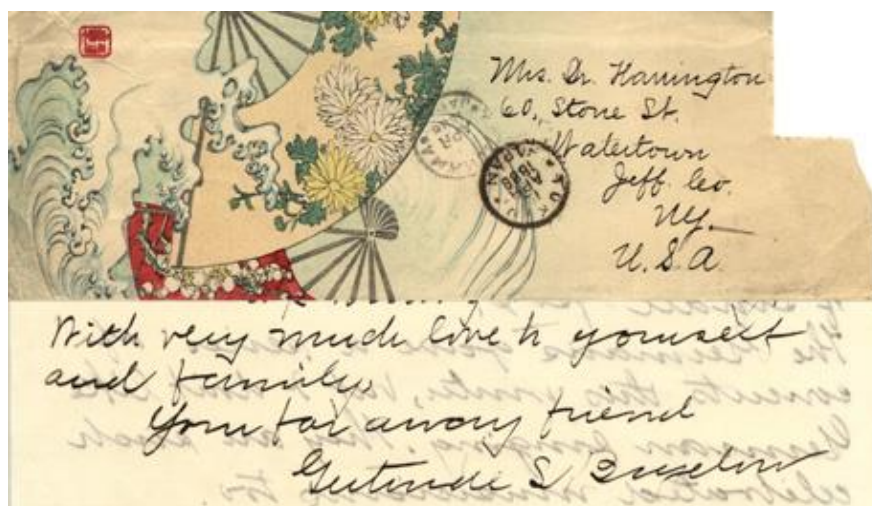


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 7

Finding Aid for

**Gertrude S. Bigelow Papers, 1887 – 1926**



Letter and Envelope,. Credit to: MRL 7: Gertrude S. Bigelow papers, box 1, folder 2, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, June 2009.

Reviewed and updated by Sarah Davis, May 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

**Summary Information**

Creator: Fred Harvey Harrington, 1913 - 1995

Title: Gertrude S. Bigelow Papers

Inclusive dates: 1887-1926

Bulk dates: 1906-1924

Abstract: Presbyterian Missionary in Japan, Teacher in Mission Schools. Collection contains personal correspondence.

Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet

Storage: Onsite storage

Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu),

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The collection was donated by Prof. Fred Harvey Harrington in July, 1944. Prof. Harrington, who died in 1995, was the grandson of Mrs. Cora Harrington, the recipient of the correspondence. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives 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](mailto: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 7: Gertrude S. Bigelow papers, box # and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Gertrude S. Bigelow was born circa 1863 in Batavia, New York. She graduated from the Ladies' Seminary in Hamilton, NY in 1883, and went to Japan to do mission work for the Presbyterian Church in Japan in 1886. Initially she worked at the Graham Seminary (新栄女学校, later known as Joshi gakuin 女子学院) in Tsukiji 築地, Tokyo 東京. From about 1890, she spent 20 years working in Yamaguchi 山口. In 1894 she attended the Second International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions held in Detroit. In 1907 she was joined by her sister, Florence Julia Bigelow, who married Thomas C. Winn in 1917 and died in 1934.

In 1909 Gertrude published an article in *The Assembly Herald* entitled "Japan's Daughters and the Missionary Teacher." From around 1913 to around 1929 she worked in Shimonoseki 下関, in a girls' school called Baiko Jogakuin (梅光女学院) that still exists today as a university. She was still active in the church as late as 1935.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is mostly comprised of letters sent by Gertrude Bigelow to Mrs. Cora Harrington, of Watertown, NY. Items relate to the Graham Seminary in Tsukiji, Tokyo.

### Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were unfolded and 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.

### Further Sources

The Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, PA has an archival holding on “United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations. Secretaries' files: Japan Mission, 1879-1972 (bulk: 1911-1969)” which may contain information related to Bigelow. It is located in Record Group 93.

The Burke Library offers a small collection for the Student Volunteer Movement, as well as other collections related to missionary work in Japan. The finding aids are available online at the [Missionary Research Library Archives](#).

### Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Provenance Notes
1	2	Correspondence, 1887 - 1888
1	3	Correspondence, 1889 - 1899
1	4	Correspondence, 1900 - 1906
1	5	Correspondence, 1907 - 1910
1	6	Correspondence, 1912 - 1915
1	7	Correspondence, 1917 - 1922
1	8	Correspondence, 1923 - 1926
1	9	Postcards, [191?]
1	10	Programs, Graham Seminary Commencement 1887, 1890, 1902
1	11	<i>Watertown Daily Times</i> Clipping, 1924