

# Guide to the Phillips F. and Ruth A. Greene Papers

MS 797



compiled by Jane Thomson and John Dojka

September 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## 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
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	6
Arrangement .....	6
Collection Contents .....	7
Series I: PHILLIPS FOSTER GREENE CORRESPONDENCE, 1923-1943 [1923-1959] .....	7
Series II: RUTH ALTMAN GREENE CORRESPONDENCE, 1923-1943 [1923-1964] .....	10
Series III: SUBJECT FILES, WRITINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, 1923-1943 [1923-1977] .....	11
Selected Search Terms .....	13

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 797

**CREATOR:** Greene, Phillips Foster, 1892-1967

**TITLE:** Phillips F. and Ruth A. Greene papers

**DATES:** 1923-1977

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The principal figures in these papers are Phillips Foster Greene, a physician and missionary, and his wife, Ruth Altman Greene, a teacher and writer who accompanied her husband during his service of nearly twenty years at the Yale-in-China Medical School in Changsha (1921-1943) and seven years in Rangoon (1951-1958). The papers consist largely of correspondence with family in the United States and with Yale-in-China staff members. The letters are important sources of information on social conditions in China and political events, as well as a record of the Greenes' day-to-day activities. Also in the papers are financial records, newspaper clippings, copies of their articles on life at Changsha, and photographs.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0797>

---

## 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.0797>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

A portion of the material was separated from the records of the Yale-in-China Association's New Haven office in 1977. The remainder of the papers were donated to the Yale University Library by Ruth Altman Greene in July, 1977.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. 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

Phillips F. and Ruth A. Greene Papers (MS 797). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Phillips Greene, physician and missionary, received his B.A. from Amherst College in 1915, and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1919. He was a member of the teaching staff of Hsiang-Ya (Hunan-Yale) Medical School, Changsha, China from 1923-1927; assistant professor of surgery, University of Wisconsin Medical School, 1927-1931; head of the department of surgery and dean of Hsiang-Ya Medical School, 1931-1941; clinical professor of surgery and associate dean, Long Island College of Medicine, 1944-1951; and a staff member of the Rangoon, Burma General Hospital and Medical School, 1951-1958. Greene returned to the United States in 1958 and practiced medicine in New Richmond, Ohio until 1967.

### CHRONOLOGY: Phillips Foster Greene

- 1892                      ○ Born in Van, Turkey, son of missionaries Sarah Foster and Frederick Davis Greene.
- 1915                      ○ B.A., Amherst College.
- 1919                      ○ M.D., Harvard Medical School.
- 1919-1921                ○ House Officer, General Surgery, St. Luke's Hospital and St. Mary's Children's Hospital, New York City.
- 1920                      ○ Married to Ruth Peabody Altman.
- 1923-1923                ○ Under appointment with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions for medical work in Turkey. Prevented from serving by political conditions, transferred to Yale-in-China at Changsha, Hunan.
- 1923-1927                ○ Teaching staff of Hsiang-Ya (Hunan-Yale) Medical School, Changsha.
- 1927                      ○ Civil war in China, evacuated with family to United States.

**CHRONOLOGY: Phillips Foster Greene**

- 1927-1931           ○ Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine.
- 1931-1941           ○ Head of Department of Surgery and Dean of Hsiang-Ya Medical school.
- 1942-1943           ○ Director of the American Red Cross in China, responsible for getting supplies into China (Chungking) and distributing them to Nationalist and Communist forces.
- 1944-1951           ○ Clinical Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean, Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, New York.
- 1951-1953           ○ Appointed to the Rangoon, Burma, General Hospital and Medical School under the United States Government Point Four Program.
- 1953-1958           ○ After termination of all official United States Aid to Burma, continued to work with Rangoon Hospital and Medical School under a Rockefeller Foundation grant.
- 1958-1967           ○ Returned to United States and practiced medicine in New Richmond, Ohio, until his death on 11 April 1967.

