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Madeline and Winthrop Goddard Hall Papers

1907-1957 (*Bulk:* 1907-1914)

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Residents of Worcester, Mass., Madeline and Winthrop Goddard Hall were part of an extended community of young friends and family associated with the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, including Charlotte and Edwin St. John Ward, Margaret Hall, and Ruth Ward Beach. From 1907 to 1914, Edwin Ward was sent as a missionary to the Levant, working as a physician and teacher at Aintab College in present-day Turkey and Syrian Protestant College in Beirut. Margaret Hall and Ruth Beach were stationed in China, teaching in Tientsin, at the Ponasang Women's College in Fuzhou, and at the Bridgeman School in Shanghai.

The Hall Papers include 67 lengthy letters written by missionaries stationed in the Ottoman Empire and China, with the majority from Charlotte and Edwin Ward. Intimate and often intense, the correspondence provides insight into the social and family life of missionaries and gives a strong sense of their extended community.

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Background on Madeline and Winthrop Goddard Hall

Shortly after their marriage in Longmeadow, Mass., on May 2, 1907, Charlotte (nee Allen) and Edwin St. John Ward set off together as missionaries with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. For seven years on the cusp of World War I, the couple lived in the Ottoman Empire, raising a family in a succession of cities in present day Turkey and Lebanon.

Given the scope of the Wards' activities, the term "missionaries" might be somewhat misleading. A medical doctor, Edwin (b. 1880) worked in ABCFM hospitals and universities, and he eventually left the Board to focus on medicine. While in the Levant, Edwin lectured at Aintab College (Turkey) and Syrian Protestant College (Beirut) -- the latter of which became the American University in 1920. While at Aintab, he and his wife struck up a friendship with the college president, Fred D. Shepard, who gained a measure of fame when his biography, *Shepard of Aintab*, appeared in 1920. The book, by Alice Shepard Riggs, was intended to give Sunday School students a positive role model, but since its republication in 2001, it has become a resource for those interested in exploring missionary life in the Middle East during the 20th century.

In Beirut, the Wards became acquainted with Howard Bliss, the second president of Syrian Protestant College, and the son of the college's founder, Daniel Bliss. Established in 1866, Syrian Protestant College became an important intellectual hub and center of newspapers and scientific publication, and it played a prominent role in bringing Beirut into the 19th century Arab Renaissance, *al-Nahda*. Most of the scholarship on Protestant missionaries in the Middle East centers on the time of Daniel Bliss, with comparatively little addressing the 20th century. The efforts of the 19th century missionaries to bridge cultural gaps between the West and the East, however, clearly affected the second generation of missionaries, of which Charlotte and Edwin were a part. At the conclusion of World War I, when the Ottoman Empire disintegrated and much of the Arab world looked to America for support in rejecting European colonialist expansion, it was Howard Bliss who suggested to Woodrow Wilson to convene a commission to plumb Arab opinion regarding the building of states in the Middle East. The King-Crane Commission determined that there should be a single Arab state comprised of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan, however its conclusions were completely ignored in Europe.

The Wards appear to have left the Ottoman Empire at the start of the First World War. In her final letters, Charlotte discusses the sight of British warships off the coast of Beirut becoming a common sight, and she mentions that she and Edwin were supposed to take a furlough.

Scope of collection

The Madeline and Winthrop Goddard Hall collection contains 67 letters addressed to the Halls by Protestant missionaries in the Levant and China during the years immediately prior to the First World War. The majority of these letters (39) were written by Charlotte Ward to Madeline (Taber) Hall, with the remainder from Charlotte's husband, Edwin St. John Ward, to Madeline's husband, Winthrop Goddard Hall (1881-1977). The letters are arranged chronologically.

During their years in missionary work, the Wards kept a regular correspondence with their friends at home. Even before arriving in Turkey in late 1907, they wrote 10 letters while traveling on their honeymoon through England (from Leeds, Stratford, and Chester) and Paris, and while cruising off the Greek coast aboard the SS *Bagdad*. The first stops on their mission were at Aintab and Harpoot, both in central Turkey (now known as Gaziantep and Elazig, respectively), from which Charlotte and Edwin discuss the missionary community, Edwin's work at Aintab College, and their acquaintance with the president of the College, Fred Shepard.

Late in 1908, the Wards moved to Diarbekir (also Diyarbakir), Turkey, another ABCFM missionary and educational center. During the three or four years there (there is a 16 month gap between the last letter from Diarbekir and first from Beirut), the Wards wrote 21 letters, and had two children. Much of their efforts during this period revolved around Edwin's oversight of the construction of a hospital, however the letters touch on a range of subjects, including helping Edwin deliver a baby, and abortion among Turkish women.

From July 1912 to July 1914, the Wards worked in Beirut and the near-by city of Aleih. Edwin worked long hours at a hospital -- Charlotte discusses how he is gone for days at a time -- but during this time, the couple found enough time together to have a third child. In her letters, Charlotte mentions attending the funeral of Samuel Jessup, one of the last survivors of the first generation of American missionaries in the Levant; taking in a baseball game that Americans in Beirut played on July 4; and British warships off the coast of Beirut.

The remainder of the collection consists of 13 letters from Margaret (probably Margaret Hall), Gertrude (Blanchard?), and Ruth P. (Ward) Beach, missionaries in China. Written from Ponsang Women's College, Foochow [Fouzhou], Shanghai, and Tientsin

[Tianjin], China, 1911-1914, the letters are primarily personal in nature, discussing family and friends within the missionary community, but provide some perspective on life in China after the Revolution of 1911.

