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Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Archie R. Crouch Papers

RG 341



Abby Langford

2024

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

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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 341

**CREATOR:** Crouch, Archie

**TITLE:** Archie R. Crouch Papers

**DATES:** 1911–1990

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.5 linear feet (8 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** Extensive photographs and writings from Archie R. Crouch reflect his family's survival of military atrocities as American missionaries in China during the Sino-Japanese War and his attempt to publish those experiences out of concern for biological and nuclear weapons manufacturing and threat in the late twentieth century. Journals, collected materials, and correspondence from the 1940s to 1990s provide insight into Presbyterian and ecumenical mission work and China scholarship during this period.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.341>

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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.341>.

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

Transferred from the Institute of Historical Survey Foundation, 2023.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Archie R. Crouch Papers (RG 341), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Archie R. Crouch (1909-1999) was born in Veblen, South Dakota. He was educated at Jamestown College and received theological training at Princeton Theological Seminary as well as a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. After two years as a pastor in California, he served in China as a missionary from 1936-1941 and 1944-1946 through the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church (later renamed as the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations or COEMAR in 1958). He was initially sent to China in 1936 where he served in war emergency service during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945). Archie and his wife Ellen were assigned to work and live in a compound in Ningbo that included a Chinese church, residence for the Chinese pastor, a boys' and girls' primary school with residences for teachers, and two residences for missionaries. Missionaries Roy and Mabelle Smith occupied the other residence. However, the war delayed the Crouch's settling there. After arriving in Shanghai in September 1936, Archie and Ellen studied Chinese and traveled in Suzhou (Soochow), Peitaiho (Beidaihe), Beijing (Peking), and Ningbo (Ningpo). In 1938, Archie began teaching at a middle school in Shanghai, and their first child Edward was born that October. The family finally fully moved into the compound in Ningbo in August 1939. Their second child Carolyn was born the following fall. Archie and Ellen both taught school and helped take care of refugees in the compound.

In July 1941, Archie, Ellen, and their two children—Edward and Carolyn—fled their home there due to the escalation of the war and increased fears for their family's safety. Before evacuating to the United States, they witnessed Imperial Japan's destruction of Ningbo, including frequent bombings, the Kaimingjie germ weapon attack followed by the outbreak of plague, and a naval and land blockade that led to mass starvation before a ground invasion. He documented his and his family's experiences in China in journal entries and with captioned photographs compiled into scrapbooks. From 1944 to 1946, Archie Crouch worked as the English Secretary for the Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China. He gathered and preserved the papers of the Border Service Department that now make up the collection RG 17. In that position, he cooperated with other agencies to carry out educational, medical, and agricultural programs in western Sichuan, Sikong, and Yunnan, among the peoples known as the Kiang or Ch'iang, Chiarong or Gia-rung, Lolos or Nosus, and Miaos.

Upon returning to the United States and after an interlude serving as Presbyterian campus pastor at the University of California at Berkeley, he joined the administrative staff of the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church (COEMAR). He continued work with this organization until his retirement in 1971. As an administrator, he oversaw many overseas projects, including those that had him travel to Lebanon, Malaysia, Kenya, and throughout West Africa.

After retirement, he was able to commit himself more fully to his scholarship. He wrote *Christianity in China: A Scholar's Guide to Resources in the Libraries and Archives of the United States*, which was published in 1989 and earned him the Distinguished Service Award from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1990. He also researched and collected materials related to his experiences serving minority ethnic groups with the Border Services Department and his family's experience of the Kaimingjie germ weapon attack in Ningbo. As the Director of the China Mission Resource Project at Princeton Theological Seminary, he was in frequent correspondence with other scholars, including Thomas F. Torrance, a Scottish theologian and Presbyterian minister whose writing centered on the theory that ancient Israelite descendants were living in Sichuan and inspired Archie Crouch to explore these questions in his own research. He completed a manuscript entitled "Japanese Biological Warfare in China: One Family's Encounter" that he sought to have published through the 1980s and 90s. While he failed to place the manuscript, Mark Wolf wrote a news piece based on Crouch's story that appeared as "Plague Survivors" in the *Rocky Mountain News* and "The Day the Plague Came" in *Presbyterians Today* in 1998. A devoted husband, father of four children, and committed China scholar, Archie R. Crouch died a year later in 1990 in Edgewood, Colorado.

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## Scope and Contents

The Archie R. Crouch Papers consist of photographs and papers reflecting the Crouch family's experiences as American missionaries in China during the Sino-Japanese War. These experiences continued to impact the focus of Archie Crouch's research and work as a China scholar and administrator with the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the Presbyterian Church.

