American China Missions:
An Introductory Bibliography

April 23, 2003
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INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

This is a selective, lightly annotated listing of fewer than 100 basic books and articles in English on Western missionaries in modern China, that is, the sorts of works of most use to users of the Day Missions Library in their initial research; it is not meant to be, nor could it be, exhaustive or comprehensive. Yet the selection tries to represent diverse attitudes and approaches, differing styles, and a variety of modes so that students, librarians, archivists, and other interested souls might be able to find the background and context for their work in the Day Missions collections. We have not listed general works on modern China, US foreign relations, or missions in general, as there are many reliable works available, according to the readers’ taste and purposes, as listed in the works in Section I. The sections on biography and fiction provide more personal approaches.

I am indebted to several scholars for their suggestions and encouragement, including Daniel Bays, Ryan Dunch, Terrill Lautz, Kathleen Lodwick, and Ellen Widmer.

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Section 1: Reference and Bibliography


6. Kwang-ching Liu, Americans and Chinese: A Historical Essay and a Bibliography (Harvard University Press, 1963). 211p. Includes still useful overview essays on “Missionaries” (pp. 13-22) and “Chinese Who Went to the United States” (23-40). “Bibliographical Suggestions” includes manuscripts and archives (now surpassed by Crouch Christianity in China (above), and locations of some items have changed), but section 2.3 (112-129) is still useful lists of published biographies, memoirs, and letters of Protestant and Catholic missionaries. Index of names and organizations.


Section 2: General Studies

10. Alvyn J. Austin, Saving China: Canadian Missionaries in the Middle Kingdom, 1888-1959 (University of Toronto Press, 1986). 395p. A lucid general history, including notes and references.


13. Jerome Ch’en, China and the West (Hutchinson; Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1979). 488p. An eclectic survey including much on American relations and the general situation. Part 1 has sections on images; missionaries and converts; students and scholars; residents and immigrants. Part 2 has sections on process of change; politics and the law; economy; society; and culture. Extensive bibliography.


### Section 3: Historical Studies by Period

#### Section 3.1: The American Background


Section 3.2: The 19th Century to the Boxer Rebellion


33. Nat Brandt, Massacre in Shansi (Syracuse University Press, 1994). xxii, 336p. A popular history of the “Oberlin Band,” which set out from Oberlin College in the 1880s for Shansi province, where they were killed by Boxers in 1900.


**Section 3.3: The 20th Century to 1949**


49. Yung-chen Chiang, *Social Engineering and the Social Sciences in China, 1919-1949* (Cambridge University Press, 2001). 299p. Critically analyzes the attempts to foster American style social science in Republican China, especially the Rockefeller Foundation's relation with the Sociology Department at Yenching University, the Nankai Institute of Economics.


the light of opinion groups at home and in China. Includes chapters on diplomats, missionaries, business people.


**Section 4: Chinese Students in the United States and “American Returned Chinese”**


**Section 5: Biographies**


74. Edward Vose Gulick, *Peter Parker and the Opening of China* (Harvard University Press, 1973). xi, 282p. Biography of Parker (1804-1888), the first American medical missionary to China; on the eve of the Opium War, he treated Commissioner Lin Zexu for a hernia, but did not say “In God We Trust.”


80. Robert Henry Winborne Welch, *The Life of John Birch: In the Story of One American Boy, the Ordeal of His Age* (Regnery, 1954). 118p. Politically inflected biography of John Birch (1918-1945), a missionary who was killed by guerrillas in China and subsequently called the first American killed in the war with Communism.

Section 6: Fiction and Memoirs


83. Pearl S. Buck, *My Several Worlds: A Personal Record* (John Day, 1954). 407p. Rather than a full autobiography, this is a selective but insightful memoir of her early years in China, education, return to China in the 1920s, and life in the US.


85. Langdon Gilkey, *Shantung Compound: The Story of Men and Women under Pressure* (Harper & Row, 1966). 242p. Gilkey, later a well-known theologian, was teaching at Yenching in 1942 when the Japanese Army interned him; this book is written from his camp journals, and shows the responses of a range of people to harsh conditions.


91. John Leighton Stuart, *Fifty Years in China: The Memoirs of John Leighton Stuart, Missionary and Ambassador* (Random House, 1954). 346p. Writing in retirement in the 1950s when his policies in China were under attack, Stuart (1893-1963) suffered a stroke, and the manuscript was reworked by Stanley Hornbeck; the work is much more forthcoming and insightful on his early years than on later policy.


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