

The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries)
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Earl Herbert Cressy Papers, 1930 - 1960



Portrait from Cressy's *Understanding China*, 1957

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, July 2009

Summary Information

Creator: Earl Herbert Cressy, 1883 - 1979
Title: Earl Herbert Cressy Papers, 1930-1960
Inclusive dates: 1930 - 1960
Bulk dates: 1930 - 1933
Abstract: Earl Herbert Cressy, Central China Famine Relief Committee, Executive secretary of Council of Christian Colleges in China, Associate general secretary of National Christian Council of China. Christian Education in China; Chinese Religion; Hangzhou 杭州; Wuchang 武昌; Hankou 漢口. Reports, drafts, research schedules, charts, surveys, maps
Size: 4 boxes + 2 OS boxes, 5 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-851-5612
Fax: 212-851-5613
Email: archives@uts.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, in 1976, the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email archives@uts.columbia.edu, as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials however are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL6: Earl Herbert Cressy Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Biography

Cressy was born in Lacon, IL on June 15, 1883. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1907, and Rochester Theological Seminary in 1910. That same year he traveled to Hanyang 漢陽 in China to work as a missionary under the auspices of the American Board of Foreign Missions. He worked with the Central China Famine Relief Committee in 1912 to solicit direct support for the needy, and from 1916 lived in Hangzhou, where he was principal of Wayland Academy. In 1925 he was the executive secretary of the Council of Christian Colleges in China, and associate general secretary of the National Christian Council of China. He married Margaret Millie, [18??] - [195?] in 1927, and ultimately left China in 1946. In the 1950s he was involved with Christianity in Thailand. He later taught at the Kennedy School of Missions at Hartford, and was director of the Urban Church Research Center for Asia in Claremont, CA in the 1960s. He passed away in 1979.

Cressy produced several books, including *China Marches Toward the Cross* (1938), *Daughters of Changing Japan* (1955) and *Understanding China* (1957).

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection of papers is focused on Cressy's research into Chinese religious institutions, mostly in Hangzhou. He was assisted by a Chinese researcher who gathered information on hundreds of religious institutions in the region. Cressy's research him into contact with contemporary Chinese religious organizations such as the Buddhist Right Faith Society (佛教正信會), the Wuchang Buddhist Seminary (武昌佛學院), the Hubei Confucian Society (湖北孔道會), and the Hankou Buddhist Society (漢口佛教會). The material includes tabulations, maps, and summaries of data gathered during the period 1930 - 1931.

Note on Chinese Terms: Where a romanized Chinese term forms part of an original title, the older style of romanization has been preserved (e.g. Hangchow).

Otherwise, in descriptive notes and terms translated from the original Chinese, the current standard pinyin system has been used (e.g. Hangzhou).

Additional material originally from the Cressy papers can be found in The Burke Library Archives, MRL12: Laymen's Foreign Missions Inquiry Records, Series 1B, box 6, folders 7 - 9 and Series 1B, box 7, folders 1 - 4.

Further material can also be found in MRL6: Higher Education Institutions in China, also at The Burke.

The main collection of Cressy's papers is held at the American Baptist Historical Society, Valley Forge, PA.

Additionally, Case Memorial Library Archives contains 2 folders of material on Cressy.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were photocopied on to acid-free paper and the originals separated by interleaving with acid-free paper. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Oversized materials from boxes 2 - 4 were unfolded and moved to oversized boxes 5 and 6. A large woodblock print map from box 3, folder 4 was digitally imaged and moved to tube box 7.

