

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Harman V. S. Peeke Papers

RG 185



Compiled by Kathryn Lund and Martha Lund Smalley

2002

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

divinity.library@yale.edu

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

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 185

CREATOR: Peeke, H. V. S.

TITLE: Harman V. S. Peeke Papers

DATES: 1887-1987

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Detailed and substantive quarterly letters and writings document the missionary work of Harman V. S. Peeke and his wife Vesta G. Peeke. The Peekes were missionaries in Japan from 1893 to 1929, serving under the Reformed Church in America.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.185>

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.185>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Peeke family.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Harman V. S. Peeke Papers (RG 185), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Biographical / Historical

Harman Van Slyke Peeke and Vesta Greer Peeke were missionaries in Japan, serving under the Reformed Church in America. H. V. S. Peeke first sailed from New York to Tokyo in 1887 and returned to the U. S. in 1891. Vesta Greer sailed from New York in 1887 to become a missionary in China but married HVSP in 1893 and thereafter served in Japan. The Peekes had seven children. H. V. S. Peeke's mission work included teaching, evangelism, and mission administration; he became notably expert in the Japanese language. From 1920 to 1926 the Peekes were at Meiji Gakuin, an educational institution in Tokyo. They returned to the U.S. for the last time in 1929. Harman died of cancer on November 27, 1929 in Holland, Michigan.

Scope and Contents

This collection is most notable for the substantive quarterly letters in Series I. These letters were written primarily by Harman V. S. Peeke during the Peekes' years in Japan, 1893 to 1929. The letters, addressed to "Dear Friend," are primarily in typescript mimeographed format; some holograph letters have been transcribed by the Peeke family. The letters provide detailed descriptions of Peekes' work and observations on life and events in Japan. Information provided by the Peekes' circular letters is supplemented by numerous articles written by Peeke. The collection also includes two published works by Peeke related to use of the Japanese language.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence
- II. Writings of H.V.S. Peeke
- III. Writings of Others
- IV. Collected and Personal Material

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

Circular letters of Peekes

b. 1	Scrapbook volume #1: Quarterly letters - Series I. No. 1 to Series I No. 12; (from Kagoshima, Japan; also includes annual reports of Kagoshima Station, South Japan Mission, R.C.A for 1895,1897)	1893 Dec - 1896 Oct
b. 1	Scrapbook volume #2: Quarterly letters - Series I. No. 13 to Series II. No. 14; (1897 - 1903 Jun from Kagoshima; 1903 Oct - 1904 Apr from Saga)	1897 Jun - 1904 Apr
b. 1	Scrapbook volume #3: Quarterly letters - Series II. No. 15 to Series V. No. 17; Series V. No. 26 to Series VI. No. 2 (1904 - 1916 from Saga; 1919 - 1920 Apr from Shimo Osaki Machi, Tokyo; 1920 Aug - 1926 from Meiji Gakuin, Shirokane, Tokyo; 1927 Jan - Jul from Oita; 1927 Oct - 1929 Jan from Beppu; 1929 from Holland, Michigan)	1904-1926, 1929
b. 1, f. 1-12	Typed transcripts of circular letters	1893 Dec -1907 Jul
Of others		
b. 2, f. 13	Glen Bruner to Olive Peeke	1933 Sep
b. 2, f. 14	Cheryl Peeke Edelen to/from Reischauers	1987 Feb

Series II: Writings of H. V. S. Peeke

b. 2, f. 15	"My Trip to Korea" - journal and typed transcript	1891
b. 2, f. 16	<i>A First Reader for Home Students of the Japanese Language</i>	1914
b. 2, f. 17	<i>Kai - How to Conduct Meetings in Japanese</i>	1927
b. 2, f. 18	Scrapbook of articles written by HVSP for <i>Japan Evangelist</i> and <i>The Christian Movement in Japan</i> ; reviews of his two books	1904-1921

Series III: Writings of Others

b. 2, f. 19	"Social Service and Christian Appalachia", "The Missionary and Industrial Work" by Isabelle McCausland (niece of Mrs. Peeke)	1922, 1926
b. 2, f. 20	"The Church of Christ in China" by Mary Sue Rohwer (granddaughter of Peekes)	n.d..
b. 2, f. 21	"Cheryl's Peeke into Japan" by Cheryl Peeke Edelen (granddaughter of Peekes)	ca. 1987

Series IV: Collected and Personal Material

b. 2, f. 22	Photographs: portraits of HVSP, VGP; mission house in Saga; campus of Meiju Gakuin, Tokyo; photocopies of photos from Edelens' trip to Japan in 1987	1887- 1987
b. 2, f. 23	<i>The Japan Evangelist</i> issue [contains articles by HVSP]	1923 Sep-Oct
b. 2, f. 24	Diary of H. V. S. Peeke describing his first term in Japan	1887- 1892

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 -- Japan

Names

Peeke, H. V. S.