

Yale University Library  
Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Rugh Family Papers

RG 244



Martha Lund Smalley

2012

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>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	7
Series I: Correspondence, 1924-1953 .....	7
To extended family in U.S. ....	7
To friends, the Smith sisters, in U.S. ....	7
Dwight Rugh to Winifred Rugh .....	8
Winifred Rugh to Dwight Rugh .....	9
Betty Jean Rugh to her parents .....	9
Betty Jean Rugh from her parents .....	9
Letters of others .....	10
Series II: Writings, 1921-1980 .....	11
Series III: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1948-2000 .....	12
Selected Search Terms .....	13

---

## 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 244

**CREATOR:** Rugh, D. DeK. (Dwight DeKalb)

**TITLE:** Rugh Family Papers

**DATES:** 1921-2000

**BULK DATES:** 1930-1952

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence and writings document the life and work of Dwight Rugh, his wife Winifred and their daughter Betty Jean during their service in China 1930-1951. The Rughs taught and did administrative work for the Yale-in-China Association at Yali Middle School, in Hunan Province. Winifred also taught at Shanghai American School, where Betty Jean attended for several years. Dwight Rugh was the last representative of the Yale-China Association to leave China in 1951, his application for an exit permit having been delayed for several months.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.244>

---

## 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.244>.

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

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Betty Rugh Elder

---

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Preferred Citation

Rugh Family Papers (RG 244), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

---

## 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)".

---

## Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1899 September	○ Dwight Dekalb Rugh born in Clarion, Pennsylvania where his parents were teachers in Clarion Normal School
circa 1902	○ Dwight Rugh moved to California where his father was a school principal and later a professor of education at the University of California at Berkeley. The Rugh family, including Dwight Rugh's brother Charles and sister Winifred, lived in Los Gatos, CA where Dwight Rugh met his future wife, also named Winifred. She was the daughter of the town's Presbyterian minister.
1921	○ Dwight Rugh received B.A. from University of California and went to Hawaii, where he started the student YMCA at the University of Hawaii. Winifred attended normal school and taught Kindergarten in California.
1924	○ Dwight Rugh returned to California to marry Winifred and together they returned to Hawaii for three more years.
1927-1930	○ Dwight and Winifred Rugh moved to New Haven where he attended and graduated from Yale Divinity School.
1930	○ Dwight and Winifred Rugh were invited to go to China by the Board of the Yale-in-China Association, which sponsored a middle school for boys and a teaching hospital in Changsha, Hunan. Dwight Rugh served as director of religious education and counseling while Winifred Rugh taught music.
1933	○ Daughter Betty Jean born
1935	○ Rugh family returned to New Haven where Dwight Rugh received a Ph.D. in religious education from Yale
1936	○ Rugh family returned to China, with a stop in Hawaii, where Dwight Rugh was ordained as a Congregational minister
1936-1944	○ Dwight Rugh served as Mission Representative of Yale-in-China initially in Changsha and later in Yuanling, where the Yale-in-China school and hospital were evacuated to avoid Japanese troops entering Changsha.
1944	○ Rugh family returned to the U.S.

Date	Event
1945-1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After the war was over Dwight Rugh returned to China to resettle the Yale-in-China school and hospital in Changsha. Winifred Rugh and Betty Jean Rugh joined him in 1946, Betty Jean Rugh attending Shanghai American School 1947-1949 until evacuated when the Communists entered Shanghai. Winifred and Betty Jean Rugh returned to the U.S.</li> </ul>
1949-1951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dwight Rugh remained in Changsha after the Communist army arrived. As the months passed it became more difficult for him to associate with his friends and to help with the affairs of the school. He was isolated in two rooms of his home and spent time playing his cello, writing poetry, reading, and writing long, frequent letters to Winifred and Betty Jean Rugh. Dwight Rugh was under surveillance and subject to frequent questioning, with demands that he confess to being an American spy. In 1951 the school gymnasium, which was being rebuilt with Yale-in-China funds, was completed and shortly after Dwight Rugh was put on trial and sentenced to be deported. He was taken to Guangzhou (Canton) and put in prison but after a few days was brought to the border where he could walk to Hong Kong.</li> </ul>
1952	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following a year of rest in the U.S. Dwight Rugh became Dean of Men at the College of Idaho</li> </ul>
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dwight Rugh accepted position as Assistant Director for the Federal Point Four Aid program to Israel and Dwight and Winifred Rugh lived in Israel</li> </ul>
1956-1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dwight and Winifred Rugh went to Taiwan where Dwight Rugh was International Secretary for the YMCA in Taipei</li> </ul>
1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Rughs went to California to retire but later in the year joined VISTA, going to Norfolk, Virginia where Winifred Rugh trained teachers for the Headstart program and Dwight Rugh trained community workers.</li> </ul>
1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After another brief period of retirement the Rughs rejoined VISTA and lived at Mammoth Cave National Park where they taught inner city youth in the Job Corps</li> </ul>
1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dwight and Winifred Rugh moved to Bristol Village to live nearer Betty Jean, who was now married to David Elder. They continued their educational work in various capacities.</li> </ul>
1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dwight Rugh died</li> </ul>

