

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

George Merriam Newell Papers, 1905 – 1960



Image Credit: http://www.library.yale.edu/div/colleges/wesleyan/bios/george_newell.htm

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, August 2010
Reviewed and updated by Sarah Davis, April 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce
Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: George Merriam Newell, 1875 - [19??]
Title: George Merriam Newell Papers
Inclusive dates: 1905 – 1960
Bulk dates: 1908 – 1911
Abstract: Newell had a 37-year career as a school teacher in Fuzhou 福州, Fujian 福建 province, China. Collection contains correspondence, reports and a few collected publications.
Size: 1 box, 1 OS tube box, 2.50 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: The collection was donated to the MRL in 1960 by Mary Newell, and in 1976 it was accessioned to the Burke Library with the closure of the MRL.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.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. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: George Merriam Newell Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

George Merriam Newell was born on September 18, 1875 in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, the son of Stillman Clark Newell and Ellen Lucretia Carpenter. He received a B.S. from Wesleyan University in 1904 where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. After graduation he travelled to China as a missionary under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He worked as a teacher at the Foochow Union High School in Fuzhou 福州, Fujian 福建 province, from 1904 to 1941.

On June 4, 1906 in Beijing he married Mary E. Reynolds, an English teacher who had intended to join the North China Mission before marrying Newell. They had four children together over the next twelve years. In January 1912 the family returned to the United States on furlough, and the next year Newell received his A.M. degree from Columbia University, after which the family returned to Fuzhou. In 1960 the couple was living in Florida, but further no information on their lives after that date is available.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence and reports written by Newell during his tenure in Fuzhou. The dates and subject matter for these papers follow no discernable sequence, but all relate to his mission work in Fujian province. The maps and short publications were likely collected by Newell during his time in China, and focus on Fuzhou and the work of the ABCFM. The book in folder 1 has an inscription regarding its donation by George and Mary Newell to the MRL in 1960.

Very little other archival information is available on Newell, although a few references to his work can be found in the periodical *The Chinese Recorder and Missionary Journal*.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials. Folded items were flattened and large items moved to rolled storage. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed.

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

Further Sources

The Burke Library contains a number of other collections related to missions in China, as well as an ABCFM collection. More information can be found by searching [Columbia University's Library Catalog, CLIO](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Correspondence, Reports, Clippings, 1905 – 1911
1	2	<i>Fukien: a study of a province in China</i> , 1925
1	3	Provenance Letter, April 20, 1960
1	4	Publications [1934?]-1947
1	2 OS	Map of Fujian Province, 1937 "Guide to Fuchow", 1948 "Greetings from Tungchow", [19??]