

Guide to the Robert Swanton Platt Papers

MS 1675



compiled by Carol King and Dan Ly

January 1995

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1675

CREATOR: Platt, Robert S. (Robert Swanton), 1891-1964

TITLE: Robert Swanton Platt papers

DATES: 1913-1960

BULK DATES: 1913-1919

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: The papers are in English and Chinese.

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writings, photographs, and memorabilia relating to Robert Swanton Platt's travels in Russia and China, and his teaching career with Yale-in-China.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1675>

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.1675>.

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 Robert S. Platt, Jr., 1994. Gift of Nancy G. Platt, 2006.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Robert Swanton Platt Papers (MS 1675). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library

Biographical / Historical

Robert Swanton Platt was born in Columbus, Ohio, on December 4, 1891. He graduated from Yale University in 1914. Platt taught at the Yale Collegiate School in Changsha, China, until 1915. Platt then entered the University of Chicago and obtained his Ph.D. in 1920

Platt served in World War I as a Captain in the 82nd Infantry and in World War II with the State Department and as Chief of the Map Division at the Library of Congress. Upon discharge from the service in 1918, Platt joined the faculty of the University of Chicago and taught until his retirement in 1957 as chairman of the geography department.

Platt, recognized as an expert on Latin America, had served as past president of the Association of American Geographers and as editor of its official publication, *Annals*, until his death on March 1, 1964.

Taken from: *Yale Alumni Magazine*, 1964 May.

Scope and Contents

The Robert S. Platt Papers consist of correspondence, writings, photographs, and memorabilia which pertain to Platt's travels in Russia and China and to his teaching experiences (1914-1915) at the Yale-in-China School (Ya-li), a college and hospital in Changsha, China.

Collection Contents
Original accession

Incoming correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	A-H	1914-1924
b. 1, f. 2	American Ambulance Field Service	1917
b. 1, f. 3	Chuan, S. J.	1914-1916, 1960, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Hwang Ngan	1916-1919
b. 1, f. 5	Hume, Edward and Charlotte	1914, 1918
b. 1, f. 6	J-N	1914-1919
b. 1, f. 7	"Kewley"	1914-1916
b. 1, f. 8	Platt, Joseph (brother) Platt, "Rud" (brother)	1914-1917
b. 1, f. 9	Platt, Maryette (mother)	1914-1917
b. 1, f. 10	Platt, Rutherford H. (father)	1914-1917
b. 1, f. 11	Platt, Rutherford H.: correspondence to family members other than R. S. Platt	1913, 1916
b. 1, f. 12	R-W, unidentified	1914-1917, undated
b. 1, f. 13	Werner, Adeline	1914, 1915 August 2
Outgoing correspondence		
b. 1, f. 14	Hotchkiss School	1915
b. 1, f. 15	Platt family members	1914
b. 1, f. 16-18	Werner, Marguerite	1914 August-1915 May, undated
b. 1, f. 19-20	Typescript of correspondence of Marguerite Werner to R. S. Platt (edited by R. S. Platt)	1914 August 4-1915 May 30
b. 1, f. 21-22	"A Journey Through Russia and Siberia - from Stockholm to Mukden": annotated typescript draft/typescript based on selected correspondence from R. S. Platt to Marguerite Werner [possibly edited by Rutherford H. Platt]	1914
Writings		
b. 2, f. 23	"How it Strikes the Newcomer," "Two Brothers Would A-traveling Go," "A Letter from an Old Boy, in China": articles by Robert S. Platt	1915
b. 2, f. 24	"My Religious Exposure," by R. S. Platt	1954

Writings (continued)

b. 2, f. 25	"A Day at Yale-in-China," by [R.S. Platt?]	[1914-1915]
Subject files		
b. 2, f. 26	Bible stories (in Chinese)	undated
b. 2, f. 27	Business/calling cards	1914-1915, undated
b. 2, f. 28	Chinese novels, elementary textbook	Circa 1914
b. 2, f. 29	Finances: receipts	1914-1917, undated
b. 2, f. 30	Miscellanea	1914-1917, n.d
b. 2, f. 31	Newspaper clippings	1915, 1917
b. 2, f. 32	Notes, fragments	1914-1915, undated
b. 2, f. 33	Personal papers, documents	1899-1916
b. 2, f. 34	Playbills, programs invitations	1915-1916, undated
b. 2, f. 35	Postcards, blank	undated
b. 2, f. 36	Travel ephemera	1914-1915
b. 2, f. 37	Travel papers, visas (Russian, language)	1914
b. 2, f. 38	Yale Alumni Weekly: correspondence from Chinese students to editor (in English)	1915
b. 2, f. 39	Yale-in-China: fund raising	1916, undated
b. 2, f. 40	Yale-in-China: maps, floor plans, list of staff, printed material	1914-1916
b. 2, f. 41	Yale-in-China: student papers	1915, undated
Photographs		
b. 3, f. 42-48	Individually numbered photographs (#1-128) primarily of Yale-in-China with accompanying descriptions, duplicates, negatives	1913-1915
b. 3, f. 49	Photograph album presented to R. S. Platt at Christmas by students	1914
b. 3, f. 50	Photographs of R. S. Platt and staff and students of Yale-in-China	[1914-1916]
b. 3, f. 51	Chinese family, unidentified	[ca. 1914-1915]
FOLIO		
b. 4	Poster depicting health regimens (Chinese language)	

Accession 1995-M-089: Additional Material, 1914-1915

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Addition inventory by Carol King Jan 1995

Received from: Robert S. Platt, Jr., 1994 Nov 18

b.1 "The Letters of Robert Swanton Platt to Miss Marguerite Werner" (written 1914-1915
while travelling across Russia into China and while teaching at the Ya-Li School in
Changsha, China); edited by McClellan Platt-Reynolds

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

Missions -- China

Geographic Names

China -- Description and travel

Russia -- Description and travel

Names

Platt, Robert S. (Robert Swanton), 1891-1964

Corporate Body

Yale-in-China Association