---

## Scope and Contents

These papers provide valuable insight on the work of Dwight and Winifred Rugh with the Yale-in-China Association in Hunan province from 1931 to 1951. Frequent detailed letters to family and friends document the upheaval experienced due to the Sino-Japanese War and Communist takeover.

The Rugh Family Papers complement the archives of the Yale-China Association that are held at Yale's Sterling Memorial Library Manuscripts and Archives. Dwight Rugh's official staff correspondence and various motion picture films taken by Rugh are in the Yale-China Association Records. The Rugh Family Papers provide perspective on the family and personal life of the Rughs but also describe their daily work in Changsha and Yuanling. Letters of Betty Jean Rugh from her time at Shanghai American School complement the Shanghai American School archives found in Yale Divinity School Library Record Group no. 132.

---

## Arrangement

I. Correspondence, 1924-1953

II. Writings, 1921-1980

III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1948-2000

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1924-1953

To extended family in U.S.

These letters are written by Dwight and Winifred Rugh primarily to "Dear Ones", to Dwight's sister Winifred and her husband Elgin, to "Father", "Aunt May and Gordon"

b. 1, f. 1	Dwight (DR) and Winifred (WR) studying at North China Language School in Beijing (Peiping); descriptions of daily life and activities; First Peoples' Convention of the Republic of China held in Beijing	1930 November - 1931 May
b. 1, f. 2	Move to Shanghai; preparations for and move to Changsha; teaching at Yali Middle School	1931 Jun - 1932 May
b. 1, f. 3	Incl. re. visit of Chiang Kai Shek to Yali campus; political conditions disruptive	1932 Nov - 1933 Feb
b. 1, f. 4	Betty Jean (BJR) Rugh born March 12, 1933; family goes to Guling (Kuling) for summer; 309 students at school  WR and BJR visited California during this period, due to the death of Winifred's father, then returned to China. There is a gap in letters home while the Rughs were in New Haven, CT on furlough 1935-1936, where Dwight earned a Ph.D. from Yale.	1933 March - 1934 June
b. 1, f. 5	Return to China following furlough with stop in Honolulu where Dwight was ordained; to Guling (Kuling) during summer; Japan attacks on China lead to evacuations of missionaries  The Rughs were evacuated to Honolulu; DR returned to China in July 1937 while WR and BJR went to California where WR attended university. Yali Middle School moved to Yuanling. Upon return to China in 1940, WR and BJR went to Shanghai American School where WR taught and then to Yuanling in December 1940.	1936 September - 1937 September
b. 1, f. 6	At Yuanling and summer house in Shih Ch'iao; DR and WR teaching at Yali Middle School	1941 Jul - 1943 May
b. 1, f. 7	Family in New Haven for furlough then DR returned to China and WR and BJR first to California and then China	1945 Mar - 1946 Dec
b. 1, f. 8	Summer at Nan Yo then return to Changsha; WR and BJR to Shanghai American School; DR treasurer of International Hunan Relief Committee	1947 Apr - Dec
b. 1, f. 9	DR to Hong Kong on business; WR evacuated to Shanghai, where she taught kindergarten at Shanghai American School	1948 Feb-Dec
b. 1, f. 10	WR back in Changsha; soldiers around, uneasy feeling; WR and BJR return to US in 1949; DR remains in Changsha	1949 Jan - 1950 Dec
b. 1, f. 11	DR alone in Changsha	1951 Feb-May

To friends, the Smith sisters, in U.S.

