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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Abbe Livingston Warnshuis Papers, 1877 – 1963



Warnshuis in Geneva, Switzerland, 1944. Credit to: MRL6: Abbe Livingstone Warnshuis Papers, series 19, box 2, folder 2, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Daniel Asen, August 2007

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

Summary Information

Size:

Creator: Abbe Livingston Warnshuis, 1877 – 1958

Title: Abbe Livingston Warnshuis Papers

Inclusive dates: 1877 – 1963 Bulk dates: 1910 – 1958

Abstract: Reformed Church of America; New Brunswick Seminary, NJ; National

Evangelistic Secretary of the China Continuation Committee; Shanghai; Amoy (Xiamen); Fujian Province; Guangdong Province; Church of Christ in

China; Secretary of International Missionary Council; Executive Vice President of Church World Service. Contains Diaries; Date Books; Correspondence; Minutes; Photographs; Notes; Pamphlets; Newspaper

and Magazine Clippings; Manuscripts; Chinese Phonetic Materials. 320 folders in 8 filing drawers, 2 boxes, 1 OS box, 17.75 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: After the passing of Abbe Livingston Warnshuis in 1958, Margaret

Chambers Warnshuis arranged for his papers to be transferred to the Missionary Research Library. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL. Series 14-19, as later accessions to the Warnshuis collection, are for the first time now reunited with the Warnshuis Papers and given folder numbers in sequence with the

rest of the Papers. The addition of Series 17 was originally labeled

"Warnshuis papers in Dr. Price's Files, #64". The collection was updated in

2014 as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

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

fragile condition, and this may necessitate restrictions in handling and

copying.

Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL6: Abbe Livingstone Warnshuis Papers, series #, box

#, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia

University in the City of New York.

Biography

Abbe Livingston Warnshuis was born in 1877 in Clymer, New York. His grandfather had emigrated from Holland. He pursued studies for an A.B. (1907), A.M. (1900), at Hope College, Michigan and in 1916 was awarded a D.D. by the same college. In 1900 he also graduated from New Brunswick Seminary, New Jersey and was ordained in the Reformed Church of America. Warnshuis married Anna De Vries in 1900. After the passing of Anna De Vries in 1941, Warnshuis remarried to Margaret Chambers Halsey in 1942.

He arrived in Amoy in the year of the Boxer Rebellion (1900) and served there as a missionary until 1915. From 1915 – 1920 Warnshuis served as the National Evangelistic Secretary of the China Continuation Committee in Shanghai. Warnshuis was deeply involved in educational and missionary activities in Fujian Province. Warnshuis also played a role in the establishment of the Church of Christ in China.

He played leadership roles in a number of international organizations and educational institutions. In 1920 Warnshuis became the first American secretary of the International Missionary Council, where he served until 1943. He was integral to the organizing of IMC meetings in Jerusalem (1928) and Tambaram, India (1938).

Warnshuis played a key role in organizing the wartime Orphaned Missions' service of the IMC. In 1944 Warnshuis was tapped by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to report on the condition of churches in Europe. After his return, Warnshuis played an active role in relief efforts as Executive Vice President of the Church World Service from 1946 – 1948.

It should be noted that A.L. Warnshuis is frequently cited as using the name Warnhuis. This collection shows no conclusive evidence for use of that form of the name.

Warnshuis' published works include *Heidelberg Catechism in Chinese* (1907), *Lessons in Amoy Vernacular* (coauthor, 1911), *The Church's Battle for Europe's Soul* (1945), *Church Growth and Group Conversion* (coauthor, 1956) and many other books and articles.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is divided into nineteen series. The majority of the material is housed in filing cabinets. The remaining boxed material is noted as such.

Series 1: Personal Affairs, 1877 – 1957 (folders 1 – 23)

This series contains extensive material on the personal life of A. Livingston Warnshuis. It includes documents from his childhood and education, diaries, personal bible commentary, date books covering much of his adult life, and correspondence written by his first and second wives. The arrangement is mainly chronological.

