

Missionary postcards, images, and ephemera

Postcards

The Yale Divinity Library holds more than 25,000 missionary postcards. These postcards were produced by mission sending agencies and distributed throughout Europe and America with the intent of promoting support for the missions' work and providing information about non-Western peoples and customs. The majority of the postcards relate to African countries but the following countries are also represented: Arabia; Argentina; Australia; Bahama; Barbados; Bolivia; Brazil; Burma; Cambodia/Laos; Canada; Carolina Islands; Ceylon; Chile; China; Colombia; Cook Islands; Ecuador; Egypt; Fiji; Gilbert Islands; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; India; Indonesia; Jamaica; Japan; Korea; Malaysia/Singapore; Mexico; Peru; Philippines; Romania; Russia; Samoa; Venezuela, etc.

[Finding aid](#) [1] for the Missionary Postcard Collection, Record Group 101. [Geographical Index](#) [2] of the collection.

The postcards can be browsed in the Special Collections Reading Room.

More than 6,000 postcards have been digitized and are accessible via the following websites:

- [International Mission Photography Archive \(IMPA\)](#) [3]: 5900+ items (Restrict search to Yale and search for "postcard")
- **ATLA Cooperative Digital Resource Initiative (CDRI)** | [Missionary Postcards](#) [4]: 350+ items
- **ATLA Cooperative Digital Resource Initiative (CDRI)** | [Postcards of Methodist Churches in the United States](#) [5]: 106 items
- **ATLA Cooperative Digital Resource Initiative (CDRI)** | [Postcards of New England Congregational and Baptist Churches](#) [6]: 1159 items, formerly in the collections of the Andover Newton Theological School.
- **Church Postcard Collection** ([RG 315](#) [7]): This collection includes photographic postcards showing church buildings primarily in New England but also elsewhere throughout the United States. (3.5 linear ft.)

Images

Photographs and slides from many of the Divinity Library's archival collections have been digitized and are available in the [Divinity Library Photographs](#) [8] section of the Yale University Library Digital Collections site.

Additional online photographs are available at separate sites. The [Nepal Church History Project photos](#) [9] from Record Group 215 relate to the early history of Nepali Church in North India, its development in Nepal since 1951, and its outreach in the wider diaspora countries. The [finding aid](#) [10] for Record Group 215 describes the entire collection. The Missionary Ephemera Collection described below includes photographs and lantern slides that are not associated with the personal papers of particular individuals or archives of organizations. Within the Missionary Ephemera Collection, the [Lin Collection of Lantern Slides and Photographs](#) [11] is of particular interest for its early documentation of scenes in China.

Many other photographs have not yet been digitized. Search [Archives at Yale](#) [12] for "photographs" to locate

collections of interest.

Ephemera

The [Missionary Ephemera Collection](#) [13] (Record Group 221), includes posters, educational materials, stamps, games, artifacts, etc. More than 100 Chinese posters from this collection have been digitized and are available at <http://ccposters.com/library/yale-divinity-library> [14].

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections/images>

Links

[1] <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.101> [2] https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/YDL_Missionary_Postcards_index.pdf [3] <https://digitallibrary.usc.edu/Archive/International-Mission-Photography-Archive--ca-1860-ca-1960-2A3BF1OL0UB?Flat=1> [4] <https://dl.atla.com/collections/missionary-postcards?locale=en> [5] <https://dl.atla.com/collections/postcards-of-methodist-churches-in-the-united-states?locale=en> [6] <https://dl.atla.com/collections/postcards-of-new-england-congregational-and-baptist-churches?locale=en> [7] <https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdl.handle.net%2F10079%2Ffa%2Fdivinity.315&data=04%7C01%7Cgraziano.kratli%40yale.edu%7C49582fc588384a703ea108d9e8132103%7Cdd8cbebb21394df8b4114e3e87abeb5c%7C0%7C0%7C637795991144766101%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCIsImN0%3D%7C3000&sdata=oD%2Bf5%2Fhhz1YeqR1Fi2kgj2GyAMttbMcjBILFshms%2Fy0%3D&reserved=0> [8] https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog?callNumber_tesim=&child_oids_ssim=&creator_tesim=&date_fields=&digitization_note_tesi=&f%5Bformat%5D%5B%5D=still+image&f%5Brepository_ssi%5D%5B%5D=Yale+Divinity+Library&f%5BresourceType_ssim%5D%5B%5D=Prints+%26+Photographs&fulltext_tsim_advanced=&genre_fields=&oid_ssi=&op=AND&search_field=advanced&sort=score+desc%2C+pub_date_si+desc%2C+title_ssim+asc%2C+archivalSort_ssi+asc&subject_fields=&title_tesim= [9] <https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections/NepalChurchHistoryProject> [10] <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.215> [11] <https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections/LinCollection> [12] <http://findingaids.library.yale.edu/> [13] <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/4/resources/186> [14] <http://ccposters.com/library/yale-divinity-library>