

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the McCandliss-Judson Family Papers

RG 248



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2013, 2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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CALL NUMBER: RG 248

CREATOR: Judson, Miriam Ruth McCandliss, 1893-1960

TITLE: McCandliss-Judson Family Papers

DATES: 1879-1952

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (5 boxes; one oversize)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection documents the life and work of Herbert Alfred and Ruth McCandliss Judson, who were Presbyterian missionaries to China, stationed primarily in Lianzhou (Linchow), Guangdong province from 1919 to 1927. Herbert and Ruth were children and siblings of missionaries to China and these papers also shed light on the lives and work of their families, in particular Olivia Kerr McCandliss, mother of Ruth McCandliss Judson. She was the daughter of John G. Kerr, who was well known for establishing a hospital for the insane in China. The men of the McCandliss and Judson families were medical missionaries, the McCandliss family being stationed in Hainan.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.248>

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.248>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Brad Bryan, 2012; additional correspondence purchased in 2018

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

McCandliss-Judson Family Papers (RG 248), 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

Miriam Ruth McCandliss Judson and her husband Herbert Alfred Judson served as Presbyterian missionaries in China from 1919 to 1927, stationed primarily in Lianzhou (Linchow), Guangdong province. Both Ruth and Herbert were born in China, the children of China missionaries. Ruth McCandliss Judson (1893-1960) was the daughter of Olivia Kerr McCandliss and Henry Martyn McCandliss, who served as Presbyterian missionaries in China from 1885 to 1925, primarily stationed in Hainan. Olivia Kerr McCandliss (1869-1933) was the daughter of John G. Kerr, Presbyterian missionary in China from 1854 to 1901. Ruth McCandliss Judson's brothers Robert and William also served as Presbyterian missionaries in China. Papers of Robert McCandliss are available in YDL RG 8, China Records Project Miscellaneous Personal Papers Collection.

Herbert Alfred Judson (1892-1981) was born in Hangzhou (Hangchow), China, son of Jennie and Junius Herbert Judson, who were Presbyterian missionaries in China from 1887 to 1923. Herbert Judson was a medical doctor stationed at the hospital in Lianzhou (Linchow) [Lianzhou]. Judson was a graduate of Park College in Missouri and received his medical degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Unable to return to China after 1927 due to political disturbances, Herbert Judson began a general medical practice in Portland, Oregon. Ruth and their two daughters, Olivia and Margaret, remained in Oregon while Herbert took post-graduate training in radiology in Massachusetts and then the family lived in California where Herbert served as a radiologist.

Scope and Contents

Of particular value in this collection is the Family Correspondence series, which sheds light on the lives of two prominent Presbyterian missionary families in China. The records in this collection are complemented by the papers of Robert McCandliss, brother of Ruth McCandliss Judson, which are located in YDSL Record Group No. 8, as well as by extensive published Presbyterian reports and periodicals, and the Presbyterian mission archives available in microfilm format. Additional family correspondence was added to the collection in 2018.

This collection contains material of relevance to the study of missionary children, containing correspondence of two generations of children separated from their parents while at school. Both Robert McCandliss and Herbert Judson were medical missionaries, as was Ruth McCandliss Judson's father, Henry McCandliss, so the collections are also of relevance to the study of medical work in China. The Writings series includes Judson's yearly reports as a medical missionary from 1919 to 1923 and a sketch of the Hospital for the Insane that was founded by Ruth McCandliss Judson's grandfather John G. Kerr.

While the collection is constituted primarily of correspondence, it also includes a variety of interesting items collected in China, including a long embroidered banner given in thanks to Dr. Herbert Judson for his service in China.

Arrangement

- I. Family Correspondence, 1879-1944
- II. General Correspondence, 1885-1952
- III. Writings, 1912-1923, n.d.
- IV. Biographical Documentation, 1917-1929, n.d.
- V. Collected Material
- VI. Photographs