Series 2: Biographical, [1868] – 1963 (folders 24 – 38)

This series contains additional material on the personal and family lives of Warnshuis. It includes records from John William Warnshuis, A. Livingston's father, as well as a genealogy and family tree. There is also extensive published material in the form of biographies and obituaries which document the life of A. Livingston Warnshuis. Because of their size, Personal Records of John William Warnshuis and Letter Extracts used by Dr. Norman Goodall are now transferred from this series to MRL 6: Warnshuis, Series 19: Oversize Materials, OS Box 3.

Series 3: Amoy Period, 1864 – 1915 (folders 39 – 59)

This series contains reports, sermons, and published material from A. Livingston Warnshuis' time as a Reformed Church missionary in Amoy. It also contains correspondence with B.F. Brissel, W.I. Chamberlaine, H.N. Cobb, J.G. Fagg, J.A. Otte, W.B. Van Staueren, and Sherwood Eddy. The material is arranged both chronologically and by type of source.

Series 4: Shanghai Period, 1915 – 1920 (folders 60 – 66)

This series contains correspondence and reports relating to the China Continuation Committee as well as correspondence with W.I. Chamberlaine. There is also a collection of regulations and other official documents relating to the Shanghai police. The material is mainly arranged chronologically.

• Series 5: National Christian Council of China, 1921 – 1940 (folders 67 – 76)

This series contains minutes and documents of the National Christian Council of China from 1921 – 1940. It also contains NCCC bulletins from 1938 to 1939. The material is mainly arranged chronologically.

- Series 6: International Missionary Council Period, 1921 1942 (folders 77 107)

 This series contains extensive material on Warnshuis' involvement with the International Missionary Council. It includes correspondence, reports, and speeches about IMC as well as the state of international missionary work. This series also has correspondence and documents relating to Wilhelmina Hospital in Amoy as well as speeches and other writings. There are also notebooks, sermons, and collections of background material produced by Warnshuis.
- Series 7: Retirement: Early Period, 1942 1944 (folders 108 122)
 This series contains minutes and documents relating to the Foreign Missions Conference as well as to the Aid for Orphaned Missions program of the International Missionary Council. There are also minutes and documents pertaining to the Religious Liberty Committee. Documents are arranged both chronologically and by type of source.
- Series 8: European Trip, 1944 (folders 123 134)
 This series contains extensive documentation of Warnshuis' fact-finding trip to Europe in 1944. It includes correspondence, personal notes, clippings, reports and a collection of materials relating to Warnshuis' The Church's Battle for Europe's Soul (1945). The oversize scrapbook entitled "Church World Service Scrapbook, 1944 1945," compiled with correspondence, notes, and clippings on the trip, has been transferred to the collection's oversize box (MRL 6: Warnshuis, Series 19: Oversize Materials, OS Box 3)
- Series 9: Retirement: Middle Period, 1945 1951 (folders 135 168)
 This series contains minutes and other documents relating to the Church World Service as well as materials on Warnshuis' involvement with the Middle East. There are also documents pertaining to the Reformed Church in America and to the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Material is arranged chronologically as well as by organization or enterprise to which it relates.
- <u>Series 10: Retirement: Later Period, 1952 1958 (folders 169 192)</u>
 This series contains documents on the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Reformed Church in America, as well as Kirkside, a home for retired ministers, missionaries, and other staff of the Reformed Church, located in Roxbury, New York. Material is arranged chronologically and by organization to which it relates.
- Series 11: Long Range Interests, 1942 1958 (folders 193 227)
 This series contains extensive documents relating to Nanking Theological Seminary.
 There are also documents which pertain to the American Committee for the World Council of Churches, International Missionary Council, and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Material is arranged chronologically, and according to topic and organization.
- Series 12: Articles, Sermons, Speeches and Background Material, [1916] [1950] (folders 228 243)

This series contains wide-ranging printed and manuscript materials collected by Warnshuis, including newspaper clippings, sermons, prayers, and other documents. Material is loosely arranged by type.