Inventory

Ward, Charlotte and Edwin St. John: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, England

1907 May 16

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Paris, France

1907 June 3

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte and Edwin St. John: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Paris, France

1907 July 1

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Paris, France

1907 July 2

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Paris, France

1907 July 10-23

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte and Edwin St. John: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Paris, France

1907 July 29-Aug. 1

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, S.S. Baghdad off the Greek coast

1907 Aug. 28-Sept. 16

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aintab, Turkey

1907 Nov. 1-4

Folder 1

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aintab, Turkey

ca.1908 Feb.

Folder 2

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aintab, Turkey

1908 April 24

Folder 2

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aintab, Turkey

1908 May 3

Folder 2

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aintab, Turkey

1908 June 24

Folder 2

Letter undated, but postmarked June 24, 1908

Ward, Charlotte and Edwin St. John: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Aintab, Turkey

1908 July 3

Folder 2

Blanchard(?), Gertrude: letter to Madeline Hall, Bern Switzerland

1908 Aug. 16

Folder 2

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Harpoot, Turkey

1908 Sept. 9

Folder 2

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey

1908 Oct. 26

Folder 2

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey

1908 Nov. 25

Folder 2

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey

1909 Jan. 8

Folder 3

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 Jan. 28-Feb. 22

Folder 3

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 Mar. 10

Folder 3

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 April 16

Folder 3

Ward, Edwin St. John: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 May 3

Folder 4

Ward, Charlotte and Edwin St. John: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 May 30

Folder 4

Ward, Edwin St. John: letter to Winthrop Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 Oct. 14

Folder 4

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 Oct. 21

Folder 4

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 Nov. 9

Folder 4

Ward, Ruth P.: letter to Madeline Hall, Ponasang [Foochow], China
1909 Nov. 15

Folder 4

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 Nov. 17

Folder 4

Ward, Edwin St. John: letter to Winthrop Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1909 Dec. 1

Folder 4

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1910 Jan. 16

Folder 5

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1910 Feb. 20

Folder 5

Ward, Ruth P.: letter to Madeline Hall, Foochow, China
1910 April 9

Folder 5

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1910 May 12

Folder 5

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1910 May 16

Folder 5

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1910 May 28

Folder 5

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1910 June 16

Folder 5

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1910 Oct. 5

Folder 5

Hall, Margaret: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall

1911 Jan. 11
Folder 6
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Diarbekir, Turkey
1911 Feb. 10
Folder 6
Ward, Ruth P.: letter to Madeline Hall, Foochow, China
1911 July
Folder 6
Hall, Margaret?: letter to Madeline Hall, Tientsin, China
1911 Oct. 8
Folder 6
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Home people, Beirut, Syria
1912 Jan. 6
Folder 7
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Beirut, Syria
1912 July 2
Folder 7
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aleih, Lebanon
1912 July 14
Folder 7
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aleih, Lebanon
1912 Aug. 25
Folder 7
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aleih, Lebanon
1912 Aug. 26
Folder 7
Hall, Margaret: letter to Madeline Hall, Tientsin, China
1912 Sept. 5
Folder 7
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Beirut, Syria
1912 Dec. 27
Folder 7
Ward, Charlotte: letter to ones at home, Beirut, Syria
1912 Dec. 30
Folder 7
Beach, Ruth Ward: letter to Madeline Hall, Foochow, China
1913 Jan. 7
Folder 8
Hall, Margaret: letter to "New Miss Hall," Tientsin(?), China
1913 Mar. 17
Folder 8
Ward, Charlotte: letter to home people, Beirut, Syria
1913 April 28
Folder 8
Ward, Charlotte: letter to friends, Beirut, Syria
1913 May 8-10
Folder 8
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Beirut, Syria
1913 May 21
Folder 8
Hall, Margaret: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Shanghai, China
1913 Sept. 22
Folder 8
Beach, Ruth Ward: letter to Madeline Hall, Foochow, China
1913 Sept. 28
Folder 8
Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, en route to Beirut, Syria
1913 Sept. 29
Folder 8

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Beirut, Syria

1913 Dec. 9

Folder 8

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Beirut, Syria

1914 Jan. 7

Folder 9

Ward, Edwin St. John: letter to Madeline and Winthrop Hall, Beirut, Syria

1914 Jan. 9

Folder 9

Unidentified: letter to Madeline Hall, Bridgeman School, Shanghai, China

1914 Jan. 11

Folder 9

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Beirut, Syria

1914 Feb. 14

Folder 9

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Aleih, Syria

1914 July 2

Folder 9

Hall, Margaret: letter to Aunt Alice, China

1914 Dec. 20

Folder 9

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, S.I.

Undated

Folder 10

Ward, Charlotte: letter to Madeline Hall, Longmeadow, Mass.

Undated

Folder 10

Powers, Clarence F. and Debra: letter to Lillian and Lincoln Adams and Ralph Haywood, Bergen, Norway

ca.1957 Sept. 11

Folder 10

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Margot Culley.

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Search terms

Subjects

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

China--Description and travel

Lebanon--Description and travel

Missionaries--China

Missionaries--Middle East

Turkey--Description and travel

Contributors

Hall, Madeline **[main entry]**

Beach, Ruth Ward

Hall, Madeline

Hall, Margaret
Hall, Winthrop Goddard, 1881-1977
Ward, Charlotte
Ward, Edwin St. John

Genres and formats

Letters (correspondence)

Link to similar SCUA collections

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