

# Guide to the Peter Parker Collection

## Ms Coll 6



Finding aid by Todd A. Lane and Toby A. Appel

2003

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New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 6

**CREATOR:** Parker, Peter, 1804-1888

**TITLE:** Peter Parker collection

**DATES:** 1825-1947

**BULK DATES:** 1825-1884

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Mostly in English. Some Chinese, Japanese, and French.

**SUMMARY:** Peter Parker graduated from Yale College in 1831 and from the Medical Institution of Yale College in 1834. Ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1834, he sailed that year to China as the first Protestant medical missionary to that country. The papers relate to Parker's medical practice at the Canton Hospital and elsewhere, his missionary activities including his sermons, and his work for the U.S. Government as a diplomat to China. Most of the papers have been photographed at <http://cushing.med.yale.edu/greenstone/collect/pppapers/> Use in conjunction with this finding aid.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0006>

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## 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/med.ms.0006>.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Manuscripts were donated by Peter Parker of Barrington, Illinois, May 16, 1960. Portraits and urinary calculi donated in the late nineteenth century by Peter Parker to the Medical School through Moses C.

White, professor of pathology and a former missionary to China. These were later transferred by the Medical School to the Historical Library. Some materials, including photographs, were donated in 1966 by Mrs. William W. Cadbury, widow of an early twentieth century medical missionary to Canton.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## Preferred Citation

Peter Parker Collection, Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Journals also available on microfilm. Most items have been digitized. Patrons may be requested to use these surrogates.

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## Associated Materials

The Library holds over 80 oil paintings by Lam Qua of Peter Parker's patients with large tumors. They were sent to the Medical School by Mrs. Harriet Parker in 1890 (see Correspondence under Herbert E. Smith, Box 1, Folder 20). They are represented in the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library Digital Library. See <http://library.medicine.yale.edu/find/digital>.

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## Biographical / Historical

Peter Parker, medical missionary and diplomat to China, was born in Framingham, Massachusetts on June 18, 1804. His parents, Nathan and Catherine Parker, were farmers and devout followers of the orthodox Congregational faith. He attended Amherst College and then transferred to Yale College in 1830. After graduation in 1831, Parker studied both theology and medicine and was awarded an M.D. from Yale in 1834. In January 1834 he was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in Philadelphia and, under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, he departed a month later for Canton as the first Protestant medical missionary to China. With assistance from American and British benefactors, he opened the Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton in 1835. Parker specialized in treating diseases of the eyes, especially cataracts, but also performed general surgery including the removal of large tumors, and lithotomies. In 1847, he became the first physician to introduce anesthesia to China. With the onset of the Opium War (1840-1842), Parker returned to America in 1840, where he sought financial support for his hospital in the United States and Europe. In Washington, D.C., he met with government officials and urged the sending of an envoy to China. He met and married Harriet Colby Webster in 1841. In 1842, Parker resumed his medical missionary practice at Canton and became involved in diplomatic relations between America and China. In 1844 he served as translator and assistant under Caleb Cushing, U.S. Attorney General, and participated in negotiating the first treaty between the two countries, the Treaty of Wanghia. Dismissed by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1847 because the Board doubted the utility of medical missionaries, Parker continued his hospital until 1855 while acting as a part-time member of the American Legation. Due to a prolonged illness, Parker returned to the United States in 1855 only to sail back to China later that year as American Commissioner to China. Recalled by the U.S. government in 1857, Parker and his wife settled in Washington, D.C., where he was active in organizations such as the Evangelical Alliance for the United States of America and the Board of Regents

of the Smithsonian Institution. His only child, Peter Parker, was born in 1859. The Rev. Peter Parker died on January 10, 1888.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection includes Parker's letters to his family beginning in 1825, instructions from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, many letters from Sir John Bowring, British consul at Canton and later governor of Hong Kong, and other correspondence relating to Parker's medical, missionary, diplomatic, and personal affairs. Writings include handwritten sermons and addresses. Medical reports and ledgers include Parker's handwritten quarterly reports of Canton Hospital, which contain lengthy case reports on a selection of surgeries. Two volumes of ledgers list patients treated at Canton Hospital with their diagnoses, and another ledger relates to Parker's private medical practice. Images include the buildings and staff of the Canton hospital and lantern slides of patients with large tumors, all dating from after Parker's time. The collection also includes miscellanea, memorabilia, and a box of preserved urinary calculi removed by Parker from patients in the hospital. Associated with the collection are over 80 oil portraits of Peter Parker's patients with noticeable tumors by Western-trained Chinese artist Lam Qua. Most of the Peter Parker Collection has been photographed. See <http://cushing.med.yale.edu/greenstone/collect/pppapers/> Use in conjunction with this finding aid. The associated Lam Qua portraits of Peter Parker's patients are online at <http://cushing.med.yale.edu/gsdl/collect/ppdcdot/>

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## Arrangement

Organized into seven series: 1. Correspondence. 2. Journals. 3 Sermons, addresses, and other writings. 4. Medical reports and ledgers. 5. Miscellaneous. 6. Photographs, 7. Urinary calculi.

