Finding Aid to the Grace Service Papers, 1855-1957, bulk 1905-1954

Finding Aid written by Bancroft Library staff
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Finding Aid to the Grace Service Papers, 1855-1957, bulk 1905-1954

Collection Number: BANC MSS 87/22 cz

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University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Finding Aid Written By:
Bancroft Library staff
Date Completed:
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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Grace Service papers
Date (inclusive): 1855-1957,
Date (bulk): bulk 1905-1954
Collection Number: BANC MSS 87/22 cz
Creators : Service, Grace, 1879-1954
Extent: Number of containers: 13 boxes, 1 oversize folderLinear feet: 8.0
Repository: The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
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Abstract: The Grace Service Papers, 1855-1957, contain correspondence, diaries, short stories and other writings, along with some family and personal papers, with the bulk of the collection spanning the years 1905 to 1954.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library’s online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Grace Service Papers, BANC MSS 87/22 cz, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Related Collections
Golden inches: typescript, BANC MSS 81/29 c
John Service Papers, BANC MSS 87/21 cz
Caroline Schulz Service Papers, BANC MSS 99/237 cz

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Young Men’s Christian Associations of China. National Committee
Daughters of the American Revolution
American Association of University Women
Missionaries—China—Shanghai
Missionaries—China—Chungking
Missionaries—China—Chengtu
China—Description and travel
China—Social life and customs—1912-1949
Letters.
Diaries.
Poems.

Acquisition Information
The Grace Service Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by John Stewart Service in July 1986. Additions were made by Robert E. Service on February 24, 1999.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information
Processed by Clayton Chan; revised and completed by Mary Morganti in December 2001.

Biographical Information
Grace Josephine Boggs was born to William S. Boggs and Virginia Clarke of Independence, Iowa on November 26, 1879. The family moved to San Bernardino, California, where Mr. Boggs became a banker and Grace spent her childhood. She entered the University of California in 1898 and graduated in 1902. Grace was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and several literary societies, and was active in the campus Y.M.C.A. Before graduation, she became engaged to a classmate, Robert Roy Service, who was class president, an athlete, a member of Psi Upsilon, and active in various honor societies and campus affairs. They both joined the Student Volunteer Movement, declaring their intention to devote their lives to missionary work.

Roy was accepted by the Y.M.C.A. for its foreign work, and sent to the Y.M.C.A. at Purdue University for training; Grace taught high school Latin. After Roy completed his training, they were married in Independence, Iowa on June 30, 1904. The International Committee of the Y.M.C.A. sent the young couple to Chengtu, Szechwan, in far west China to establish Y.M.C.A. work in that developing center of new, "modern" education. They arrived in Shanghai in late 1905 and reached Chengtu, their final destination, in May 1906. Part of the 5-month journey was a tedious and slow trip up through the Yangtze Gorges by Chinese junk, during which their infant daughter, Virginia, became sick and, with no medical aid available, died.

Except for a home leave during 1915-1916, the Services resided in Chengtu from 1906 to 1921, and where sons, John Stewart (Jack), Robert Kennedy, and Richard Montgomery were born. In 1921, Roy Service was sent by the Y.M.C.A. to open their work in Chungking, also in Szechwan province. Grace, however, had developed a number of health problems, and in 1925 doctors for the Y.M.C.A. objected to her continued residence in the isolated and primitive conditions that existed in Szechwan. The family was transferred to Shanghai, where they resided until Roy died in October 1935. During their years in Shanghai, Grace served as a member of the China National Committee of the Y.M.C.A. and was active in American and international women's activities, including the American Association of University Women and Daughters of the American Revolution.

After her husband's death, Grace lived with her youngest son, Richard, a member of the staff of the American Consulate in Foochow, Fukien. Later, she lived with her eldest son, John, an officer of the American Embassy in Peking, followed by another period with Richard in Tsingtao, Shantung. In 1940, families of American official personnel in China were advised by the State Department to return to the U.S. because of the threatening situation between Japan and the U.S.
returned home in the late 1940s and took up residence in Claremont, Calif. She was assigned a lot in Pilgrim Place, a
developing retirement community for missionaries and Christian workers, on which was built a small cottage of her own
design. Here she lived quietly until her death, following several strokes, on October 20, 1954.

Adapted from biographical information supplied by John Stewart Service

Scope and Content of Collection

The Grace Service Papers, 1855-1957, contain correspondence, diaries, short stories and other writings, along with some
family and personal papers, with the bulk of the collection spanning the years 1905 to 1954.

The greatest quantity of correspondence is found in the detailed letters Grace wrote to her mother from 1906 to 1931, as
well as to her friend, Mabel Yard from 1923 to 1931. The contents of her letters to family and friends vary from political
events in China to family affairs. The letters to Grace primarily discuss family matters, with most of the letters from her son,
Jack, and his wife, Caroline.

Service records her daily activities and feelings in her diaries, but the entries are not very detailed and do not necessarily
discuss events occurring in the mission or in China; in fact, she does not always indicate in the diaries when she travels or
relocates.