**CHRONOLOGY: Ruth Altman Greene**

- 1896                 ○ Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, daughter of Flavella Light and Daniel Lee Altman, Methodist minister.
- 1918                 ○ B.A., Wellesley College.
- 1920                 ○ Married to Phillips Foster Greene.
- 1921-1923           ○ Under appointment with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Constantinople, Turkey.
- 1923-1927           ○ In Changsha, Hunan. Evacuated in January 1927.
- 1927-1931           ○ In Madison, Wisconsin. Writing and speaking on China and working with foreign students in YWCA.
- 1931-1936           ○ Returned to Changsha with four children. Taught English to Hsiang-Ya students and did extensive entertaining of Chinese officials and foreign visitors from the League of Nations.
- 1937-1940           ○ After a furlough in New Haven returned to Changsha at outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War. Evacuated with children in December 1937 to Philippines; later to Shanghai. In 1940 accompanied husband on trip to Kweiyang, site of Hsiang-Ya Medical School's war-time teaching. In June left for United States with children.
- 1940-1948           ○ Lived in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. Helped organize the China Institute of New Jersey to train public school teachers in the history and culture of China.
- 1948-1949           ○ Worked with China Institute in America on behalf of Chinese students; served on Wellesley-Yenching College Board.
- 1951-1958           ○ Lived in Rangoon, Burma. Main activities were entertaining visitors, colleagues and friends; collecting material on the history and culture of Burma for use in United States schools and clubs and briefings of new State Department officials.
- 1958-               ○ Living in New Richmond, Ohio.

**CHRONOLOGY: Ruth Altman Greene**

- 1977                      ○ Publication of *Hsiang-Ya Journal* based on letters written from China between 1923-1943.
- various                    ○ Children: Ellen Greene, Anne Greene Judy, Frederick D. Greene II, Margaret Greene Dickson.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Phillips and Ruth Greene Papers are composed principally of their letters to family, friends and Yale-in-China Association colleagues written during their years of residency at Changsha, Hunan. Phillips Greene was a faculty member and surgeon at the Hsiang-Ya Medical School and hospital in Changsha (1923-1927, 1931-1941) and Director of the American Red Cross in China (1942-1943).

The papers are arranged in three series: I. Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence. II. Ruth Altmen Greene Correspondence. III. Subject Files, Writings, Photographs.

Series I (1923-1954) contains Greene's letters to his family and to the Yale-in-China staff. Subjects discussed in the correspondence include social conditions and political events in Changsha and Hunan Province; Greene's medical practice; and-Yale-in-China administrative matters. Included in Series I is a section of the correspondence of other members of Greene's family.

Series II contains Ruth Greene's correspondence with her family and Yale-in-China staff members (1923-1943), many of which were published in her account of life at Changsha, in the *Hsiang-Ya-Journal*. Subjects discussed include social conditions, political events and the Greenes' day-to-day activities.

Series III is composed of newspaper clippings containing biographical material on the Greenes, financial records from their period of residence at Changsha, copies of their articles describing life at Changsha and conditions in Hunan (1923-1943) and photographs.

The material in Series I was separated from the records of the Yale-in-China Association's New Haven office in 1977. The material in Series II and III was donated to the Yale University Library by Ruth Altman Greene in July 1977. The Phillips and Ruth Greene Papers are part of the Yale-China Collection.

---

## Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three series: I. Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence. II. Ruth Altmen Greene Correspondence. III. Subject Files, Writings, Photographs.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: PHILLIPS FOSTER GREENE CORRESPONDENCE, 1923–1943 [1923–1959]

1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I is subdivided into three sections: 1. Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence with family; 2. Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence with-Yale-in-China staff; 3. Correspondence of Greene family members.

Series I is subdivided into three sections: I. Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence with family; II. Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence with-Yale-in-China staff; III. Correspondence of Greene family members.

#### Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence with family

b. 1, f. 1-34	1923 January - 1943 December	1923 January - 1943 December
---------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------

#### Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence With Yale-in-China staff

b. 2, f. 35	Agard, W.R.	1939-1940
b. 2, f. 36	Allen, Richard F.	1942
b. 2, f. 37	American Cystoscope Makers, Inc.	1944
b. 2, f. 38	Arnold, Lauren	1933-1938
b. 2, f. 39	Barton, James L.	1923
b. 2, f. 40	Bevis, Palmer	1927-1930
b. 2, f. 41	Bradford, Jessie R.	1937
b. 2, f. 42	Brophy, John R.	1937
b. 2, f. 43	Burny, Paul S.	1936-1937
b. 2, f. 44	Campbell, E. Fay	1930-1932
b. 2, f. 45	Chang, Fu-liang	1938
b. 2, f. 46	Chang, H.C.	1937-1946
b. 2, f. 47	Curran, J.A.	1945
b. 2, f. 48	Dayton, Arthur Bliss	1930-1967
b. 2, f. 49-50	Dowd, Rachel A.	1923-1953
b. 2, f. 51	Eastman, L.R.	1938-1939
b. 2, f. 52	First National Bank	1937
b. 2, f. 53	Form letters to friends	1932-1958
b. 2, f. 54	Fulton, Brank	1945
b. 2, f. 55	Goff, W.E.	1936

## Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence With Yale-in-China staff (continued)

b. 2, f. 56	Granat, Henry	1937
b. 2, f. 57	Griesback, Catharine	1938-1939
b. 2, f. 58	Gunn, Selskar M.	1933
b. 2, f. 59	Harvey, Samuel C.	1935-1944
b. 2, f. 60	Hsiao, Y.T.	1939-1946
b. 2, f. 61	Hume, Edward H.	1923-1941
b. 2, f. 62	Hutchins, Francis S.	1928-1939
b. 2, f. 63	Latourette, Kenneth S.	1928-1945
b. 2, f. 64	Lobenstine, Edwin C.	1936-1945
b. 2, f. 65	Luig Hsi-Fong	1939
b. 2, f. 66	McCoy, H.L.	1936
b. 2, f. 67	Millamow, F.X.	1937
b. 2, f. 68	Mooreland, Kenneth	1946
b. 3, f. 69	Mass, Leslie B.	1937
b. 3, f. 70	Murphy, Frederick T.	1923-1937
b. 3, f. 71	National Board of Medical Examiners	1936
b. 3, f. 72	New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.	1931-1939
b. 3, f. 73	Pearce, Agnes	1954
b. 3, f. 74	Perkins, Troy L.	1940
b. 3, f. 75	Pettus, Winston	1942
b. 3, f. 76	Pi Tseng-hai	undated
b. 3, f. 77	Riggs, Ernest W.	1923
b. 3, f. 78	Rinden, Arthur O.	1944-1945
b. 3, f. 79	Rugh, Dwight	1940-1951
b. 3, f. 80	Smith, Clarence A.	1937
b. 3, f. 81-84	Smith, Robert Ashton	1938-1943
b. 3, f. 85	Stokes, Anson Phelps	1943
b. 3, f. 86	Sun Yat-Sen (Madame)	1942
b. 3, f. 87	Torrey, Emily R.	1936
b. 3, f. 88	Torrey, John P.	1936



Phillips Foster Greene Correspondence With Yale-in-China staff (continued)

b. 3, f. 89	Vaill, George D.	1954-1959
b. 3, f. 90	Wakeman, Alfred J.	1936-1937
b. 3, f. 91	Wang, K.Y.	1935
b. 3, f. 92	Weigle, Luther A.	1945-1946
b. 3, f. 93-94	Weigle, Richard D.	1933-1938
b. 3, f. 95	Wheeler, Reginald W.	1948
b. 3, f. 96	Wilson, Louise Farnam	1934
b. 3, f. 97	Yale-in-China Association	1923-1945
b. 3, f. 98	Unsigned correspondence	1923-1945
Correspondence of Greene family members		
b. 3, f. 99	Greene, Charlotte D.	1940
b. 3, f. 100	Greene, Faith	1938-1939
b. 3, f. 101-104	Greene, Frederick D.	1923-1951
b. 3, f. 105	Greene, Joseph K.	1939-1941
b. 3, f. 106	Greene, Lois	1937
b. 3, f. 107	Greene children	1932-1947, undated

**Series II: RUTH ALTMAN GREENE CORRESPONDENCE, 1923–1943 [1923–1964]**

*.75 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series II is subdivided into two sections: 1. Correspondence with family; 2. Correspondence with Yale-in-China staff members.

Series II is subdivided into two sections: 1. Correspondence with family; 2. Correspondence with Yale-in-China staff members.

