

# Guide to the Mark A. Bradley Collection on Duncan Chaplin Lee

MS 2063



compiled by Christy Tomecek

May 2017

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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## 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 2063

**CREATOR:** Bradley, Mark A. (Mark Andrew), 1956-

**TITLE:** Mark A. Bradley collection on Duncan Chaplin Lee

**DATES:** 1935–2013

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.75 linear feet (7 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** The material is in English.

**SUMMARY:** The collection comprises research materials compiled by Mark A. Bradley for his book *A Very Principled Boy: The Life of Duncan Lee, Red Spy and Cold Warrior*. Roughly half the material are copies of archival and government records along with related notes. Archival records include materials from personal papers kept at repositories such as the National Archives and the Hoover Institute. Government records are represented mainly from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Government records have been mainly filed as part of Series I, Freedom of Information Act requests, but there are some intermixed with Series II, Research materials. There are also interviews with people who are related to Lee, studied with Lee, or worked with Lee. Lee's own writings about his work, family, and life are present, including a memorandum to his children about the Bentley affair. Finally, there are copies of several published articles that were used in Bradley's research. Materials date from 1935 to 2013.

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

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## 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/>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mark A. Bradley, 2016.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### 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.

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### Preferred Citation

Mark A. Bradley Collection on Duncan Chaplin Lee (MS 2063). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

### *Duncan Chaplin Lee*

Duncan Chaplin Lee was born on December 19, 1913 in Anqing, China. His parents served as missionaries in China and were from the United States. The family, which included a brother, Armistead, and a sister, Priscilla, moved back to the United States in 1927 and settled in Chatham, Virginia, near Lee's father's family. He attended Yale University and graduated in 1935. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and finished his education at Christ Church, Oxford University. He received a B.A. in jurisprudence in 1937 and a Bachelor of Civil Law degree in 1938. He also was a Sterling Fellow at Yale Law School from 1938 to 1939.

Lee worked as a lawyer at Donovan, Leisure, Newton, and Irvine from 1939 to 1942. From there, he joined the newly created Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He was subsequently commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Army. Lee worked as an aid to the director, General William "Wild Bill" Donovan and over time became the chief of the Secret Intelligence Branch. The OSS was disbanded in 1945 and Lee went back to practicing law. His main work immediately after working for OSS was serving as counsel for the formation of the Civil Air Transport, a CIA backed project that airlifted supplies and troops to China, Taiwan, and Korea.

As a student at Oxford, he became interested in the ideas of the Communist Party. He saw it as a party that could stop the spread of fascism and joined the party as a secret member in 1939. It is believed that the Soviet Union recruited him as a spy shortly after joining the OSS. Over a period of three years he passed on political secrets to the Soviet government. When the war was concluded, former Soviet courier and operations assistant Elizabeth Bentley defected to the United States and implicated a number of Americans who served as sources. One of the sources she named when she testified to the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) on July 31, 1948 was Lee. Lee testified before HUAC denying the charges on August 10, 1948. He was believed due to a lack of written evidence to back up the charges, as well as his education and family background. When it was discovered in 1951 by the U.S. Army's Signal Intelligence Service's Venona Project that Lee was indeed a spy, the FBI was unable to press charges since the project materials were classified. Although he never faced any legal consequences, mounting questions

about his trustworthiness from the accusations caused Lee to live outside of the United States from 1953 on. Lee died on April 15, 1988 in Toronto, Canada.

### *Mark A. Bradley*

Mark Bradley was born in 1956. He is a former CIA analyst and is currently an attorney in the National Security Division of the United States Department of Justice. Lee earned his B.A. in history from Washington and Lee University, an M.A. in history from Christ Church College, Oxford University, and a J.D. from the University of Virginia.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection comprises research materials compiled by Mark A. Bradley for his book *A Very Principled Boy: The Life of Duncan Lee, Red Spy and Cold Warrior*. Roughly half the material are copies of archival and government records along with related notes. Archival records include materials from personal papers kept at repositories such as the National Archives and the Hoover Institute. Government records are represented mainly from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Government records have been mainly filed as part of Series I, Freedom of Information Act requests, but there are some intermixed with Series II, Research materials. There are also interviews with people who are related to Lee, studied with Lee, or worked with Lee. Lee's own writings about his work, family, and life are present, including a memorandum to his children about the Bentley affair. Finally, there are copies of several published articles that were used in Bradley's research. Materials date from 1935 to 2013.

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## Arrangement

The papers are arranged in two series: I. Freedom of Information Act requests, 1942-2013. II. Research materials, 1935-2012.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Freedom of Information Act requests, 1942–2013

Series I contains records on Duncan Chaplin Lee that Bradley retrieved via Freedom of Information Act requests. Files from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) focus on Lee's career in the OSS, background information about the OSS, and material about the Civil Air Transport. Files from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the House Un-American Activities Committee, and the State Department cover different stages of investigation into Elizabeth Bentley's claims, Lee's espionage activities, and monitoring of his activities in the early to mid 1950s. Personal information in some of the records is redacted.