Collection Contents

Series I: Family Correspondence, 1879 - 1944

Olivia Kerr (McCandliss) to her parents		
b. 1, f. 1	Letters written from school in China and then school in U.S.	1879 May - 1886 Nov
b. 1, f. 2	To parents in China from school in U.S.; incl. re. visiting relatives, desire to return to China	1887 Jan - May
b. 1, f. 3	To parents in China from school in U.S.; incl. re. visiting relatives, desire to return to China	1887 Jun - Nov
b. 1, f. 4	Incl. re. work in Chinese Sunday School in Philadelphia; visiting family in Ohio; marriage to Henry McCandliss in June	1888 Jan - Jun
b. 1, f. 5	Visiting in London and Scotland, then on to China, Japan; incl. re. children William and Ruth McCandliss	1888 Jul - 1894 Sep
b. 1, f. 6	Family of Olivia and Henry in U.S.; leave son William in U.S. and return to Hainan, China	1902 Jan - Dec
Henry McCandliss to parents		
b. 1, f. 7	Incl. to Dr. Kerr (Olivia's father) re. hospital	1888 Jan - 1889 Jun
Ruth McCandliss (Judson) to her parents		
b. 1, f. 8	From school in Ledong (Nodoa), Hainan, then from Hong Kong (1906) and from Trumansburg, NY where she was living with Mr. and Mrs. Niles	1903 October - 1906 September
b. 5, f. 14	On board ship from China to U.S.	1906 July
b. 1, f. 9	From Trumansburg, incl. re. school life	1906 Oct - Dec
b. 1, f. 10	Incl. re. school life in Trumansburg, vacation in St. Lawrence	1907 Jan - Sep
b. 1, f. 11	Traveling in U.S. with mother and siblings; in Wooster, Ohio for Christmas vacation	1908 Jul - Dec
b. 1, f. 12	At school in Wooster, Ohio; parents return to China	1909 Jan - Jun
b. 1, f. 13	In Ohio with brother Robert; difficulties with host family, including insufficient food	1909 Jul - Auf
b. 1, f. 14	Move to Westminster Home for missionary children in Wooster, Ohio; school life and holidays	1909 Sep - Dec
b. 1, f. 15	School life and social activities	1910 Jan - Feb
b. 1, f. 17	Ruth has scarlet fever; graduates from "prep" school; vacation in Trumansburg, NY	1911 Jan - Jul
b. 1, f. 18	Summer with relatives; starts classes at Wooster College	1911 Aug - Dec
b. 1, f. 19	Incl. re. college life and activities	1912 Jan - Apr

Ruth McCandliss (Judson) to her parents (continued)

b. 1, f. 20	College life in Wooster and summer vacation	1912 May - 1913 May
b. 5, f. 15	On board ship, in New Haven and New Jersey	1918 September - December
b. 2, f. 21	Following marriage to Dr. Herbert Judson, Ruth is living in New Jersey while Judson is in Providence; Ruth's brother Bill is also married and going to China	1919 Jan - May
b. 2, f. 22	Ruth in Providence, working at summer camp; preparing to sail for China	1919 Jun - Aug
b. 2, f. 23	Ruth and Herbert sail for China in November; assigned to Hwai Yuen station; engaged in language study	1919 Sep - Dec
b. 5, f. 16	Stationed in Hwai Yuen	1920 January - May
b. 2, f. 24	Ruth and Herbert in Nanjing (Nanking) for language study and in Hangzhou (Hangchow) for Christmas; daughter Olivia born on September 28	1920 April - December
b. 2, f. 25	Judsons move to Lianzhou (Linchow) station	1921 January - May
b. 2, f. 26	Visit from Ruth's parents; robbery at their home; studying Cantonese; Ruth has miscarriage	1921 Sep - Dec
b. 2, f. 27	Herbert makes trip to treat mountain people; Ruth goes to visit her parents in Haikou (Hoihow); Mission meeting in Guangzhou (Canton); summer camp at Loh Fau	1922 January - August
b. 2, f. 28	Stationed in Lianzhou (Linchow); disruptions from soldiers and robbers; description of hospital experiences	1923 January - May
b. 2, f. 29	Attending mission meeting; trip to Hong Kong and Shanghai; at Mokanshan for summer vacation and then back to Lianzhou (Linchow); Herbert traveling in countryside	1923 June - December
b. 2, f. 30	Preparing for furlough; new daughter born (Margaret); travel home to U.S. where visiting in Ann Arbor and then living in New Jersey	1924 Jan - 1925 Jul
b. 2, f. 31	Herbert working at New Jersey State Hospital; uncertainty in South China prevents Judsons' return	1925 Sep - Dec
b. 2, f. 32	Judsons move to Oregon where Herbert opens a medical office and works in a hospital	1926 Jan - 1928 Sep
b. 5, f. 20	Fragments and undated	No date
Herbert Judson to/from parents		
b. 2, f. 33	To/from his parents, primarily from China	1921 - 1926 Aug
b. 2, f. 34	To/from his parents after return from China	1926 Sep - 1928
b. 2, f. 35	To Ruth's parents	1919 - 1923
b. 5, f. 13	From father to Herbert and Ruth	1921, 1924

