

The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

**Edwin Carlyle Lobenstine Album, 1935**

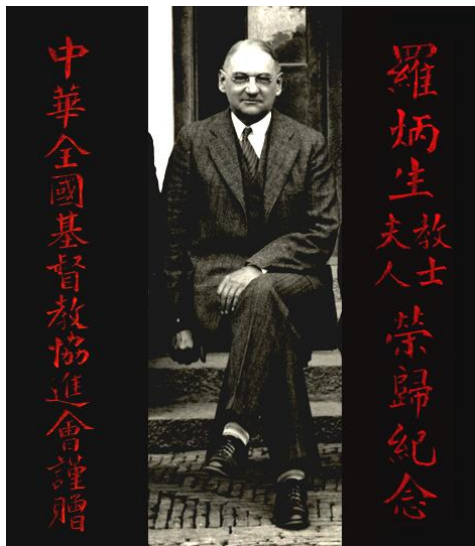


Image Credit: MRL6: Lobenstine Album, Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, December 2009

Reviewed and Updated by Brigette C. Kamsler, February 2014 with financial support from the  
Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: National Christian Council of China  
Title: Edwin Carlyle Lobenstine Album  
Dates: 1935  
Abstract: Commemorative album presented to Presbyterian missionary Lobenstine and his wife, Susan Clark Lobenstine, on the occasion of his retirement from the National Christian Council of China. Contains photographs, letters, cards and inscriptions  
Size: 1 OS box, 2.00 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

**Administrative Information**

- Provenance: This album was donated by Mrs. Susan Clark Lobenstine sometime between 1958 and 1964 to the independent Missionary Research Archives, and was accessioned to the Burke Library Archives upon the closure of the MRL in 1976.<sup>1</sup>
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. [Burke Library staff](#) is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. The album pages and photographs, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: Edwin Carlyle Lobenstine Album, box #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

**Biography<sup>2</sup>**

The Rev. Dr. Edwin Carlyle Lobenstine was born on January 18, 1872 in Leavenworth, Kansas. He was educated in Europe before graduating from Yale University in 1895. He studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1895 to 1897, and at Auburn Seminary from 1897 to 1898. In that year he was ordained by the Presbytery of New York and went to China as a missionary. He initially worked in Anhui 安徽 province in the East of China, and directed famine relief work in 1909.

In 1911 the China Continuation Committee was formed as a result of the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, and Lobenstine served as its general secretary. We went on to work for the National Christian Council of China, the successor organization to the committee which was founded in 1922. He was also a board member of several institutions of higher learning in China, including Nanking University 南京大學, Ginling College 金陵女子大學, and the Yale-in-China program. In 1935 he retired from the NCC of China and returned to the United States, where he was chairman of the Yale-in-China Association from 1936 to 1944. He passed away in 1958 after a long illness.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The album was presented to Lobenstine and his wife on the occasion of his retirement from the National Christian Council of China in 1935. It contains photographs, letters, cards and inscriptions from people who knew Lobenstine and his work in China. Represented here are people such as H.H. Kung 孔祥熙, the wealthiest person in China at the time and husband of

<sup>1</sup> Based on Edwin Lobenstine's date of death as 1958, and Susan Lobenstine's as 1964. See her obituary in the *New York Times*, November 1, 1964, p. 89.

<sup>2</sup> The information in this section is sourced from his obituary in the *New York Times*, July 5, 1958, p. 17, and on the *General Catalogue of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York*, 1898.

Soong Ai-ling 宋藹齡; Zhang Boling 張伯苓, the founder of Nankai University; Earl Herbert Cressy, who worked with the Council on education; C.Y. Cheng 誠靜怡, the first General Secretary of the NCC of China; Charles Luther Boynton, long-time member of the NCC of China; Abbe Livingstone Warnshuis, leader of the International Missionary Council; Eugene E. Barnett of the Chinese YMCA; and Wu Tiecheng 吳鐵城, Chinese general and then-mayor of Shanghai.

Several of the photos have lost their captions and many of the people represented in the album have yet to be identified. Several of the photographs depict the Ninth Biennial meeting of the NCC of China in 1933.

### **Processing**

The album has been separated from its wooden cover and placed in an acid-free paper wrapping. The front and back covers remain with the album, separated by paper. Acidic items within the album have been interleaved with acid-free paper.

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

### **Further Sources**

The Burke Library contains many other collections relating to the topics and organizations associated with Lobenstine, such as the World Missionary Conference Records and the Union Theological Seminary Records. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

### **Contents list**

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