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Guide to the George A. Kennedy Papers

MS 308

compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and Joseph Papagoda

June 2010

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview 3
Requesting Instructions 3
Administrative Information 3
  Immediate Source of Acquisition 3
  Conditions Governing Access 4
  Conditions Governing Use 4
  Preferred Citation 4
Biographical / Historical 4
Scope and Contents 4
Arrangement 4
Collection Contents 5
  Series I: Correspondence 5
  Series II: RESEARCH FILES 6
Selected Search Terms 7

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 308

CREATOR: Kennedy, George A. (George Alexander), 1901-1960

TITLE: George Alexander Kennedy papers

DATES: 1931-1957

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, manuscripts, notes, drafts of articles, bibliographies, clippings and printed articles and reviews by others. The material all relates to Chinese literature. Principal correspondents include John DeFrancis, Robert B. Hall, James R. Ware, Pearl S. Buck, John Hersey and Norman Cousins.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0308

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.0308.

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

Transferred from the Sinological Seminar, 1963.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

George Alexander Kennedy Papers (MS 308). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

George Alexander Kennedy was Professor of Chinese at Yale University from 1938-1960. He was director of the Military Intelligence School and Army Specialized Training Program in Chinese at Yale from 1942-1944; visiting professor at the National University of Peking; and author of many books and articles.

Scope and Contents

George Alexander Kennedy, born May 17, 1901, in Mokanshan, Chekiang, China and graduated from the Shanghai American School. After earning a B.A. magna cum laude from the College of Wooster, Ohio, Professor Kennedy held several teaching positions and continued his studies at Western Theological Seminary, Union Thelogical Seminary and Columbia University. After coming to Yale in 1936 as Lecturer in Chinese Language and Literature, Kennedy earned a Ph.D. in Oriental Studies from the University of Berlin in 1937. Elevated to assistant professorship in 1943, he became Professor of Chinese Language and Literature at Yale in 1954.

Attendant to this mainstream of his career, Professor Kennedy was Director of the Military Intelligence School and Army Specialized Training Program, Chinese Language, at Yale from 1942 through 1944; taught summer classes at Michigan and North Carolina; was associate editor of the Journal of the American Oriental Society, 1945-1947; was visiting professor at the National University of Peking; and held a Geggenheim Fellowship for research in Japan in 1959-1960.

It was during his return from Japan in 1960 that he died from a heart attack. Kennedy was married twice â€″ to Marion Galehouse in 1925, whom he divorced in 1933; and to Jean Wilson, in 1934. Gifted with keen insight, and a very lucid and elegant prose style, Professor Kennedy was a productive and note-worthy scholar in the field of Chinese Language and Literature. His career at Yale was among the more outstanding of the period since 1900. He authored, edited or helped to edit thirteen books and monographs, and contributed over forty major book articles and reviews.

Arrangement

Series I. Correspondence
Series II. Research Files

Collection Contents
Series I: Correspondence

b. 1	A-Hy	1933-1958
b. 2, f. 1 - 15	I -Z	1936-1958
b. 2, f. 16	Unidentified	1943-1954

Series II: RESEARCH FILES

b. 3, f. 1	Ancient Chinese
b. 3, f. 2 - 4	Character frequencies A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 3, f. 5	Dialects
b. 3, f. 6 - 7	Frequency lists A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 3, f. 8	Exams
b. 3, f. 9	Miscellanea
b. 3, f. 10 - 11	Notebooks
b. 4, f. 12	Notebooks
b. 4, f. 13 - 15	Papers
b. 4, f. 16	Personal
b. 4, f. 17 - 18	Phonetics
b. 5, f. 19	Phonetics
b. 5, f. 20	Printed material and photos
b. 5, f. 21 - 28	Research files
b. 6, f. 29 - 32	Research files
b. 6, f. 33	Tangsic
b. 6, f. 34	Text materials
b. 7, f. 35 - 36	Writings

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

Chinese language
Chinese literature
Educators

Geographic Names

Asia

Names

Buck, Pearl S. (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
Cousins, Norman, 1912-1990
DeFrancis, John, 1911-2009
Field, Frederick V. (Frederick Vanderbilt), 1905-2000
Graves, Mortimer
Hall, Robert B. (Robert Burnett), 1896-1975
Hersey, John, 1914-1993
Kennedy, George A. (George Alexander), 1901-1960
Leonard, Irving A. (Irving Albert), 1896-1996
Lo, Ruth Earnshaw
Ware, J. Redding (James Redding), 1832-1909

Corporate Bodies

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