Contents list

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Chinese Religion and Culture: Research Notes, Translations, [193?]
1	1	2	<i>Organization Law of Municipality</i> , ms transl. by D. Shen, [193?]
1	1	3	<i>History of Buddhism in China</i> , Chapters 17-18, Draft, [193?]
1	1	4	<i>Study of Indigenous Religions of China as a Background to Christian Missions</i> by Cressy, Typewritten Draft, [193?]
1	1	5	<i>Indigenous Religions of China</i> - Appendix, [193?]
1	1	6	<i>Religion in Hangchow</i> by Cressy, Typewritten Draft; Ms Research Materials, [193?]
1	1	7	<i>Religion in Hangchow</i> , Typewritten Draft Sections; Research Materials, [193?]
1	2	1	<i>Study of Religious Institutions in Hangchow</i> [SRIH]: Charts, [1931?]; <i>Revised Illustrated Explanation of Districts, Neighborhoods, and Villages of Hangzhou City</i> (杭州市改編區坊閭鄰圖說), 1931
1	2	2	SRIH: Draft Sections, 1931
1	2	3	SRIH: Draft Sections, 1931
1	3	1	Buddhist Monasteries and Temples in Hankou Region: Research Schedules, 1931
1	3	2	Buddhist Monasteries and Temples in Wuchang: Research Schedules, [193?]
1	3	3	Buddhist Monasteries and Temples in Wuchang: Research Schedules, [193?]
1	3	4	Buddhist Institutions in Hankou and Wuchang: Research Notes, Primary Source Materials in Chinese, Correspondence, 1931; Woodblock Map, [192? / 193?] [CD Digital Image – replacing Fragile Restricted original in Series 1, Box 7]
1	3	5	Correspondence, 1931 - 1935
1	3	6	Buddhist Institutions in Hankou and Wuchang: Duplicated Research Materials from Y.D. Bao, List of Names from Qiantang County Gazetteer (錢塘縣志), [193?]
1	4	1	<i>Study in History of Buddhism in Burma ...Pagan period</i> , by U Zaw Htun, Ph.D. thesis, Visva Bhavati University, 1954
1	4	2	<i>Who's Who in China</i> , 1918 - 1919
1	4	3	<i>Who's Who in China</i> , 1920
1	4	4	<i>Who's Who in China</i> (Biographies of Chinese), 3 rd Ed. Supplement [1928?]
1	4	5	Japanese Buddhist Organizations: Pamphlets, Books, 1950 -1953
1	4	6	Japanese Buddhist Organizations, Pamphlets, Books 1950 - 1953

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	4	7	<i>Disentanglement of Church and State</i> , by R.B. Silliman, 1959; Correspondence, [195?]
1	4	8	<i>City Churches in East Asia</i> , Studies 7 - 9, 1960
1	5 OS	1	Buddhistic Laws (<i>lüzong</i>): Ms Notes, English/Chinese, [193?]
1	5 OS	2	[FRAGILE] <i>Study of Religious Institutions in Hangchow</i> [SRIH]: Survey Materials on Buddhist Monasteries, [1934?]
1	5 OS	3	[FRAGILE] SRIH: Survey Materials on Temples, [1934?]
1	5 OS	4	[FRAGILE] SRIH: Survey Materials on Nunneries, [1934?]
1	5 OS	5	[FRAGILE] SRIH: Classification Chart of Buddhist Monasteries, [1934?]
1	5 OS	6	SRIH: Classification Chart of Buddhist and Daoist Temples, [193?]
1	5 OS	7	SRIH: Survey Materials on Buddhist Temples, [193?]
1	5 OS	8	SRIH: Survey Materials on Buddhist and Daoist Temples, [193?]
1	5 OS	9	SRIH: Monastery Chart: History, [193?]
1	6 OS	1	Copies of Maps from <i>Revised Illustrated Explanation of Districts, Neighborhoods, and Villages of Hangzhou City</i> (杭州市改編區坊閭鄰圖說), [193?]
1	6 OS	2	Population and District Chart of Hangzhou, 1930
1	6 OS	3	Ms Maps of Hangzhou City and Neighborhoods, [1930?]
1	6 OS	4	Maps of Hangzhou Region, [193?]
1	6 OS	5	Map of West Lake, Hangzhou, [193?]
1	6 OS	6	Japanese Buddhist Poster, 1952
1	6 OS	7	<i>Understanding China</i> , 1957
1	7 [Tube Box]		Fragile Restricted Woodblock Print Map of Taishan, China, [192? / 193?] - Use Digital Image in Series 1, Box 3, Folder 4