

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Elwood G. and Donald G. Tewksbury Papers, 1872 – 1959



Rev. Elwood G. Tewksbury Newspaper Clipping. Credit to: MRL6: Elwood G. and Donald G. Tewksbury Papers, box 1, folder 2, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Daniel Asen, July 2007; revised with additions by Gregory Adam Scott, 2010

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

Summary Information

Creator: Elwood G. Tewksbury, 1865-1945; Donald G. Tewksbury, 1894-1958
Title: Elwood G. and Donald G. Tewksbury Papers
Inclusive dates: 1872-1959
Bulk dates: 1890-1907, 1949-1959
Abstract: Elwood G. Tewksbury: North China mission, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; Boxer Rebellion. Executive Secretary of the Laymen's and Young People's Missionary Movement. Secretary for Chinese Sunday School Union of the World's Sunday School Association. Newspaper clippings, correspondence, manuscripts, prints, posters. Donald G. Tewksbury: Professor of Comparative Education at Teachers College, Columbia University; teaching materials, published articles, manuscripts, notes. M. Gardner Tewksbury.
Size: 3 Manuscript Boxes and 1 OS Rolled 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:** Evidence suggests that at some point the papers of Elwood G. Tewksbury came into the possession of his son Donald G. Tewksbury. There are also indications that Elwood G. Tewksbury's son, M. Gardner Tewksbury, added material to the combined papers of Elwood G. and Donald G. Tewksbury prior to their being deposited in the Missionary Research Library (MRL). M. Gardner Tewksbury transferred a wooden bound album to the MRL in 1972; this photo album is in box 4. As part of the independent Missionary Research Library, with Charles H. Fahs as curator from its foundation in 1914 until 1948, these records were then moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL. The collection was updated in 2014 as part of the Henry Luce Foundation project.
- 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, MRL6: Elwood G. and Donald G. Tewksbury Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Elwood Gardner Tewksbury was born in 1865 in West Newbury, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College in 1887 and Hartford Theological Seminary in 1890. He was ordained at the East Somerville, Massachusetts, Congregational Church in 1890. In 1890 Elwood G. Tewksbury and his wife Grace Holbrook began serving at the North China mission under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. They served at the Tongzhou Mission from 1890 – 1898 and 1899 – 1906. During his time at Tongzhou, Elwood G. Tewksbury was involved with the Tungchow Farm, a poor-relief program which produced foreign vegetables and fruits. Tewksbury also taught physics and chemistry at North China College in Tongzhou.

Elwood G., Grace Holbrook and their two sons, Malcolm Gardner and Donald George Tewksbury were besieged in the British legation during the Boxer Rebellion. Elwood G. Tewksbury played a role in organizing the defense of the area in which they were ensconced. Elwood G. Tewksbury served as the executive secretary of the Laymen's and Young People's Missionary Movement in New York City from 1907 – 1910. During this period he also gave many lectures. Beginning in 1910 Elwood G. Tewksbury served as the first secretary for the China Sunday School Union of the World's Sunday School Association. During this time Tewksbury

promoted the training of staff and pedagogical development of Sunday schools in China. Elwood G. Tewksbury served as a musical co-editor for *Chinese Hymnal* (1907), which was edited by Henry Blodget and Chauncey Goodrich. Elwood G. Tewksbury died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1945.

Donald George Tewksbury was born in 1894. He became professor of Comparative Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. His published works include *Founding of American colleges and universities before the Civil War: With particular Reference to the Religious Influences bearing upon the College movement* (1932), several sourcebooks on East Asian political ideology, and numerous book reviews. Donald G. Tewksbury died in 1958.

Malcolm Gardner Tewksbury authored *Speak Chinese* (1948) and co-authored *Speak Mandarin: A beginning text in spoken Chinese* (1967) with Henry C. Fenn.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection contains the papers of Elwood G., Donald G., and M. Gardner Tewksbury.

The papers of Elwood G. Tewksbury primarily document his ordination, missionary activities in China, and role in the Boxer siege of Peking in 1900. Newspaper clippings and assorted manuscripts document his mission and educational work in North China. There are also notes and a manuscript which document Tewksbury's work on Chinese hymnology.