## Collection Contents

### 1.: Correspondence

Special correspondence followed by correspondence in alphabetical order.

b. 1, f. 1	Parker, Peter to his family and related letters	1825-1836
	Peter Parker's father, Nathan Parker, died in 1826. Letters afterward are to his mother Catherine and his sister Catherine in Framingham, Massachusetts. Included in the folder are letters written to Parker's mother as Parker was sailing to China, and a letter about Parker that came into family hands.	
	To parents	1825 January 2
	To parents and sister Catherine	1826 January 1
	To parents	1826 April 16
	To parents	1826 May 17
	To parents	1826 July 21
	To mother and sister	1826 October 15
	To mother	1826 November 9
	To mother	1834 June 4
	P. Perit to Mrs. Catherine Parker	1834 June 4
	On Peter Parker's sailing for China on the Ship Morrison. Peter Parker had spent some weeks with Perit and his wife before the departure.	
	James C. Richmond to Mrs. Catherine Parker	1834 June 9
	On Peter Parker's sailing for China.	
	A. B. Haile, New Haven, to his sister, Miss Abigail Bent, Framingham	1834 September 26
	On Peter Parker. Ashbel B. Haile graduated from Yale College in 1835.	
b. 1, f. 2	Parker, Peter, to his family	1837-1848
	Letters to his mother and younger brothers, his sister Catherine, and his married sister Maria Fay.	
	To mother, sisters, and brothers	1837 April 2
	To mother and sister	1837 May 5
	To mother, sisters, and brothers	1837 July 15
	To sister Catherine	1837 July 29
	To mother, sisters, and brothers	1837 October 3
	To sister Maria Fay	1837 November 20

## Parker, Peter, to his family (continued)

	To sister Maria Fay	1843 February 26
	To sister Maria Fay	1843 March 12
	To Abijah and Maria Fay	1848 December 26
b. 1, f. 3	<p>"Instructions of the Prudential Committee of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missionaries to the Rev. Peter Parker, M.D."</p> <p>These are the detailed missionary instructions given to Peter Parker before he sailed for China.</p>	1834
b. 1, f. 4	<p>Caleb Cushing, Macao, to Peter Parker</p> <p>Appointing Parker Secretary to the U.S. mission in China</p>	1844 February 25
b. 1, f. 5	<p>Peter Parker to the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions</p> <p>Parker's copies of three letters in January 1846 defending the importance of medicine to foreign missionary work.</p>	1846 January
	Peter Parker to the Prudential Committee	1846 January 1
	Peter Parker to the Prudential Committee	1846 January 22
	Peter Parker to the Prudential Committee	1846 January 31
b. 1, f. 6	<p>Isaac Bull, et al, Canton, to Peter Parker Parker</p> <p>Describes an uprising of peasants in Canton against Western interests. Signed by twenty-six people.</p>	1846 July 15
b. 1, f. 7	<p>John Bowring, Hong Kong, to Peter Parker</p> <p>Sir John Bowring, British consul at Canton and later governor of Hong Kong, corresponded with Parker frequently.</p>	1852-1856
	Bowring to Parker	1850 February 11
	Bowring to Parker	1852 May 8
	Bowring to Parker	1852 June 10
	Bowring to Parker	1852 June 19
	Bowring to Parker	1852 October
	Bowring to Parker	1853 January 6
	Bowring to Parker	1853 February 9
	Bowring to Parker	1853 October 28
	Edith Alice Bowring to Mrs. Harriet Parker	1855 April 6
	Bowring to Parker	1855 October 30
	Bowring to Parker	1855 December 31

## John Bowring, Hong Kong, to Peter Parker (continued)

	Parker to Bowring (copy) "Confidential"	1856 April 6
	Bowring to Parker	1856 April 7
	Bowring to Parker	1856 April 22
	Bowring to Parker For more letters from 1856, see folder 9.	1856 May 24
b. 1, f. 8	John Bowring to Peter Parker	1857-1871 and n.d.
	Bowring to Parker	1857 January 5
	Bowring to Parker	1857 January 16
	Bowring to Parker	1857 January 18
	Bowring to Parker	1857 April 29
	Bowring to Parker	1857 May 5
	Bowring to Parker	1857 June 22
	Bowring to Parker	1857 June 30
	Bowring to Parker	1857 July 5
	Bowring to Parker	1857 October 15
	Bowring to Parker	1858 February 14
	Bowring to Parker	1858 April 13
	Bowring to Parker	1858 May 17
	Bowring to Parker	1858 June 3
	Bowring to Mrs. Harriet Parker	1871 January 3
	Bowring to Parker	1871 July 1
	Bowring to Mrs. Harriet Parker	1871 July 11
	Bowring to Parker	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	John Bowring fragments and autographs collected by Peter Parker Parker (or possibly someone later) cut a number of letters received from Bowring, sometimes leaving sizeable fragments including the signature, or sometimes only the signature. Dated fragments precede undated fragments and signatures.	1856-1857 and n.d.
	Bowring fragment	1856 March 7
	Bowring fragment	1856 March 13
	Bowring fragment	1856 April 9
	Bowring fragment	1856 May 2