Series I, Journals, dating from 1939 to 1963, contains copies of typed journal entries of Archie R. Crouch from 1939 to 1941 describing the family's daily life in Ningbo when it was the target of Imperial Japan's military attacks. He quotes from and references these entries in his manuscript entitled "Japanese Biological Warfare in China: One Family's Encounter" found in Series IV. This series also contains some of his personal journals of 1947, 1949, and 1950 that describe his family's life in California and his work in churches and church administration along with the start of his Ph.D. work. The journals of 1960 and 1963 describe his overseas projects and administrative work with the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church.

Series II, Correspondence, dating from 1944 to 1989, contains reports and letters detailing the breadth of Archie R. Crouch's work in Chinese missions. The series begins with copies of Archie R. Crouch's reports sent to various people and organizations in the United States from his post in China as English Secretary for the Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China from 1944 to 1946. More information on his work with the Border Service Department can be found in the Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China records (RG 17). A report to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions identifying Archie and Ellen Crouch as receiving the American missionary H. V. Bradshaw upon his return to the U.S. from China due to the rise of anti-American sentiments follows. Next, there is a subseries of Archie R. Crouch's correspondence from 1984 to 1989 as China Mission Resource Project Director at Princeton Theological Seminary. Lastly, this series contains a 1989 letter and book from Ellen Crouch to her daughter Carolyn about American missionaries to China.

Series III, Presentations on China, contains Archie R. Crouch's undated presentation notes for three talks on women's liberation and politics in China. The notes are divided into numbered lines that seemingly correspond to specific images, many of which are found in the slides of Series VI.

Series IV, Writing and Research on China, dating from 1911 to 1989, contains Archie R. Crouch's writing and research on China arranged according to two different subjects. The first two subseries contain his writing and then research on biological warfare in China. The last two subseries deal with his writing and then research on Chinese minority groups. The first subseries on his writing on biological warfare begins with his completed manuscript "Japanese Biological Warfare in China: One Family's Encounter," followed by the chronology he used in writing it, photographs he hoped to publish along with it, and his past writing on the subject. This is followed by his correspondence with friends and editors about the manuscript and then by the articles about his family's experiences that were written by Mark Wolf and were published in 1989, which in some ways fulfilled his hope of telling this story to a wider audience, albeit by a different path than he intended.

Series V, Collected Materials, dating from 1919 to 1986, is divided into three subseries: general research on China, airforce materials, and collected art. General Research on China contains National Geographic Magazines dating from 1919 to 1932 and clippings from 1986 related to life in China. Airforce Materials contains a US Airforce Maps of the Mountains of South Asia and the Hump Pilots Association Newsletter across the years 1978 to 1988. Archie R. Crouch's connection to this association is due to his experience flying over "The Hump" in a C-47 plane with military personnel and cargo while serving as English Secretary for the Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China. Collected art includes Yuan Chi Photo Studio Prints representing the gospel stories with identifiably ethnically Chinese characters.

Series VI, Photographs, dating from 1936 to 1944, contains two scrapbooks with captioned photographs documenting the Crouch's experiences in China from 1936 to 1941 (one scrapbook may have been compiled by Archie and the other by Ellen) as well as undated slides corresponding to the presentation notes of Series III and capturing life in China during this given period. The slides cover a range of subjects: Chinese

art and posters; children and students; daily life and people gathered in groups; places and landscapes; work and industrialism; women's liberation; maps; and Mao Zedong.

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## **Arrangement**

- I Journals, 1939-1963
- II Correspondence and Reports, 1944-1990
- III Presentations on China, n.d.
- IV Writing and Research on China, 1911-1998
- V Collected Materials, 1919-1988
- VI Photographs, 1936-1955

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## Collection Contents

### Journals, 1939-1963

b. 1, f. 1	Journal	1939 April-1940 December
b. 1, f. 2	Journal	1941 February- 1941 July
b. 1, f. 3	Journal	1947 January- 1947 October
b. 1, f. 4	Journal	1949 January- 1949 December
b. 1, f. 5	Journal	1950 January- 1950 December
b. 1, f. 6	Journal	1951 April-1952 February
b. 1, f. 7	West Africa Assignment Journal	1960 September-1960 October
b. 1, f. 8	Harambee Mission Journal (Lebanon, Malaysia, Kenya)	1963 March- 1963 August

