

Guide to the Yung Wing Papers

MS 602



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz and Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

July 1981

Yale University Library
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Existence and Location of Copies	4
Biographical / Historical	5
Scope and Contents	6
Arrangement	6
Collection Contents	7
Accession 1999-M-068: Additional materials, 1878-2001	7
Accession 2005-M-073: Additional materials, Circa 2000-2004	9
Selected Search Terms	11

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 602

CREATOR: Yung, Wing, 1828-1912

TITLE: Yung Wing papers

DATES: 1848-2004

BULK DATES: 1848-1910

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.09 linear feet (6 boxes, 7 compact discs/optical disks)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English and Chinese.

SUMMARY: Letters and manuscripts to and from Yung Wing, the first Chinese student to graduate from Yale (1854). Also included are electrostatic copies of all the Yung Wing material from other collections in Manuscripts and Archives and Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, as well as three unfiled additions of correspondence from Mary Kellogg Yung, wife of Yung Wing, with Jane Bartlett Kellogg, her sister, and Mary Bartlett Kellogg, her mother. Exhibit panels, printed material, and audiovisual items pertaining to Yung Wing complete the papers.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0602>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0602>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers transferred from various collections in Manuscripts and Archives and the Beinecke Rare Book Library; gift of Jane Kellogg, 1998; gift of Elizabeth Jones, 2000; transfer from the Department of History, 2001; and gift of Zhuhai International Culture Association, China, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection, with the exception of Accessions 1999-M-068, 2000-M-097, 2001-M-052, and 2005-M-073, is also available on microfilm. For the portions which have been filmed, patrons must use HM 18 instead of the originals. The materials are open for research. Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy for their personal use should consult Copying Services information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site. Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials contained in this collection cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Yung Wing Papers (MS 602). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

This finding aid was revised in 2021 to address outdated and harmful descriptive language. During that revision, a racist descriptor in the collection's biographical note, which is extracted from The Obituary Record of the Graduates of Yale University, 1910-1915, was removed and replaced with currently accepted terminology (i.e., "Chinese laborers").

versions of this finding aid may be available. Please contact Manuscripts and Archives for details. If you have questions or comments about these revisions, please contact the Manuscripts and Archives. For more information on reparative archival description at Yale, see

Existence and Location of Copies

The collection, with the exception of Accessions 1999-M-068, 2000-M-097, 2001-M-052, and 2005-M-073, is also available on microfilm (177 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM18.

Biographical / Historical

First Chinese student to graduate from Yale University (1854); served in Imperial Customs Translating Department, Shanghai; worked under the Viceroy Imperial Customs Translating Department, Shanghai; worked under the Viceroy Tsang Kwoh Fan, 1863-1865; involved with education in China and in sending Chinese students to the U.S.; held various posts in the Chinese government until 1902, when he moved permanently to the U.S.

Yung Wing, second son of Ming Kun Yung and Lien Tai Lin, was born November 17, 1828, in the village of Nam Ping, near Macao, China, and received his early education in Macao in the missionary school of Mrs. Gutzlaff, an English lady, and that just started by the Morrison Education Society, under the charge of Rev. Samuel Robbins Brown, D.D. (B.A. Yale 1832), and soon removed to Hong Kong. In 1847 with two other Chinese boys from the latter school he came with Rev. Dr. Brown to the United States, expecting to return in two years, but friends enabled him to continue his studies here, and he was fitted for college at Monson (Mass.) Academy, under Rev. Charles Hammond (B.A. Yale 1839). He became a member of the Monson Congregational Church.

In sophomore year he twice won the first prize in English composition. During the latter half of his course he was steward of a boarding house and librarian of the Brothers in Unity, thereby largely earning his way.

Before graduation he had determined to do what he could to secure the regeneration and enlightenment of China under Western education. He had studied surveying under Professor William A. Norton and greatly desired to remain longer in this country to take a scientific course, but in November 1854, he sailed for China in company with Rev. William Allen Macy (B.A. Yale 1844), who had been one of his teachers in the Morrison School in Hong Kong and was then going out as a missionary of the American Board.

On reaching his native land after an absence of eight years he engaged in many different occupations before gaining the position and influence necessary to secure the educational advantages he desired for China. After regaining his command of the Chinese language he was at first for a short time secretary to Dr. Peter Parker (B.A. Yale 1831), for many years a medical missionary in Canton and at that time United States Commissioner, was then interpreter in the Hong Kong Supreme Court, then in the Imperial Customs Translating Department at Shanghai. The last position was financially a good one, but on account of the system of graft he found to prevail, he resigned after four months. In 1859 he engaged in the tea and silk commission business, which he continued with profit until 1863, when he entered the service of the Viceroy Tsang Kwoh Fan. In June 1864, he was sent abroad by the viceroy to purchase machinery for a machine shop, afterward known as the Kiang Nan Arsenal, near Shanghai. To this a mechanical school was afterward attached at Yung Wing's suggestion.

