

Yale University Library  
Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the John Hersey Papers

RG 145



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1998

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 .....	3
Preferred Citation .....	3
Processing Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Notebook 1 .....	5
Series II: Notebook 2 .....	6
Series III: Notebook 3 .....	7
Series IV: Notebook 4 .....	8
Series V: Notebook 5 .....	9
Series VI: Notebook 6 .....	10
Hersey notes - Part 1 .....	10
Hersey notes - Part II .....	11
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 145

**CREATOR:** Hersey, John, 1914-1993

**TITLE:** John Hersey Papers

**DATES:** 1900-1985

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains research materials for Hersey's novel *The Call* (1985), a fictional account of a missionary to China. John Hersey (1914-1993), a prominent American author, was born in Tianjin (Tientsin), China, the son of missionaries.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.145>

---

## 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.145>.

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

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John Hersey.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Preferred Citation

John Hersey Papers (RG 145), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School 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)". Original alphabetization has been maintained: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" is still alphabetized under "P".

---

## Related Materials

[John Hersey papers](#)

[Hersey Family Papers](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

John Hersey was born on June 17, 1914 at Tianjin (Tientsin), China, where his parents were missionaries. His father, Roscoe M. Hersey, Sr. worked for the YMCA. John Hersey returned to America where he attended Hotchkiss and then Yale, graduating in 1936. He spent a year at Clare College, Cambridge, served as secretary to Sinclair Lewis briefly and joined Time in 1937. During the Second World War broke out he was sent to the Far East and travelled in China and Japan, before becoming a war correspondent with the Marines. He went on to write numerous novels on a variety of subject. Hersey died in 1993.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains research materials gathered by Hersey while preparing to write his novel, *The Call*. The main figure in this novel, David Treadup, was partly based on the lives of six actual missionaries to China, including Hersey's father. Hersey did a considerable amount of research in the personal papers of China missionaries and other figures such as ecumenical leader John R. Mott. The first five notebooks contain primarily copies of original documents related to mission work and political and social events in China. The sixth notebook (which was originally in two sections) consists of Hersey's notes on a variety of secondary sources.

---

## Arrangement

- I. Notebook 1
- II. Notebook 2
- III. Notebook 3
- IV. Notebook 4
- V. Notebook 5
- VI. Notebook 6

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Notebook 1

b. 1, f. 1	A Athletics
b. 1, f. 2	B Books; Boxers
b. 1, f. 3	C Chang Po-ling; China and the West; Chinese Renaissance, Chinese religions; Hebei (Chihli)
b. 1, f. 4	D Diseases
b. 1, f. 5	E Evangelism; education; Eddy
b. 1, f. 6	F Famine; foot-binding; furlough to raise money
b. 1, f. 7	G Government (1911 revolution, etc.); gyroscope lecture
b. 1, f. 8	H History (China, ms. Y.M.C.A); Y.M.C.A. reports of (my father) Roscoe M. Hersey, Sr.; health, health lectures
b. 1, f. 9	J Jesuits; Japanese attack
b. 1, f. 10	K Guling (Kuling)
b. 1, f. 11-13	L Language study; literati; lecture program
b. 1, f. 14	M Martyrs; John R. Mott
b. 1, f. 15	P Prostitution; W.W. Peter's medical lectures; Beijing (Peking); plague
b. 1, f. 16	Q Queue cutting
b. 1, f. 17,18	R C.H. Robertson
b. 1, f. 19	S Superstition; Sichuan (Szechuan) (1911 revolution, etc); Social Gospel - resistance to; Sun Yat-sen
b. 1, f. 20	T Tianjin (Tientsin); Taiping Rebellion
b. 1, f. 21	V Vehicles and mounts
b. 1, f. 22	W Westernization; World War I; Wo Fu Ssu
b. 1, f. 23	Y Yangchow riot

**Series II: Notebook 2**

b. 1, f. 24	C Chang Po-ling; Chinese Renaissance; Confucianism; "counter-conversion"; Centenary
b. 1, f. 25	E Eighty Adventurous Years - Eddy
b. 1, f. 26,27	F France (Chinese Labor Corps, James Y.C. Yen, R.M. Hersey); famine
b. 1, f. 28	G Gyroscope
b. 1, f. 29	H Reports of R.M. Hersey; W.W. Peter stereoptican lectures
b. 1, f. 30	I Industrial work
b. 2, f. 1	L Language study; lectures
b. 2, f. 2	M Money
b. 2, f. 3	P Politics; W.W. Peter
b. 2, f. 4	R C.H. Robertson; radio
b. 2, f. 5	Y James Y.C. Yen