- Series 13: General Correspondence, 1916 1958 (folders 244 258)
 - This series contains correspondence between Warnshuis and J.H. Arnup, M. Searle Bates, J.W. Decker, H.P. DePree, W.B. Hill, Henry Israel, Hendrik Kraemer, O.R. Magill, William Paton, Charles W. Ranson, and W.A. Visser 't Hooft. It also contains two folders of miscellaneous correspondence. Material is organized chronologically and by correspondent.
- Series 14: Notes and Writings, 1885 1955 (folders 259 268)
 This series contains a collection of late 19th and early 20th c. printed pamphlets on missionary work. Photographs were removed from this series to Series 19 OS box 2.
- <u>Series 15: Notes, Photographs, and Personal Correspondence, 1945 1948</u> (folders 269 278)

This series contains notes and correspondence relating to A. Livingston and Margaret Chambers Warnshuis' involvement with overseas aid during the Reconstruction of Europe. There is some correspondence with Hendrik Anthony Kramers and R.P. Kramers. The series also includes some personal photographs. Material is loosely organized both chronologically and alphabetically.

- <u>Series 16: Correspondence with E.C. Lobenstine, 1917 1919 (folders 279 281)</u> This series contains correspondence between A. Livingston Warnshuis and E.C. Lobenstine arranged chronologically.
- Series 17: Missionary Work and Education in China, 1915 1950 (folders 282 294)
 This series contains extensive published and manuscript materials on missionary work and education in China during the early 20th century. It includes a range of pamphlets, notes, clippings, correspondence and reports. In some cases material is arranged by region (ie. Guangdong).
- Series 18: Presbyterian Church Union and Church of Christ in China, 1905 1962 (folders 295 – 307)

This series contains documents, correspondence, and minutes relating to Presbyterian efforts at establishing a Church Union in China as well as the Church of Christ in China. It also contains Warnshuis' notes on the Amoy dialect. Objects within this series include a hanging calendar and collection bag. There is also a collection of materials relating to the May 30th Incident, 1925.

• <u>Series 19: Oversize Materials, 1885 – 1958 (2 boxes, 1 OS box, 2.75 linear feet)</u>
Box 1, within the Warnshuis Papers, contains a set of materials for teaching/learning
Chinese characters. The set of flashcards includes a printed pamphlet and poster with phonetic symbols.

Box 2 contains 55 photographs which originally formed part of Series 14. On the contents list, the original folder numbers are maintained in parentheses. These photographs document multiple phases of Warnshuis' life. Prominent themes include Warnshuis' time in China (10 photographs), New Brunswick Theological Seminary (16), and 19

photographs of the Warnshuis family. Portraits include John William Warnshuis, Anna Christina Warnshuis, Frederick Warnshuis, Joan Warnshuis, Alphonse Koechlin, W.A. Visser 't Hooft, Roswell Barnes, John H. Gillespie, Professor [?] Woodbridge, E.G.W. Meury, Nora V. Schenck, Jas. [?] E. Moerdyk, Anna Waldron, Elizabeth Waldron, Maude Schenck, John H. Raven, C.P. Case, C.F. Benjamin, and F.A. Seibert. There are also photographs of a number of the professors, other classmates and the campus of New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

The oversize box contains Personal Records of John William Warnshuis (originally in Series 2), Letter Extracts (used by Dr. Norman Goodall) (originally in Series 2), and Church World Service Scrapbook, 1944 – 1945. The original folder numbers for these items have been maintained in parentheses.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Some materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes. Photographs were placed in Mylar envelopes. Phonetic sets were wrapped in tissue paper and placed into a separate box.

The collection was updated in 2014 as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

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Further Sources

The Burke Library offers other collections related to the topics and geographic locations covered in this collection, such as the <u>International Missionary Council Records</u> and the <u>China Continuation Committee Records</u>. For more information, please see the <u>Burke Library Archives website</u>.

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1	7	Notebook of Letters, Notes and Clippings, 1900-1903
1	8	Family Letters from Mrs. Anna De Vries Warnshuis, 1901-1922, and about her Death
1	9	Bible
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1	11	Passports
1	12-20	Date Books, 1923-1957
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2	27	Data on John H. and Lillian Cook Warnshuis
2	28	Correspondence from John H. Warnshuis
2	29	Oral History Research Office – Autobiographical Notes, 1955
2	30	Biographical Data, Articles about Warnshuis, and Who's Who in America
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