

# *Lipscomb Library* *Randolph College*

## **THE WARREN SHERK COLLECTION**

Compiled by

Elizabeth Johnston Lipscomb

Catherine Ehrman Thoresen '23 and William E. Thoresen Professor of English, Emerita

(revised 5/15/2007)

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Warren A. Sherk, an Asian Studies scholar, served in the 1940's as national Field Secretary for the East and West Association, founded by Pearl S. Buck and her husband Richard J. Walsh. He became a lifelong admirer of the author and in 1992, the centennial of her birth, he published a study of her life and work entitled *Pearl S. Buck: Good Earth Mother*. His materials on Buck were donated to the Lipscomb Library by his widow, Jean Sherk, after his death.

The collection include more than thirty original letters from Pearl S. Buck to Dr. Sherk and a number of excellent photographs, most of Buck and her family. Many were used as illustrations for his book. Access to these original letters and photographs, housed in the Rare Book Room, is restricted. The remaining material consists of articles and pamphlets by and about Buck, bibliographical information, and correspondence and publications relating to the India League of America and the East and West Association. Of special interest are publicity materials distributed by the East and West Association to promote lectures and performances by Asian speakers and artists, part of the organization's attempt to introduce Americans to Asian culture. Also in the collection included are issues of *People*, a publication of the East and West Association, as well as copies of *Asia* magazine containing articles and sections of books by Pearl S. Buck and copies of *United Nations World*, the successor to *Asia*.

Dr. Sherk is described on the dust jacket of *Good Earth Mother* as "a lecturer on biography, Asia, and world affairs." He is the author of *The Kuomintang in China, 1912-1938*, *The Church in Asia through the Centuries*, *Wider Horizons*, *A Student's Adventure in World Friendship*, and *Agnes Moorehead, a Very Private Person*.

### **BOX 1**

Folder labeled "PSB letters":

- Note that letters and photographs from this collection are filed in Robert C. Watts Rare Book Room

#### Folder labeled "PSB articles/pamphlets":

- Typescript: Stulting family genealogical information, including children of Caroline Stulting Sydenstricker
- Pages from May 1937 issue of *Asia* containing articles by Mohandas Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Rabindrath Tagore
- Pages from March 1939 issue of *Asia* containing "The Birth of a New China" by Lin Yutang
- Typescript of "The Miracle," headed "Story number four" "Pearl S. Buck." 10 pages, last page or pages missing
- Folder with drawing of Green Hills Farm on cover, text of PSB commentary, "transcribed from a tape made by Pearl S. Buck on April 8, 1972." Handwritten annotations (not PSB's)
- Page from April 1936 issue of *Asia*, "Asia Mail," a letter signed Pearl S. Buck
- Page from August 1936 issue of *Asia*, "Asia Book-Shelf, Conducted by Pearl S. Buck"
- Page from November 1931 issue of *Asia*, "Along the Trail with the Editors," photograph and two paragraphs on PSB, announcing the publication of "The First Wife" in the next two issues
- Pamphlet: "On Discovering America" by Pearl S. Buck, c1937, Survey Associates, Inc.
- Pamphlet: "An Autobiographical Sketch of Pearl S. Buck, Author of East Wind: West Wind, The Good Earth, The Young Revolutionist and Sons," The John Day Company
- Pages from the December 1950 issue of the *Ladies Home Journal*, "Room in the Inn" by Pearl S. Buck
- Photocopy of a page headed "Pearl S. Buck, a prologue by the author," reflecting on *The Good Earth*
- Photocopy of a page from the May 1962 issue of *Suburbia Today*, "a Visit . . . by Pearl Buck"
- Photocopy of two-page article from October-November 1971 issue of unidentified magazine, "Essay on Life" by Pearl S. Buck
- Photocopy of one page "Foreword" by Pearl S. Buck, addressed to the "Pupils of Woodstock School"
- Photocopy of article from July 1971 issue of *Yankee* magazine, "A Dream for Danby" by Pearl S. Buck
- Pamphlet: "Can the Church Lead?" by Pearl S. Buck [no date]
- Pamphlet: "The Church Can Lead if You and I make up our minds and take appropriate action: by Harold A. Hatch [no date]
- Pages from the November 1953 issue of the *Woman's Home Companion*, "A Husband for Lili," a story by Pearl S. Buck
- Mimeographed speech, "Liberal Education in our Times" with handwritten note, "Presumably written by PSB—date unknown"

