1962-1963
b. 2, f. 30	Published articles: "The Banyan Falls" in <i>The American Review</i> , "Motivation for Missions" in <i>The Outlook</i>	1965
b. 2, f. 31	Published article: "Confucian-ism in Mao's China" in International Christian University publication	1974
b. 3, f. 32	Papers and published articles, including in Duke Divinity School publications	1975-1979
b. 3, f. 33	Papers and published articles, including "A History of Christianity in China" in <i>The China Connection</i> , "My Pilgrimage in Mission" in <i>International Bulletin of Missionary Research</i>	1980-1995
b. 3, f. 34	Papers and articles, including "China is Young Again: A Student Looks to the Country of his Birth", "The Diaspora from China", response to question "What steps or stages did the Communist regime go through in its treatment of foreign missionaries or missionary institutions?", "A Personal View: The Impact of China on the American Missionary Family"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 35	Chapters: "Toward a Theology of Public Responsibility" in <i>America and the Future of Theology</i> ; "With Minstrel Heart" in <i>The Hymns of Frank Mason North</i>	1967, 1970

By Creighton Lacy (continued)

b. 3, f. 36	Study Guides: "Christian Responsibility for the United States and the New Nations", "Adult Guide on Understanding China", "'Adam, Where Art Thou' - Interpretive report of the Interfield Consultation , St. Simons Island, GA	1956-1969
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By Others

b. 3, f. 37	Including writings about China by Harry Haines, Elmer Hall, Betty Hares	1974-1977
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b. 3, f. 38	Including writings about China by Virginia Hebbert, Roger Manners, Alden Matthews, Clifford Petitt	1937-1982
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b. 3, f. 39	Including "Interview with Dr. and Mrs. K.H. Ting" by Eugene Stockwell (1976); "Barefoot Through China" by Eugene Stockwell, "Welthy Fisher's Visit to the People's Republic of China" by Sally Swenson (1973)	1973-1980
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b. 3, f. 40	Including "Methodist Missionary Contributions to Intercultural Understanding and Diplomacy: The Caldwell Family in Fuzhou and Central Fujian, 1912-1949" by Joseph K.S. Yick	1979-1993
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Series III: Research Files (CBL), 1948-1952

b. 3, f. 41	Documentation related to Communism and the Christian colleges and universities in China	1948-1952
b. 3, f. 42-46	Missionary circular letters used in preparation of dissertation, "Protestant Missions in Communist China"	1948-1951
b. 4, f. 47	Missionary circular letters used in preparation of dissertation, "Protestant Missions in Communist China"	1949-1950
b. 4, f. 48-49	Statements and writings re. missionary societies and Christians under Communist pressures	1948-1951
b. 4, f. 50	Re. Methodist missions in China	1948-1950
b. 4, f. 51	Methodist mission headquarters bulletins	1951-1951
b. 6, f. 67	Newspapers and magazine clippings, incl.: <i>Time</i> article re. Madame Chiang, Japan-China war, anti-American demonstrations	1940-1949
b. 6, f. 68	Clippings, incl. re. feud between Stilwell and Chiang, China under Communism	1950
b. 6, f. 69-71	Clippings, incl. "What Communism is Doing to China"; "Red Press 'Hate' Campaign; "Christian Chinese Being Slain"; "Reds Deport Missionaries"; "Report on China Missions"	1951
b. 6, f. 72-76	Clippings, incl. re. missionaries imprisoned, Christian colleges reorganized under Communists, F. Olin Stockwell and Frank W. Price, others released; Chinese Christian teacher's testimony in a 'self-accusation' meeting; persecution of Chinese Christians	1952
b. 6, f. 77	Clippings, incl. re. release of missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Bercovitz, Dr. Emanuel Gidet, Abbie Sanderson, others; stories of Olin Stockwell and Robert Bryan.	1953
b. 6, f. 78	Clippings, incl. "Red Purge Has Killed 15 Million Chinese"; re. Chou En-lai	1954
b. 6, f. 79	Clippings, incl. "Today in Revolutionary China - How are Christians Faring?"; "Thought Reform in Communist China"	1955
b. 6, f. 80	Clippings, incl. re. release of Wilda and Homer Bradshaw; "My Self-examination" by Wang Ming-Tao; "Church Life in Today's China"	1956-1957
b. 6, f. 81	Clippings, incl. "Red China Makes Swift Progress"; "Mao's War with the Chinese Family"	1958-1959
b. 6, f. 82	Clippings, incl. "China and the UN"; "Chinese Resume Attack on Bible"	1960-1963
b. 6, f. 83	Clippings, incl. "A Struggle to be Faithful"; "Red China Versus the World"	1964-1965
b. 6, f. 84	Clippings, incl. "NCC and Red China"	1966-1967
b. 6, f. 85	Clippings, incl. "The Deification of Mao"; "Mao's Attempt to Remake Man"	1970-1971
b. 7, f. 86	Incl. Quarterly notes on Christianity and Chinese Religion and Culture (Ching Feng); "A Visit to Peking University"	1972
b. 7, f. 87	Clippings, incl. "A History of the Chinese Communist Party, 1921-1949"; "Confucianism Under Attack"; "New Style of Education Emerging"	1973