Service’s stories, which are very detailed and descriptive, provide a unique insight into China’s culture and landscapes. Her
notebooks include travel journals, poems, and quotations copied from the books she read.

Series 1 Correspondence 1855-1957

Physical Description: Boxes 1-5

Scope and Content Note

Divided into 2 sub-series: Family Correspondence, and Correspondence with Friends. Family
Correspondence has been further divided into Letters from Grace, Letters to Grace, R.R.
Service Letters, and Other Family Correspondence. The bulk of Grace’s letters are written to
her mother, with only a very few addressed to her father, and one each to her aunt and
mother-in-law. The majority of letters written to Grace are from her son, Jack, and his wife,
Caroline; only a few are from her husband, written during their brief times apart. The
remainder of the family correspondence consists of a few miscellaneous letters of Rob Roy’s
and various family members. Correspondence with Friends has been further divided into
Letters from Grace, Letters to Grace, and Letters to R. R. Service. Other than her sustained
Correspondence with Mabel Yard, most of letters from Grace’s friends are miscellaneous,
single letters, while letters sent to R. R. Service include some relating to his missionary work.

Subseries 1.1 Family Correspondence 1855-1957

Letters from Grace

To her mother 1906-1911

To her mother 1912-1921

To her mother 1922-1931, undated

To her father 1908-1923, undated

To “Auntie” [Fanny?] 1914 June 21

To “Mother Service” 1905 Dec. 22

Letters to Grace

From Rob Roy (husband) 1912-1930

From Jack (son) 1920-1957

From Caroline (Jack’s wife) 1941-1954, undated
Series 1 Correspondence 1855-1957
Subseries 1.1 Family Correspondence 1855-1957

From Ginny, Bob, Philip (grandchildren) 1953-1954, undated

R. R. Service Letters

Box 4, Folder 40 To his mother Circa 1906, 1909 August
Box 4, Folder 41 From "Mother Service" to Grace and Roy 1917 March 25

Other Family Correspondence

Box 4, Folder 42 Letter from Florence Montgomery to Mrs. Boggs (Grace's mother) Circa 1905 November
Box 4, Folder 43 Letter from W. E. Holden, International Committee, YMCA, to W. S. Boggs (Grace's father) 1919 September 22
Box 4, Folder 44 Letter from "Mother Service" to her sister 1915 November 8
Box 4, Folder 45 Unidentified family letters 1855; 1927, undated

Subseries 1.2 Correspondence with Friends 1906-1950

Letters from Grace

Box 5, Folders To Mabel Yard 1923-1931
Box 5, Folder 16 To Florence Rawlinson (photocopy) 1937 Christmas
Note
With cover letter from her son, John L. Rawlinson, Aug. 1974.

Letters to Grace

Box 5, Folder 19 From [Fletcher] Brockman 1912 Dec. 20, 22
Note
Includes telegram.

Box 5, Folder 20 From Ethelwyn E. Clark 1910 Nov. 8
Box 5, Folder 21 From Mildred Cranston 1950 July 2
Box 5, Folder 22 From Warburton and Hettie Davidson 1950 Nov. 17
Box 5, Folder 23 From H. C. Mei 1949 Oct. 19
Box 5, Folder 24 From Philip D. Sprouse, U.S. Dept. of State 1950 March 27
Box 5, Folder 25 Miscellaneous notes and letters 1910-14, undated

Letters to R. R. Service

Box 5, Folder 26 From E. A. Hamilton, Sintu, China 1911 Oct. 20
Box 5, Folder 27 From James R. Hayman 1923 Jan. 30
Box 5, Folder 28 From William Kelly 1924 Oct. 10
Box 5, Folder 29 From various Chinese persons to the Friends Mission [1906 April]

Series 2 Diaries 1908-1954

Physical Description: Boxes 6-10; Box 11, folders 1-7
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note
Contains 57 diaries, in which Grace records daily activities and feelings in brief entries.
In 1943, her diaries expand to two volumes per year: the first recording her daily entry, and the second containing logs of letters received and answered, recipes, accounts, lists of books read, and invitations. Diaries for the years 1953 and 1954 are represented by addendum volumes only. Loose items removed from various volumes follow at the end of the series.

Box 6, Vol. 1-13 In Chengtu, Shanghai, and U.S. 1908-1920
Box 7, Vol. 14-25 In Szechwan, Shanghai, and Berkeley, Calif. 1921-1925
Box 8, Vol. 26-37 In U.S., Shanghai, Tsingtao, and Claremont, Calif. 1933-1943
Box 9, Vol. 38-47 In Claremont, Calif. 1944-1948
Box 10, Vol. 48-57 In Claremont, Calif. 1949-1954
Box 11, Folders 1-7

Loose items from diaries 1934-1954

Series 3 Short Stories and Other Writings 1927-1948; undated

Physical Description: Box 11, folders 8-25; Box 12, folders 1-2

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Content Note
Includes 86 short stories, as well as a notebook of untitled drafts, some poems, and drafts for a novel.