## John Bowring fragments and autographs collected by Peter Parker (continued)

	Bowring fragment	1856 May 28
	Bowring fragment	1856 October 17
	Bowring fragment	1856 October 23
	Bowring fragment	1856 December 18
	Bowring fragment	1856 December 24
	Bowring fragment	1857 May
	Bowring fragment	1857 May 27
	Bowring fragment	1857 August 3
	Bowring fragment	1857
	Bowring fragment, undated 1	n.d.
	Bowring fragment, undated 2	n.d.
	Bowring fragment, undated 3	n.d.
	Bowring fragment, undated 4	n.d.
	Bowring fragment, undated 5	n.d.
	Bowring fragment, undated 6	n.d.
	Bowring signatures	n.d.
b. 1, f. 10	Authorization for Parker Parker to draw his salary as Commissioner to China (duplicate) Signed by Secretary of State, George L. Marcy.	1855 September 5
b. 1, f. 11	Peter Parker's announcement of the birth of his son The Parkers had only one child, Peter Parker, born in 1859.	1859 June 18
b. 1, f. 12	Smithsonian Institution In 1868, Peter Parker was named a member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. See also letters from Joseph Henry and William T. Sherman in Box 1, folders 17 and 21.	1847, 1869-1888
	<i>Report of the Organization Committee of the Smithsonian Institution</i> (Washington, D.C., 1847) Peter Parker's copy.	1847
	Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase to Peter Parker On meeting with members of the National Academy of Sciences.	1869 April 14
	Joseph Henry to Peter Parker Physicist Joseph Henry was the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.	1876 January 20

## Smithsonian Institution (continued)

	General William T. Sherman to Peter Parker	1883 January 9
	George Bancroft to Peter Parker	n.d.
	S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to Mrs. Harriet Parker Includes resolution, dated January 11, on Peter Parker's death.	1888 January 13
b. 1, f. 13	"Copy of a translation into Chinese of the President's letter to the Emperor" President John Tyler wrote a letter to the Emperor, sent with Caleb Cushing in 1844. A later U.S. president also wrote to the Emperor.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 14	Materials related to Julius Klaproth These materials were sent to Parker by Major Benjamin Perley Poore. Julius Heinrich Klaproth (1783-1835) was a German linguist, Orientalist, historian, and author. The materials include letters to Klaproth written in German and Chinese, and said to be about the Chinese language.	1824-1833
b. 1, f. 15	Correspondence, A-D	
	Abercrombie, John, Edinburgh, to Dr. [Thomas] Sewall See Sewall below.	1843 September 16
	Bourboulon, A., to Peter Parker	1857 March 7
	[Buchanan] Peter Parker to James Buchanan (copy)	1846 June 22
	Buchanan, James, to Peter Parker (copy) Includes copy of letter January 28, 1847. Concerning his appointment as interim charge d'affairs of the Chinese mission of the U.S. Government.	1847 November 10
	C., W., Canton, to Dr. James Cooper, Junr., New Castle, Delaware Discusses a Dr. Parker's Chinese patient with a large buttock, who is as yet afraid to undergo an operation. W.C. mentions enclosing a sketch which is not present. The description appears to correspond with the Lam Qua portrait of Wang Keking, Portrait No. 67. A transcript is included. This letter may have come to the Historical Library independently of materials donated by the Parker family.	1838 January 31
	Chase, S[almon] P., to Peter Parker	1864 December 16
	Choate, Rufus, to Peter Parker	1856 October 10
	Choate, Rufus, to Mrs. Dr. [Harvey] Lindsly Mrs. Parker's sister Emelyn.	n.d.
	Courcy, Marquis de, to Peter Parker In French.	n.d.
	Courcy, Marquis de, Macao, to Peter Parker In French.	1846 February 2
	Dana, Richard P., to Peter Parker	1847 January 12
b. 1, f. 16	Correspondence, E-G	

## Correspondence, E-G (continued)

	Everett, Edward, to Peter Parker	n.y. May 22
	Everett, Edward, to Peter Parker	1843 May 29
	Everett, Edward, to Peter Parker	1854 May 30
	Field, Kate, to Mrs. Harriet Parker	1868 April 30
	Frelinghuysen, Frederick T., Washington, D.C., to Peter Parker	1877 April 5
	Gagliuffi, G. B., Tripoli, to Peter Parker	1858, March 17
	[Gill] Peter Parker to Theodore Gill, Washington, D.C. Parker's response to "the doctrine of evolution."	1874 February 14
	Goertz [?], Count de, Calcutta, to Peter Parker	1847 January 2
	Gurley, R[alph] R[andolph], to Peter Parker	1841 May 28
b. 1, f. 17	Correspondence, H-I	
	Halford, Henry, Sir, to Peter Parker	1841 May 1
	Halford, Henry, Sir, to Peter Parker	1841 May 8
	Halford, Henry, Sir, to Peter Parker	1841 June
	Halford, Henry, Sir, to Dr. Kidd, Oxford Introducing Peter Parker.	1841 July 5
	Hall, Newman, to Peter Parker	n.d.
	Hall, Newman, to Peter Parker	n.y. December 16
	Henry, Joseph, to Peter Parker	1869 January 16
b. 1, f. 18	Correspondence, J-L	
	Jenks, William, Boston, to Peter Parker	1838 September 21
	Julien, Stanislas, Paris, to Marc Wilks Letter in French addressed to Marc Wilks, Paris, asking Wilks to accompany him to translate from English when he meets Parker. Julien was a French expert on Chinese literature.	1841 June 24
	Kingsley, Henry Coit, Yale College, to Peter Parker Treasurer of Yale thanks Parker for contribution to the Woolsey Fund.	1872 May 1
	"Kwang Gen Fung" [?] to Peter Parker, version 1 English translations of a letter to Parker congratulating him on his appointment from the Lieutenant Governor of Canton. May be Huang En-t'ung or Huang Entong, ca. 1800-ca. 1882.	1846 January 4
	"Kwang Gen-Fung" [?] to Peter Parker, version 2	1846 January 4
	"Kwang Gen-Fung" [?] to Peter Parker, version 3	1846 January 4