After visiting France and England he decided to make his purchase in the United States, and reached New Haven in season to attend his class decennial reunion. He spent six months in this country while the machinery was being constructed in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and then, in the spring of 1865, left New York for San Francisco by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and finished the circuit of the globe. A few months after his return to China he received an official document making him a Mandarin of the fifth rank, and later he was raised to the fourth rank.

In 1868 the opportunity suddenly came to present his plan to the prime minister for the education of picked Chinese youths abroad for public service, but the retirement and death of this official caused a delay of two years, when the Chinese Educational Commission was finally authorized. A group of thirty students was to be sent to the United States annually for four years, each student to have fifteen years to complete his education. If the first and second detachments proved a success the experiment was to be continued indefinitely. Headquarters were established in Hartford, Conn., where a preparatory school was built. In the autumn of 1872 the first group of students reached this country, and in 1875 the last group came. Yung Wing was appointed chief commissioner, and with this office promoted to the third official rank.

In 1873 he made a brief visit to China and induced the government to send large orders for Gatling guns. While in China, he was appointed to visit Peru and investigate the condition of [Chinese laborers] in that country. In 1878 he was appointed associate minister to Washington, and also raised to the second rank of

Mandarin, and invested with the title of Taou Tae (or Intendant) of the Province of Kiang Su. Through the efforts of the reactionary party, the Educational Commission was abolished in 1881 and the students were recalled. Recently, however, through the influence of some of the students who have risen to power, the work of the commission has been revived.

In the spring of 1882 Dr. Yung returned to China. While in Peking he prepared a plan for the suppression of the Indian opium trade in China, but he was informed that the government could not then find suitable men to carry out the plan, and it was laid aside for many years. In the spring of 1883 he returned to the United States, where he remained until the outbreak of war between China and Japan, working with the reform party. In 1895 he went again to China to see the Viceroy Chang Chi Tung, by whom he had been commissioned to raise a loan in London to enable the government to continue the war, and was appointed secretary of foreign affairs for Kiang Nan, but soon severed his official connection with that province, and made his headquarters in Shanghai, where he labored for the establishment of a national banking system and received a concession for a railroad to be built with Chinese capital, but at that time both projects failed. In 1897 he represented China at the jubilee of Queen Victoria in London. In 1902 he returned permanently to the United States.

After the empress dowager gained control of the government in 1898 a price was placed upon his head, but the ban was removed in 1905. Since the establishment of the republic he had been keenly interested in its progress, and had been in constant correspondence with its leading spirits.

In 1876 he received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale. In 1909 Henry Holt & Company published his autobiography, *My Life in China and America*.

Dr. Yung died of apoplexy at his home in Hartford, Connecticut, April 21, 1912. He was in the 84th year of his age. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Joseph H. Twichell (B.A. Yale 1859), for more than forty years his intimate friend and pastor in the Asylum Hill Church. He was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

He married February 24, 1875, Mary Louisa, daughter of Bela Crocker and Mary Golden (Bartlett) Kellogg, of Avon, Conn., and had two sons, the elder a graduate of the Sheffield Scientific School in 1898, and the younger of the College in 1902. Mrs. Yung died May 29, 1886.

[From *The Obituary Record of the Graduates of Yale University*, 1910-1915, pp. 183-86.]

Scope and Contents

Letters and manuscripts to and from Yung Wing, the first Chinese student to graduate from Yale (1854). Also included are electrostatic copies of all the Yung Wing material from other collections in Manuscripts and Archives and Beinecke Rare Book Library, as well as three unfiled additions of correspondence from Mary Kellogg Yung, wife of Yung Wing, with Jane Bartlett Kellogg, her sister, and Mary Bartlett Kellogg, her mother. Exhibit panels, printed material, and audiovisual items pertaining to Yung Wing complete the papers.

Arrangement

The microfilmed items are arranged alphabetically by correspondent with a folder of poems placed at the end. There is also a folder of photocopied material which is arranged chronologically, 1848-1910. Unfiled additions to the collection are arranged by type of material.

