

# Guide to the Dean and Fanny Wickes Papers

RG 257



Martha Lund Smalley

2014

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 Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 257

**CREATOR:** Wickes, Dean Rockwell

**TITLE:** Dean and Fanny Wickes Papers

**DATES:** 1908-1943

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4 linear feet (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Dean and Fanny Wickes were missionaries serving in Shandong from 1912 to 1934 under the North China Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Correspondence, writings, photographs, and collected material document the life and work of these missionaries who were engaged in educational and evangelistic work.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.257>

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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.257>.

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

Gift of Mark Waldrop, 2013.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Preferred Citation

Dean and Fanny Wickes Papers (RG 257), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## 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)".

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## Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1883 September 10	○ Dean Rockwell Wickes born in Granville, Ohio
1905	○ Graduated from the University of Chicago, having received a Senior College Scholarship for excellence in the Department of Geology, and Phi Beta Kappa (1904)
1908	○ Received Master's degree from Yale University
1909	○ Received B.D. from Yale Divinity School
1912	○ Received Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, with focus on New Testament and Religious Education
1912 August 24	○ Married Fanny Rollinson Sweeny, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis LaBaume Sweeny
1912	○ Dean and Fanny appointed missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and sailed to China, where they were stationed first in Beijing (Peking) for language study and then at the ABCFM station in T'ungchou/T'unghsien [Tongxian] as of September, 1913, where Dean taught at North China Union College. Summers were spent at the missionary retreat area in Beidaihe (Peitaiho).
1917 August 7	○ Daughter Alice born
1918-1919	○ Family based in Beijing (Peking), Dean teaching at Theological College
1919-1920	○ Family on furlough in U.S., Dean studying at Union Theological Seminary, New York
1920	○ Return to China; family based in Tongzhou Qu (T'unghsien)
1922	○ Death of infant daughter Mary Frances
1923 October 26	○ Birth of daughter Margaret
1925 October	○ Family moved to Linqing (Lintsing)
1926	○ Birth of daughter Eleanor
1927-1928	○ Furlough in U.S.; Dean studying at Union Theological Seminary, New York, received S.T.M. degree
1928	○ Return to China; based in Linqing (Lintsing); Dean at Ellis Layman's Christian Training School
1933	○ Family moves to Dezhou (Tehchow) as Linqing (Lintsing) station closes
1934	○ Family informed that ABCFM can no longer support them in China; Dean returns to U.S. and finds job at Library of Congress

Date	Event
1935	○ Fanny and Eleanor in in Los Angeles; move to Washington, D.C. in August; Dean is employed by Research Division of Soil Erosion, Department of Agriculture
1935 November	○ Death of Fanny Wickes

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## Scope and Contents

The Dean and Fanny Wickes papers provide valuable documentation of their work as missionaries of the North China Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions during the years 1912 to 1934. The Wickes were well-educated individuals dedicated to their work in China. Their letters home to their parents are detailed and substantial, with a focus on recounting their daily activities and surroundings in China. The Wickes papers complement other collections held at the Yale Divinity Library, including fellow North China Mission missionaries Earle and Thelma Ballou, Constance Buell, Emery Ellis, Lewis and Lois Gilbert, James and Maude Hunter, Helen Kintner, Harold Matthews, Alice Reed, Olga Robinson, and Ernest Shaw.

The Family Correspondence of Series I is primarily from the Wickes to their parents, a regular series of detailed letters. General Correspondence includes letters to and from colleagues in China.

Series II provides fairly sparse biographical documentation but does include family photograph albums and statements by the Wickes regarding their faith and work.

The Mission-related Collected Material of Series III provides insight into issues and concerns of the American Board mission during this era of political disruption in China and financial stress for missions.

Series IV contains a number of interesting reflections by both Dean and Fanny Wickes on their work and on events and customs in China. Some of these writings were published and others prepared to inform their supporters in the U.S.

