

Yale University Library  
Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Marjorie Tooker Whittlesey Papers

RG 197



Martha Lund Smalley

2006

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

[divinity.library@yale.edu](mailto:divinity.library@yale.edu)

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 197

**CREATOR:** Whittlesey, Marjorie T. (Marjorie Tooker), 1912-

**TITLE:** Marjorie Tooker Whittlesey Papers

**DATES:** 1927-1991

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8 linear feet (18 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence and writings document the life and work of Marjorie Tooker Whittlesey and her parents, and the operations of Yale-in-China during World War II. The collection also contains substantive documentation of the life and work of Ilma Ruth Aho, a Finnish missionary about whom Whittlesey wrote a biography.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.197>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.197>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jean Whittlesey, 2004.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## Preferred Citation

Marjorie Tooker Whittlesey Papers (RG 197), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

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## Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

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## Biographical / Historical

Marjorie Tooker Whittlesey served as a registered nurse at the Yale-in-China hospital in Changsha, China from 1939 to 1944 and 1946-1947. Following her marriage and return to the United States she wrote numerous short stories, books, and articles. Her parents, Mary and Frederick J. Tooker M.D., were Presbyterian missionaries in Guling, Jiangxi (Kuling, Kiangsi) during her childhood and early adult life.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence and writings document the life and work of Marjorie Tooker Whittlesey and her parents, and the operations of Yale-in-China during World War II. The collection also contains substantive documentation of the life and work of Ilma Ruth Aho, a Finnish missionary about whom Whittlesey wrote a biography.

This collection is complementary to the Yale-China Association archives held at Yale's Sterling Memorial Library. Marjorie Tooker Whittlesey's letters, collected material, and autobiographical writings provide detailed documentation of her life and work as administrator of nursing at the Yale-China hospital in Changsha during the second World War. This collection also provides valuable insight into the dynamics of missionary family life, since Whittlesey's parents were Presbyterian missionaries. The parents, who had six children, were stationed in China prior to 1927, based in the U.S. 1927-1931, and then returned to Guling (Kuling).

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## Arrangement

- I. Family Correspondence, 1927-1963
- II. General Correspondence, 1927-1983
- III. Writings, 1934-1991
- IV. Subject Files, 1944-1950
- V. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1927-1988

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Family Correspondence, 1927-1963

Chronological sequence		
b. 1, f. 1-7	Letters to/from parents and siblings	1924, 1927 Jan-1930 Feb
b. 1, f. 8	Letters to/from parents and siblings, including re: conditions in Guling (Kuling) (4/9/30)	1930 March-April
b. 1, f. 9	Letters to/from parents and siblings, incl. re. conditions in China (5/28, 7/11, 7/13)	1930 May-Jul
b. 1, f. 10	Letters to/from parents and siblings, incl. re. conditions in China (10/15, 10/29, 11/6)	1930 Aug-Dec
b. 1, f. 11-12	Letters to/from parents and siblings	1931 Jan-May
b. 1, f. 13	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents returned to China 1931 Jul	1931 Jun-Aug
b. 1, f. 14-17	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Guling (Kuling)	1931 September-December
b. 2, f. 1	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Shanghai	1932 Jan
b. 2, f. 2-4	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Guling (Kuling)	1932 February-May
b. 2, f. 5	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Guling (Kuling), including re: Chiang Kai Shek	1932 June
b. 2, f. 6-11	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Guling (Kuling)	1932 July - 1933 December
b. 2, f. 12-15	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Guling (Kuling); Marjorie in China	1934 January-December
b. 2, f. 16	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Guling (Kuling); Marjorie in China	1935 January-March
b. 2, f. 17	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents return to U.S.	1935 Apr-May
b. 2, f. 18	Letters to/from parents and siblings	1935 Jun-Dec
b. 3, f. 1	Letters to/from parents and siblings	1936 Jan-Jul
b. 3, f. 2	Letters to/from parents and siblings; mother in U.S., father in Guling (Kuling)	1936 August-December
b. 3, f. 3	Letters to/from parents and siblings; parents in Guling (Kuling)	1937 January-December
b. 3, f. 4-5	Letters to/from parents and siblings; mother in Shanghai	1938 Jan-Dec
b. 3, f. 6	To Marjorie from sister Dorothy	1939
b. 3, f. 7	From Marjorie in Yali, Changsha	1942-43

