

# Guide to the Warren Bartlett Seabury Papers

MS 790



compiled by John Dojka

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 790

**CREATOR:** Seabury, Warren Bartlett, 1877-1907

**TITLE:** Warren Bartlett Seabury papers

**DATES:** 1901-1936

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, essays and memorabilia of Warren Bartlett Seabury, a missionary in China who helped plan and organize the Yale Foreign Missionary Society. Correspondence with his family (1904-1907) and reports on his work for the Society and the founding of the Yali Middle School are included. Among his correspondents are Harlan Page Beach, Edward Bliss Reed, John P. Rice and Arthur C. Williams.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0790>

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## 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.0790>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Warren Bartlett Seabury Papers (MS 790). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Warren Bartlett Seabury, the son of Joseph Bartlett and Martha Daniels Seabury, was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, on September 17, 1877. After preparing for college at Hotchkiss, he entered Yale College as a member of the class of 1900. After graduation from Yale, Seabury enrolled at the Hartford Theological Seminary and received the B.D. degree in 1903. The following year was spent studying comparative religion at the Yale Graduate School where he received his M.A. in 1904.

While a student at the Hartford Theological Seminary, Seabury helped plan and organize the Yale Foreign Missionary Society, and after being ordained as a minister in 1904, he sailed for China to help organize the Yale Mission's educational work.

Seabury's first two years in China were spent studying Chinese in Hankow and negotiating the purchase of a mission site in Changsha. By November, 1906, he had succeeded in establishing the middle school in temporary quarters and begun teaching.

On July 29, 1907, while on a holiday vacation near Kuling, Seabury drowned in a swimming accident. For further information see the biography of Seabury, *The Vision of a Short Life*, by his father Joseph Bartlett Seabury (Cambridge, 1908).

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## Scope and Contents

The Warren Bartlett Seabury Papers are divided into five series: I. Family Correspondence; II. General Correspondence; III. Correspondence of Joseph Bartlett Seabury; IV. Writings; and V. Miscellany.

Series I, FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE, contains the letters written by Seabury to his family during 1904-1907, the period in which he was in China. The letters are weekly summaries of Seabury's work for the Yale Foreign Missionary Society and contain comments on his reactions to the Chinese people and culture. Subjects discussed at length include Seabury's efforts to purchase land for the Yale Mission and the founding of what was to become Yali Middle School. A single earlier letter, dated November, 1901, relates to Seabury's role in the founding and organization of the Yale Foreign Missionary Society.

Series II, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, contains letters between Seabury and members of the Yale Foreign Missionary Society staff. Correspondents of note include: Harlan Page Beach, 1903-1907; Edward Bliss Reed, 1903-1907; John P. Rice, 1904-1906; Arthur C. Williams, 1901-1905.

Series III, CORRESPONDENCE OF JOSEPH B. SEABURY, contains letters between Warren Seabury's father and Yale Foreign Missionary Society staff members discussing Seabury's death and the establishment of a memorial fund.

Series IV, WRITINGS, contains twenty-five short essays and sketches written by Seabury between 1904-1907 on various aspects of his life in China. Also included is a copy of a class oration written at the Hartford Theological Seminary in 1903.

Series V, MISCELLANY, contains copies of Seabury's obituaries and memorials, several student essays corrected by Seabury, a draft copy of rules and regulations of the Yale Mission College edited in Seabury's hand, and a portrait of Seabury.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged in five series: I. Family Correspondence. II. General Correspondence. III. Correspondence of Joseph Bartlett Seabury. IV. Writings. V. Miscellany.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE, 1901-1907

*.25 linear feet (6 folders)*

FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE is arranged chronologically.

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b. 1, f. 1-6	1901, 1904, 1905 January – May, 1905 June – Dec, 1906, 1907	1901, 1904, 1905 January – May, 1905 June – Dec, 1906, 1907
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**Series II: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1901-1907***.25 linear feet (13 folders)*

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Letters of a particular correspondent are arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 7-8	Beach, Harlan Page	1903-1907
b. 1, f. 9	Eddy, E. Brewer	1907
b. 1, f. 10-11	Reed, Edward Bliss	1903-1907
b. 1, f. 12	Rice, John P.	1904-1906
b. 1, f. 13	Sanders, Frank Knight	1903
b. 1, f. 14	Stokes, Anson Phelps	1907
b. 1, f. 15	Thurston, J. Lawrence	1902-1903
b. 1, f. 16	Williams, Arthur C.	1901-1905
b. 1, f. 17	Williams, F. Wells	1906
b. 1, f. 18	Wright, Henry B.	1905
b. 1, f. 19	Yale Foreign Missionary Society	1905

**Series III: CORRESPONDENCE OF JOSEPH BARTLETT SEABURY, 1903-1914**

*.25 linear feet (2 folders)*

CORRESPONDENCE OF JOSEPH BARTLETT SEABURY is arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 20-21      1903-1914

1903-1914

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**Series IV: WRITINGS, 1903-1907***.25 linear feet (5 folders)*

WRITINGS are arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 2, f. 22	"Call Upon the Governor and the Banquet" English
b. 2, f. 22	"Character of the Chinese" English
b. 2, f. 22	"Chinese Customs" English
b. 2, f. 22	"Chinese Streets" English
b. 2, f. 23	"Class Oration, 1903" English
b. 2, f. 23	"Cold and Heat in China" English
b. 2, f. 23	"The Convert Zau" English
b. 2, f. 23	"Deception as Practiced by the Chinese" English
b. 2, f. 23	"The Dress of the Chinese" English
b. 2, f. 23	"Drops Out of the Bucket of My Experience" English
b. 2, f. 24	"English as She Is Spoke and Written in China" English
b. 2, f. 24	"Dr. Griffith John" English
b. 2, f. 24	"Life in China" English
b. 2, f. 24	"Night and Early Dawn" English
b. 2, f. 24	"One Type of Missionary" English
b. 2, f. 24	"Peking" English
b. 2, f. 25	"A Short Journey Through the Heart of Hunan" English
b. 2, f. 25	"The Sing Song Cure" English

b. 2, f. 25	"The Soul" English
b. 2, f. 25	"Stray Leaves" English
b. 2, f. 26	"A Summer Night in a Chinese Harbor" English
b. 2, f. 26	"Teaching English" English
b. 2, f. 26	"To Keep Himself Unspotted from the World" English
b. 2, f. 26	"Visit to a Sacred Place" English
b. 2, f. 26	"The Yale University Mission in China" English

**Series V: MISCELLANY , 1904-1936***.25 linear feet (3 folders)*

The materials in MISCELLANY are grouped together according to form.

b. 2, f. 27	Student essays	
b. 2, f. 28	"Rules and Regulations of Yale Mission College" draft English	undated
b. 2, f. 29	Obituary notices and memorials Photograph: Warren Bartlett Seabury	

## **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**

Clergy  
Missionaries  
Missions -- China

### **Geographic Names**

Asia  
China -- Social life and customs

### **Names**

Beach, Harlan P. (Harlan Page), 1854-1933  
Reed, Edward Bliss, 1872-1940  
Rice, John Pierrepont  
Seabury, Warren Bartlett, 1877-1907  
Williams, Arthur Collins, 1876-1917

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale-China Association  
Yale University -- Officials and employees  
Yali Middle School