Guide to the Constance Buell Papers

RG 140

Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1998, 2010

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
divinity.library@yale.edu
http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale University Divinity School Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
divinity.library@yale.edu
http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections

CALL NUMBER: RG 140

CREATOR: Buell, Constance, 1891-1987

TITLE: Constance Buell Papers

DATES: 1918–1976

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Substantive letters and detailed diary entries document Buell’s daily work as a missionary, her relationships with colleagues, and her views on events in China. Constance Buell was an educational missionary in north China from 1919 to 1951, serving under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. She taught at Kobe College in Japan from 1952 to 1958.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.140

Requesting Instructions

To view manuscript and archival materials at the Yale Divinity Library, please submit the request form at https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/form/yale-divinity-library-mss-request-form.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Constance Buell.

Conditions Governing Access

Open to qualified researchers.

Preferred Citation

Constance Buell Papers (RG 140), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.
Biographical / Historical

Date               Event                                                                                           
1891 Dec 15        o Born in Wellesley Hills, MA                                                              
1913               o Graduated from Wellesley College, began teaching in Massachusetts schools                 
1919-1951          o Served under North China Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; Principal of Stanley Memorial School for girls; Vice-principal under a Chinese principal after the school became coeducational. In addition to her administrative responsibilities, she also taught English and music. Spent time in a Japanese internment camp at Weihsien. 
1943               o Repatriated on the Gripsholm                                                               
1946               o Returned to China                                                                       
1952-1958          o Taught English at Kobe College, Japan until her retirement                              
1987               o Died                                                                                   

Scope and Contents

This is a compact but valuable collection that provides thorough documentation of Constance Buell’s education work in Tientsin [now Tianjin], China. These papers complement the papers of Buell’s American Board colleague in Tientsin, Earle Ballou (YDSL RG165). Substantive letters to family and friends and fairly consistent and detailed diary entries provide insight into Buell’s daily work, relationships with colleagues, and views on events in China. Buell’s internment in Weihsien is not well documented. There are more than 150 photographs; most are well identified. Buell is a prime example of an intelligent and well-educated single woman who carved out for herself a missionary career that provided professional challenge, ample opportunity for travel and adventure, and satisfying relationships with colleagues.

Arrangement

I. Correspondence, 1919-1976, n.d.                                                                                           
II. Diaries, 1918-1958                                                                                                      
III. Writings and Notes, 1938-1958, n.d.                                                                                 
IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1920-1951                                                                            

Constance Buell Papers
RG 140
Collection Contents
Series I. Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1-16</td>
<td>Family correspondence</td>
<td>1919–1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 30</td>
<td>Letters from Carolyn Sewall to CB and CB’s family</td>
<td>1919–1946, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 31</td>
<td>Letters from other Western colleagues and supporters</td>
<td>1919–1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 32-33</td>
<td>Letters from former students and Asian colleagues, including from Chinese friends in China following Communist takeover and from Tomo Takami, with enclosed biographical sketch</td>
<td>1939–1976, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
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<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 34-35</td>
<td>Diaries of CB</td>
<td>1918–1958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series III. Writings and Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 36-37</td>
<td>By CB</td>
<td>1938–1958, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 38</td>
<td>By Kobe College students</td>
<td>1956–1957, n.d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 39</td>
<td>Biographical material re. CB</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 40</td>
<td>Financial records</td>
<td>1931, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 41</td>
<td>Scrapbook re. Kang Wei Lu Church Choir</td>
<td>1933–1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 42</td>
<td>Programmes of the Stanley Club, Tientsin</td>
<td>1920–1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 43</td>
<td>Collected material re. Kobe College</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 44</td>
<td>Miscellaneous collected material</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Series V. Photographs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 45</td>
<td>China: photographs of CB, Western colleagues (including Arthur Smith and Chauncey Goodrich), Chinese students and colleagues, scenes, buildings</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 46</td>
<td>Japan: photographs of Kobe College and students</td>
<td>ca. 1952–1958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Missions -- China
Women missionaries

Names
Buell, Constance, 1891-1987

Corporate Body
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions