

Yale University Library  
Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Randolph C. Sailer Papers

RG 148



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>

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## 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 148

**CREATOR:** Sailer, Randolph C. (Randolph Clothier), 1898-1981

**TITLE:** Randolph C. Sailer Papers

**DATES:** 1932-1982

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, reports, and printed material document Sailer's years as an educational missionary at Yenching University as well as his reflections about his years in China and his continued involvement with Christianity in China and U.S./ China relations. Randolph Clothier Sailer was an American Presbyterian missionary in China from 1923 to 1950, serving as a professor of psychology at Yenching University in Beijing. He taught at Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan from 1953 to 1958.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.148>

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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.148>.

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 Agnes Sailer.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Randolph C. Sailer Papers (RG 148), Special Collections, Yale Divinity 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
1898	○ Born in Philadelphia, PA, son of Dr. and Mrs. T.H.P. Sailer.
1919	○ B.A., Princeton
1923-1950	○ Appointed by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. as a missionary to China; began teaching career as professor of Psychology at Yenching University in Beijing (Peking)
1925	○ Married Louise Egbert, a graduate of Smith who in 1923 was appointed by the ABCFM to be the director of the Religion Department of Yenching Women's College. They had three surviving children; George (1926), Henry (1929) and James (1931).
1931	○ Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at Columbia.
1941	○ Sailer's wife and children returned to the U.S., but he was interned at Weixian (Weihsien) and the family was separated for almost three years.
1945	○ Sailors returned to Chengdu (Chengtu).
1950	○ Left China in August.
1952-1953	○ Trained at Carl Rogers Counseling Center in Chicago.
1953-1958	○ Both Louise and Randolph teaching at Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan.
1962-1973	○ Taught at Swarthmore, Morganwood, PA and Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama (1963)
1973	○ Returned to China with Louise and son Henry for a month long visit.
197x	○ Became involved with United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia and United Presbyterian Church regarding annuities for Yenching teachers and the China Claims Committee.
1981 Jul 11	○ Died at the age of 82 at the Friends House, a Quaker retirement home in Sandy Springs, MD.

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## Scope and Contents

The Sailer papers document Sailer's years as a missionary/teacher at Yenching University as well as his reflections about those years in China and his continued involvement with Christianity in China and U.S./

China relations throughout his life. Additional materials related to Sailer are found in YDSL Record Group No. 11, Archives of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

The Chronological Files of Series I are divided into two sections. The section on Sailer's Yenching years includes correspondence, reports and printed material concerning his work in China. The material is sketchy for 1932-41 but the years 1941-43 and 1946-50 are documented. Much of the correspondence in the Post-Yenching section is with friends with whom Sailer served in China. The transcript of an oral history interview conducted in 1979 is included.

The original titles of the folders in Series II, Subject Files, have been maintained. The subjects of China/ U.S. relations, China and Christianity, and the UBCHEA files dealing with China claims and annuities are particularly well documented. Other files relate to different interests and activities of RCS. In addition to correspondence, the files contain reports, printed material and working papers.

The Writings of Series III include one book by Sailer and one book about him. *Personality and Everyday Behavior* by Sailer (1935) was the text used in his Yenching courses. The Audiotapes of Series IV include an interview of Sailer by Katherine Ni, a former student who planned to write a biography of RCS.

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## Arrangement

- I. Chronological Files, 1932-1982, n.d.
- II. Subject Files, 1950-1981
- III. Writings, 1935, n.d.
- IV. Audiotapes, 1980, 1982

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Chronological Files, 1932-1982, n.d.

b. 1, f. 1-4	Yenching years	1932-1950
b. 1, f. 5-10	Post-Yenching years	1951-1982, n.d.
b. 2, f. 11-13	Post-Yenching years	1951-1982, n.d.

**Series II: Subject Files, 1950-1981**

b. 2, f. 14	Blacks
b. 2, f. 15	China/ U.S. relations: correspondence, reports, and printed material
b. 2, f. 16	China/ U.S. relations: writings, notes, and fragments
b. 2, f. 17	China/ U.S. relations: "China Revisited" - ms. by Michael Lindsay, comments and correspondence
b. 2, f. 18	China/ U.S. relations: Taiwan
b. 2, f. 19	China/ U.S. relations: "Ten Suggestions for Working to Understand China and America Better"
b. 2, f. 20	Christianity in China
b. 2, f. 21	Communication
b. 2, f. 22	Communism, Vietnam
b. 2, f. 23	Delinquency
b. 3, f. 24	Missionaries
b. 3, f. 25-28	Pakistan
b. 3, f. 29	Philosophy/ Psychology
b. 3, f. 30-31	Teaching
b. 3, f. 32-33	United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia: correspondence
b. 3, f. 34	United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia: policy statements, working papers, printed material
b. 4, f. 35	United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia: Sailer's drafts of his response to China claims policy

**Series III: Writings, 1935, n.d.**

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b. 4, f. 36	<i>Personality and Everyday Behavior</i> by RCS	1935
b. 4, f. 38	<i>Dr. Sailer in China</i> (258 p. book in Chinese, with illustrations)	n.d.

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## Series IV: Audiotapes, 1980, 1982

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b. 4, f. 37	"An Informal Gathering at Friends House"	1982?
b. 4, f. 37	"Sailer - On Religion and Philosophy" - Interview by Katherine Ni, a former student who planned to write a biography of RCS	1980

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## **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

### **Names**

Sailer, Randolph C. (Randolph Clothier),  
1898-1981

### **Corporate Bodies**

Forman Christian College (Lahore, Pakistan)  
Yanjing da xue