

Guide to the Edward V. Knight Papers

MS 2131



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November 2024

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(203) 432-1735
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

CALL NUMBER: MS 2131

CREATOR: Knight, Edward V.

TITLE: Edward V. Knight papers

DATES: 1931–2002

BULK DATES: 1931–1945

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.8 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection contains the correspondence, photographs, and personal papers of Edward Vinton Knight, Yale 1931. Of note is Knight's correspondence to his family dating from 1931-1933 when he worked in Changsha, China teaching English with the Yale-in-China Association (now the Yale-China Association). Correspondence also includes communications about Japan's hostile activities during the invasion of Manchuria in the early 1930s and later during the Second Sino-Japanese War. There is a significant amount of correspondence dating from 1937-1945 from Knight to his fiancée and later wife, Lois Hathaway Upton. Photographic materials include black and white prints of Knight and his Yale-in-China colleagues and students as well as images of the landscape, architecture, and people in China. Personal papers include Knight's miscellaneous print and manuscript materials.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2131>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2131>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Sylvia Knight and David H. Knight, 2022.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright and other associated proprietary rights for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by Edward V. Knight was transferred to Yale University in 2022. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact mssa.assist@yale.edu. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Edward V. Knight Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

All folder titles have been transcribed or derived from existing folder titles or material descriptions. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Archival Description Unit Processing Manual.

Biographical / Historical

Edward Vinton Knight (1910-2004) was born in New Haven, Connecticut on April 4, 1910 to parents Reverend Franklin Knight and Gertrude Mosher Knight. Knight graduated from Holyoke High School in 1927 and graduated from Yale University in 1931. Knight spent two years in Changsha, China (Summer 1931-Summer 1933) teaching English with the Yale-in-China Association. Knight moved to Salem, Massachusetts and married Lois Hathaway Upton on June 23, 1939. Knight later taught English and Latin at the Darrow School in New Lebanon, New York. He also worked as a technical writer and later a marketing specialist for General Electric in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Knight retired in 1975, moving to Lenox, Massachusetts and finally to Richmond, Virginia, where he died on November 13, 2004.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the correspondence, photographs, and personal papers of Edward Vinton Knight, Yale 1931. Of note is Knight's correspondence to his family dating from 1931-1933 when he worked in Changsha, China teaching English at the Yali Union Middle School, a boys' preparatory school, with the Yale-in-China Association (now the Yale-China Association). There is correspondence from Association administrators to Knight's family regarding his travels and his bout with typhoid. Administrators also communicated about Japan's hostile activities during the invasion of Manchuria in the early 1930s and later during the Second Sino-Japanese War. Correspondence also includes a description of Knight's travels on the Trans-Siberian Railroad to Europe.

There is a significant amount of correspondence dating from 1937-1945 from Knight to his fiancée and later wife, Lois Hathaway Upton. Correspondence dating from 1937-1939 pertains to the period before Edward and Lois were married when Edward lived in Salem, Massachusetts while recovering from appendicitis and in Boston where he volunteered at Hale House and searched for work. Lois attended nursing school in Salem and Boston, graduating in November 1938. Correspondence from 1944-1945 pertains to the period when Lois and their daughter Sylvia lived with Lois's family in Salem during a difficult pregnancy with their second child, David. At the time, Edward remained in Pittsfield, Massachusetts where he worked with General Electric. Letters between the couple include information about their personal lives, relationship, and work.

Photographic materials include black and white prints of Knight and his Yale-in-China colleagues and students as well as images of the landscape, architecture, and people in China. Personal papers include material relating to Knight's travels, the Yale-in-China Association, and his miscellaneous print and manuscript materials.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, 1931-1988; II. Photographs, 1931-1951, undated; III. Personal papers, 1931-2002.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1931–1988

This series contains correspondence written by (outgoing) and received by (incoming) Edward V. Knight. The majority of Knight's correspondence was written to his wife Lois H. Knight, née Upton. Description for correspondence was transcribed or derived from existing folder titles.

This series is arranged in two groupings as received, Outgoing and Incoming. Outgoing correspondence is arranged chronologically. Incoming correspondence is arranged alphabetically by surname.

Outgoing

Outgoing correspondence is arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1	Letters from China	1931
b. 1, f. 2	Letter to Charlotte (?)	1932
b. 1, f. 3	Yale in China letters- typhoid, delay in travel	1932
b. 1, f. 4	Yale in China communications	1932–1933
b. 1, f. 5	To Lois Upton before marriage	circa 1937-1939
b. 1, f. 6	Lois H. Upton	January 1937
b. 1, f. 7	Lois H. Upton	February 1937
b. 1, f. 8	Lois H. Upton	March 1937
b. 1, f. 9	Lois H. Upton	April 1937
b. 1, f. 10	Lois H. Upton	May 1937
b. 1, f. 11	Lois H. Upton	June 1937
b. 1, f. 12	Lois H. Upton	July 1937
b. 1, f. 13	Lois H. Upton	October- December 1937
b. 2, f. 1	Lois H. Upton	circa 1938
b. 2, f. 2	Lois H. Upton	January 1938
b. 2, f. 3	Lois H. Upton	February 1938
b. 2, f. 4	Lois H. Upton	April 1938
b. 2, f. 5	Lois H. Upton	May 1938
b. 2, f. 6	To friends	May 25, 1938
b. 2, f. 7	Lois H. Upton	June 1938
b. 2, f. 8	Lois H. Upton	July 1938
b. 2, f. 9	Lois H. Upton	August 1938