Olivia and Henry McCandliss to their children

Olivia and Henry McCandliss to their children (continued)

b. 5, f. 1	From Olivia in Haikou (Hoihow), Hainan, primarily to daughter Ruth; one letter to son Will and Maybelle	1918 September - December
b. 5, f. 2-3	From Olivia and Henry in Haikou (Hoihow) primarily to daughter Ruth; one letter to Robert	1919 January - 1920 July
b. 5, f. 4-5	From Olivia and Henry, in the U.S., to Ruth and her husband Herbert Judson	1920 August - 1921 July
b. 5, f. 5-9	From Olivia and Henry in Haikou (Hoihow) to Ruth and Herbert	1921 September - 1924 May
b. 5, f. 10	From Olivia and Henry, in the U.S., to children	1926 November - 1928 October
b. 3, f. 36	From Olivia and Henry in California to Judsons in Oregon	1926 - 1932
b. 5, f. 11	Undated letters and fragments	
Other family correspondence		
b. 3, f. 37	Letters to McCandliss parents from their children at school and later	1907 - 1921
b. 3, f. 38	Siblings letters to/from Herbert and Ruth	1906 - 1944
b. 5, f. 12	Sibling, niece, grandmother letters, primarily to Ruth and Herbert	1917-1928, no date
Herbert Judson to/from Ruth McCandliss Judson		
b. 3, f. 39	Primarily from period before their marriage	1916 Sep - 1919 Mar
b. 5, f. 17-18	Herbert to Ruth while in medical school	1917 October - 1918 November
b. 3, f. 40	In China, including regarding summer camp activities and daughter Olivia	1920 Dec - 1921 Jul
b. 3, f. 41	Ruth and Olivia visiting parents in U.S.; Herbert at hospital in Lianzhou (Linchow)	1922 May - June
b. 5, f. 19	Ruth to Herbert from Guangzhou (Canton); note from Herbert to Ruth	1924, undated
b. 3, f. 42	Ruth and daughters in California while Herbert returns to China	1926 Mar - Jul
b. 3, f. 43	Herbert at Massachusetts General Hospital doing post-graduate study while family is in California	1930 Sep - Nov
b. 3, f. 44	Herbert at Massachusetts General Hospital doing post-graduate study while family is in California	1930 Dec
b. 3, f. 45	Herbert at Massachusetts General Hospital doing post-graduate study while family is in California	1931 Jan - Jun

Series II: General Correspondence, 1885 - 1952

b. 3, f. 46	Letters of others to/from Herbert and Ruth McCandliss Judson: A - L	1923 - 1943
b. 3, f. 47	Letters of others to/from Herbert and Ruth McCandliss Judson: M - W	1922 - 1952
b. 3, f. 48	Letters of others to/from McCandliss family, including from Olivia McCandliss' mother to Dr. McCandliss.	1888 - 1925
b. 3, f. 49	Letters of others	1885 - 1927
b. 5, f. 21	Letter from Presbyterian Mission Board regarding death of Henry McCandliss and other miscellaneous undated correspondence	1931, no date

Series III: Writings, 1912 - 1923

Writings of Herbert Judson

b. 3, f. 50	Yearly personal reports on his work	1919 - 1923
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Writings of others

b. 3, f. 51	"A Short Sketch of the Hospital for the Insane" by John G. Kerr; "A Trip to Linchow" by Arthur Carson	1912, n.d.
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Series IV: Biographical Documentation, 1917 - 1929

McCandliss family

Genealogical chart; report cards of Ruth McCandliss

b. 5, f. 22	Wedding announcement for Henry McCandliss and Olivia Kerr	1888
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Judson family (Herbert and Ruth)

b. 3, f. 53	Travel documents, financial accounts, registration cards	1917 - 1929
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Series V: Collected Material

b. 4, f. 54	Including Chinese language items, Chinese money
b. 4, f. 55	Including poems, news items
b. OV1	Long embroidered banner given in thanks to Dr. Herbert Judson for his service in China
b. OV1	Artifacts: five small Chinese slippers, three of the type used for bound feet; two carved wooden figures, including one of two fishermen carrying fish on a pole

Series VI: Photographs

b. 4, f. 56	Judson family	no date
b. 4, f. 57	Ruth McCandliss Judson	no date
b. 4, f. 58	Nurses in China	no date
b. 4, f. 59	Unidentified men, possibly Herbert Judson (?)	no date
b. 4, f. 60	Group photos of missionaries and others	no date
b. 4, f. 61	Tomb of Dr. Kerr	no date
b. 4, f. 62	Scenes in China and elsewhere	no date

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, Medical -- China
Missions -- China

Names

Judson, Herbert Alfred, 1892-1981
Judson, Miriam Ruth McCandliss, 1893-1960

Contributors

Judson, Miriam Ruth McCandliss, 1893-1960
Judson, Herbert Alfred, 1892-1981
McCandliss, Olivia Kerr, 1869-1933