#### Folder labeled "Various Lists of PSB Books":

- Supplement to Lucille S. Zinn's "The Works of Pearl S. Buck: A Bibliography" compiled by Jean Sherk, wife of Warren Sherk
- Two letters from Gale L. Raphael, attorney, to Charles M. Solomon, attorney, accompanying 19-page inventory of manuscripts by Pearl S. Buck held in Boston by Raphael and Raphael
- Handwritten chronological list of works by PSB

- List of PSB magazine sales from 1966-1973, provided by Patricia Powell of Harold Ober Associates for Lillian Wolfson of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation and memo from Ms. Wolfson to “Dan”
- Typed list of “Novels & Novellas either published in magazines or unsold.” Typed list headed “New Categories [sic]” with handwritten note from E.M.L. [?] “These were categories suggested by Mr. Harris when I was reading mms [sic] for the purpose of bringing together groups of stories, etc. appropriate for collections to be published in book form.”
- Typed list headed “List of Novellas, Short Stories, Serials—not published in book form”
- List addressed to Mr. Harris and Miss Loun of PSB books “just re-issued” and “already in print”; separate list of books “For Younger readers”
- Letter from Patricia Powell of Harold Ober Associates to Lillian Wolfson of the PSB Foundation accompanying a copy of “The Christmas Child” and a synopsis of “The Christmas Tree in All the World”; memo from Ms. Wolfson to “Dan”
- List of PSB books published since 1969 belonging to the PSB Foundation
- The same list headed “with all rights belonging to PSB Foundation”; a number of titles are crossed off in red
- List of titles “Not Sold (according to Ober records):”
- Handwritten chronological list of books published 1930-1966
- Alphabetical list headed “Pearl S. Buck Books” with information on copyright, and “Trust” [unexplained]
- “Complete Listing of Pearl S. Buck Book Titles & Copyright year”
- “N. Y. Times Index (Listings under titles Books and Fiction, and under author’s Name), covering 1929-1940
- 26-page typed “Bibliography”; included information on translations
- “Addendum to List of Books Published since 1965”

#### Folder labeled “WAS/PSB/EAST WEST”:

- Page containing message, “As One Sees It,” by PSB, sent from the East and West Association
- Two copies of pamphlet inviting membership in the East and West Association, “Let the People Be Heard: An Educational Program to Promote World Peace” with message from PSB
- Annual Report of the East and West Association, July 1, 1946-June 30, 1947
- Bulletin, “People Through Books, December 1946-January 1947, published for the Library Service, The East and West Association. Contains commentary by PSB on Indians in South Africa
- Pamphlet listing speakers available through the East and West Association, 1948
- Page containing the text of an award from the East and West Association to James Y.C. Yen
- Pamphlet listing speakers, musicians, dancers available through the East and West Association, Fall 1948-1949
- Letter from Baldwin, Todd & Lefferts, Counsellors at Law, to Warren Sherck, enclosing copy of letter to A. Cowan, refuting his accusation that the East and West Association was a Communist front organization
- Two copies of pamphlet introducing artists for 1949-1950

- Poster listing speakers for 1949-1950
- Poster for “Rhythms of the Red Man,” children’s program sponsored by the East and West Association
- Memo from the East and West Association listing speakers for 1950-1951
- Two copies of brochure, “The East and West Association, Pearl S. Buck, President, Presents Pablo Garrido”
- Three copies of brochure, “The East and West Association, Pearl S. Buck, President, Presents Mbonu Ojike”
- Brochure, “The East and West Association, Pearl S. Buck, President, Presents Induk Pahk”
- “The East and West Association, Pearl S. Buck, President, Present Taik Won Cho in dances of Korea with Sun Yong Kim”
- Flyer on speaker, Dr. Eddy Asirvatham, of Madras, India
- Mimeographed notice from the East and West Association introducing “Jean Leon Destine and his group of Haitian Dancers and Drummers”
- Mimeographed notice from the East and West Association introducing Leila Doss, Egyptian lecturer
- Flyer on speaker Alisa Klausner Eskol of Palestine
- Flyer on “Gina, Dances of India”
- Flyer on Naomi Aleh Leaf, dancer
- Mimeographed notice from the East and West Association introducing Tom Two-Arrows, American Indian
- Brochure introducing “Red Gate Players Presenting Chinese Shadow Plays”
- “The East and West Association: A Picture Portfolio, Life of a Family in China,” a collection of photographs with brief commentary