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## Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1908-1943
- II. Biographical Documentation and Memorabilia, 1908-1936
- III. Mission-related Collected Material, 1916-1934
- IV. Writings and Notes, 1912-1934

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence

#### Family correspondence

Dean and Fanny Wickes to/from their parents

Letters are primarily from Dean and Fanny to their parents. In later years there are some letters of their daughter Alice and from the parents.

b. 1, f. 1	Dean (DW) attending Yale Divinity School	1908 Oct
b. 1, f. 2	DW at YDS: campus life, assignments, sermon preparation	1909 Jan-Feb
b. 1, f. 3	DW at YDS: attending China mission class, working on thesis	1909 Mar-Apr
b. 1, f. 4	DW graduates from YDS; visits to extended family members before return to Chicago	1909 May-Jun
b. 1, f. 5	Re. travels in U.S. and enroute to China, with stop in Honolulu	1912 May-Oct
b. 1, f. 6	Continuation of trip to China with stop in Japan, arrival in Beijing (Peking); language study	1912 November-December
b. 1, f. 7	Daily life in China; exploration of Beijing (Peking)	1913 January-February
b. 1, f. 8	Life in Beijing (Peking); Empress Dowager's death and funeral	1913 March-April
b. 1, f. 9	Life in Beijing (Peking); to summer resort in Beidaihe (Peitaiho)	1913 May-June
b. 1, f. 10	Summer activities in Beidaihe (Peitaiho)	1913 July-August
b. 1, f. 11	Move to T'ungchou [Tongxian]; DW teaching singing class; accounts of Chinese customs	1913 Sep-Oct
b. 1, f. 12	In T'ungchou: missionaries' "Pastimes Club", government unrest, Christmas celebrations	1913 Nov-Dec
b. 1, f. 13	In T'ungchou: study, teaching, travel to other mission stations	1914 Jan-Mar
b. 1, f. 14	Travel to Linqing (Lintsing), teaching in Chinese; District meeting in Beijing (Peking), travel to Beidaihe (Peitaiho)	1914 April-June
b. 1, f. 14a	In Beidaihe (Peitaiho); purchase of house there	1914 July-August
b. 1, f. 15	Return to T'ungchou and teaching; Dean Wickes chairman of Music Committee; flooding in area; Christmas trip to Beijing (Peking)	1914 September-December
b. 2, f. 16	Re. school life and teaching; severe dust storms in area	1915 Jan-Mar
b. 2, f. 17	To Beijing (Peking) for District Association meetings; visit to Great Wall and Ming Tombs; Dean Wickes appointed superintendent of boys' school	1915 April-June

## Family correspondence &gt; Dean and Fanny Wickes to/from their parents (continued)

b. 2, f. 18	Summer activities in Beidaihe (Peitaiho); return to T'ungchou	1915 July-September
b. 2, f. 19	DW submits resignation as superintendent of boys' school following incident of dismissal of students for demanding a change of Classics teacher; FW travels to country station	1915 Oct-Dec
b. 2, f. 20	In T'ungchou; visit to Forbidden City; copy of mandate issued by Yuan Shih Kai	1916 Jan-Mar
b. 2, f. 21	FW visits country fair for evangelism; school life	1916 Apr-May
b. 2, f. 22	Death of Yuan Shih Kai; to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer	1916 June-July
b. 2, f. 23	Return to T'ungchou; FW's mother arrives for visit	1916 Aug-Oct
b. 2, f. 24	School life; preparations for holidays	1916 Nov-Dec
b. 2, f. 25	FW's mother returns to U.S.; some students leave school to work in France and Britain during war; DW chairs committee to celebrate 50 years of Christian work in T'ungchou	1917 Mar-Apr
b. 2, f. 26	College at T'ungchou to be moved to Beijing (Peking) as part of federated university; travel to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer	1917 May-June
b. 2, f. 27	Birth of daughter Alice on August 7	1917 Jul-Aug
	Re. life in T'ungchou; Alice's growth	1917 Sep-Dec
b. 2, f. 29	T'ungchou changed to T'unghsien; evangelism trips	1918 Jan-Mar
b. 2, f. 30	Dean Wickes trip to Paoti to pay laborers and evangelize; planning joint missions at University of Peking; travel to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer	1918 April-July
b. 2, f. 31	Dean Wickes returns to T'unghsien for Teachers' Institute; family moves to Beijing (Peking); Dean Wickes teaching at Theological College	1918 August-October
b. 2, f. 32	Celebrations for peace in China and end of European war; teaching activities; plans for furlough	1918 Nov-Dec
b. 3, f. 33	Teaching in Beijing (Peking); Provincial Association meetings; furlough plans	1919 January-May
b. 3, f. 34	Return to U.S. for furlough; DW studying at Union Theological Seminary	1919 Jun-Dec
b. 3, f. 35	DW studying at Union Theological Seminary	1920 Jan-Apr
b. 3, f. 36	Return to China; stationed in T'unghsien with trips to countryside, including Chang Hsin Tien	1920 May-Dec
b. 3, f. 37	DW in Tai Shui and elsewhere doing relief work; extreme poverty in area; daughter Mary Frances born	1921 Jan-Apr
b. 3, f. 38	Dean Wickes ill with measles; continues relief work; to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer	1921 May-December

