

George Robert Loehr jr. (1892–1974) und die  
Forschung über die Pekinger Jesuitenkünstler

Quellen und Materialien in deutscher Sprache

In Verbindung mit Marion Steinicke herausgegeben von  
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George R. Loehr auf der Rückseite des Yuanyinguan 17.10.19

## Abkürzungen

AAH-A	Archivum Archidiocesis de Hankow in Sinis, sectio A, Rom.
AOH	Acta Orientalia Hungarica.
APF	Archivio Propaganda Fide, Rom.
ARSI	Archivum Romanum Soc. Jesu, Rom.
ASV	Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Rom.
BEFEO	Bulletin de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient
Bernard	Henri Bernard S.J.: <i>Le Frère Attiret au service de K'ien-lung (1739–1768). Sa première biographie écrite par le P. Amiot, rééditée avec notes explicatives et commentaires historiques.</i> Shanghai: Université l'Aurore 1943. Separatum.
BNCF Palat.	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze. MSS. Palatini.
BUA	Bulletin de l'Université l'Aurore, Shanghai.
CJ	China Journal.
Dehergne	Joseph Dehergne: Repertoire des jésuites.
Hummel	A. W. Hummel (ed.): <i>Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing period, 1644–1912.</i> Washington D.C. 1943–1944.
IPM	Kaiserliches Palastmuseum, Peking: <i>Lang Shining hua.</i> Sechs Mappen mit Kollotypie-Reproduktionen von Bildrollen. 1932–1935.
JA	Journal asiatique.
JNCBRAS	Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society North China Branch.
LE	Lettres édifiantes et curieuses écrites des Missions Étrangères. Mémoires de la Chine. Paris: Mérigot. Bd. 24. 1781
LE	Lettres édifiantes et curieuses concernant l'Asie, l'Afrique et l'Amérique. Paris: Société du Panthéon Littéraire 1843.
MS	Monumenta Serica.
NDB	Neue Deutsche Biographie.
NOAG	Nachrichten der Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens.
OAR	Ostasiatische Rundschau.
OZ	Ostasiatische Zeitschrift.
Pfister	Louis Pfister S.J.: <i>Notices biographiques et bibliographiques sur les jésuites de l'ancienne mission de Chine, 1552–1773.</i> Shanghai 1932–1934.
SCPC	<i>Shiqu baoji</i> 石渠寶笈, Katalog der Kaiserlichen Gemäldesammlung.
Thieme/Becker	<i>Allgemeines Lexikon der bildenden Künstler.</i> Leipzig.
TP	T'oung Pao.
W-B	Welt-Bott. Augsburg und Wien 1728–1761.

## Vorwort

In den letzten 30–40 Jahren ist die Arbeit und Bedeutung der Pekinger westlichen Hofmaler, zumeist Jesuitenmissionare, zu einem beliebten Forschungs- und Publikationsthema geworden. Einerseits haben Missionarsmaler dank ihres erheblichen Einflusses bei verschiedenen Gelegenheiten die Missionsarbeit schützen und Unheil abwenden oder mildern können; zum anderen sind die künstlerischen Ergebnisse ihrer Tätigkeit ein sichtbares Zeichen für einen Transfer von Techniken, Konzepten und Ideen zwischen Ost und West.

Die Entwicklung der Forschung auf diesem Gebiet ist einerseits mit den Namen Paul Pelliot und Walter Fuchs verbunden (christliche Kunst, Kupferstiche), andererseits mit George R. Loehr, der 1940 seine bahnbrechende Monographie über den bedeutendsten der Missionarsmaler, Giuseppe Castiglione (1688–1766), veröffentlichte. Letzterer Arbeit folgten viele weitere Publikationen, Aufsätze von Loehr selbst, hauptsächlich dann von anderen Forschern. Dem aufmerksamen Leser dieser Literatur (vgl. die annotierte Bibliographie in diesem Band) fällt auf, daß ein großer Teil der gebotenen Information von Loehr stammt, ohne daß seine Leistung in vollem Umfang deutlich wird. Aus dieser Erkenntnis entstand der Plan,

- eine kurze Biographie des bislang fast unbekanntenen Forschers G. R. Loehr zu bieten.
- Loehrs wichtigste Arbeiten zum Thema zu sammeln und annotiert und mit Register vorzulegen.
- in einer annotierten Bibliographie zum Thema den Forschungsstand zu dokumentieren.
- ein neues Werkverzeichnis Castigliones aus den Quellen vorzulegen, gewissermaßen ergänzend zu Loehrs und Beurdeleys Übersichten.
- ergänzend zu Loehr eine Untersuchung der Hydraulik der Europäischen Paläste vorzulegen, die bislang im wesentlichen kunsthistorisch beschrieben wurden; es tritt dabei in den Hintergrund, daß die Paläste hauptsächlich wegen der vom Kaiser gewünschten Wasserspiele errichtet wurden – die Paläste sind also zum nicht geringen Teil Fassaden der notwendigen Wasserhebemaschinen und Reservoirs.
- Loehrs Beitrag über Attiret durch eine vollständige Wiedergabe von dessen Beschreibung des Yuanmingyuan, in der zeitgenössischen Fassung des *Neuen Weltbott* zu ergänzen.
- Attirets Leistung durch eine vollständige Wiedergabe der Lebensbeschreibung durch P. Amiot zu würdigen.