## Correspondence, J-L (continued)

	Peter Parker to "Kwang Gen Fung" [?] (copy)	1846 March 25
	Lagrené, Théodose de, Macao, to Peter Parker In French. Also contemporary translation into English.	1845 December 7
	Lagrené, Théodose de, Macao, to Peter Parker (English)	1845 December 7
	Lagrené, Théodose de, Macao, to Peter Parker In French. Also contemporary translation into English.	1846 January 8
	Lagrené, Théodose de, Macao, to Peter Parker (English)	1846 January 8
	Lawrence, Amos, to Dr. [Thomas] Sewall "Dr. Sewall at Mr Choates."	n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	Correspondence, M-P	
	Maclean, John, Princeton, to Peter Parker	1882 February 14
	Maclean, John, Princeton, to Peter Parker	1884 April 29
	Macao, Governor of, to Peter Parker	1856 January 18
	Mai, F. T. [?], Canton, to Peter Parker	1855 July 8
	Monita, J. [?], Berkeley, California, to Peter Parker Includes a card written in Japanese.	n.d.
	Neesima, Joseph H. [?], Kioto, Japan, to Dr. and Mrs. Parker	1885 May 26
	Page, Charles G., to Harriet Parker	1856 June 14
	Park, James D., Canton, to Peter Parker	1851 October 14
	Parkes, Harry, to Peter Parker	1856 February 26
b. 1, f. 20	Correspondence, Q-S	
	Quincy, Josiah, to Peter Parker Rev. Josiah Quincy, President of Harvard, on requirements for transfer to Harvard from another college.	1830 October 2
	Reed, Andrew, Rev., to Peter Parker	1837 August 4
	Riddel, Samuel H., Boston, to Peter Parker	1847 April 26
	[Ruschenberger] Harriet Parker to Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger (copy) The letter concerns the U.S. Government mission to China and Peter Parker. Harriet Parker transcribed a copy of a letter from P. S. Forbes, U.S. Consul to John W. Davis.	1849 April 23
	[Ruschenberger] Harriet Parker to Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger (typed transcript) Later typed transcript of above letter misdated April 24, 1849.	1849 April 23

## Correspondence, Q-S (continued)

	Sewall, Louis, to Dr. Thomas Sewall (copy) With pages in Parker's hand related to the death of Rebecca Sewall in 1870.	1831 September
	Seymour, Michael, Sir, H.M. Ship Calcutta, Hong Kong Will not be able to dine with "His Excellency, the American Minister" on July 4.	1857 July 1
	Sherman, William, T., General, to Peter Parker Includes envelope. On the Smithsonian art collection.	1873 February 13
	Sigourney, Lydia. H, Washington, D.C., to Peter Parker	1847 February 15
	Sigourney, Lydia H., Hartford, to Peter Parker	1849 November 14
	Sigourney, Lydia H, Hartford, to Peter Parker	1853 January 11
	Silliman, Benjamin, Medical Department of Yale College, to Peter Parker	1881 June 28
	Smith, E. Goodrich, to Peter Parker	1860 August 18
	[Smith, Herbert E.] Harriet Parker, Washington, D.C., to Herbert E. Smith [Yale University School of Medicine] Herbert E. Smith was Dean of the Medical School from 1885 to 1910. Mrs. Parker thanks him for the photographs and information on Peter Parker's collection of urinary calculi, and regrets that Parker is too ill to reply himself. Letter given to the Historical Library by Lottie G. Bishop, 1960.	1887 December 29
	[Smith, Herbert E.] Harriet Parker, Washington, D.C., to Herbert E. Smith [Yale University School of Medicine] She will be shipping "two boxes containing paintings of surgical cases operated on by Dr. Parker in China." Letter given to the Historical Library by Lottie G. Bishop, 1960.	1890 March 22
	Stevens, George B., to Mrs. Harriet Parker	1895 September 10
	Stewart, J. C., to Peter Parker	n.d.
	Stewart, J. C., Macao, to Peter Parker	1836 October 24
b. 1, f. 21	Correspondence T-Z	
	Tanaka-Fujimaro, Tokyo, to Peter Parker	1877 April 5
	"Tartar Lady" (Nuon, Ta-taou [?]) to Mrs. Harriet Parker Chinese and contemporary English translation.	1849 September 25
	"Tsi Yeng" to James Biddle (copy) May be Chi Ying.	1846 April 22
	"Tsi Yeng" to Peter Parker	1847 July 4
	[Tsi Yeng] Peter Parker to "Tsi Yeng"	1848 March 8
	Vaughn, John, Philadelphia, to Peter Parker	1841 September 12