The collection includes a set of 20 posters in Chinese produced or distributed by the China Sunday School Union 主日學合會 and the Chinese Catholic Literature Society. The CSSU was formed in 1910 with the support of the British Sunday School Union, and E.G. Tewksbury served as its first general secretary. These posters were evidently produced for a Chinese audience as promotional media and as visual didactic aids. Though some posters feature images from European Christian art, many of the designs are modeled on Chinese aesthetics, both traditional and modern. There is also a large, brush-written poster in Chinese, written on the occasion of Tewksbury's return to the United States. Digital images of these items, as well as metadata describing their content, are available for consultation on a CDR in Box 2, Folder 6.

Assorted newspaper clippings and correspondence document the experience of the Tewksbury family in the British legation during the Boxer siege of Peking. The collection includes a copy of a message seeking help for the besieged with hand-drawn map, notes and diagrams on defense of British legation, and correspondence between Tewksbury and officials of the United States legation and military. The collection also contains an official communication in Chinese between Qing officials discussing military preparations and the arrest and execution of foreigners and converts. An English translation is included. There is also a list in Chinese of local bands mustered during the Boxer Rebellion.

Finally, there are over ninety black and white prints extracted from publications. Subject matter include the Boxer Rebellion, missions and missionaries, Chinese Christians, legations in Peking, street scenes, and various historical figures.

The papers of Donald G. Tewksbury include manuscript copies of teaching materials on the history of China, East Asia, and Southeast Asia, published and manuscript articles by various authors, English translations of primary sources on modern Chinese history and ideology, and manuscript copies of papers and book reviews produced by Donald G. Tewksbury.

The papers of M. Gardner Tewksbury include a collection of Western accounts of the Communist revolution as well as notes and other published and manuscript materials on modern China.

In 2014, box 4 was added to the collection. It is a bound, wooden photo album containing pictures of the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. The photographs were taken by C. A. Killie, who was in the same group as Elwood Tewksbury during the siege.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

In 2014, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation project grant.

Further Sources

The Burke Library offers other collections related to the topics and geographic locations covered in this collection, such as the Foreign Missions Conference of North America Records and the China Continuation Committee Records. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	E.G. Tewksbury childhood family correspondence, 1872-1884, 1913 E.G.T school papers, 1878-[1880]
1	2	Correspondence from Grace H. Tewksbury, Jerusalem and Syria, 1906 E.G.T Ordination program, clippings, sermons, commissioning by ABCFM, 1890 Missionary activities in China: Tungchow farm, Notes on proposed [Chinese] Hymn Book; 'Chinese day observed,' 1906
1	3-4	E.G. Tewksbury personal notes, correspondence, and materials re: Boxer Rebellion; Boxer Rebellion defense list ms in Chinese [1900?]
1	5	Prints of China extracted from publications [1900?]
1	6	D.G. Tewksbury teaching materials re: history of China/East Asia [1930-1950]
1	7	D.G. Tewksbury teaching materials re: Modern China
1	8	D.G. Tewksbury teaching materials re: Modern China / SE Asian history [195?]
1	9	M.G. Tewksbury collection of accounts of Communist revolution, Dec 1948-Jun 1950
2	1	D.G. Tewksbury teaching materials re: history of China/Asia, 1946-1951
2	2	D.G. Tewksbury teaching materials re: history of East Asia, Aug 1949
2	3	D.G. Tewksbury teaching materials re: history of China/India, Oct 1928-May 1933
2	4	M.G. Tewksbury ms and published papers; D.G. Tewksbury ms papers, 1949-Dec 1959
2	5	Red cloth pouches with folded paper inside
2	6	CD of Digital Images of Posters contained in Box OS 3; Image Metadata
3OS Roll		20 Sunday School Posters; Brush-written Message for E.G. Tewksbury [190?] - [194?]
4	1	[FRAGILE] Bound Wooden Photo Album by C. A. Killie, 1900