Materials are arranged by agency and alphabetically therein.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)/Office of Strategic Services (OSS)		
b. 1, f. 1	Declassified files	1944-1945, 2008-2012
b. 1, f. 2	Executive files	1943
b. 1, f. 3	Organization files on Duncan Chaplin Lee	1942–1952
b. 1, f. 4	History of the Office of Strategic Services booklet	2000
b. 1, f. 5-6	Civil Air Transport, clandestine services research	1946-1960, 2009-2010
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)		
b. 1, f. 7	Elizabeth Bentley statement to the FBI	1945
b. 2, f. 1-3	Espionage files	1950–1953
b. 2, f. 4-7b. 3, f. 1-4	Files on Duncan Lee	1945–1953
b. 3, f. 5	"Koch" cables, Project Venona files English	1943–1944
b. 3, f. 6	Report on Soviet espionage	1945
b. 4, f. 1	House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) declassified files on Duncan Chaplin Lee	1948, 2010-2013
b. 4, f. 2-5	State Department files on Duncan Chaplin Lee	1951–1955

## Series II: Research materials, 1935–2012

Series II contains government and organization records, interviews, research notes, and publications related to Lee's life and work. While there is some overlap between information present in Series I, Freedom of Information Act requests, this series focuses on a broader range of topics, including his time at Yale University, his time at Oxford University, recollections of his family, on people involved with his OSS and espionage activities, and general information about Project Venona, the Bentley testimony, and Civil Air Transport/Air America. Also present is Lee's memorandum to his children denying that he was a Soviet spy.

Materials are arranged alphabetically.

b. 5, f. 1	"Elizabeth Bentley Matter" manuscript by Duncan Chaplin Lee English	1983
Government and organization records		
b. 5, f. 2	Christ Church, Oxford University, reports on Duncan Chaplin Lee	1935–1936
b. 5, f. 3	Copy of Bentley statement with index	1943
b. 5, f. 4-5	National Archives, requested records from General William Donovan Collection	1943–1945
b. 5, f. 6	Whiting Willaver Papers regarding Air America	1952-1963, 2010
Interviews		
b. 5, f. 7	Espey, John	1999
b. 5, f. 8	Lee, John	2011–2012
b. 5, f. 9	Petrie, Ishbel, regarding Elizabeth Bentley	2000–2007
b. 5, f. 10	Pforzheimer, Walter, regarding Watergate	June 17, 1999
b. 5, f. 11	Scully, John, regarding Yale University	June 8, 1998
Notes		
b. 5, f. 12	Claire Chennault Papers regarding Air America, research notes	2009
b. 5, f. 13	Duncan Lee biographical background	1984–2009
b. 6, f. 1	Hayden Peake notes on Duncan Chaplin Lee	1996
b. 6, f. 2	John Haynes list of OSS spies	2012
b. 6, f. 3	Notes and copies from the Thomas Corcoran Papers	1949–1964
b. 6, f. 4	Notes and edits of Ishbel Petrie's "Not a Bowl of Cherries"	1997
b. 6, f. 5	Rhodes Scholarship, records of Duncan Chaplin Lee	1936–1937
b. 6, f. 6-7	Vassiliev's notes, Bentley's allegations against Duncan Chaplin Lee	1944–1951
b. 6, f. 8	Vassiliev's notes on "Koch"	Undated
b. 6, f. 9	Photographs of Otto Doering and headhunters in Burma taken by Duncan Lee	Undated

## Publications

b. 6, f. 10	<i>America Unbound: World War II and the Makings of a Superpower</i>	1992
b. 6, f. 11	"Bernard Schuster and Joseph Katz: KGB Spies in the United States" English	2007
b. 6, f. 12	"Donavan Backs Duncan Lee as Loyal in the War," <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> English	1948
b. 6, f. 13	<i>Frank Cass Journals, "OSS and the Venona Decrypts"</i>	1997
b. 6, f. 14	<i>Out of Bondage: KGB Target: Washington</i>	1988
b. 7, f. 1	<i>Perilous Missions: Civil Air Transport and CIA Covert Operations in Asia</i>	2002
b. 7, f. 2	Project Venona pamphlets	Undated
b. 7, f. 3	<i>Reader's Digest</i> , Eric Sevareid article	February 1944
b. 7, f. 4	"Soviet Espionage at the Office of Strategic Services" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 5	"Venona," <i>Counter-Intelligence in World War II, National Counter-Intelligence Center</i> English	2012
b. 7, f. 6	"What the Spiders Did: U.S. and Soviet Counterintelligence before the Cold War" English	Undated



## **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**

Cold War  
Espionage

### **Geographic Names**

Soviet Union

### **Names**

Bentley, Elizabeth  
Bradley, Mark A. (Mark Andrew), 1956-  
Lee, Duncan Chaplin, 1913-1988

### **Corporate Bodies**

United States. Central Intelligence Agency  
United States. Congress. House. Committee on  
Un-American Activities  
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States. Office of Strategic Services

### **Contributors**

Bradley, Mark A. (Mark Andrew), 1956-  
Lee, Duncan Chaplin, 1913-1988