## Correspondence T-Z (continued)

	Washburn, E. A., to Peter Parker	1871 June 4
	[Webster] Peter Parker, Washington, D.C., to Daniel Webster On the desirability of sending an Embassy to China.	1841 January 30
	Whitney, William Dwight, New Haven, to Peter Parker Whitney was Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology at Yale. Includes copy of Parker's draft reply	1869 November 15
	[Whitney] Parker's presentation in New Haven on a set of Chinese scrolls included in the Whitney letter Draft manuscript included with the above Whitney letter.	1869
	[Wood, W. M.] Peter Parker, Washington, D.C., to W. M. Wood, M.D. Parker would be happy to receive a copy of Wood's recent book about China. Letter purchased from Henry Schuman, February 1945. The book may be William Maxwell Wood, <i>Fankwei; or, The San Jacinto in the seas of India, China, and Japan</i> (New York, 1859).	1859 April 27
	[Wood, W. M.] Peter Parker, Washington, D.C., to W. M. Wood, M.D., U.S.N. Parker's reactions to Wood's historical and autobiographical book on China. Letter purchased from Henry Schuman, February 1945.	1859 August 25
	Woods, Daniel B., Philadelphia, to Peter Parker	1847 February 22
	"Yu Chang, foo" [?] to Peter Parker	n.d.
b. 1, f. 22	Letters from unidentified senders	
	Letter from unidentified sender 1	1846 November 17
	Letter from unidentified sender 2	1856 November 24
	Letter from unidentified sender 3	1871 May 30
	Letter from unidentified sender 4	n.y. August 28
	Envelope possibly from the French minister See Lagrené, Théodose de, Macao, to Peter Parker, January 8, 1846, Folder 18.	1846 January 8
b. 1, f. 23	William L. Marcy, US Secretary of State to the Emperor of China, letter in Chinese Chinese Identified by a patron as a letter to the emperor of China by the Secretary of State William L. Marcy about the designation of Peter Parker as American Commissioner to China.	1855 September 5

## 2.: Journals

Peter Parker's handwritten journals including religious reflections and observations on events. The numbering of Journals 1-10 was created long ago and is retained. Journals 1-10 have been microfilmed and all journals have been digitized.

b. 2, f. 1	"Memoir" and "Journal" Peter Parker annotated on a separate slip, "The following Memoir was written during my Freshman year at A. [Amherst] Col."	1826-1827
b. 2, f. 2	Journal 1 Framingham, Massachusetts and Amherst College to arrival in New Haven	1827 November 18-1830 October 17
b. 2, f. 3	Journal 2 New Haven, Yale College	1830 October 15-1831 January 25
b. 2, f. 4	Journal 3 New Haven, Yale College	1831 January 28-1831 June 18
b. 2, f. 5	Journal 4 New Haven	1831 June 18-1831 October 30
b. 2, f. 6	Journal 5 New Haven	1831 December 25- 1834 April 13
b. 2, f. 7	Journal 6 Philadelphia and travel on the Ship Morrison to Canton, China	1834 May 16-1834 October 8
b. 2, f. 8	Journal 7 China	1834 December 23-1836 August 14
b. 3, f. 1	Journal 8 The 1877 entry is a later addition. Most of the journal covers the period to April 22, 1855.	1836 April 7-1877 June 10
b. 3, f. 2	Journal 8A "Voyage to Japan"	1837 June 30-1837 December 31
b. 3, f. 3	Journal 8B	1840 December 11-1849 June 18
b. 3, f. 4	Journal 9 Includes a separate note dated 1876 January 22. Most of journal is blank.	1854 October 11-1876 December 11
b. 3, f. 5	Journal 10 Most of the journal is blank. Begins with United States Legation in Macao when Parker was Commissioner.	1856 February 24- 1880 January 31

### 3.: Sermons, addresses, and other writings

Includes many handwritten sermons preached in Connecticut, on board the ship to China, in China, and in the U.S. and Europe (1840-1842) when promoting his missionary work. Addresses include those given by Peter Parker upon his departure to China and at the semicentennial of the Yale Theological Seminary. Papers include an essay written at Yale College, and an account of the wreck of the ship Larriston in 1853.

#### Subseries 3.1.: Sermons

Sermons were often repeated on later dates and/or in different locations. These dates and locations are noted by Parker at the top of the sermon. Sermons are listed here under the earliest location and date.

b. 4, f. 1	Sermons	1826-1833
	Wrentham, Mass.	1826 November 2
	Peter Parker's "first sermon" Labeled at a later date "P.P.s First Sermon." May be part of Wrentham, 1826.	[1826?]
	New Haven, Conn., Plymouth, Mass. [etc.] Five loose pages inserted in the text.	1832
	Booklet of sermons, Derby, Conn. [etc.] Booklet of sermon material from which sermons were delivered also in New Haven, 1834 January 19; Plymouth, Conn., 1834 February 2; New Haven, 1834 February 9; North Haven, 1834, February 16; Cheshire, 1834 February 21; Yale College, 1834 March 1; Litchfield, 1834 March 8; Bristol, 1834 March 15; Center Church, New Haven, 1834 March 30; English Chapel, Malacca, 1835 May 31; and English Chapel, Singapore, 1835 July 12. Five inserted pages.	1833 November 2
b. 4, f. 2	Sermons on shipboard enroute to China	1834
	Ship Morrison	1834 July 6
	Ship Morrison "The existence of God."	1834 July 17
	Ship Morrison	1834 August 20
	Ship Morrison, Indian Ocean Written September 3. Preached many times through 1845.	1834 September 7
	Ship Morrison, Indian Ocean Written September 11. Includes loose item beginning "Three months have elapsed since my residence in this place."	1834 September 14
	Ship Morrison, Java Sea Written October 3. Preached several times to 1842.	1834 October 5
	Ship Morrison, China Sea Includes two inserted leaves of text (3 pages).	1834 October 10