### *Zur Textauswahl*

Ursprünglich war nur daran gedacht, Loehrs grundlegende Studie in Übersetzung zu veröffentlichen. In Anbetracht der seither vergangenen Zeit und der weiteren Forschungen Loehrs selbst, erschien es notwendig, weitere seiner wichtigen Beiträge über die Pekinger Jesuitenkünstler vorzulegen. Dabei wurde der Schwerpunkt auf das französisch- und italienischsprachige Material gelegt; allerdings wurden zwei englischsprachige Artikel, die Loehrs Forschungen zusammenfassen, zur thematischen Abrundung beigegeben. Bei der Annotierung und Kommentierung der Texte wurde notwendigerweise die Sekundärliteratur in großem Umfang herangezogen; daher wurde eine annotierte Bibliographie in den Band aufgenommen. Dank der freundlichen Mitarbeit von Prof. Albert Koenig war es möglich, erstmals die Wasserversorgung der Wasserspiele gründlich zu untersuchen und die komplexe Leistung der Jesuiten auf diesem Gebiet zu würdigen. Nach Castiglione findet auch Br. Jean-Denis Attiret, der bedeutende Porträtist, zunehmend Aufmerksamkeit, wobei P. Amiots Biographie als wesentliche Quelle zugrunde gelegt wird. Dank der Mitarbeit von Dr. Claudius Müller kann dieses wichtige Dokument nun erstmals in deutscher Übersetzung vorgelegt werden. Prof. Eugenio Menegon steuerte aus dem Loehr-Nachlaß noch Fotos und einen Schüleraufsatz Loehrs bei, der dank der ausgiebigen Illustrierung einen interessanten biographischen Mosaikstein bildet. Der bislang unveröffentlichte Beitrag von Prof. Robert Bleichsteiner und Br. Berchmans Brückner SVD kam zufällig zusammen mit den Amateuraufnahmen von 1936 in die Hände des Herausgebers; er bietet gewissermaßen eine historische Einleitung zu der technischen Studie über die Xiyanglou.

### *Zur Bibliographie*

Zu seinen Lebzeiten galt G. R. Loehr als *die* Autorität für Castiglione und die anderen Pekinger Jesuitenkünstler. Der dreiteilige Katalog der profanen Gemälde der Sammlung des Qianlong-Kaisers, *Shiqu baoji*, blieb die autoritative Grundlage. Daher sind die Castiglione betreffenden Katalogeintragungen exzerpiert und zusammengefaßt worden. Damit ist allerdings kein kompletter Œuvre-Katalog Castigliones erstellt, denn

– Castiglione hat bereits in Europa, vor seiner Ausreise, einige Bilder gemalt, die sich erhalten haben.

– die christlichen Bilder, die Castiglione in Peking gemalt hat, haben die Zeitläufte und die Verfolgungen nicht überstanden.

– im Bestand des Pekinger Palastmuseums existieren etliche Gemälde, die von chinesischen Forschern wie Yang Boda und Nie Chongzhen Castiglione zugeschrieben werden. Sie sind nicht signiert; indes wurden viele Gemälde als Kooperation von Hofmalern realisiert, und Castiglione hatte häufig einen Anteil daran.

– es haben sich im Privat- und ausländischen Museumsbesitz einige Gemälde erhalten, die inzwischen als Werk Castigliones gelten, obwohl sie nicht im *Shiqu baoji* erwähnt sind.

Für die weitere Forschung wie zur Beurteilung des aktuellen Forschungsstandes dient die annotierte Bibliographie der Sekundärliteratur. Sie bemüht sich um den Nachweis der Abbildungen der einzelnen Werke und legt nach Möglichkeit dabei die chinesischen Titel des *Shiqu baoji* zugrunde.

### *Zur Textgestaltung*

Die Beiträge Loehrs sind aus dem Italienischen, Französischen und Englischen übersetzt worden. Sie wurden in der Formatierung einander angepaßt. Die Umschrift wurde, soweit dies möglich war, auf Pinyin umgestellt und weitgehend chinesische Schriftzeichen hinzugefügt. Zahlreiche Anmerkungen erläutern Details. Soweit sie vom Herausgeber stammen, sind sie in eckige Klammern gesetzt.

Loehrs Illustrierung wurde beibehalten; allerdings wurden, soweit möglich, Vorlagen mit besserer Auflösung verwendet und einige Bilder ergänzt.

Für gute Ratschläge bei der Ermittlung chinesischer Schreibungen danke ich Prof. Martin Gimm (Rösrath).



## Foreword

[adapted English translation from the German original, by E. Menegon]

Over the past 30-40 years, the work of the Beijing's western court painters, mostly Jesuit missionaries, has become a popular research and publication topic. Thanks to their considerable influence, missionary painters on different occasions protected missionary work and averted or mitigated disaster. Moreover, their artistic accomplishments are a visible sign of the transfer of techniques and concepts between East and West.