## Chronological sequence (continued)

b. 3, f. 8-9	Letters to/from parents and siblings	1944 Jan-Dec
b. 3, f. 10	Letters to/from parents and siblings; Marjorie at Camp Swift, Texas	1945 Jan-Apr
b. 3, f. 11	Letters to/from parents and siblings	1945 May-Jul
b. 3, f. 12	Letters to/from parents and siblings; Marjorie in Philippines	1945 Aug-Sep
b. 3, f. 13	Letters to/from parents and siblings; Marjorie in Philippines; incl. re. death of John Birch	1945 Oct-Dec
b. 3, f. 14	Letters to/from parents and siblings; Marjorie returned to U.S.	1946 Jan-May
b. 3, f. 15-16	Letters to/from parents and siblings; Marjorie, father returned to China	1946 Jul-Oct
b. 3, f. 17-18	Letters to/from parents and siblings; Marjorie in Changsha	1946 Nov-1947 Feb
b. 3, f. 19	Letters to/from parents and siblings; Marjorie in Changsha; incl. re. engagement and marriage to Stephen Whittlesey	1947 Mar-May
b. 3, f. 20	Letters to/from parents, mother-in-law and siblings; Marjorie and Stephen in Changsha	1947 Jun-Sep
b. 3, f. 21	Letters to/from parents, mother-in-law, and siblings; Marjorie and Stephen returned to U.S.	1947 Oct-Dec
b. 4, f. 1	Letters to/from parents, in-laws, cousins and siblings	1948 Jan
b. 4, f. 2	Letters to/from parents, in-laws, and siblings; incl. re. birth of child	1948 Feb
b. 4, f. 3-12	Letters to/from parents, in-laws, and siblings	1948 Mar-1949 Dec
b. 5, f. 1-4	Letters to/from parents, in-laws, and siblings	1950 Jan-Aug
b. 5, f. 5-14	Letters to/from extended family	1950 Sep-1953 Dec
b. 6, f. 1-4	Letters to/from extended family	1954 Jan-1963
Undated/fragmentary letters		
b. 6, f. 5-15	To/from family	no date

**Series II: General Correspondence, 1927-1983**

b. 7, f. 5	Correspondence of Marjorie with John Birch and his mother	1945-1946
b. 7, f. 6	Incl. to Marjorie from Rachel Dowd, Arthur Rinden, Frances Schlosser of Yale-in-China	1946 Jan - Jun
b. 7, f. 7	Incl. from Rachel Dowd, Kenneth Scott Latourette, Kenneth Morland of Yale-in-China	1946 Jul-Aug
b. 7, f. 8	Incl. to Ken, Peter; from Frances Schlosser, Kenneth Morland of Yale-in-China	1946 Sep - 1947 Mar
b. 7, f. 9	Incl. to/from Kenneth Morland, Kenneth Scott Latourette, Dwight Rugh, Frances Schlosser of Yale-in-China, Dima (Dimitri) Afonsky	1947 Apr-Oct
b. 7, f. 10	Incl. from Rachel Dowd, Frances Schlosser, Dwight and Winifred Rugh of Yale-in-China, Dima Afonsky	1947 Nov-1948 Feb
b. 7, f. 11	Incl. from Kenneth Scott Latourette, Frances Schlosser Scherer, Newton Y.C. Liu, Dwight Rugh, Dima Afonsky, Mika Afonsky, Rachel Dowd. re. Yale-in-China	1948 Mar-Oct
b. 7, f. 12	Incl. from Dima Afonsky, Rachel Dowd, Frances Schlosser Scherer, Winifred Rugh, re. Yale-in-China; circular letter of George and Geraldine Fitch	1948 Nov - 1949 Feb
b. 7, f. 13	Incl. from Dima Afonsky, Dwight Rugh, Rachel Dowd, re. Yale-in-China	1949 Apr-Dec
b. 7, f. 14	Incl. from France Schlosser Scherer, Jenny Lind, Rachel Dowd, Dima Afonsky, re. Yale-in-China	1950-1952
b. 7, f. 15	Incl. from Dima Afonsky, Mika Afonsky, Frances Schlosser Scherer	1953-1956
b. 8, f. 1	Incl. from Dima Afonsky, Mika Afonsky	1957-1960
b. 8, f. 2	Incl. from Mika Afonsky, Ilmi, Cecelia and Albert Fitch	1961
b. 8, f. 3	Incl. from Cecelia Fitch, Institute of Children's Literature	1962-1983
b. 8, f. 4	Correspondence of others: Letters of William Pettus, Yale-in-China doctor, and materials related to his death	1944-1946