## Subseries 3.1.: Sermons &gt; Sermons on shipboard enroute to China (continued)

	Addition to a sermon Begins: "Three months have nearly elapsed since my residence in this place."	1834-1835
b. 4, f. 3	Sermons	1835-1837
	"Communion"	1835 April 4
	English Chapel, Canton Written July 7.	1836 July 10
	English Chapel, Canton Fragments including the first page of a sermon dated June 3, 1838.	1836 July 31
	English Chapel, Canton	1836 December 4
	English Chapel, Canton Several blank pages at the end.	1836 December 25
	English Chapel, Canton Written January 21.	1837 January 22
	[English Chapel, Canton] Continuation of the above?	1837 January [22]
	English Chapel, Canton [fragment of a sermon]	1837 February 26
	"Christian's rule of duty to the heathen," English Chapel	1837 November 17
b. 4, f. 4	Sermons	1838-1840
	Canton Preached many times including in Washington, D.C.	1838 June 10
	Canton, New Year sermon fragment	1839 January
	English Chapel, Canton	1839 Januar 6
	English Chapel, Canton	1840 February 9
	Sermon beginning Tim.1:5	1840 February 23
	Tabernacle of New York Preached many places. The earliest legible date is Washington, D.C., 1841 January 24, but there is a previous date of Framingham in December.	1840
b. 4, f. 5	Sermons	1841-1844
	Sermon on ABCFM's need for funds Sermon, possibly incomplete, beginning "Finally the reflection comes home to each bosom."	ca. 1841

## Subseries 3.1.: Sermons &gt; Sermons (continued)

	Sermon beginning Joshua 13:1 Preached many times during the period when he was back in America. Preached in Washington, DC., May 8, 1842.	1841 December 6
	Sermon beginning Matth.16:20 Written October 15.	1842 October 16
	On board the Paul Jones Sermon beginning Job 15:4.	1843 May 28
	Canton "Delivered on the occasion of the sudden deaths of Wm. A Lawrence and T. R. Waldron".	1844 September 15
	Canton Luke 13: 8, 9. Preached several times through 1862. There is a pencil note by Parker dated 1883.	1844 December 29
b. 4, f. 6	Sermons	1845-1875
	Canton	1845 January 5
	Canton Begins "Lord's Supper."	1847 May 2
	Canton On death of Nathan Kinsman, Esq.	1847 May 9
	Sermon or address labelled "1848," China	1848
	Canton	1848 November 19
	Sermon beginning Job 11: 7, 8, 9	1875
b. 4, f. 7	Undated and incomplete sermons	n.d.
	"Origins of Idolatry" "As given by Paul, Rom 1:28 +"	n.d.
	Outline of a sermon beginning "Invoke the D. Blessing"	n.d.
	"A Dedicatory Prayer" Begins: "1 Kings 8:23."	n.d.
	Notes on the Lord's Supper	n.d.
	Incomplete sermon missing first page(s) 1 Begins: "Creator had actually adopted..."	n.d.
	Incomplete sermon missing first page(s) 2 Begins: "some prophet, like Jeremiah..." Includes an inserted printed invitation to a meeting of the Medical Mission in China, London, July 12, 1841, and written on in pencil on both sides.	n.d.

## Subseries 3.1.: Sermons &gt; Undated and incomplete sermons (continued)

	Miscellaneous one and two-page fragments	n.d.
b. 4, f. 8	Undated and incomplete sermons	
	Sermon missing first page(s) on the "Christian race" for the "prize"	n.d.
	Sermon on the sudden death of a young man	n.d.
	Sermon fragments on death, some possibly related to the above Reference to the death of a young minister.	n.d.
	Subseries 3.2.: Addresses and other writings	
b. 5, f. 1	Addresses by Peter Parker	1834-1842
	Farewell Address before leaving for China	1834
	"Address in behalf of the M. M. Society before the Citizens of Phila"	1842 January 8
	"Meeting of the Ladies of Philadelphia...in behalf of the M. M. Soc. in China"	1842 February 8
b. 5, f. 2	Addresses by Peter Parker	1862-1872 and n.d.
	"Address to the orphans in the [--?] Asylum," Washington, D.C.	1862 December 24
	Address at the Semi-Centennial of Yale Theological Seminary	1872 May 16
	Address on the need to send Bibles to China Separate sheet in pencil that may be related. Parker recalled the time when he told his widowed mother that he wanted to go to China as a missionary.	Possibly 1840- 1842
b. 5, f. 3	Manuscripts, dated	1830-1879
	"A study of the sciences necessary to professional excellence"	1830?
	"Practical utility of the sciences of Chemistry, & Nat. Philosophy to the professional man"	1830 April 2
	Manuscript on the wreck of the steamer Larriston on the way from Shanghai to Canton	1853
	Manuscript beginning "O Thou Supreme Architect," Washington, D.C. A blessing on his new house. Signed by Peter Parker and Harriet Colby Webster Parker.	1860 May 19
	Manuscript on the occasion of laying the cornerstone of his house, Washington, D.C. Contains autobiographical material.	1860 May 19
	Envelope: Peter Parker, "Copies of Papers Sealed up in a Glass Bottle..." Envelope only. The bottle was placed in a corner of the foundation of Parker's house in Washington, D.C. and probably included originals of the above two items.	1860 May 19