The development of research in this area began with Paul Pelliot and Walter Fuchs (on Christian art and engravings), and with George R. Loehr (1892-1974), who published in 1940 a groundbreaking monograph on the most eminent missionary painter, Giuseppe Castiglione (1688-1766). This work was followed by many more publications, including essays by Loehr himself, but mainly by other researchers. The attentive readers of this literature (see the annotated bibliography in this volume) can notice that much of the information was initially provided by Loehr, but that later scholarship did not fully reflect his contribution.

From this realization arose the **plan**: 1) to offer a short biography of G. R. Loehr, an hitherto almost unknown researcher; 2) to collect, annotate and translate into German Loehr's most important works on the subject, and publish them with an index; 3) to document the state of research in an annotated bibliography; 4) to publish a new *catalogue raisonné* of Castiglione's works based on original sources, and complementary to Loehr's and Beurdeley's overviews; 5) to present, in addition to Loehr's own work, a study of the hydraulic systems of the European palaces, which have been described, so far, essentially from an art historical perspective, although the palaces were mainly built because of the water games desired by the emperor, and were thus just 'facades' for the necessary water lifting machines and reservoirs; 6) to highlight Loehr's contribution on Attiret, by offering a complete reproduction of the description of the *Yuanmingyuan* in the contemporary version of the *Neue Welt Bott*, and a complete German translation of Attiret's contemporary French biography by P. Amiot.

As to the **text selection**, we originally only intended to publish Loehr's basic Italian study on Castiglione in German translation. After further research, it appeared necessary to include Loehr's other important contributions on the Beijing Jesuit artists. The focus was placed on the French and Italian language materials; however, some English-language primary sources have been included as well (1915 autobiography and 1960s-70s letters to Fuchs). The annotation and commentary on the texts necessarily relied to a large extent on secondary literature; therefore, an annotated bibliography was included in the volume. Thanks to the friendly cooperation of Prof. Albert Koenig, it was possible for the first time to thoroughly examine the water features of the *Xiyanglou* and the complex engineering performance of the Jesuits. After Castiglione, Br. Jean-Denis Attiret, the important portraitist, attracted our attention, and we included P. Amiot's biography as an essential source. Thanks to the cooperation of Dr. M.D. Claudius Müller, we can now offer this important document for the first time in German translation. Prof. Eugenio Menegon contributed some photos and the annotated transcription of an English-language student autobiographical essay by Loehr (1915), coming from the Loehr Collection. The previously

unpublished 1936 contribution by Prof. Robert Bleichsteiner and Br. Berchmans Brückner SVD came in the hands of the editor, and it offers a kind of historical introduction to the technical study of the *Xiyanglou*.

As to the **bibliography**, during his lifetime G. R. Loehr was considered the authority on Castiglione and the other Beijing Jesuit artists. The three-part catalog of secular paintings of the Qianlong Emperor's collection, the *Shiqu baoji* 石渠寶笈, remains the authoritative foundation for studying these missionary artists. The Castiglione catalog entries have been excerpted and summarized in this volume. This is not a complete catalog of Castiglione's oeuvre, because Castiglione had already painted some tableaus in Europe before reaching China, and the Christian paintings that Castiglione painted in Beijing have not survived. Moreover, there are a number of paintings in the vaults of the Beijing's Palace Museum that Chinese researchers, such as Yang Boda and Nie Chongzhen, have attributed to Castiglione. These are not signed; however, many paintings were realized in collaboration with court painters, and Castiglione often had a hand in them. Finally, there are also other paintings, now considered Castiglione's work, and not mentioned in the *Shiqu baoji*. To aid further research and present the current state of research, we have included an **annotated bibliography of secondary literature**, related to individual works and, if possible, with the addition of Chinese titles from the *Shiqu baoji*.

Loehr's contributions have been here **translated into German from Italian, French and English**, and uniformed in their formatting. The Romanizations were, as far as possible, converted to *pinyin*, and Chinese characters were added. Prof. Martin Gimm offered advice in determining Chinese spellings.

We have added numerous **comments and explanations**. When they come from the editors, they are set in square brackets. Loehr's **illustrations** were retained; however, as far as possible, we offered better resolution and improved captions, and added some pictures.

George R. Loehr, Jr. – „My autobiography“  
Early years: from birth to college graduation, 1892–1915<sup>1</sup>

Transcription, notes and photographs by Eugenio Menegon<sup>2</sup>

I was born at N.º 18 Quinsan Road, in Hangkew, otherwise known as the American Concession, Shanghai, China, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1892.

My father [George Robert Loehr Sr.] and my mother's father [Young John Allen] were missionaries of the M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Ch[urch] South. Mary was my eldest sister, and I came next to my brother Allen; after two years, Louise came to keep us company.



Oil painting, produced in Shanghai, 1860s–70s?  
GRL's maternal grandmother, Mary Houston  
(1838–1927)<sup>3</sup> (Collection of Marisa Saetti)

Oil painting, produced in Shanghai, 1860s–70s?  
GRL's maternal grandfather, Young John Allen  
(1836–1907) (Collection of Marisa Saetti)

I have never been strong in my life, and my ups and downs in the category of ills, started when I was three months old. Then, my whole body was covered over with boils, you could scarcely put your

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1 First written at Emory College as an English composition as Freshman, on June 1, 1912 and completed as Senior on May 15, 1915. – GRL = acronym for George Robert Loehr Jr., 1892–1974. – The original manuscript is preserved among GRL's personal papers, today in the possession of his niece, Ms. Marisa Saetti (Italy). The text and the photographs are published with Ms. Saetti's permission.