Ruth Altman Greene Correspondence with family

b. 4, f. 108-133	1923 January - 1943 December	1923 January - 1943 December
------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------

Ruth Altman Greene Correspondence with Yale-in-China staff

b. 5, f. 134	Bedell, Frances	1949-1951
b. 5, f. 135	Bentley, Elizabeth	1937
b. 5, f. 136	Bevis, Palmer	1926-1938
b. 5, f. 137	Campbell, [?]	1932
b. 5, f. 138	Dayton, Arthur Bliss	1941-1968
b. 5, f. 139-143	Dowd, Rachel A.	1928-1945
b. 5, f. 144	Hsiang-Ya Hospital personnel	1940
b. 5, f. 145	Hutchins, Frank	1938
b. 5, f. 146	Leete, Anna W.	1936
b. 5, f. 146	Lung, Y.Y.	1936
b. 5, f. 147	Pritchett, Beatrice Page	1938
b. 5, f. 148	Rinden, Arthur O.	1944
b. 5, f. 149-152	Smith, Robert Ashton	1938-1943
b. 5, f. 153-155	Weigle, Richard D.	1934-1938
b. 5, f. 156	Wilkinson, Maria Victoria	1942
b. 5, f. 157	Miscellaneous correspondence of others	1927-1964
b. 5, f. 158	Unidentified signatures	

**Series III: SUBJECT FILES, WRITINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, 1923–1943 [1923–1977]***1 linear foot (3 boxes)*

Series III is subdivided into four sections: 1. Subject files; 2. Writings of Phillips F. Greene; 3. Writings of Ruth A. Greene; 4. Photographs.

Subject files		
b. 5, f. 159	Biographical sketches and clippings	
b. 5, f. 160	Biographical clippings	
b. 5, f. 161	Changsha International Relief Committee: report	1939-1940
b. 5, f. 162-165	Financial records	1923-1946, undated
b. 5, f. 166	Health reports	1931
b. 5, f. 167	Hsiang-Ya Hospital and College reports	1939-1946
b. 5, f. 168	Mailing lists	
b. 5, f. 169	Meeting notes and agenda	1933-1944
b. 5, f. 170	Miscellaneous notes and printed matter	
b. 5, f. 171	Chinese newspapers	1932, 1949
b. 5, f. 172	Memoranda on Chiang Kai-shik's state of China speech	1936
Writings of Phillips F. Greene		
b. 5, f. 173	Letter to <i>New York Times</i>	1944
b. 5, f. 173	"What's Singing"	1944
b. 5, f. 173	"Medical Trends in China"	1945
b. 5, f. 174	"Experiences in Anesthesia in China"	1946
b. 5, f. 174	"Native Medical Practices in China"	undated
Writings of Ruth Altman Greene		
b. 6, f. 175	Diary of inland China trip	1940
b. 6, f. 176	"Fragments from a Chinese Journal"	1941
b. 6, f. 177	"Chinese Women and War"	1944
b. 6, f. 177	"From a Chinese Dug-Out"	undated
b. 6, f. 177	"War-Time Hsiang-Ya"	undated
b. 6, f. 178	"Broken Jade"	undated
b. 6, f. 179	<i>Hsiang-Ya Journal</i>	1977
b. 6, f. 180	<i>Hsiang-Ya Journal</i> research notes	

Photographs

b. 7, f. 181 Phillips and Ruth Greene

---

b. 7, f. 182 48 photographs collected by Phillips Greene during the Sino-Japanese War 1937-1945

---

---

## 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

Educators  
Medicine  
Missionaries  
Missionaries' spouses  
Missions -- China  
Physicians

### Corporate Bodies

Hunan-Yale College of Medicine. Hsiang-Ya  
Hospital (Changsha, China)  
Yale-China Association

### Geographic Names

Asia  
Changsha Shi (China)  
China -- History -- Republic, 1912-1949  
China -- Politics and government  
China -- Social life and customs  
Rangoon (Burma)

### Occupations

Authors

### Names

Agard, Walter R. (Walter Raymond), 1894-1978  
Bedell, Frances  
Bevis, Palmer  
Burny, Paul S.  
Campbell, Edward F., Jr. (Edward Fay), 1932-  
Chang, Hsiao-Ch'ien, fl. 1905  
Dayton, Arthur Bliss, 1889-  
Dowd, Rachel A.  
Greene, Phillips Foster, 1892-1967  
Greene, Ruth Altman, 1896-  
Hsiao, Y. T.  
Hume, Edward H. (Edward Hicks), 1876-1957  
Hutchins, Francis S. (Francis Stephenson), 1902-  
Latourette, Kenneth Scott, 1884-1968  
Smith, Robert Ashton, 1914-  
Song, Qingling, 1893-1981  
Stokes, Anson Phelps, 1874-1958  
Vaill, George  
Weigle, Luther A. (Luther Allan), 1880-1976