**Correspondence and Reports, 1944-1990**

b. 1, f. 9	<p>Reports as English Secretary for the Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China's</p> <p>Containing special article "This is Not the Time to Kick" by Archie Crouch sent to the Presbyterian Tribune; Archie Crouch's correspondence with the Christian Century; January 1945 Presbyterian Newsletter China Edition; and writings by Archie Crouch: "Mothers of the Army," "Out Beyond" calling for American missionaries to China, "Forward Station," "Chen Kiang Senior Middle School Return to Its Old Campus," and "Teaching Religion at Home." Containing materials included in the Correspondence of Archie Crouch contained in RG 17, Box 1, Folder 13, and with Typescript material re: China and B.S.D. contained in RG 17, Box 2, Folder 45 (namely, "Cheng Kiang Senior Middle School Return to Its Old Campus").</p>	1944
b. 1, f. 10	<p>Report to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missionary by H.V. Bradshaw</p> <p>Including "A detailed, factual account, with some personal impressions, of the events relative to the seizure of the Presbyterian missions at the American Presbyterian Mission at Linhsien, Kwangtung Province, China" which describes the rise of anti-American Communism that led Bradshaw to leave China and mentions Archie Crouch as one of the members who receives Bradshaw upon his return to America.</p>	1955
Correspondence as China Mission Resource Project Director		
b. 2, f. 1	Correspondence as China Mission Resource Project Director	1984 April-1986 February
b. 2, f. 2	Correspondence as China Mission Resource Project Director	1986 October-1987 October
b. 2, f. 3	Correspondence as China Mission Resource Project Director	1989 January-1990 April
b. 2, f. 4	Correspondence from Ellen Grubbs Crouch to Carolyn Finster with attached book "The Craighills of China" by Marian G. Craighill	1989



**Presentations on China, n.d.**

b. 2, f. 5	"Women's Liberation in the People's Republic of China" Corresponding to glass slide in Box 8.	undated
b. 2, f. 6	"The Four Tragic Marriages of Mao Tse-Tung (Zedong)" Corresponding to glass slides in Box 8 marked as from Tray 2.	undated
b. 2, f. 7	"Preview of the People's Republic of China" Corresponding to glass slides in Box 8 marked "II."	undated

**Writing and Research on China, 1911-1989**

## Writing on Biological Warfare in China

b. 2, f. 8	Copy of Manuscript "Japanese Biological Warfare in China: One Family's Encounter" by Archie Crouch	1993 March
b. 2, f. 9	Copy of Manuscript "Biological Warfare in China: One Family's Encounter" by Archie Crouch	1998
b. 2, f. 10	Chronology of Crouch Family's Time in China from September 1936 to July 1941	
b. 2, f. 11	Photographs of Ningbo after 1940 bombing and plague outbreak	1940
b. 2, f. 12	Clippings of Crouch's Accounts of Japanese presence in China and plague outbreak	1937 July-1946 October
b. 2, f. 13	Correspondence with Friends, Family, and Survivors about Manuscript	1991 September-1992 May
b. 3, f. 1	Correspondence with Literary Editors about Publishing Manuscript	1991 November-1998 April
b. 3, f. 2	Carolyn Finster's Letter about Treating a Bubonic Plague Victim	1994 June
b. 3, f. 3	Clippings and Correspondence about Publishing Manuscript	1998
b. 3, f. 4	"Plague Survivors" by Mark Wolf in Rocky Mountain News and "The Day the Plague Came" by Mark Wolf in Presbyterian Today	1998 April-1998 September
b. 3, f. 5	Correspondence about ABC Broadcast and feature in Rocky Mountain News and Presbyterian Today	1998 April-1998 August

## Research on Biological Warfare in China

b. 3, f. 6	Annotated copy of "Materials on the Trial of Former Servicemen of the Japanese Army Charged with Manufacturing and Employing Bacteriological Weapons"	1950
b. 3, f. 7	Annotated copy of "Unit 731: Japan's Secret Biological Warfare in WWII" by Peter Williams and David Wallace	1989
b. 3, f. 8	Clippings on Biological Warfare, Plague, and Japan during WWII	1991-1993
b. 3, f. 9	Clippings on Nuclear War, Biological Warfare, Plague, Environmental Concerns, and Ningpo	1994-1998
b. 3, f. 10	Collected Materials for Manuscript on Biological Warfare in China	undated

## Writing on Chinese Minority Groups

b. 4, f. 1	Fragments of Manuscripts Written for the Border Service Department by Archie Crouch	1944-1946
b. 4, f. 2	"Tibetan Letters" and "Satisfy the Thirsty Longings of the Border People" by Archie Crouch	1947 February