2 Professor, Department of History, Boston University.

3 Daughter of Samuel M. Houston and Sarah (Germany) Houston. Graduate of Wesleyan College. Married Young John Allen on 22 July 1858 in Atlanta, Georgia. Sailed with their infant daughter Malvina to China and arrived on 13 July 1860 at Shanghai. Mother of Malvina "Mellie" (Allen) Loehr, Young John Allen, Charles Arthur Allen, Herbert Mowry Allen, Edgar Pierce Allen, Arthur Houston Allen (who died and was cremated in Shanghai), Mary Louise (Allen) Turner, Ethel Margaret Allen, and Alice Elvie Allen. Sources: Rebecca Ewing Peterson's research in "Find a Grave", Reports of deaths of American citizens abroad, 1927; Sofia Mirkopoulos: "Uncovering Mary Houston: An investigation of her relationship with her husband Young J. Allen and the world around her." In *Endeavors in Chinese History*, online publication, Series *Emory Endeavors in World History*, Vol. 2. Emory University, 2008.  
<http://history.emory.edu/home/documents/endeavors/volume2/SofiaMirkopoulos.pdf>

finger on the spot where there was not one. Dr. Henderson, a fine Scotch physician, had to come twice a day to lance them. I was remarkably slow in learning how to walk and speak. I did not start to do either of those feats till I was almost four years old. I never did crawl like other babies, but instead, had a curious way of sitting on the floor and propelling myself always ahead with my hands and feet. I took my first steps, walking from Mary to Father, into whose arms I fell. I then walked for two weeks, when I suddenly stopped as I had begun, and went back to my old method of propulsion. People could not imagine what was wrong with me, but after a while I began walking again.



George R. Loehr, Sr. (1857–1920), George’s father, date unknown (late 1890s or early 1900s ?)<sup>4</sup>

It was during this period, [w]hile I was four years of age, [that] Grandmother Allen received a letter, telling her that I had not begun to learn to speak yet. She immediately wrote back: “No child of Mellie Allen’s will ever lack the power of speech.” Her prophecy has come true: I have made up for lost time, for we have all become ardent linguists. My pronunciation of the Chinese language was the best of the family and I have often been taken for a Florentine, by Italians themselves.

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4 Born on 10 April 1857 from German parents in Elberton, Elbert County, Georgia, he died on 18 January 1920 in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Source: Rebecca Ewing Peterson’s research in “Find a Grave” website ( <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/139188721/george-robert-loehr> )



“Georgie” (right) and Louise (left) Loehr, Shanghai, 1896-97? (GRL Collection)

I did not utter any sounds [during] my period of lingual inactiveness, but I had signs which were soon learned and understood by the family. I did not use any baby talk at all, when I started to speak. I knew and understood the words, thus shaping them properly.

I was the first kindergartner in Shanghai. When about five years old I started to Miss Martha Jewell’s American School [1897] and for a time was the only pupil in the kindergarten. I well remember how I used to shape and color the clay oranges, apples, pears; play with the blocks, learn the figures and do paper weaving. As the school grew, every morning the children would be marched out onto the lawn in the Episcopal compound, drilling and doing other exercises. Oh how shy I was! How I did hate to have to march with the other children.

Time passed quietly, and after [about] a year at that establishment, I entered the German School [1898?], which came to be considered the best school in Shanghai. While there I had German, English, French and Hungarian playmates. I enjoyed studying a great deal. The work was pleasant and was interspersed with picnics to the country and visits to German warships and gunboats in the harbor. What gay times we had and then how instructive those trips were!



Shanghai, June 1898.

George Loehr jr. (left) with [?] Haygood and Johnny Hendry. (GRL Collection)

My peregrinations started on **December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1899**, when, saying goodbye to my chums, Father, and loved ones I stepped aboard the gang-plank of the “Prince Heinrich”, ready to sail to Europe with Mother and the other children. We steamed away from Woosung, just fourteen miles from Shanghai, at the mouth of the Whang-poo and Yangtze rivers, about three in the afternoon. I kept up a brave face while on deck, but was inwardly torn up. I went down to the cabin, cried as if my poor, sad heart would break, then dropped asleep. When I woke up again, it was night. Mary was in the cabin and said that they had finished supper, so I had to go without eating for that night.

I soon got used to my new surroundings. There were a great many other missionaries’ children onboard, and there were always new and strange sights all along the way. After a month’s sailing, we arrived at Genoa, where we boarded a train for Florence, which was to become our future home. We arrived at our new destination quite safely, after an adventurous ride in the night.