## Family correspondence &gt; Dean and Fanny Wickes to/from their parents (continued)

b. 3, f. 39	Based in T'unghsien with evangelistic trips to out-stations; whooping cough at station	1922 Jan-May
b. 3, f. 40	Daughter Mary Frances dies of cerebral meningitis; family to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer; Dean Wickes makes country trips; political and military unrest in area	1922 June-December
b. 3, f. 41	Dean Wickes on country preaching trip; 50th anniversary of Baoding (Paotingfu) station; teaching	1923 January-April
b. 3, f. 42	Planning summer conference in WoFoSsu; to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer	1923 May-July
b. 3, f. 43	Return to T'unghsien; birth of daughter Margaret on October 20	1923 Aug-Oct
b. 3, f. 44	Dean Wickes visiting villages and market towns; sings with Peking Choral Society	1923 November-December
b. 3, f. 45	Preaching trips to countryside	1924 Jan-Mar
b. 3, f. 46	Association meetings; village visits	1924 Apr-May
b. 3, f. 47	Family at Beidaihe (Peitaiho); Dean Wickes teaching summer school in Beijing (Peking); flooding in area	1924 June-August
b. 3, f. 48	Return to T'unghsien; DW doing relief work following floods; political unrest adds to difficulties; DW resumes country trips	1924 Sep-Dec
b. 3, f. 49	T'unghsien city police and Governor of Metropolitan District start Christian meetings for staff; Association meeting includes discussion re: Wickes family moving to Linqing (Lintsing) station	1925 January-March
b. 3, f. 50	Dean Wickes resumes country trips; to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer	1925 April-July
b. 3, f. 51	Wickes family moves to Linqing (Lintsing) in October; Dean Wickes takes country trip	1925 August-October
b. 3, f. 52	Training School for Laymen established; DW teaching a three year course	1925 Nov-Dec
b. 4, f. 53	Based in Linqing (Lintsing); Dean Wickes teaching at Bible school; military unrest in area	1926 January-February
b. 4, f. 54	Opening of training school for practical service in the community; 40th anniversary of mission work in Linqing (Lintsing)	1926 March-April
b. 4, f. 55	Council meetings in Tianjin (Tientsin); Dean Wickes's book "Flowers of Peitaiho" published; to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer	1926 May-July
b. 4, f. 56	DW to summer conference in Tehchow; to Ching Ping to organize a church; daughter Eleanor born October 13	1926 Aug-Oct
b. 4, f. 57	Furlough plans; women and children ordered to leave Linqing (Lintsing) due to incident in Nanjing (Nanking); Fanny and girls go to Tianjin (Tientsin), then Korea	1927 January-April
b. 4, f. 58	DW remains in China to finish up work; family sails to U.S. from Kobe, Japan in June; travel to NY, visiting FW's family	1927 May-Dec