## Research on Chinese Minority Groups

## Research on Chinese Minority Groups (continued)

b. 4, f. 3	"Lolo Objects in the Public Museum, Milwaukee" by Frederick Starr	1911
b. 4, f. 4	Copy of Archie Crouch's Original Translation of "The Facts About the Lolo People" by Ling Kwang-tien Containing a copy of a translation whose original version is found in RG 17, Box 3, Folder 13.	1943
b. 4, f. 5	"China's Wild West" Bulletin by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church	1949
b. 4, f. 6	"China's Minorities: Yesterday and Today" by Wolfram Eberhard with Review by June Teufel Dreyer	1982
b. 4, f. 7	"The Quian: the First Missionaries to China" and "A People Divided: The Tame Nosu of Yunnan and the Wild Nosu of Sichuan" by Ralph Covell	
b. 4, f. 8	Collected Materials related to Chiang-Min Collection Containing "Jews in Old China" translated and edited by Sidney Shapiro; "The Jews in China" by Rudolf Lowenthal; "The Decline and Possible Future of A Great Race: 'The Ch'iang People'" by W.B. Djang; "A New Challenge to the Border Mission: Urgent Appeals Come from Hsifan Native Princes" by W.B. Djang; "Ethnobotany of the Gia-yung Tribe" by S.Y. Hu; and "Seen and Heard on the Border: Informal Notes on the Ch'iang-Min." For other writings by W.B. Djang on this topic see RG 17 and for W.B. Djang's "Project for Research of the Lolo Religion" proposal see RG 17, Box 1, Folder 2	

**Collected Materials, 1919-1988**

## General Research on China

b. 4, f. 9	National Geographic Magazines	1919 November– 1928 November
b. 4, f. 10	National Geographic Magazines	1930 October– 1932 September
b. 5, f. 1	Articles and Clippings	1986 May–1986 June

## Airforce Materials

b. 5, f. 2	US Airforce Maps of the Mountains of South Asia	
b. 5, f. 3	Hump Pilots Association Newsletter	1978 March– 1980 January
b. 5, f. 4	Hump Pilots Association Newsletter	1980 March– 1981 September
b. 5, f. 5	Hump Pilots Association Newsletter	1982 September–1986 January
b. 5, f. 6	Hump Pilots Association Newsletter	1986 March– 1988 September

## Collected Art

b. 5, f. 7	Negative of "The Missionary's Adventures" by Vibert, Jenna Georges 1840-1902 courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Collins P. Huntington, 1925.	1925
b. 5, f. 8	Yuan Chi Photo Studio Prints Representing Gospel Stories	

**Photographs, 1936-1955**

b. 6, f. 1	Scrapbook I: "CI: Enroute and Suzhou (Soochow) 1936-1937"	1936-1937
b. 6, f. 2	Scrapbook I: "CII: Tengchaien 1937 & CIII: Beidaihe (Peitaiho) 1937-1938"	1937-1938
b. 6, f. 3	Scrapbook I: "CIV: Manchuria 1937 & CV: Beijing (Peking) 1937-1938"	1937-1938
b. 6, f. 4	Scrapbook I: "CVI: Shanghai-Ningbo (Ningpo) 1938-1939"	1938-1939
b. 6, f. 5	Scrapbook I: "CVIII: P'u K'ou Wang 1939-1941"	1939-1941
b. 6, f. 6	Scrapbook I: "CIX: Ningbo (Ningpo) 1939-1941"	1939-1941
b. 6, f. 7	Scrapbook I: "CX: Return 1941"	1941
b. 6, f. 8	Scrapbook I: "L46: Jih-er-chueh 1946"	1946
b. 7, f. 1	Scrapbook II: "Suzhou (Soochow), China - 1936 to 1937"	1936-1937
b. 7, f. 2	Scrapbook II: "Beidaihe (Peitaiho) - Beach, North China - July to September 1937"; "Beijing (Peiping/Peking) - September to October 1937"; & "Shanghai Apartment - 1938"	1937 July-1938
b. 7, f. 3	Scrapbook II: "Summer 1937 to September 1941"	1937 June-1941 September
b. 7, f. 4	Miscellaneous Photographs Including some photographs of Lolo peoples.	1936-1937
b. 7, f. 5	Loose Photographs from Scrapbook I	1936-1939
b. 7, f. 6	Miscellaneous Photographs	1939-1942
b. 7, f. 7	Miscellaneous Photographs Including Archie Crouch's passport photos and prints of the slides contained in RG 17, Box 3, Folder 55 "Border Service Outposts - Chia-shan-chai, Jih-er-chueh, and others" of 60 35mm slides documenting Chia-shan-chai folk dancers, agriculture, symbols, jewelry, clothing, buildings, houses, grave pottery, Nestorian cross, opium patients, bamboo bridge, firecracker, Lama temple, educational and religious work, etc.	1944-1955
b. 8, f. 1	Presentation Slides	

## **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**

Americans -- China  
Mission -- China  
Missions, American -- China  
Missions -- China  
Missions -- China -- Educational work  
Presbyterian Church -- Missions -- China  
Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945  
Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945 -- Atrocities