**Series III: Notebook 3**

b. 2, f. 6	A Anti-Christian Movement
b. 2, f. 7	C Guangzhou (Canton); claims; Changsha
b. 2, f. 8	D Demobilization
b. 2, f. 9	E Sherwood Eddy correspondence; evacuation
b. 2, f. 10	F Returnees from France; Feng Yu-hsiang
b. 2, f. 11	H Hugh Hubbard; health
b. 2, f. 12	I Industrial work
b. 2, f. 13	K Kuomintang
b. 2, f. 14	L Lectures; looting
b. 2, f. 15	M Mass Education Movement (Jimmy Yen)
b. 2, f. 16	N Nanking
b. 2, f. 17	P Politics
b. 2, f. 18	R C.H. Robertson; rural work
b. 2, f. 19	S Shanghai
b. 2, f. 20	T May 30th Movement
b. 2, f. 21	U U.S.
b. 2, f. 22	W Warlord wars
b. 2, f. 23	Y Y.M.C.A. reports and correspondence; James Y.C. Yen

**Series IV: Notebook 4**

b. 3, f. 1	A Anti-Christian movement
b. 3, f. 2	C Guangzhou (Canton); Chiang Kai-shek
b. 3, f. 3	D Demobilization of the Y.M.C.A.
b. 3, f. 4	E Economic condition of missionaries
b. 3, f. 5	F Fundamentalist criticism; flea circus; floods
b. 3, f. 6	H "Humanism"; health
b. 3, f. 7	I Industrial work; intellectuals
b. 3, f. 8	J Japanese invasion of Manchuria; of N. China
b. 3, f. 9	L Lectures; Lockwood death
b. 3, f. 10	M Mass Education Movement
b. 3, f. 11	N Nanking
b. 3, f. 12	P Politics
b. 3, f. 13	R Rural work; C.H. Robertson
b. 3, f. 14	S Student Christian Movement; Shanghai
b. 3, f. 15	T Jinan (Tsinan) Incident; Taiyuan, Dingzhou (Tinghsien) (Yen)
b. 3, f. 16	W War (Christianity and); weddings
b. 3, f. 17	Y Y.M.C.A. reports; David Yui



**Series V: Notebook 5**

b. 4, f. 1	C Chiang Kai-shek; Chongqing (Chungking)
b. 4, f. 2	H Health
b. 4, f. 3	J Japanese invasion of N. China
b. 4, f. 4	K Kuomintang vs. Communists
b. 4, f. 5	M Mass Education Movement; missionaries
b. 4, f. 6	N Nanking
b. 4, f. 7	R Refugees
b. 4, f. 8	S Shanghai
b. 4, f. 9	T Tianjin (Tientsin); Datong (Tatung)
b. 4, f. 10	U Universities
b. 4, f. 11	Y Y.M.C.A.: Correspondence of Dilley, Gilbert, Frame, Poteat

**Series VI: Notebook 6**

## Hersey notes - Part 1

b. 5, f. 1	1-9a <i>Red Creek Once Upon a Time</i> , Grace M. Frost
b. 5, f. 2	10-12 <i>Westward Expansion</i> , Ray Allen Billington
b. 5, f. 3	13-37 <i>The Varieties of Religious Experience</i> , William James
b. 5, f. 4	38-72 <i>The Missionary Enterprise in China and America</i> , ed. J.K. Fairbank
b. 5, f. 5	80-95 <i>Syracuse University</i> , W. Freeman Galpin
b. 5, f. 6	96-135 Diaries of Roscoe M. Hersey, Sr.
b. 5, f. 7	136-137 Methodism
b. 5, f. 8	138-144 Various notes on New England
b. 5, f. 9	145 <i>Modern Geography</i> , John Pinkerton
b. 5, f. 10	146-147 <i>Menticulture</i> , Horace Fletcher
b. 5, f. 11	148 "New Thought", Columbia Encyclopedia
b. 5, f. 12	149-150 <i>The Heart of It</i> , Horatio W. Dresser
b. 5, f. 13	151-152 <i>The Lore of Cathay</i> , W.A.P. Martin
b. 5, f. 14	153 <i>Minor Heresies</i> , John J. Espey
b. 5, f. 15	154-166 <i>John R. Mott</i> , Basil Mathews
b. 5, f. 16	167-175 <i>Primitive Traits in Religious Revivals</i> , Frederick Morgan Davenport
b. 5, f. 17	176 <i>Methodists and the Common People of the 18th Century</i> , Robert F. Wearmouth
b. 5, f. 17	176 <i>What Methodists Believe and Preach</i> , Henry Bett
b. 5, f. 17	177-184 <i>The Methodist Revolution</i> , Bernard Semmel
b. 5, f. 18	185-199 <i>While China Faced West</i> , James C. Thomson
b. 5, f. 19	200 <i>The Chinese</i> , Jean Peyrefitte
b. 5, f. 19	201-204 <i>Red Star Over China</i> , Edgar Snow
b. 5, f. 20	205 <i>Death of Woman Wang</i> , Jonathan Spence
b. 5, f. 21	206-242 <i>Missionaries, Chinese, and Diplomats</i> , Paul A. Varg
b. 5, f. 22	243 "Heathen", "Pagan", OED
b. 5, f. 22	244 <i>Village Life in China</i> , Arthur H. Smith
b. 5, f. 23	245-278 <i>Social Reformers in Urban China</i> , Shirley S. Garrett
b. 5, f. 24	279-279a <i>Caught in the Web of Words</i> , Elizabeth Murray