Outgoing (continued)

b. 2, f. 10	Lois H. Upton	September 1938
b. 2, f. 11	Lois H. Upton	October 1938
b. 3, f. 1	Lois H. Upton	November 1938
b. 3, f. 2	Lois H. Upton	December 1938
b. 3, f. 3	Lois H. Upton	January 1939
b. 3, f. 4	Lois H. Upton	February 1939
b. 3, f. 5	Lois H. Upton	March 1939
b. 3, f. 6	Lois H. Upton	April 1939
b. 4, f. 1	Lois H. Upton	May 1939
b. 4, f. 2	Lois H. Upton	June 1939
b. 4, f. 3	Lois H. Knight	April 1941
b. 4, f. 4	Lois H. Knight	February 27, 1944
b. 4, f. 5	Lois H. Knight	February 1945
b. 4, f. 6	Lois H. Knight	March 1945
b. 4, f. 7	Lois H. Knight	April 1945
b. 4, f. 8	Lois H. Knight	May 1945
b. 5, f. 1	Lois H. Knight	June 1945
b. 5, f. 2	Lois H. Knight	July 1945
b. 5, f. 3	Lois H. Knight	August 1945
b. 5, f. 4	Lois H. Knight	September 1945

Incoming

Incoming correspondence is arranged alphabetically by surname.

b. 5, f. 5	Winifred Galbraith	November 1935
b. 5, f. 6	Phil and Ruth Greene in Changsha	1933-1937
b. 5, f. 7	John Joseph	February 1943
b. 5, f. 8	Burton Rogers	September 23, 1938
b. 5, f. 9	Mary Weigle	January 1945
b. 5, f. 10	Richard Weigle	1984-1988, undated
b. 5, f. 11	Edward P. White	1982, May 1987

Series II: Photographs, 1931–1951

This series contains approximately 200 of Knight's black and white photographic prints taken in China, Japan, the United States and elsewhere during his travels. Descriptions of photographs were transcribed from existing folder titles or from captions associated with the photos. A few dozen photographs have handwritten captions on the back.

This series is arranged chronologically.

b. 6, f. 1	[?] Hospital, Wuchang The name of the hospital is illegible in the caption written on the back of the photograph.	undated
b. 6, f. 2	Burton and Mary Rogers, Pine Mtn. School	undated
b. 6, f. 3	Burton Rogers, Richard Weigle, and Edward V. Knight	undated
b. 6, f. 4	E.V. Knight and friends on Mt. Fuji	undated
b. 6, f. 5	Huachung College (?), Wuhan Hand writing on the envelope indicates that the college is "co-ed".	undated
b. 6, f. 6	National, cultural, and built environment of China	undated
b. 6, f. 7	Photos in USA before departure for China	undated
b. 6, f. 8	People and life in China	1931, undated
b. 6, f. 9	Photos of Edward V. Knight	1931
b. 6, f. 10	Richard Weigle	circa 1931
b. 6, f. 11	Western USA (Yale Papers)	1931
b. 6, f. 12	China	1931–1933
b. 6, f. 13	Yale in China This folder contains a formal group photograph of Knight with a Chinese boys' sports team.	circa 1932
b. 6, f. 14	Yale in China This folder contains 91 photographs of Yale-in-China Association faculty and students as well as casual snapshots of people and places in China.	1932–1933
b. 6, f. 15	Edward V. Knight in China	1933
b. 6, f. 16	Richard Weigle with Knights	circa 1946
b. 6, f. 17	Yale China group photo This folder contains a formal group photograph presumably of members of the Yale-in-China Association.	1951

Series III: Personal papers, 1931–2002

This series contains material relating to Knight's travels in China, the Yale-China Association, and his miscellaneous print and manuscript materials.

This series is arranged chronologically.

b. 7, f. 1	Yale graduation ceremony program	1931
b. 7, f. 2	Programs in China This folder contains two programs for musical performances by the Changsha Woman's Club and the Fuh Siang Girls' School Student YWCA.	1932
b. 7, f. 3	Clipped page from <i>The Spectator</i> This folder contains a page clipped from <i>The Spectator</i> magazine. One side includes a review of the book <i>Manchoukuo: Child of Conflict</i> by K.K. Kawakami. The other side contains the essay <i>Confounding the Astronomers</i> by Evelyn Underhill.	September 29, 1933
b. 7, f. 4	Edward V. Knight journal of quotes	1976
b. 7, f. 5	Yale-China Association print material This folder includes copies of the Yale-China Review and correspondence and reports from the Yale-China Association.	1991–2002

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

Schools, American -- China

Geographic Names

Changsha Shi (China)

China -- Description and travel

China -- Foreign relations -- Japan

Genres / Formats

Correspondence

Photographs

Names

Knight, Lois H.

Weigle, Richard Daniel, 1912-

Corporate Body

Yale-in-China Association