Florence, 1900 (Schemboche Studio photograph):  
George Robert Jr. (upper left), Louise (lower left), Malvina Allen Loehr (center),<sup>5</sup> Mary (upper right), George Allen (lower right; 1888–1936).<sup>6</sup>

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- 5 Malvina Louise “Mellie” Allen Loehr was born on 7 May 1859 in Grantville, Coweta County, Georgia, and died on 20 August 1940 in Beijing. Married twice, first with a Mr. Davis, with whom she had a son, Eric T. Davis; then to missionary George Robert Loehr Sr. Together they were parents of Marie (Loehr) Arnold, Allen George Loehr, George Robert Loehr Jr., and Malvina Louise (Loehr) Saetti. Sources: Reports of Deaths of American Citizens Abroad 1940; US Consular Registration Certificates; US Passport Applications 1921; US Census for Georgia 1910; US Census for Hawaii 1920; US Census for Texas 1920; see Rebecca Ewing Peterson’s research in “Find a Grave” website, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/122541422/malvina-louise-loehr>
- 6 George Allen Loehr was born in Shanghai on 24 February 1888, where he lived till 1899; he lived in Florence between February 1900 and June 1902; was back in the USA between 1902–1909 (probably for college education); then, between February 1909 and July 1911 he was again in Florence, then in Krakow and Vienna. He moved to Birmingham (Alabama), 2106 Humboldt Avenue, where he lived between the summer of 1911 and February 1915. He probably married in this period his wife Irma Dozier (1890–1978), a native of Rome, Georgia. By March 1915, he was registered as “merchant” with the firm Knapp & Baxter Inc. (San Francisco and Shanghai), at 6 Kiukiang Road, Shanghai. He returned to the US in September 1921 with his family, and by the 1930s he was living in Homewood (Jefferson County), Alabama, with his wife and two daughters, Irma Jr. and Elizabeth Louise. There he owned a building materials firm. He died in Birmingham, Alabama, on 15 August 1936, after a long illness. Sources: US Passport Application Shanghai 22 August 1917; 1930 US Census, Homewood (Jefferson County), Alabama; *Birmingham News* Obituary, 15 Aug. 1936; cf. AncestryLibrary.com

The first few days were spent in getting settled down comfortably, looking for a suitable school, sightseeing and picking up the language. After about a week, it was decided that my two sisters and I should enter the *École des Diaconesses*,<sup>7</sup> which Mother had also attended when she was a girl, during her first stay in Florence. This school is kept by German deaconesses, but everything is taught in French, except the German, Italian and English languages. I started in the very lowest class and soon had a working knowledge of French and Italian. There were about a half dozen other boys of my same age in the class, but in the course of the two and a half years that I spent there, all of them dropped out, while I was left the only boy in the school of over a hundred girls. I remember that one of my classmates was Arnold Böcklin's granddaughter.<sup>8</sup> There were about a dozen different nationalities represented in the school, and you must know that I enjoyed it and learnt a great deal.

Sœur Elizabeth still remembers that once when she left us in the class in the "lesson des choses" period, she found me on her return, with her pointing rod in my hand, asking questions about the different objects seen in the picture. She says that I was taking her place admirably. She also recalls how once when there was a vacant hour, and not wanting to throw it away, I took my little sister to the neighboring [sic] of the Carmine, there to inspect the beautiful and famous Brancacci Chapel.

On Sundays I used to attend French and German Sunday School and the French Church. The pastor, his mother and family were among our first acquaintances and remained among our best friends.

I did a great deal of sightseeing, always stopping in churches, museums, galleries, villas, castles and cemeteries at every opportunity. I always loved to stop and look at the curio and art dealers' shops. My, how slow I was, getting home from school!

The **summer of 1900** was spent at Forte dei Marmi, a little marble-exporting sea-port village, between Spezia and Pisa. There we had the combined benefits of mountain and sea, for the Carrara mountains were immediately behind us. The beach is an excellent one, where one may enjoy the delights of air, sun, sand, and sea-baths; boating, surf-riding, and fishing. Excursions and picnics are also made to the neighboring woods, towns, castles and marble quarries.

The following summer [1901] we travelled all over Italy, visiting Rome, where I drank of the water and tossed a coin into the Fountain of Trevi, as a promise to return; Naples, Pompeii, Amalfi, Sorrento, Capri, Pozzuoli, Venice, Milan; the remainder of the period was spent in Switzerland, where we visited Lucerne, Lausanne, Geneva, Lac Lemman, Chillon and other beautiful and historical places.

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7 This was a school established by the Kaiserswerth Deaconesses, founded in 1836 by Theodor and Friederike Fliedner, a Lutheran pastor and his wife; see Stanislao Bianciardi: *Le diaconesse a Firenze*. Firenze: Coi tipi di M. Cellini & Co. 1864.

8 Arnold Böcklin (1827–1901) was a Swiss symbolist painter, who lived in Florence and Fiesole at the end of his life, between 1892 and 1901.





Florence, 1901 or 1902. George and his sister Louise (?). (GRL Collection)

Father came through Florence, spending a short while with us during March and April of 1901. At the unexpected death of Grandfather Loehr, Father had to go to the US sooner than he expected. Grandmother Allen, with aunts Ethel and Alice came through the “City of Flowers” in the Spring of 1902. We had to pack up again, leave a great part of our hearts behind us, and set sail on the old “Hohenzollern”, bound for New York in June of that year.