## Hersey notes - Part 1 (continued)

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| b. 5, f. 25 | 280-315 <i>A History of Christian Missions in China</i> , Kenneth Scott Latourette |
| b. 5, f. 26 | 316-317 <i>Our Ordered Lives Confess</i> , Irwin T. Hyatt                          |
| b. 5, f. 27 | 318 <i>Ting Hsien, North China Rural Community</i> , Sidney D. Gamble              |

## Hersey notes - Part II

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| b. 5, f. 28 | 1-5 Leavenworth Institute   |
| b. 5, f. 29 | 6-37 <i>I Discover the Orient</i> , Fletcher Brockman                               |
| b. 5, f. 30 | 38 <i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>                                    |
| b. 5, f. 31 | 39-42 JH interview with John Fairbank, Cambridge, 7/23/79                           |
| b. 5, f. 32 | 43-44 <i>The Oxford History of the American People</i> , Samuel Eliot Morison       |
| b. 5, f. 33 | 45-47 <i>A Concise History of the American Republic</i> , Morison and Commager      |
| b. 5, f. 34 | 48-52 <i>The Mark of the Oarsman</i> , Malcolm R. Alama                             |
| b. 5, f. 35 | 53 <i>Courtney and Cornell Rowing</i> , Charles Van Patten Young                    |
| b. 5, f. 35 | 54 <i>American Literature</i> , Brooks, Lewis, Warren (Crane)                       |
| b. 5, f. 36 | 55-61 <i>China's New Day</i> , Isaac T. Headland                                    |
| b. 5, f. 37 | 62-70 <i>In China Now</i> , J.C. Keyte  |
| b. 5, f. 38 | 71-75 <i>World Service</i> , Kenneth Scott Latourette                               |
| b. 5, f. 38 | 76-78 <i>20th Century Onesiphorus</i> , H.J. Albus                                  |
| b. 5, f. 39 | 79-83 <i>The Chinese Renaissance</i> , Hu Shih                                      |
| b. 5, f. 39 | 84-86 <i>Charlotte Brown: A Mother in China</i> , Frank A. Brown                    |
| b. 6, f. 1  | 87-88 <i>The Vision of a Short Life</i> (Memorial of Warren Seabury), J. B. Seabury |
| b. 6, f. 1  | 89-91 <i>Village Life in China</i> , Arthur H. Smith                                |
| b. 6, f. 2  | 92-98 <i>Ting Hsien</i> , Sidney H. Gamble  |
| b. 6, f. 2  | 99-100 <i>Myths and Legends of China</i> , E.T.C. Werner                            |
| b. 6, f. 3  | 101-103 Bible concordance   |
| b. 6, f. 3  | 104-108 <i>Peking and the Pekingese</i> , D.F. Rennie                               |
| b. 6, f. 4  | 109-111 <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> , Tsao Hsueh-chin                           |
| b. 6, f. 4  | 112-118 <i>In Search of Old Peking</i> , L.C. Arlington, William Lewisohn           |
| b. 6, f. 5  | 119 <i>Emperor's Gardens Near Peking</i> , F. Attiret                               |
| b. 6, f. 5  | 119 <i>The Eastern Road</i> , Dudley Buxton   |
| b. 6, f. 5  | 120-121 <i>City of Lingering Splendor</i> , John Blofield                           |

## Hersey notes - Part II (continued)

b. 6, f. 6	122-124 <i>The Gateway of China</i> , Mary Ninde Gamewell
b. 6, f. 6	124 <i>The Growth and Industrializing of Shanghai</i> , D.K. Lieu
b. 6, f. 7	125-126 <i>Shanghai</i> , Derwent
b. 6, f. 7	127-128 <i>Life and Labor in Shanghai</i> , Kinder
b. 6, f. 8	129 <i>The Shanghai Bird Year</i> , Wilkinson
b. 6, f. 8	130 <i>The History of Shanghai</i> , Lanning and Couling
b. 6, f. 9	132-143 <i>White Lotus</i> , JH, checking points
b. 6, f. 10	144-149 <i>To China With Love</i> , Pat Barr
b. 6, f. 10	150-154 Misc. notes
b. 6, f. 11	155 ABCFM

## **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**

Young Men's Christian Associations -- China

### **Names**

Hersey, John, 1914-1993

Hubbard, Hugh W.