b. 7, f. 88	Clippings, incl. "Equality of Women in China"; "New Cultural Revolution"	1974
b. 7, f. 89	Clippings, incl. "China Revisited"; "Maoism and the Christian Ethic"	1974
b. 7, f. 90	Clippings, incl. "China's Capitalist Troubles"; "Education in China"	1975
b. 7, f. 91	Clippings, incl. "Rewi Alley - 50 years in China"; "China's Emerging New Class"	1976
b. 7, f. 92	Clippings, incl. "U.S. Bishop Died in Red Prison"	no date
b. 7, f. 93	Notes: Summaries from books and conferences	1922-1947
b. 7, f. 94	Notes: Summaries re. education, Christianity under Communism, etc.	1948-1949
b. 7, f. 95	"China Under the Red Flag, WCC paper on Facts and Ideals in Communist China"	1950
b. 7, f. 96	"The Response of Youth to Communism"	1950
b. 7, f. 97-98	Notes: Summaries from books, articles, speeches	1951-1954
b. 7, f. 99-100	Incl. "Have Chinese Christians Changed Their Thinking Under Communism"	1955-1959
b. 7, f. 101	Inside China Today; Notes from China Quarterly	1970-1972
b. 7, f. 102	Incl. "American Missionaries in a Turbulent China"	1973-1977
b. 7, f. 103	Miscellaneous notes	no date

Series IV: Collected Material, 1940-1994

b. 4, f. 52-53	Conference papers and miscellaneous documents related to China collected by CBL	1994, n.d.
b. 4, f. 54	Booklets: "The Great Migration and the Church Behind the Lines"; "The Great Migration and the Church in West China"	1940-1941
b. 4, f. 55	First issue of <i>Motive</i> - magazine of the Methodist Student Movement	1943
b. OVd-5	Rubbing of Nestorian Stele /Monument with translation	
b. OVd-5	Four scrolls (woodcuts): 1) Confucius; 2) Bodhidharma (475-536), the first Buddhist patriarch from India to settle in China; 3) The "Forbidden City" or Imperial Palace in Beijing; 4) the sacred mountain of Taishan in Shandong Province	

Series V: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1905-1997

b. 4, f. 56	Photographs: including portrait of Carleton Lacy (1920), Methodist Bishops at Central Conference (1941), Methodist missionaries in Fuzhou (1950), Commencement, faculty and students of Fukien Union Theological Seminary (1950)	1920-1950
b. 4, f. 57	Northwestern University M.A. diploma of Carleton Lacy	1914
b. 4, f. 58-59	Biographical statements, obituaries, and tributes to Carleton Lacy	1951, n.d.
b. 4, f. 60	Birth certificate, grade transcripts, biographical information re. Creighton Lacy	1919-1995
b. 4, f. 61	Letters and reviews re. Creighton Lacy's book <i>Coming Home - to China</i>	1978
b. 4, f. 62	Letters and genealogical research re. Lacy family, including William Henry and Emma Nind Lacy	1917-1997, n.d.
b. 5, f. 63-65	Documents and genealogical research re. Lacy family and Gamewell family, including re. Mary Clarke Nind	1905-1994, n.d.
b. 5, f. 66	Bible and devotional book belonging to Mary Clarke Nind	

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

Communism and Christianity -- China
Missions -- China

Names

Lacy, Creighton, 1919-

Corporate Body

Methodist Episcopal Church -- Missions --
China