## Family correspondence &gt; Dean and Fanny Wickes to/from their parents (continued)

b. 4, f. 59	DW studying at Union Seminary; family in Poughkeepsie	1928 Jan-Apr
b. 4, f. 60	DW graduates from Union Seminary; family travels to CA and leaves for China	1928 May-Sep
b. 4, f. 61	Based in Linqing (Lintsing); school resumes; Dean visits village to examine candidates for church membership; electricity installed in home	1928 October-December
b. 4, f. 62	Dean Wickes to Beijing (Peking) for meetings; family to Beidaihe (Peitaiho); new building for training school; trip to country station	1919 January-July
b. 4, f. 63	Summer conference; problems with bandits; teaching, family life	1929 Aug-Dec
b. 4, f. 64	Dean at conference in Beijing (Peking); life in Linqing (Lintsing), includes letters from daughter Alice at North China American School to her grandparents	1930 January-March
b. 4, f. 65	Dean Wickes to country for visit; Fanny and children to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) in May; new grain seeds bring better harvest	1930 April-June
b. 4, f. 66	Dean Wickes returns to Linqing (Lintsing) for conference; illness prevents return to Beidaihe (Peitaiho); Fanny Wickes has operation in Beijing (Peking)	1930 August-October
b. 4, f. 67	Military unrest in area; Fanny and girls return to Linqing (Lintsing); holiday celebrations	1930 November-December
b. 4, f. 68	DW teaching; country trips; family life and illnesses	1931 Jan-Mar
b. 4, f. 69	Dean Wickes teaching; letters from Alice; to Beidaihe (Peitaiho) for summer; mission-related meetings	1931 April-July
b. 4, f. 70	Incl. letters regarding the Tehchow incident when Dr. Tucker killed a robber at mission hospital	1931 Aug-Oct
b. 4, f. 71	Teaching and country trips; holiday celebrations	1931 Nov-Dec
b. 4, f. 72	DW busy with committee meetings, travel	1932 Jan-Feb
b. 4, f. 73	Planning for conference on 5 year movement emphasizing literacy and rural needs; DW supervising student trips to rural groups	1932 Mar-Apr
b. 5, f. 74	Proposal to combine Linqing (Lintsing) and Tehchow stations; family to Beidaihe (Peitaiho), Dean Wickes in Linqing (Lintsing)	1932 May-June
b. 5, f. 75	Dean Wickes teaches class at Cheeloo University; joins family in Beidaihe (Peitaiho); Fanny has surgery in Beijing (Peking) before return to Linqing (Lintsing)	1932 July-September
b. 5, f. 78	DW establishes village school in Wang Chia Li Chuang; plan for health work in country center; holiday celebrations	1932 Oct-Dec
	Linqing (Lintsing) and Tehchow stations to be merged; Dean in Pi Hsueh Tien for extended session of classes	1933 January-March
b. 5, f. 79	Approach of Japanese troops delays Council meeting; Alice's school closes early	1933 Apr-May

## Family correspondence &gt; Dean and Fanny Wickes to/from their parents (continued)

b. 5, f. 80	Dean Wickes to Beijing (Peiping) for North China Council meeting; Linqing (Lintsing) personnel to move to Tehchow; family to Beidaihe (Peitaiho)	1933 June-August
b. 5, f. 81	FW chairing Evangelistic Committee; family moves to Tehchow; DW makes country trip	1933 Sep-Dec
b. 5, f. 82	Wickes informed that they are "withdrawn" from mission due to financial concerns	1934 Mar-May
b. 5, f. 84	Planning for return to U.S.; DW sails first for job search; gets job at Library of Congress Division of Orientalia; FW and Eleanor sail to U.S.; Alice and Margaret remain in school in China	1934 Jul-Dec
b. 5, f. 85	FW living in Los Angeles with DW's father; DW appointed to Research Division of Soil Erosion, Department of Agriculture	1935 Jan-Apr
b. 5, f. 86	FW and girls move to Washington DC in August; FW dies in November	1935 May-Dec
b. 5, f. 87	Re. DW and daughters in Washington; Alice attending Oberlin College; DW remarries	1936 Jan - 1940 Apr
Dean and Fanny Wickes letters to each other		
b. 5, f. 88	Early meetings; Fanny attending Vassar College	1909 Sep - 1912 May
b. 5, f. 89	Married and living in China; travels, daily life while apart	1920 Dec - 1927 Jul
b. 5, f. 90	Letters written from Linqing (Lintsing), T'ungchou, Beidaihe (Peitaiho)	1930 May-October
b. 6, f. 91	Letters written from Linqing (Lintsing), Beidaihe (Peitaiho), T'ungchou	1931 February-September
b. 6, f. 93	Letters written from Linqing (Lintsing), Beijing (Peiping)	1933 March-December
b. 6, f. 94	DW in Chiang Chun Chai; FW shares news of their being dropped by mission; DW returns to U.S. to look for job; FW and Eleanor in California	1934 Jan-Dec
b. 6, f. 95	DW appointed to Soil Erosion Service, Department of Agriculture; plans for FW and Eleanor to move to DC	1935 Jan-Apr
b. 6, f. 96	Alice and Margaret arrive from China; DW finds house for family in DC; preparations for moving	1935 May-Aug
Dean and Fanny Wickes to extended family		
b. 6, f. 97	To/from FW's brother and sister	1917-1934
b. 6, f. 98	From uncles William Wickes and Tom Wickes	1913-1935
b. 6, f. 99	From aunts Alice, Belle, Emily, Fannie, Margaret, Mary, Lizzie and cousin Alice	1911-1935

