

# Ruth A. Gress papers, 1939-1966

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Gress, Ruth A
<b>Title</b>	Ruth A. Gress papers
<b>Dates</b>	1939-1966 (inclusive) 1939 1966
<b>Quantity</b>	1.0 linear feet
<b>Collection Number</b>	Ax 423
<b>Summary</b>	Ruth A. Gress was a Christian missionary in China between 1939 and 1950. The collection includes correspondence, a diary, literary manuscripts, and publications that reflect her missionary work.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives.</a> UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 <a href="mailto:spcarref@uoregon.edu">spcarref@uoregon.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Collection is open to the public.  Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Historical Note

Ruth A. Gress obtained her B.A. at Fletcher College in Iowa and M.A. at the University of Michigan. Gress spent a term at the Garrett Biblical Institute in Illinois and a semester at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School in California. Gress was part of the Women's Division of Christian Services and traveled to China in 1939 where she was stationed in Nanping and Fukien. She worked as an English teacher in a co-educational high school and taught English classes in a nursing school of the Methodist Hospital. Gress was the director of youth work in the Nanping Methodist Church. Gress recorded her missionary experiences in a brief diary. After Gress returned to America, she corresponded with fellow missionary Ethel Wallace and was actively involved in national conferences concerning issues related to the Chinese population in America and Christianity among the Chinese population.

## Content Description

The Ruth A. Gress Papers contain a wide variety of documents including personal correspondence with family and friends, a range of post-missionary professional documents, and a small collection of personal mementos and diaries. The collection is divided into seven series. Series I through III consist of Gress' correspondence, mostly outgoing to her family; and correspondence with Ethel Wallace, a

fellow missionary in China. Series III contains mementos and diaries. Series IV contains Gress' copy of a mimeographed document, Lessons to be Learned from the Experiences of Christian Missionaries in China; and Series VI and VII contain materials relating to conferences attended by Gress. These various documents also address the religious state and well fare of the Chinese in the U.S.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ruth A. Gress papers, Ax 423, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

### Alternative Forms Available

This collection has been microfilmed. Microfilm reels are available for purchase, or via Inter-library Loan. When requesting reels for this collection, please request: "Women's Lives, Series 3, American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection, reel(s) 53-54."

Microfilms of this collection have been digitized. Digital images prepared from microfilm copies are available from Special Collections & University Archives, and available online through Gale's Women's Studies Archive: Women's Issues and Identities.

## Administrative Information

### Processing Note

Collection is processed.

### Acquisition Information

Donated by Ruth A. Gress in 1968.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### I: Correspondence of Ruth Gress

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	1	Outgoing: 1939 1.0 folder	1939
1	2	Outgoing: 1939 1.0 folder	1939
1	3	Outgoing: 1940 1.0 folder	1940
1	4	Outgoing: 1940 1.0 folder	1940
1	5	Outgoing: 1940 1.0 folder	1940
1	6	Outgoing: 1940 1.0 folder	1940
1	7	Outgoing: 1940 1.0 folder	1940
1	8	Outgoing: 1940 1.0 folder	1940
1	9	Outgoing: 1941 1.0 folder	1941
1	10	Outgoing: 1941 1.0 folder	1941
1	11	Outgoing: 1941 1.0 folder	1941
1	12	Outgoing: 1941, 1942, 1945 1.0 folder	1941-1945
1	13	Incoming: undated 1.0 folder	

## II: Correspondence of Ethel Wallace

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	14	Outgoing: 1941-1946 1.0 folder	1941-1946
1	15	Incoming: 1939, 1940, 1941, 1946, 1950 1.0 folder	1939-1950
1	16	Incoming: Women's Division of Christian Services, 1934-1941 1.0 folder	1934-1941
1	17	Incoming: Women's Division of Christian Services, Undated, 1945-1949 1.0 folder	1945-1949
1	18	Testimonies of Converted Chinese with Cover Letter: 1948-1949 1.0 folder	1948-1949

### III: Miscellaneous

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	19	Mementos 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
1	20	Chinese Song Book 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
1	21	Diary: Undated 1.0 folder	undated

### IV: Lessons to be Learned from the Experiences of Christian Missionaries in China--August 1951

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2 1	Title Page, Introduction, Foreword, Table of Contents, Part One 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 2	Part Two 1.0 folder	Date Unknown

## V: The Chinese in the U.S. and the Chinese Christian Churches-April 1955

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
2 3	Personal Notes and Pamphlets from Conference 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 4	Cover, Foreword, Table of Contents 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 5	Chapter 1: The Heritage 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 6	Chapter 2: An American Experience 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 7	Chapter 3: The Chinese Church and the Chinese Community 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 8	Chapter 4: A Challenge to the Church 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 9	Chapter 5: The Chinese Christian Church Today 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 10	Chapter 6: What of the Future? 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 11	Appendix 1.0 folder	Date Unknown

## VI: First National Conference of Chinese Churches in America, May 1955

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
2	12	Part One 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2	13	Part Two 1.0 folder	Date Unknown

## VII: National Conference of Christian Work Among the Chinese in America-September 1958

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
2	14	The Place of Teaching English in the Total Program of the Chinese Church 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2	15	Seminar Papers from the Second Triennial National Conference of Christian Work among the Chinese in America 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2	16	Evangelism in the Chinese Churches 1.0 folder	unknown date
2	17	The Place of the Chinese Language School in the Total Program of the Chinese Church 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2	18	The Place of Teaching English in the Total Program of the Chinese Church 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2	19	Chinese Churches in America and Overseas Chinese Work 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2	20	Stewardship and Leadership in the Chinese Churches 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2	21	Social Service Needs of the Chinese in the U.S	Date Unknown

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	1.0 folder	
2 22	The Chinese Church and the Chinese Community 1.0 folder	Date Unknown
2 23	The Future of the Exclusively Chinese Churches in America 1.0 folder	Date Unknown

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Chinese Americans--Religion  
 Chinese--United States--Religion  
 Christianity--20th century  
 Women missionaries--China--Fujian Sheng  
 Women missionaries--China--Nanping Shi

### Personal Names :

Gress, Ruth A.  
 Gress, Ruth A.--Correspondence  
 Wallace, Ethel--Correspondence

### Corporate Names :

Methodist Church (U.S.)--Missions--China  
 National Conference of Chinese Churches in America (1st : 1955 : San Francisco, Calif.)  
 National Conference of Christian Work Among the Chinese in America (1958)  
 United Methodist Church (U.S.). Board of Missions. Women's Division

### Form or Genre Terms :

Correspondence  
 Diaries

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by University of Oregon Libraries, Archivists' Toolkit  
 Project Team  
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