



# ArchivesSpace

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## Gertrude S. Bigelow papers4492605

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.  
Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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## Summary Information

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|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary  |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Bigelow, Gertrude S., 1860-1941  |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Gertrude S. Bigelow papers   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | 4492605  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | circa 1887 -- 1976   |
| <b>Date [bulk]:</b>              | 1887 -- 1926   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box   |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English .  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | Gertrude S. Bigelow was a Presbyterian missionary teacher in Japan. The collection contains correspondence, news clippings, commencement programs, and provenance notes. |

### Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL7: Gertrude S. Bigelow papers, 1887-1976, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Gertrude S. Bigelow was a Presbyterian missionary teacher in Japan. She was born circa 1860-1863 in Batavia, New York. She graduated from the Ladies Seminary in Hamilton, NY in 1883, and went to Japan to do mission work for the Presbyterian Church in Japan in 1886. Initially she worked at the Graham Seminary (新栄女学校, later known as Joshi gakuin 女子学院) in Tsukiji 築地, Tokyo 東京. From about 1890, she spent 20 years working in Yamaguchi 山口. In 1894 she attended the Second International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions held in Detroit. In 1907 she was joined by her sister, Florence Julia Bigelow, who married Thomas C. Winn in 1917 and died in 1934. In 1909 Gertrude published an article in The Assembly Herald entitled "Japan's Daughters and the Missionary

Teacher." From around 1913 to around 1929 she worked in Shimonoseki 下関, in a girls' school called Baiko Jogakuin (梅光女学院). She was active in the church as late as 1935.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains the correspondence of Gertrude Bigelow, including letters sent to Cora Harrington of Watertown, New York. This collection also contains provenance notes, news clippings, and commencement programs of the Graham Seminary in Tsukiji, Tokyo.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized in one series arranged by format.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2020-07-14

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Formerly part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), these records were donated by Fred Harvey Harrington, grandson of Cora Harrington (recipient of much of the correspondence in the collection) in July of 1944, and accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976.

### **Processing Information**

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were unfolded and separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. The finding aid was created by Gregory Adam Scott in 2009, reviewed and updated by Sarah Davis in 2014 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2020.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Missions -- Japan -- Shimonoseki-shi
- Schools -- Japan -- Shimonoseki-shi
- Shimonoseki-shi (Japan) -- Religious life and customs
- Japan -- Religious life and customs
- Women missionaries
- Women teachers
- Harrington, Cora
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. -- Missions

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## **Burke Library record group:**

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Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL7, Japan

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## Collection Inventory

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### Gertrude S. Bigelow papers, circa 1887 -- 1976, (1887 -- 1926)

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

#### Arrangement

This series is arranged by format.

#### Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains the correspondence of Gertrude Bigelow, including letters sent to Cora Harrington of Watertown, New York. This series also contains provenance notes, news clippings, and commencement programs of the Graham Seminary in Tsukiji, Tokyo.

| Title/Description                                    | Instances |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Provenance notes, circa 1926 -- 1976                 | box 1     | folder 1  |
| Correspondence, 1887 -- 1888                         | box 1     | folder 2  |
| Correspondence, 1889 -- 1899                         | box 1     | folder 3  |
| Correspondence, 1900 -- 1906                         | box 1     | folder 4  |
| Correspondence, 1907 -- 1910                         | box 1     | folder 5  |
| Correspondence, 1912 -- 1915                         | box 1     | folder 6  |
| Correspondence, 1917 -- 1922                         | box 1     | folder 7  |
| Correspondence, 1923 -- 1926                         | box 1     | folder 8  |
| Postcards, circa 1910 -- 1919                        | box 1     | folder 9  |
| Graham Seminary commencement programs , 1887 -- 1902 | box 1     | folder 10 |
| News clipping, 1924                                  | box 1     | folder 11 |

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