**Series III: Writings, 1934-1991**

## Short Stories

b. 8, f. 5	Short Stories, quips, Reader's Digest, Ladies Home Journal	1980
b. 8, f. 6	Admiral to the Rescue; Another Refugee	no date
b. 8, f. 7	Attraction of Opposites; By Faith and Thanksgiving; Catch a Falling Star	1982
b. 8, f. 8	Christmas Treat; Decisions, Decisions	1985
b. 8, f. 9	A Dream Fulfilled (Thanksgiving)	no date
b. 8, f. 10	Escape from the Zoo; The Intruder; J. B. (John Birch)	1986
b. 8, f. 11	Life in These United States; Living Color; A Gift of Pain	1982
b. 8, f. 12	A Modern Hermit	no date
b. 8, f. 13	Paradise Lost; The Perfect Courier; Prisoner of Hope	no date
b. 8, f. 14	Red Flag of Courage; Serenity; So Little Faith	no date
b. 9, f. 1	With God's Help and Guts (with notes)	1953

## Travel Articles

b. 9, f. 2	Anguilla; China Tour; Grenada (with notes)	no date
b. 9, f. 3	Hostess Gift (Virgin Islands); Nevis; The New Grenada	no date
b. 9, f. 4	The Old and the New in St. Lucia; Peter Island Hotel (with notes)	no date
b. 9, f. 5	Oriental Gourmet (with notes); South Pacific Dream	no date
b. 9, f. 6	St. Lucia, Unpolished Gem of the Caribbean; What Price Holiday (Caribbean)	no date

## Articles

b. 9, f. 7	Adult Daycare; Aspire Program; Happy Endings (with notes); Doug and Marty (missionary/Honduras); Refugees	no date
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## Books - Manuscripts/Drafts/Notes

## Autobiography of MTW

b. 10, f. 1	Published version: "The Dragon Will Survive" - published by Ashley Books, Inc	1991
b. 10, f. 2	Draft entitled "The Chinese Web": Preamble, Chapter 1; Chapter 2-3 manuscript	no date
b. 10, f. 3	Draft entitled "The Chinese Web": Chapter 3 revisions	no date
b. 10, f. 4	Draft entitled "The Chinese Web": Chapter 4 revision	no date
b. 10, f. 5	Draft entitled "One Woman's War - An American Nurse in China during World War II"	no date



## Books - Manuscripts/Drafts/Notes (continued)

## Children's book: "Growing Up Summer"

b. 10, f. 6	Published version "Growing Up Summer" - published by Acadia Press; Draft entitled "Ten Feet Tall"	1990
b. 10, f. 7	Drafts entitled "Ten Feet Tall" and "Cormorants are Ugly"	no date

## Biography of Ilma Ruth Aho

b. 11, f. 1	Published version: "Ilma Ruth Aho, A Worker in His Field: Faith and Courage of a Finnish Missionary" - published by Exposition Press of Florida	1985
b. 11, f. 2	Notes and Testimonies on I. R. Aho	no date
b. 11, f. 3	Chapter 1-3 (three versions)	no date
b. 11, f. 4	Chapter 4-6 (manuscript)	no date
b. 11, f. 5	Chapters 7-9 (manuscript)	no date
b. 11, f. 6	Book in manuscript (A Worker in His Field)	no date
b. 12, f. 1	Aho correspondence: China (2/44, 12/44, 3/45); Japan (1/54, 1/55, 11/55, 12/55, 1/56, 4/56, 12/56, 2/57, 7/57, 1/58)	1944-1958
b. 12, f. 2	Aho correspondence to Whittlesey re: book	1981-1983
b. 12, f. 3	Aho correspondence to others	1970-1979
b. 12, f. 4	Notes: Aho Life	no date
b. 12, f. 5	Notes and correspondence: Aho Life	no date
b. 12, f. 6	Correspondence about Aho Life	no date
b. 12, f. 7	Correspondence re: Aho Book	no date
b. 12, f. 8	Research for Aho Book	1979-1982
b. 12, f. 9	Notes, lists; research Aho book	no date
b. 12, f. 10	Notes on Aho Thesis	no date
b. 13, f. 1	Correspondence with Publishers - Aho Book	1983-1984
b. 13, f. 2	Correspondence with Publishers - Aho Book	1984-1985
b. 13, f. 3	Book review-Aho; Support for publication	1985
b. 13, f. 4	Finnish publications, correspondence, photos	no date
b. 13, f. 5	Correspondence with publisher (Growing up Summer, Chinese Web)	1985
Miscellaneous corres. with publishers		
b. 13, f. 6	Writing Contests, Publisher list	no date
b. 13, f. 7	Correspondence Exposition Press	1984-1988