#### Folder labeled “PSB/ INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA”:

- Brochure, “India Independence Day,” enclosing list of guests for dinner honoring Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, January 26, 1945
- Invitations for various India League events
- Brochure and guest list for India League dinner honoring Mrs. Pandit, May 24, 1949
- Brochure and guest list for India League dinner honoring Jawaharlal Nehru, October 19, 1949; also enclosed are clippings about Mrs. Pandit and Prime Minister Nehru
- Annual Report of the India League, 1951

#### Folder labeled “NEWS CLIPPINGS”:

- Numerous clippings, some loose, some mounted, of interviews, reviews, obituaries, fund-raising appeals, and other items related to PSB
- “A Biographical Sketch of Pearl S. Buck,” published by the John Day Company, including bibliography of works published up through 1968

#### Issues of *People*, published by the East and West Association:

- Volume 3, numbers 5-9 (January-June, 1948)
- Volume 4, numbers 1-7 (1948-1949) [two copies of number 2]

## Issues of *Asia* magazine

- June 1941
- October 1941 (second installment of *Dragon Seed*)
- November 1941 (third installment of *Dragon Seed*)
- April 1942
- May 1942 Special Supplement (contains “Freedom for All,” speech by PSB)
- August 1942
- November 1942 (Part I of *The Promise*)
- January 1943 (Part III of *The Promise*)
- February 1943 (Part IV of *The Promise*)
- March 1943 (Part V of *The Promise*)
- April 1943 (Part VI of *The Promise*)
- May 1943 (Part VII of *The Promise*)
- June 1943 (Part VIII of *The Promise*)
- July 1943 (Part IX of *The Promise* and “China Speaks to America--a Radio Play” by PSB)
- March 1944
- June 1944
- September 1944
- October 1944 (Will This Earth Hold?—A Radio Play by PSB)
- January 1945, Section 2, “Tell the People: Talks with James Yen about the Mass Education Movement” by PSB)
- March 1945
- May 1945 (“Talks with Masha”: Part I by PSB)
- June 1945 (“Talks with Masha”: Part II)
- July 1945 (“Talks with Masha”: Part III)
- August 1945 (“Talks with Masha”: Part IV)
- September 1945 (“Talks with Masha”: Part V)
- October 1945 (“Talks with Masha”: Part VI)
- November 1945 (Talks with Masha”: Conclusion”)
- May 1946 (“Questions Indians Ask Me” by PSB)
- October 1946 (“The New Traveler in China” by PSB)

## Announcements of merger of *Asia* magazine with *United Nations World* and Issues of *United Nations World*:

- March 1947 (“Woman of the World [Madame Pandit]” by PSB)
- April 1947 (“Americans in Distress” by PSB)
- October 1947 (“Listen to the People, United Nations” by PSB)
- December 1948 (“The People Will Be Free—the meaning of the chaos in China” by PSB)
- August 1950

**BOX 2**  
*(restricted access)*

Folder labeled “Pearl S. Buck – Warren Sherk Collection (East-West Association) Correspondence”:

- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, January 28, 1948
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to Swami Ashkonanda, March 4, 1948
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to PSB, August 4, 1948
- Letter from Dorothea Bredal, secretary to PSB, to WAS, New York, August 10, 1948
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to Mrs. Richard Walsh (PSB), August 20, 1948
- Letter and envelope from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, August 25, 1948
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to Mrs. Richard J. Walsh (PSB), September 1, 1948
- Letter (handwritten) from PSB to WAS, September 6 (?), 1948
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, September 9, 1948
- Carbon copy of letter from Baldwin, Todd & Lefferts, counselors at Law to A. Cowan, ESQ.
  - Response to accusation that the East & West Association is a “Communist front” organization
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, October 13, 1948
- Letter from PSB “TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,” introducing WAS, New York, October 13, 1948
- Draft(?) of two-page letter from WAS to PSB, October 21, 1948
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, October 22, 1948
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, December 20, 1948
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, January 22, 1949
- Draft of letter from WAS to PSB, January 30, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, February 7, 1949
- Handwritten letter (unsent?) from WAS to PSB, February 12, 1949
- Letter from Ruth Shinno, Bookkeeper of the East & West Association, to WAS, February 17, 1949
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to Mrs. Lyman, Buffalo Public Library, March 8, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, April 8, 1949
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to PSB, May 4, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, May 9, 1949
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to Miss Jess Byrd, Salem College, May 14, 1949
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to PSB, June 7, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, June 9, 1949
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to PSB, July 5, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, July 5, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, July 15, 1949
- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to PSB, July 27, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, August 3, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, August 10, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, September 22, 1949
  - Financial crisis of East & West Association, end of WAS’s position