GRL’s aunt, Ethel Margaret Allen (1874–1944) (GRL Collection)

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9 Born in Shanghai on 23 September 1874 (some documents state 1882), she never married, and probably died as a consequence of internment in one of the Japanese war camps in Shanghai during the war, on 9 February 1944, due to “sprue, general debility and heart failure.” Source: General Records of the US Department of State, Special War Problems Division (a government division active between 1939–1954, with responsibilities

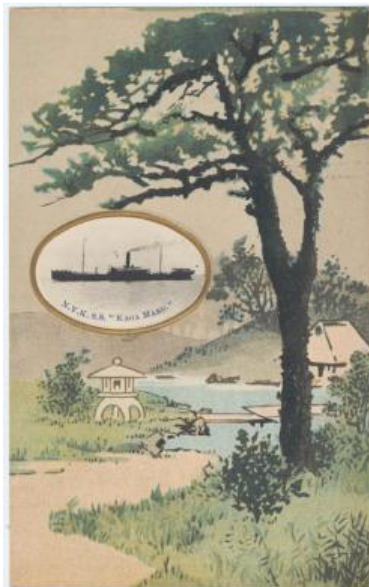
In **June, 1902**, we set sail on the “Hohenzollern”, bound for **New York**. From there we sailed in a little American ship to Savannah, where we took rail for **Elberton, Ga.**, Father’s old home. Already just before arriving in Savannah, I had caught the germs of typhoid fever, and all that summer I lay on the sick-bed.

In **September [1902]** we moved to **Atlanta**. Father in a few weeks left us, to go back to his work in China again. In the Fall, Dr. J. Heidt took me into the M.E. Ch. South [at Trinity], under the ministry of Dr. H. S. Bradley.

Early the next Spring [**1903**], I was a member of the fourth grade, at the Edgewood Avenue School for two short months. That was the only English schooling I [ever] received before I came to Emory. The work was interesting and I enjoyed it well. Just a month or so ago I paid a call on my former teacher, Miss Hattie Rainwater. Hers was the only name which I remembered out of the whole school.

The summer [of **1903**] was passed quietly at **College Park [Ga.]**; then, when lovely September rolled around, the continent was crossed and passage taken on the N.Y.K. “Kaga Maru”<sup>10</sup> for Shanghai at **Seattle**. How did I take pleasure in noting all the novelties and interesting sights and objects all along the lengthy railroad trip. One by one I saw **Kennesaw Mountain**; the engine “General” at **Chattanooga**; **Chicago**; the **Mississippi**; **St. Paul**, where we boarded the G. N. Train, which one stays on for three days and two nights; the Blackfoot and other Reservations; prairies; deserts; Big Tree forests; the **Rockies**; and finally we reached **Seattle**, with Tacoma not far away, while **Mount Rainier** commands the landscape. How the sight of the ocean once more rejoiced my heart!

The ocean voyage was quiet and delightful, especially when it is long and there are many other children and older people on board. We did have the gayest time! Amateur theatricals, parties, games every day!



N.Y.K. S.S. „Kaga Maru.“ Leonard A. Lauder Collection of Japanese Postcards, MFA Boston.

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concerning the evacuation and repatriation of Americans in foreign countries and foreign citizens in the U.S.); see Rebecca Ewing Peterson’s research in “Find a Grave” website, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/122546323>

10 N.Y.K. = *Nippon Yusen Kabushiki-kaisha* (日本郵船株式会社) sailing lines.

Land was not sighted till early one morning after a couple of weeks of sailing we feebly made out the mountain line of Japan. Drawing nearer, we soon passed by the landing place of Commodore Perry, with the monument dedicated to him in **Yeddo Bay**. We soon were able to go ashore at **Yokohama**, which we visited in company with some charming resident missionaries; then we spent a day at **Tokio**, going through the famous parks, shrines, temples and other interesting places. When we got back to our ship, we found that she was coaling. My, what a sight it was! Japan is the only place I know of where they coal in a like manner. Man, women and children, all working like so many ants or the inmates of a bee-hive.

The anchor was soon lifted, while we proudly steamed out into the Inland Sea of Japan.

Words fail, in their rough and incompetent way, in describing the charm, enchantment, beauty, dream-likeness and sublimity of this watering jewel of Nature. Mountains, sea, islands, trees, junks and fishing boats, all combine to make a picture of unspeakable grandeur. How can anything compare to a water-scene in the evening twilight?

We tarried a while in **Kobe** and **Shimonoseki**, then set out on our homeward stretch. From deep blue, the water became muddy yellow. We then knew that we were in the Yellow Sea, near the mouth of the King of Rivers, the **Yangtze-kiang**.

Crossing the Woosung bar in the Whangpoo River, we passed by Yangtze-poo, the Waterworks, docks, shipyards and warehouses, finally mooring at the N.Y.K. pier. At home again, in **Shanghai**. In a strange land, yes, but I have been a stranger everywhere I have been.

Kind relatives and friends were there to meet us. The China Mission Conference was in session. Father was appointed to pastoral work in **Soochow**. We remained there till the following May [1904], when we were transferred to the Moore Memorial Church in Shanghai. During this period, I was taught in the home. I spent a great deal of time wondering about "Beautiful Su", the capital of Kiangsu. There are the most ancient city-walls; the Beamless and other temples; the Twin, Ink-Stand and numbers of similarly well-known pagodas; gardens; yamêns; canals; mission compounds; hospitals; schools; the Foreign Concession and the neighboring historic hills, which altogether form a delightful goal for picnickers, with their numerous ruins, semi-ruins and countless gorgeous wild flowers.