Collection Contents

Correspondence and other manuscripts

This series has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 18 instead of the originals.

b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Dexter, Franklin B.	1876-1877
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Dwight, Timothy A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1887
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Gallaudet, Susan Denison A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1889
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Gallaudet, Thomas Hopkins	1848
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Porter, Noah	1872
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Schwab, John Christopher	1909
b. 1, f. 7reel 1U	Van Name, Addison	1877, 1878
b. 1, f. 8reel 1U	Whedon, Susan H.	1910
b. 1, f. 9reel 1U	Poems	
b. 1, f. 10reel 1U	Other materials, photocopies	1848-1910

Accession 1999-M-068: Additional materials, 1878-2001

These accessions comprise correspondence, mostly photocopies, from Mary Kellogg Yung, wife of Yung Wing, to her sister, Jane Bartlett Kellogg (Accession 1999-M-068); to Jane Kellogg and Mary Yung's mother, Mary Bartlett Kellogg, and newspaper clippings (Accession 2000-M-097); and a presentation folder pertaining to Yung Wing. (Accession 2001-M-052). These accessions have not been microfilmed.

b. 1, f. 1-4	Correspondence from Mary Kellogg Yung to Jane Bartlett Kellogg A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1878-1881
	Correspondence	
b. 1, f. 5	Mary Yung to her mother Mary Bartlett Kellogg A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1885-1886

Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 6	Mary Yung to Jane Bartlett Kellogg A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1886 April 16
b. 1, f. 7	Newspaper clippings pertaining to Yung Wing A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1929, 1970
b. 1, f. 8	"When East Met West" Presentation folder pertaining to Yung Wing and the Chinese Education Commission. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	2001

Accession 2005-M-073: Additional materials, Circa 2000-2004

This accession includes books, audiovisual materials, and exhibition panels relating to Yung Wing. Print materials in this accession have not been microfilmed.

Use copy optical discs for each of the items listed under the *Audiovisual materials* heading were destroyed.

Books		
b. 1, f. 1	<i>Biography of Dr. Yung Wing</i>	2003
b. 1, f. 2	<i>Chinese Educational Mission Students</i>	2004
b. 1, f. 3	<i>The Father of the Chinese Student Studying Abroad--Yung Wing</i>	2004
Audiovisual materials		
Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy of non-commercially produced items for their personal use should consult the ordering reproductions information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.		
b. 2, 2U, 3, 3U-4U, 4	<p><i>Boy Students</i> [videorecording] 2005-m-073-0003 1 DVD-R 2370764800 bytes (2.37 Gigabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)</p> <p>The materials are in English.</p> <p>Qian, Gang, 1953- Hu, Jingcao Wang, Xiaopeng Wang, Zhongxin</p> <p>Boy students (You tong, English version) is a 5 part documentary series, which tells the history of young students sent to United States between 1872 and 1881 through archival documents and historical accounts. The series was originally created and released by the Chinese television agency CCTV. Credits include Zhongguo zhong yang dian shi tai; Zhong shi chuan mei gu fen you xian gong si; zong ce hua, Qian Gang; zong bian dao, Hu Jingcao.</p> <p>Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult digital access copies in the Manuscripts and Archives Reading Room.</p> <p>Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials contained in this collection cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository.</p> <p>This material was imaged or captured by Manuscripts and Archives staff in [year] for preservation and access.</p>	2004
b. 5	<p>"The Journey of Yung Wing" 2005-m-073-0004 1 DVD-R 287644504 bytes (287.64 Megabytes.)</p>	Undated

Audiovisual materials (continued)

b. 6	<p>"Yung Wing" 1 CD-R</p> <p>As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access</p>	Undated
b. 7	<p><i>City of Zhuhai. To Commemorate Yung Wing graduated from Yale University, U.S.--150th Anniversary</i> 1 Optical Disc (DVD)</p> <p>Commercially produced television program.</p>	2004
b. 8	<p>"Historic Zhuhai Figures" 1 Optical Disc (DVD)</p>	2004
	<p>Exhibit panels</p> <p>Panels are approximately 30" high x 15" wide. They were a gift in 2004 of a delegation from the city of Zhuhai, China, and were produced for an exhibit there on Yung Wing. Each panel contains several images plus explanatory captions in both Chinese and English.</p> <p>Yale Professor Emeritus of History Beatrice Bartlett examined the panels in 2005 and selected the following thirteen panels that she thought could make a stand-alone exhibit someplace at Yale: 3, 6-7, 9, 11, 13, 15-16, 19, 22, 24-25, and 27.</p>	Circa 2004
b. 9	Panels 1-11	
b. 10	Panels 12-22	
b. 11	Panels 23-35	

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

Chinese -- United States

Geographic Names

Asia

Names

Dexter, Franklin Bowditch, 1842-1920
Dwight, Timothy, 1828-1916
Gallaudet, Susan Denison
Gallaudet, T. H. (Thomas Hopkins), 1787-1851
Porter, Noah, 1811-1892
Schwab, John Christopher, 1865-1916
Van Name, Addison
Whedon, Susan H.
Yung, Wing, 1828-1912

Corporate Bodies

Chinese Educational Commission
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1854
Yale University -- Students