These letters were written by Winifred Rugh to Ruth and Edith Smith of North Haven, CT, who are addressed as "Dear Two" or "Dear Ones"

## To friends, the Smith sisters, in U.S. (continued)

b. 1, f. 12	Incl. re. journey to China; stop in Honolulu; daily life at North China Language School in Beijing	1930 Jan-Nov
b. 1, f. 13	Daily life at language school; visit to the Great Wall; move to Changsha	1931 Jan - Oct
b. 1, f. 14	Flood refugees crowding Changsha; plans to go on furlough to New Haven; return to China	1932 Jan - 1936 Sep
b. 1, f. 15	Summer in Guling (Kuling); disruption from Sino-Japanese war; move to Honolulu; DR returns to China; WR and BJR to California, then return to Shanghai in July 1939	1937 April-1939 December
b. 1, f. 16	Trip to Yuanling; teaching activities; bombings in nearby cities	1940 Nov- 1944 Jan
b. 1, f. 17	Family in California; DR returns to Shanghai first and then WR and BJR return and are at Shanghai American School	1945 Sep - 1948 Dec
<p>Dwight Rugh to Winifred Rugh</p> <p>These letters were written by Dwight to his wife when they were separated; some are addressed to both Winifred and Betty Jean. Dwight and Winifred referred to themselves as "De" and "Fe".</p>		
b. 1, f. 18	Dwight to Winifred Rugh from Honolulu before marriage; while Winifred is in California at the time of her father's death, while Winifred and BJR are in Guling (Kuling)	1924 May - 1937 June
b. 1, f. 19	DR in Honolulu, returns to China; at Yuanling with BJR; visits to Shih Ch'iao; WR in Changsha	1938 Jul - 1943 Aug
b. 1, f. 20	DR returning to China after time in California; at Shanghai YMCA; student strikes in Kunming area; arranging to buy surplus Army materials for mission	1945 Nov-Dec
b. 1, f. 21	DR in Shanghai; tells of Jewish refugees from several European countries; gathering supplies for Changsha; long arduous trip to Changsha	1946 Jan-Mar
b. 1, f. 22	DR in Changsha; much rebuilding necessary; involved with Hunan International Relief Committee; teaching	1946 Apr-Jun
b. 1, f. 24	Planning for WR and BJR's return to Changsha	1946 Jul-Sep
b. 1, f. 25	WR and BJR evacuated to Shanghai; DR remains in Changsha; school continues	1948 Nov
b. 1, f. 26	Daily letters from DR in Changsha	1948 Dec
b. 2, f. 27	DR in Changsha; encourages WR to return	1949 Jan
b. 2, f. 28	WR and BJR return to California; Communists occupy Shanghai	1949 Mar
b. 2, f. 29	DR in Changsha; Yali continues classes; DR working on financial accounts	1949 Jun
b. 2, f. 30	DR tours flooded areas in Hunan; Communist forces near Changsha; work with Hunan Foundation for Rural Reconstruction	1949 Jul
b. 2, f. 31	Communists enter Changsha; school resumes with no restrictions	1949 Aug-Oct
b. 2, f. 32	Daily life in Changsha	1949 Nov-Dec



## Dwight Rugh to Winifred Rugh (continued)

b. 2, f. 33	Daily life in Changsha; discussing possible changes to Yali education	1950 Jan-Apr
b. 2, f. 34	Daily life in Changsha; still no progress in DR's application to leave Changsha	1950 May
b. 2, f. 35	Daily life in Changsha; response to WR letters	1950 Jun-Jul
b. 2, f. 36	Daily life in Changsha; responses to WR letters	1950 Aug
b. 2, f. 37	Daily life in Changsha; friends leaving	1950 Sep-Oct
b. 2, f. 38	44th anniversary of Yale-in-China; DR given permission to leave China; inspection of baggage raised questions; falsely charged re. some items; departure delayed.	1950 Nov-Dec
b. 2, f. 39	Daily life in Changsha; responses to WR letters	1951 Jan
b. 2, f. 40	Daily life in Changsha; responses to WR letters; BJR considering colleges	1951 Feb
b. 2, f. 41	Daily life in Changsha; all missionaries leaving	1951 Mar
b. 2, f. 42	Daily life in Changsha; several letters contain poems by DR	1951 Apr
b. 2, f. 43	DR finally allowed to leave Changsha; returns to California	1951 May
Winifred Rugh to Dwight Rugh		
These letters were written by Winifred to her husband when they were separated		
b. 2, f. 44	WR in Changsha for dental work; DR in Yuanling	1943 Jul-Aug
b. 2, f. 45	WR and BRJ in California where WR was teaching school; DR in Changsha	1949 Jun - 1950 Dec
Betty Jean Rugh to her parents		
b. 2, f. 46	DR in China; BJR and WR in California; letters re. school and daily activities	1945 Nov - 1946 Jul
b. 2, f. 47	BJR at Shanghai American School; school activities described	1947 Jan-Nov
b. 2, f. 48	BJR at Shanghai American School; school activities described	1948 Jan-Dec
b. 2, f. 49	BJR evacuated from Shanghai in May; goes to Hong Kong, then to California in July	1949 Jan-Dec
b. 3, f. 49a	BJR in California	1950 Feb-Oct
b. 3, f. 50	BJR adjusting to life in U.S.; high school activities; begins studies at Oberlin College	1951 Mar-Oct
b. 3, f. 51	BJR at Oberlin College	1952 Jan-Apr
b. 3, f. 52	BJR at Oberlin College	1952 May-Dec
b. 3, f. 53	BJR at Oberlin College	1953 Jan-Nov
Betty Jean Rugh from her parents		
b. 3, f. 54	DR returning to China; in Shanghai	1945 Nov - 1946 Apr