In **Shanghai** I returned to the German School, which had grown considerably, and which now owned a nice new building.

**Deutsche Schule zu Shanghai**  
ZEUGNIS  
für den Schüler der Klasse *IIa*  
*Georg Loehr*  
für die Zeit von *Michaelis* bis *Weihnacht 1904*

Bedeutung der Nummern: 1-sehr gut, 2-gut, 3-genügend, 4-fast genügend, 5-ungenügend.

Betragen: } Haltung: } 1 Aufmerksamkeit: } Ordnung: 2 Hässlicher Fleiss: 1	Besondere Bemerkungen:
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**Leistungen:**

Deutsch: mündlich: 3 Englisch: mündlich: 1 Französisch: mündlich: 1 Lateinisch: — Rechnen: mündlich: 3 Geschichte (III a: Sagen- u. Sagengesch.): 3 Naturgeschichte: 3 Anschauung: — Singen: 3	Grammatik: 2 Abrechnen: 4 Abschreiben: — Geometrie: — schriftlich: 3 Geographie (III b: Heimatkunde): 2 Physik & Chemie: — Schönschreiben: — Turnen: 3	Diktat: 5 Aufsatz: 3-4 Diktat: 1 Aufsatz: 1 Diktat: 1 Aufsatz: 1 Geometrie: — Geometrie: — Zeichen: 4 Handarbeit: —
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Versäumt: 6 Tage, — Stunden, Verspätet: — mal.

Unterschrift der Lehrer: *H. Peters*, *Th. Anderson*, *Müller*

Unterschrift des Schülers: *F. J. Vic*

Unterschrift des Vaters oder dessen Stellvertreters:  
*George R. Loehr*

Shanghai, 1904.  
Grade report of George Loehr Jr. (GRL Collection)

I joined the Boys' Brigade. There were about ninety of us. We drilled and had a talk by different prominent speakers once a week. We had a captain, lieutenant, and the other officers were chosen from among the boys, after an examination as to their fitness and ability. Our uniform consisted of a military cap, belt, knapsack and gun. We also boasted of a signaling corps and a drum and pipe band, which always led us on our marches and inspired [sic] us in our sham battles. Each year when the English General came down from Hongkong to inspect and review the Shanghai Volunteers, we also were inspected and reviewed by him. Since Shanghai is the "Paris of the East", one may imagine how much there is that is constantly going on and taking place there and what an eventful life I led. A little of the results of the fighting during the Russo-Japanese War were seen in Shanghai. In **December 1905**, I was a witness of the famous Riot.

**The summers of 1905 and 1906** were spent at **Mokanshan**, a delightful mountain resort for missionaries.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Moganshan 莫干山, in Zhejiang province.



Mokanshan, summer 1906.

[?] Hayes; James Weir; Teddy Felgate; [?] Kennedy; Pierre Du Bose; George R. Loehr jr.; Earl Woodberry; Joe Evans; Robert Bryan. (GRL Collection)

It was during the **Fall of 1905** that I made my first money. Father gave me some Chinese New Testaments, illustrated Gospels and religious tracts, telling me that I could keep all the money that I received from selling them. The Testaments sold for two and a half cents, the Gospels for half a penny gold, while the tracts were worth a few cash. It was more for distribution and the helping to spread the Light of the World, that this literature was almost given away, yet I gathered a little sum and gave it to darling Louise.

About this time too, I began taking an interest in postage stamps, coins and postal cards. I started a collection of these objects of interest which has steadily grown, now slowly, now more rapidly, but always steadily, so that this hobby of mine has indeed afforded me an immense amount of interest, enjoyment, profit and instruction.



George, probably in his early teens. (GRL Collection)

After saying goodbye to loved ones again, some for the last time on this little world of ours – for, about three months afterwards news reached us of Grandfather’s death, when we did not even know that he was ill at all – Mother, Louise and I sailed on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1907** on the “Prince Ludwig” for **Genoa** again. From there we returned to **Florence**, where I entered the “Collegio Fiorentino”, an Italian school. How much better I could now understand the languages, art, history, architecture, people, customs and manners on this second trip and stay in Europe. How I did delight in delving into hidden, remote and little-known places in city and countryside, full of interest and value!





Allen family residence, 6 Allen Young Terrace, Shanghai, 1907. (GRL Collection)



Shanghai, 1907.

Center: Grandmother

Back row (left to right): unknown, Ethel Allen, and Mary Loehr. (GRL Collection)

**Pietrasanta, Pisa, Siena, San Gimignano** were visited in **1909** [sic].<sup>12</sup> The **summer of 1908** was passed at **Sainte Cruix**, in the Jura Mountains, under the brow of their highest peak, the Chasseron; with straight in front of us the grandest and most perfect panorama of all the Alps, while down at our feet nestled the lakes of Neuchâtel and Geneva. I made frequent excursions up the mountains; into France, all on foot, watching the dairy, cheese, watch, clock, music box, and talking machine industries, with other objects worthy of note.