## Books - Manuscripts/Drafts/Notes &gt; Miscellaneous corres. with publishers (continued)

b. 13, f. 8	Correspondence to Publishers	1980-1988
b. 13, f. 9	Correspondence from Publishers; Rejection Letters	1980-1982
b. 13, f. 10	Rejection letters	1981
b. 13, f. 11	Rejection letters (undated)	no date
b. 13, f. 12	Correspondence to Publishers	1983-5
Writings of Others		
b. 14, f. 1-4	Masters thesis by Ilma Ruth Aho, "A Record of the Activities of the Finnish Missionary Society in Northwest Hunan, China, 1902-1952", pp.1-100	1953
b. 14, f. 5	Aho Sermon, Contract for translation, Robbery, Pittsburgh, R. Whelan, "The Flying Tigers", S. Noble, "The Arthur Chronicles"; Felicia (letter to Aho, Reader's Digest article, J. Whittlesey news article on Boston strike)	1953-1986
b. 14, f. 6	R. Hadden Announcement; E. Allen, "Education the Rescue"; misc. news articles, M. Tooker, Japan and Refugees in China War Zones"; Finnish Newspaper	1935-1985
b. 14, f. 7	Books and notes on China	1934-1946

**Series IV: Subject Files, 1944-1950**

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b. 15, f. 1	Yale in China memos and accounts; Hsiang-Ya Hospital Report, "Nurses of China Fight On" - American Bureau for Medical Aid to China; Evacuation of Changsha, Trustees Meetings	1944-1945
b. 15, f. 2	Primarily Yale-in-China pamphlets and bulletins; list of furloughed Presbyterian missionaries	1941-50

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**Series V: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1927-1988**

b. 15, f. 3	Education: Wellesley College, Junior year abroad at University of Munich, Western Reserve University	1928-1933
b. 15, f. 4a, b	Army Record; Lost Army Baggage	1945-1947
b. 15, f. 5	Certificates, Diplomas for writing courses, Passport	1983-1988
b. 15, f. 6	Financial records	1938-1982
b. 15, f. 7	Tour/cruise correspondence	1984-1986
b. 15, f. 8	St. Lucia	1988
b. 15, f. 9	Shipboard information, pamphlets, notebooks	no date
b. 16, f. 1	Concerts and Programs	1927-1931
b. 16, f. 2	Concerts and Programs	1932-1955
b. 16, f. 3	Wedding Invitations, Cards	no date
b. 16, f. 4	Miscellaneous cards	no date
b. 16, f. 5	Wedding cards/notes	1947
b. 17, f. 1	Miscellaneous notes, information, receipts, articles	no date
b. 17, f. 2	Music	no date
b. 17, f. 3	Photos (Family)	no date
b. 17, f. 4	Photos (non-family)	no date
b. 17, f. 5	Photos (miscellaneous)	no date
b. 17, f. 6	Negatives (China, school)	no date
b. 17, f. 7	Negatives (College, Germany)	1933
b. 17, f. 8	Negatives (Miscellaneous)	no date
b. 17, f. 9	Diary - diary volume for 1920 but with entries for 1924 Jun - Aug	1924
b. 17, f. 10	Diaries	1924, 1934
b. 18, f. 1-2	Diaries	1935-1938
b. 18, f. 3	Notebooks 1980, 1985	1980-1985
b. 18, f. 4	Notebook, Calendar	1937, 1945
b. 18, f. 5	1930 Passion Play at Oberammergau	1930

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Missionaries  
Missionaries -- China -- Biography  
Missions -- China  
Nurses -- China  
Women missionaries -- Biography

### **Names**

Aho, Ilma Ruth  
Whittlesey, Marjorie T. (Marjorie Tooker), 1912-

### **Corporate Body**

Yale-in-China Association