## Subseries 3.2.: Addresses and other writings (continued)

b. 5, f. 4	Miscellaneous manuscripts, dated	1834-1879
	Notes on religious subjects Note on death by Parker, Washington, D.C., February 17, 1879; note by Parker on "Sanctification," December 16, 1861; "Sacraments" by Parker, Canton, November 15, 1834.	1834-1879
	List by Parker of the Governors of Macao, 1829-1857	ca. 1857
b. 5, f. 5	Manuscripts, undated	
	Comments on various literary figures beginning with George Crabbe	n.d.
	Timeline and manuscript on the history of China Timeline is a separate sheet.	n.d.
	Manuscript in Chinese	n.d.
b. 5, f. 6	Manuscripts, undated	
	"Antient Tablets" On Chinese artifacts and history. Fragile condition.	n.d.
	Note beginning "Caesar Commentarius"	n.d.
	Two brief pencil notes	n.d.
b. 5, f. 7	Miscellaneous notes by Peter Parker and others	
	Printed list of missionaries sent to China	ca. 1849
	Brief notes from travel to London and Paris	[1841?]
	Memento with pink ribbon signed by [?] Cushing Contains ethnographic images of birds.	n.d.
	Dates related to Parker's service as Commissioner to China and list of memberships in organizations	ca. 1880
	List of "invited guests"	1864 February 27
	Notes on reading	n.d.
	Fragment on eternity	n.d.
	Religious notes on a paper with the address of F. Seward	n.d.
	Notes in Arabic	n.d.

**4.: Medical reports and ledgers**

## Subseries 4.1.: Reports of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton

These reports contain case accounts of individual patients, in particular a number of patients painted by Lam Qua. See the typescripts in Box 7 which transcribe reports 1-11.

b. 6, f. 1	Reports of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton, 1-4	1836
	First Quarterly Report	1835 November 4 - 1836 November 4
	Second Quarterly Report	1836 February 4 - 1836 May 4
	Third Quarterly Report	1836 May 4 - 1836 August 4
	Fourth Quarterly Report	1836 August 4 - 1836 November 4
b. 6, f. 2	Reports of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton, 5-8	1837-1838
	Fifth Quarterly Report	1836 November 4-1837 February 4
	Sixth Quarterly Report	1837 February 4 - 1837 May 4
	Seventh Quarterly Report	1837 December 31
	Eighth Quarterly Report	1838 January 1 - 1838 June 30
	Subseries 4.2.: Ledgers	
b. 6, f. 3	Canton Hospital ledger Name of patient, age, birthplace, and occupation in Chinese, medical problems in English. One line per entry. Entries 40770-47129. Inserted is a drawing of a Chinese child with a growth on his face.	1851-1853
b. 6, f. 4	Canton Hospital ledger Continuation of above. Entries 47130-53049. Inserted as a loose sheet is a two-page document in Chinese on red paper.	1853-1855
b. 6, f. 5	Medical practice ledger In English. Parker's private medical practice including fees.	1845-1855
b. 6, f. 6	Financial ledger Parker's expenditures	1861-1885

## Subseries 4.2.: Ledgers (continued)

b. 7, f. 1	<p>Bound volume of typescripts of the Canton Hospital Reports and of other publications on medical missionaries</p> <p>Bound volume (acc. 27408), donated by the widow of William Warder Cadbury, M.D. (1877-1959), who arrived in Canton 1909 where he taught at Canton Christian College and practiced at Canton Hospital. It contains typescripts of the Canton Hospital Reports, 1-11 (1835-1840); Extracts from William Lockhart, "Medical Missionary in China"; Medical Missionary Society Regulations and Resolutions, 1838; First Report of the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital at Macao; First Annual Report of the Medical Missionary Society, 1838; Inquest on a Dead Patient; Report of the Medical Missionary Society, 1839; Second report of the Medical Missionary Society of China, 1840; Report of the Medical Missionary Society, 1843.</p>	1835-1843
b. 7, f. 2	<p>Bound volume of typescripts of primary printed sources related to medical missionaries in China and Peter Parker</p> <p>Includes an article by Parker. In the back of the volume are handwritten notes on urinary calculi. On spine: "Memorabilia Concerning Dr. Peter Parker." See urinary calculi, Box 11. Volume has bookplate of Samuel C. Harvey. This volume has not yet been photographed.</p>	1836-1888