## General correspondence

## Dean and Fanny Wickes to/from others

b. 6, f. 100	A-C: Arnold, Baldwin, Ballou, Chandler, Chang, Charlie, Cross	1906-1935
b. 6, f. 101	D-G: Dundes, Ewing, Fairfield, Fifield, Fleming, Grimes	1919-1935
b. 6, f. 102	H-Le: Hemingway, Hubbard, Hugh, Hummel, Jacoby, Latourette, Lewis	1927-1935
b. 6, f. 103	Li-M: Li, Lobenstine, Lois, Lyons, Martin, Murphy	1927-1935
b. 6, f. 104	N-St: Nelson, North, Palmer, Richards, Robinson, Stelle, Steward	1912-1935
b. 6, f. 105	Su-Y: Sun, Tsur, Tsen, Upton, Whitaker, While, William, Wilson, Winans, Yung	1911-1935

## Letters of others

b. 7, f. 106	A-M: Alice, Ballou, Bergen, Cooke, Cross, Darrow, Fairfield, Graves, Grimes, Murphy	1927-1943
b. 7, f. 107	R-W: Robinson, Shaw, Stevens, Sweeney, William Wickes	1927-1943

## Series II: Biographical Documentation and Memorabilia

b. 7, f. 108	Regarding marriage, education, Fanny's will, later employment	1908-1936
b. 7, f. 109	Travel to China, medical letters, personal and household accounts	1912-1932
b. 7, f. 110	Diary, lists of property left with missionaries, miscellaneous	1930-1934
b. 7, f. 111	Family photographs; Fanny, Dean, daughters, scenes - album and loose photos	1912-1924
b. 7, f. 112	Family photographs: Albums for Eleanor and Mary Frances	1931-1934
b. 9, f. 124	Chinese language materials	
b. 9, f. 125	Newsclippings	
b. 9, f. 126	Programs for concerts, etc.	
b. 9, f. 127	Invitations; re. Vassar College	
b. 9, f. 128	Memorabilia	
b. 9, f. 129	American College Club Peking Songbook	

### **Series III: Mission-related Collected Material**

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b. 7, f. 113	Reports of Lintsing Memorial Hospital (1928, 1929), Ellis Christian Training School; American Board statements and reports	1927-1933
b. 7, f. 114	Regarding evacuation of missionaries in 1927; ordination of Pastor Chi Kua Tung; record book of various schools and people	1916-1934

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**Series IV: Writings and Notes**

## Notebooks

b. 8, f. 115	Impressions of early days in China, studying Chinese	1912-1923
b. 8, f. 116	Notes about conference speakers; ideas for work and policy	1923-1928
b. 8, f. 117	Notes about Chinese men; daily notes regarding work, village work in Pi Hsueh Tien	1930-1934

## Essays/notes

These are primarily typescript and handwritten notes and essays by Dean and Fanny Wickes, in some cases reports to their supporters. Authorship of some writings is unclear.

b. 8, f. 118	Including "The Winter Palace of Peking", "In Peking", "Getting Started in the Work" by FW	1912-1913
b. 8, f. 119	Including "The Cult of Blood" (published in Peking Gazette) by Fanny Wickes, "The College and the Academy" (re: North China Union College), "The Work of the TungChou Station"	1914-1916
b. 8, f. 120	Including "The Touch of the West", Report of Fanny Wickes's visit to Third Moon Fair; "Report on Educational Work in Tungchou", "Language and its Study", "Notes on General Conditions"	1916
b. 8, f. 121	Including "Our Colleagues", "Soldiers and Christian Soldiers in China", "A Festive Evening in Tunghsien", "A Jingle of Chinese History", "Notes on Tungchou Temples", "The Everyday Life of a Common Chinese Woman"	1917-1922
b. 8, f. 122	Including newsletter from Goodrich Girls' School, Tongzhou Qu (Tunghsien), "Bound Feet and Free", "Peking Industries", sermons	1923-1925
b. 8, f. 123	Including "They Are Hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ", "Our Answer" (poem re. their withdrawal from mission), excerpts from letter to North China Council	1927-1934

## **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**

Mission -- China

### **Names**

Wickes, Dean Rockwell

Wickes, Fanny Sweeny

### **Corporate Body**

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign  
Missions