## Betty Jean Rugh from her parents (continued)

b. 3, f. 55	DR in Changsha; BJR at Shanghai American School	1946 May-1947 Dec
b. 3, f. 56	DR and WR in Changsha; BJR at Shanghai American School	1948 Jan-JUn
b. 3, f. 57	DR and WR in Changsha; BJR at Shanghai American School	1948 Sep-Dec
b. 3, f. 58	DR and WR in Changsha; advice in case of evacuation; BJR goes to Hong Kong	1949 Jan-Apr
b. 3, f. 59	BJR and WR in California; DR in Changsha	1949 May-Dec
b. 3, f. 60	DR in Changsha; letters include poems	1950 Mar-Dec
b. 3, f. 61	DR in Changsha; fatherly advice	1951 Mar-Apr
b. 3, f. 62	DR in Changsha - advice to BJR re. college choice; DR returns to U.S.; BJR at Oberlin	1951 May-Oct
b. 3, f. 63	DR tells of his job search; takes job at College of Idaho	1952 Jan-Dec
b. 3, f. 64	DR in Idaho	1953 Jan-Oct
Letters of others		
b. 3, f. 65	Incl. from E. Fay Campbell, Executive Secretary of Yale-in-China to families of staff in Changsha (1931); from Thomas Gibb, Principal of Shanghai American School re. school work of BJR (1947); to WR from students at Yali Middle School (1948); excerpt of letters from Arthur Rugh, uncle of DR (n.d.); Kenneth Scott Latourette to WR re. delay in DR getting exit permit from Changsha (1950)	1931-1951, n.d.

**Series II: Writings, 1921-1980**

b. 3, f. 66	Poems by DR	1921-1980
b. 3, f. 67	DR journals of travel from U.S. to Changsha (1936); life in Changsha (1938)	1936-1938
b. 3, f. 68	Essay on "Democracy"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 68	DR notes for 4 session presentation on "Principles of Christian Leadership" for C.E. Conference, Kokoshi	1938 Apr
b. 3, f. 69	Compositions by BJR	1947

**Series III: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1948-2000**

b. 3, f. 70	Excerpt from minutes of Yale-in-China Association Meeting of the Trustees of June 17, 1945 re. terms for reappointment of DR	1948 Dec 27
b. 3, f. 70	Newspapers clippings re. BJR scholarship to Oberlin College	1952
b. 3, f. 70	Program of memorial service for Dwight Rugh with biographical sketch	1981 Mar 29
b. 3, f. 70	Commentary by Betty Jean Rugh Elder on Yale-China History chapter, with biographical information about parents	2000
b. 4	Family Bibles belonging to Charles E. Rugh (father of DR), to DR, WR and BJR (see notes in box)	
b. 5, f. 1	Photograph album from period when Rughs were first stationed in Changsha Photographs include scenes inside the Rughs' home, family photos, missionary and Chinese friends and colleagues, and scenes in Changsha and the countryside.	1930s
b. 5, f. 2	Dwight Rugh's personal annotated copy of <i>The Drummond Year Book</i> compiled by Henry Drummond	Annotated 1967-1980
b. 5, f. 3	Dwight Rugh's personal annotated copy of <i>A Diary of Private Prayer</i> by John Baillie	Annotated 1954-1980
b. 5, f. 4	Commemorative bowl commissioned by Yali graduates for the 100th anniversary of Yali / Yale-China, featuring photos of Rugh and Chinese leaders, with text in Chinese to the effect of "Although our sages have left us, their spark will live forever."	

## **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**

Communism -- China  
Missions -- China

### **Names**

Rugh, D. DeK. (Dwight DeKalb)  
Rugh, Winifred

### **Corporate Bodies**

Shanghai American School  
Yale-China Association  
Yali Middle School