- Carbon copy of letter from WAS to PSB, September 24, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, New York, December 2, 1949
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, September 2, 1950
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, September 5, 1950
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, April 24, 1951
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, July 5, 1951
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, December 23, 1951
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, December 5, 1952
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, April 26, 1954
- Letter of recommendation for WAS from PSB to Dr. Herrick Young, Western College for Women, Perkasio, April 26, 1954
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, August 26, 1954
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, November 5, 1954
  - Critique of manuscript of novel by WAS
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, September 14, 1956
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, February 6, 1959
- Letter from PSB to “Mr. and Mrs. Sherk,” Perkasio, February 14, 1961
- Letter from PSB to WAS, Perkasio, February 5, 1962

Folder labeled “Pearl S. Buck—Warren Sherk Collection (East-West Association) Photographs” [most used as illustrations in WAS’s book, *Pearl S. Buck: Good Earth Mother*; several are identified by captions in the book]:

- PSB cutting cake at her eightieth birthday party
- Portrait of young PSB
- Signed portrait of mature PSB
- Portrait in cardboard labeled “for front of dust jacket”
- Portrait of PSB in later years
- Photograph of painting of PSB
- PSB with two Amerasian children
- PSB in later years, smiling broadly
- Enlargement of PSB cutting birthday cake in her later years
- PSB’s desk at Green Hills Farm
- WAS with large version of PSB commemorative stamp
- Room at Green Hills Farm
- Oval portrait of PSB
- Enlargement of WAS with commemorative stamp
- Exterior of Green Hills Farm
- Three photos, each containing two Chinese prints
- Absalom and Carie Sydenstricker as young couple
- Absalom Sydenstricker as young man
- PSB in later years seated at microphone in garden
- Page of photographs of movie and television actors
- PSB with small child
- PSB with two Amerasian children

- PSB with small child
- Caroline, Pearl and Grace Sydenstricker [identified in WAS book]
- PSB in later years, smiling broadly
- PSB with King of Sweden at Nobel Prize ceremony
- PSB as young girl
- Postcard portrait of PSB, 1936
- Living Room at Green Hills Farm
- Office in the Cottage at Green Hills Farm
- The old barn at Green Hills Farm
- Richard J. Walsh
- PSB as child with baby (Grace)
- Portrait of PSB in later years
- Photograph on page labeled “One of Pearl’s favorite pictures taken with two Amerasian children”
- PSB’s bedroom at Green Hills Farm
- Green Hills Farm in the snow
- Photograph on page labeled “Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker as an infant”
- Photograph on page labeled “Pearl at age 8 holding her baby sister Grace”
- Photograph on page labeled “The living room where I often met with Pearl and Richard. In the background is the main library”
- Photograph on page labeled “Rare photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Walsh with Janice and four of their adopted children taken in front of Pearl’s birthplace at Hillsboro West Virginia”
- Photograph on page labeled “Picture of the author [WAS] and the first day cover at the dedication of the Pearl S. stamp in 1982. The children’s play house and part of the barn are in the background.”
- Photograph on page labeled “Pearl’s final resting place at the farm with her name written in Chinese characters. Her grave has been visited by thousands of people from all over the world.”
- Photograph on page labeled “The old barn which served as the world headquarters of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation from 1964-1988. It now serves as the gift shop and reception area for tours. Her home is in the background.”
- Dining room at Green Hills Farm
- Photograph on page labeled “ Pearl’s office at Green Hills Farm where she did her writing

Folder labeled “Pearl S. Buck—Warren Sherk Collection (East-West Association) Telegrams”:

- Dorothea Bredal, secretary to PSB, to WAS, August 1948
- PSB to WAS, Perkasio, October 22, 1948
- PSB to WAS, February 7, 1949
- PSB to WAS, July 2, 1949
- PSB to WAS, January 19, 1949



Folder labeled “Pearl S. Buck—Warren Sherk Collection (East-West Association) Photograph Negatives”:

- Eleven envelopes containing negatives
- Empty Envelope with numbered list of photographs