Box 11, Folder 8
An Appreciation
Around the Fire at Ju Fung
[Autumn]

Box 11, Folder 9
The Bean Boat
The "Big Road"
Black and Red Bridges

Box 11, Folder 10
The Canton Shawl
Cause -- Chicago Waitress

Box 11, Folder 11
A Chinese Courtyard
Chinese Food
A Chinese Friend of Mine
Chinese New Year
Chinese Pigs and American Toothbrushes
Chinese Streets

Box 11, Folder 12
Christmas House
A Chromatic Interlude
Chungking
Chungking Streets
Chungking Szechwan China "Visited"

Box 11, Folder 13
Complaint from a Distance
The Confucian Sacrifices -- Chengtu, 1921
A Cycle of Cathay -- in Shanghai

Box 11, Folder 14
Decorated Food
The Dragon Boat Festival
Extra Luggage
The Fairies Cave
Faithfulness
The Flag
The First Big Steamers

Box 11, Folder 15
Ferrying the Yangtze at Chungking
Flowers under the Bed
Foreign Cloth
A Garden Swing
The Gateway to the Temple of Learning

Box 11, Folder 16
Haircuts
The Hand
Happy Affliction
The Hokow Bridge
Hsiang Tan
Kidnapped
The Kwanhsien Bridge
Box 11, Folder 17

**Last Moments -- A Shanghai Fantasy**
- A Literary Message
- Making the Best of it
- Medicines
- Mei Hwa
- Miss Polorick

Box 11, Folder 18

**Morning on a Small Native Boat**
- The Mountain Child
- Mountain Travel
- Octopus at Twilight
- Omei’s Golden Summit

Box 11, Folder 19

**On Owning a Ship**
- Oriental Tolerance
- Paddy Fields
- Peony Prospect Mountain
- Pets
- Plenty of Money
- Poets on the Yangtze
- Preferences

Box 11, Folder 20

**A Raft Trip**
- Rain
- Roofs
- At Round Top
- The Scent of Freesias
- School Fees

**Sedan Chair Travel -- the Start; -- the Day; -- Experiences**

Box 11, Folder 21

**The Shannons**
- A Slippery Thief
- Sons’ Heritage
- The Spring Fair at Chengtu
- Street Restaurants
- A Summer Vacation

Box 11, Folder 22

**Sunday Island**
- Szechuen Miniatures
- Temples
- Torn by a Tiger
- Vital Statistics
- Walls
- The Water Tank

Box 11, Folder 23

**White Shoes**
- Yangtze Travel
- The Yangtze of Chungking
- The Young Lad
- Yuin Hwa Temple

Box 11, Folder 24

**Notebook, untitled drafts**

Box 11, Folder 25

**Poems**

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Series 4 **Notes and Notebooks 1911-1945; undated**

- Physical Description: [v. 58-59] in Box 5; Box 12, folders 3-9
- Arrangement
  - Arranged chronologically.
- Scope and Content Note
  - Includes travel journals, miscellaneous notes, poems, and quotations.

Box 5, Vol. 58

**Kiating, West China 1911 Dec. 17-27**

**Note**
- Written in the form of a letter to “Florence.”
### Series 4 Notes and Notebooks 1911-1945; undated

**Box 5, Vol. 59**
- *Chungking to Shanghai 1912 Jan. 12-25*
- *Notes Circa 1931-1935, 1937*

**Box 12, Folders 3-6**
- *Quotations*
- *Notes and poems Circa 1945*
- *Quotations and notes Undated*

**Series 5 Family and Personal Papers Circa 1906-1937; undated**

**Box 13, Folder 1**
- *Floor plan of residence in China Circa 1906*
- *Guest book from residence 1917-1931*
- *Map of Chungking 1933 Sept.*
  - **Note**
  - Annotated to show motor roads and residences.

**Box 13, Folders 3-6**
- *R. R. Service reports and memorabilia*
  - "Report concerning trip to mountain temples near Chentu" [1906]
  - "Missionaries and Politics" 1917
  - **Note**
  - Typescript copies of articles from the *North-China Herald*, including mentions of R. R. Service
  - "The First Szechwan Student Summer Conference," program 1918
  - Article about R. R. Service from *The Christian Collegian*. 1923

**Box 13, Folder 7**
- *Family Newsletter, The Daily Noise; and printed program of "Entertainment" by Ladies Aid 1911*

**Box 13, Folder 8**
- *Growth charts for sons, Jack and Bob 1913*

**Box 13, Folder 9**
- *Shanghai American School 1920-1923*
  - **Note**
  - Letters and reports concerning Jack.

**Box 13, Folder 10**
- *YMCA, Council on Health Education 1927*
  - **Note**
  - Report concerning Grace's health.

**Box 13, Folder 11**
- *Memorabilia 1930s-1940s*

**Box 13, Folder 12**
- *Clipping concerning flood control in China, 1937*
  - **Note**
  - Includes excerpt from O. J. Todd, China International Famine Relief Commission.

**Box 13, Folder 13**
- *Autobiography of Mao Che San, on his 60th birthday Undated*
  - **Note**
  - Typescript copy.