**5.: Miscellaneous**

b. 8, f. 1	Dinner at Cutler's Hall, Sheffield Includes invitation from William Chesterman, the Master cutler-elect; menu; order of seating; and place card for Peter Parker.	1880 September 2
b. 8, f. 2	Congressional Temperance Society Signed agreement to form a Congressional Temperance Society (1833) and words to "Ye Old Granite State," a temperance song.	1833 February 14
b. 8, f. 3	Letter from the Ambassador from France to Brazil, Washington, D.C., to Rothschild, Banker in London In French. No clear relation to Parker.	1821 March 8
b. 8, f. 4	Printed hymn composed for a sermon by Peter Parker in Macao on the death of Mary Sword	1845 July 24
b. 8, f. 5	Printed invitation to Mrs. H. Lindsly to attend a ball in honor of Lord and Lady Napier Mrs. Lindsly was Mrs. Parker's sister.	1859 February 17
b. 8, f. 6	List of paintings, statuary, and busts These are likely the collection of the Smithsonian Institution. See General William T. Sherman to Peter Parker, February 13, 1873, Box 1, folder 20.	n.d.
b. 8, f. 7	New Year's greetings to Peter Parker from "a constant friend" On a laced sheet with tiny knitted gloves attached.	n.d.
b. 8, f. 8	Program of selections from Roberts' and Wright's Glee Choir From England.	n.d.
b. 8, f. 9	Poems Five handwritten poems. One is "To Mrs. Parker on her Birth Day." Another, possibly written by Parker, is "A Mother's Farewell."	1829-1854
b. 8, f. 10	Prescriptions Three items by or related to Parker.	1850-1855
b. 8, f. 11	Sketch book Very preliminary sketches of scenery with handwriting that is not Parker's.	n.d.
b. 8, f. 12	Testimony to Christianity Printed sheet: "Testimony to the truth of Christianity, given by Kiyong late governor-general of Canton..." in English and Chinese; envelope on which is written "Canton Hospital/ Testimony to Christianity J.C. Stewart to P.P." See J. C. Stewart correspondence in Box 1, folder 20.	n.d.
b. 8, f. 13	Dr. J. C. Thomson, "Medical Missionary Society in China" Printed columns pasted into a sewn pamphlet. The pamphlet recounts the history of the Society including Peter Parker's role.	1888
b. 8, f. 14	"Remarks of the Rev. Dr. B. Sunderland at the obsequies of Dr. Peter Parker," copy 1	1888 January 13
b. 8, f. 14	"Remarks of the Rev. Dr. B. Sunderland at the obsequies of Dr. Peter Parker," copy 2	1888 January 13

b. 8, f. 15	Notes between Carl Lohmann and Milton Winternitz about a Chinese manuscript Carl Lohmann was secretary of Yale University, and Milton Winternitz was the Dean of Yale School of Medicine. These two notes were found with the additional photographs from Canton Hospital and refer to gift materials from William Warder Cadbury related to Peter Parker or Canton Hospital. The manuscript was a druggist's request for payment of a bill.	1935 April
b. 8, f. 16	Peter Parker's Bible in Greek, 2 vols. Latin titles are <i>Vetus Testamentum</i> and <i>Novum Testamentum</i> . Published in Glasgow. Peter Parker's China bookplate. This Bible has not been photographed.	1831-1832



## 6.: Photographs

Includes photographs of the oil paintings by Lam Qua, photographs of the staff of Canton Hospital after the time of Peter Parker, and lantern slides of Canton Hospital and of patients with large tumors.

b. 9, f. 1	Photographs of Lam Qua paintings taken under the direction of Moses C. White Parker gave the portraits to Yale through Moses C. White, professor of pathology, who had been a missionary to China.	1880-1900
b. 9, f. 2	Moses C. White's notes on paintings and loose photographs of paintings The notes match cases to the Canton Hospital ledgers (Box 6, Folders 3 and 4), provide details of several of the cases, and give references to Parker's published reports.	1880-1900
b. 9, f. 3	Photograph Album of Canton Hospital Donated by the Mrs. William Warder Cadbury, 1966. Dr. Cadbury arrived in China in 1909, taught at the Canton Christian College, and practiced at the Canton Hospital. A number of snapshots are identified in Chinese. There are three loose photographs.	n.d.
b. 9, f. 4	Additional Canton Hospital photographs	1924, 1947, and n.d.
b. 10	Lantern slides (unprocessed) Donated by Mrs. William Warder Cadbury, 1966. Images are of the hospital, staff, and of Chinese patients with huge tumors of the type that Peter Parker treated. These slides have not been processed or photographed.	early 20th century?

## 7.: Urinary calculi

b. 11	Urinary calucli from Peter Parker's patients	1842-1855
	Includes the actual calculi, 31 photographs, and a drawing of the calculi probably created at Yale. Some of the photographs are matched to Canton Hospital case numbers. See Series 4, Box 7, folder 2 for notes and drawings of some of the calculi. The calculi have not been photographed.	

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## 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

Anesthesia -- China  
Diplomats  
Hospitals -- China  
Missionaries, Medical  
Missionaries, Medical -- China  
Ophthalmology  
Physicians  
Surgery  
Urinary organs -- Calculi

Smithsonian Institution  
United States. Department of State  
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1831  
Yale College (1718-1887). Medical Institution.  
Class of 1834

### Contributors

Parker, Peter, 1804-1888  
Lam, Qua

### Genres / Formats

Diaries  
Lantern slides  
Medical records  
Photographs  
Sermons

### Occupations

Surgeons

### Names

Bowring, John, 1792-1872  
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868  
Cadbury, William Warder, 1877-1959  
Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879  
Klaproth, Julius von, 1783-1835  
Lam, Qua  
Parker, Harriet Colby Webster  
Parker, Peter, 1804-1888  
White, Moses Clark, 1819-1900

### Corporate Bodies

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign  
Missions  
Amherst College  
Canton Hospital (Guangzhou, China)  
Congressional Temperance Society  
(Washington, D.C.)  
Evangelical Alliance for the United States of  
America  
Medical Missionary Society in China