Florence (Schemboche Studio photograph), probably around 1909–1910.  
Mother, Louise, Mary, and George jr.  
(GRL Collection)

For two brief weeks in **September 1910** [in Forte dei Marmi] I enjoyed the company of the whole family, the first time we had been entirely united since 1902.

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12 The chronological order of the summer visits here is inverted, and this fact was noticed also by the instructor who graded the essay in 1912 at Emory. However, it is probably correct, and not an error, as it is repeated in the 1915 version.



Forte dei Marmi, 1910



Upper row, left to right: Mary, George Sr. (Father), Louise. Lower row, left to right: George Jr., Malvina (Mother), Allen. (GRL Collection)



Upper row, left to right: George Jr., George Sr., Allen.  
Lower row, left to right: Louise, Malvina, Mary (GRL Collection)



Forte dei Marmi, 1910?

George Jr. in a bathrobe, sitting surrounded by family and female friends (GRL Collection)

But the crowning point, the Diamond Age of my life were the two, all too short months, consisting of **May and part of April and June**, spent in **Paris in 1910**.

I count it one of the greatest blessings and privileges of my life to have been able to live in Paris, and study in such congenial and thoroughly enjoyable surroundings where I spent two months during the **spring of 1910**. Nothing was lacking, it seems to me, to make my stay there full of life, romance and .... my heart is just too full to express my happy thoughts and recollections!

It was there that I received my greatest inspiration for higher, nobler and most useful deeds, thoughts and words; along with my broadest view of life. Mary, who had now become my Marie Henriette, my transformed Angel, was that inspiration and the cause of so much joy and gladness.

I cannot begin to tell you of all that I was privileged to do and see, and all the people and old friends I met from all over the world. Suffice it to mention my dear artist chum Clotilde Prégniard,<sup>13</sup> aunt Bertha, and cousin Mary Clarkson.

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13 Clotilde Avy-Prégniard (1885–1945) has left a corpus of impressionist-inspired work.



Paris, 1910. Clotilde Prégniard (GRL Collection)

Hans Andersen's "Improvisatore" and Henri Murget's [sic, for Murger] "Scènes de la Vie de Bohême" are two books that I read about this time, affording me an immense amount of pleasure and influencing me a great deal.

But all things have an end, and this was no exception. I had to bid adieu to Paris, and soon afterwards to Florence and Italy, and Gibraltar, the last bit of European soil left for the gaze of tear-stained eyes, picturing the feeling of heavy, home-sick hearts.

In **September 1910**, waving my handkerchief at the disappearing Azores, where I had sent off some mail for the loved ones left behind, I had to turn my face toward the West, as Columbus did, and think about the country, new people, new associations, new everything, that I was going to, for I was coming here in Emory College to get an American education. About a week afterwards, I passed Liberty Statue and landed in Hoboken, being hailed and greeted by a cousin, whom Father had not seen in forty-two years. We spent some days among relatives in and around New York City, then came south, visiting kinspeople some more, from Carolina down to Florida.

Finally, at the opening of the **Spring Term of 1911**, I matriculated as a sub-freshman.

I soon caught on to the ways of doing and had a very pleasant term. Now I see myself about to say goodbye to my Freshman year, full of profit, enjoyment, rich in experience and ripe in accumulated knowledge.



Emory College, Oxford, Ga., September 1911. In the garden of President J. E. Dickey, taken by James Masanayu Inouye. (GRL Collection)

I feel as if I would not give anything for these delightful and profitable years at college [sic].<sup>14</sup> I have not been able to do much, while here, but by inspiration, hope and willpower, I am determined to accomplish my utmost while here and elsewhere, standing and counting for something worthwhile in the sight of man and of God. Surely the Lord has abundantly blessed and kept me doing all of my wanderings here, there and everywhere.

In **June 1913** I went to France, then had one of my dreams fulfilled by a visit to England; from there I went as a delegate from Georgia to the Seventh World's Sunday school convention which met at Zürich, Switzerland. The remainder of the summer was spent traveling through Italy, the Republic of San Marino, the Tyrol, and Germany, steadily enjoying wonderful opportunities for improving my languages and general culture.

On **January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1914**, at Atlanta, Ga., I stood an examination for the position of Translator in the Office of Naval Intelligence at Washington DC, coming out second in the United States.

The **summer vacation of 1914** was spent at Florence and Forte dei Marmi, where already on my arrival a cloud was brought forth over the European horizon by the assassination of Archduke Frances [Franz Ferdinand]. Finally the War – God dashed out in all his fury during the first days of August.

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14 This sentence is unclear in meaning, and this was noted by the instructor at Emory as well.



Forte dei Marmi, summer 1914. George R. Loehr Jr. (GRL Collection)

After weeks of suspense and waiting, roughing it in Genoa, Mary and I managed to return to the US after many adventures with consuls, steamship agents, British naval officers and American Immigration and Customs officials.

Last **Christmas holidays [December 1914]** were very pleasantly spent in **Houston and Galveston, Texas**, with Mary, and in **New Orleans**, where, for the name (?), I quite forgot I was in the States.

And now at the close of my Senior year, **[May 1915]** entering the threshold of Commencement into life, I am full of expectation and hope, ready to attempt to fulfill my imperative duties in life.

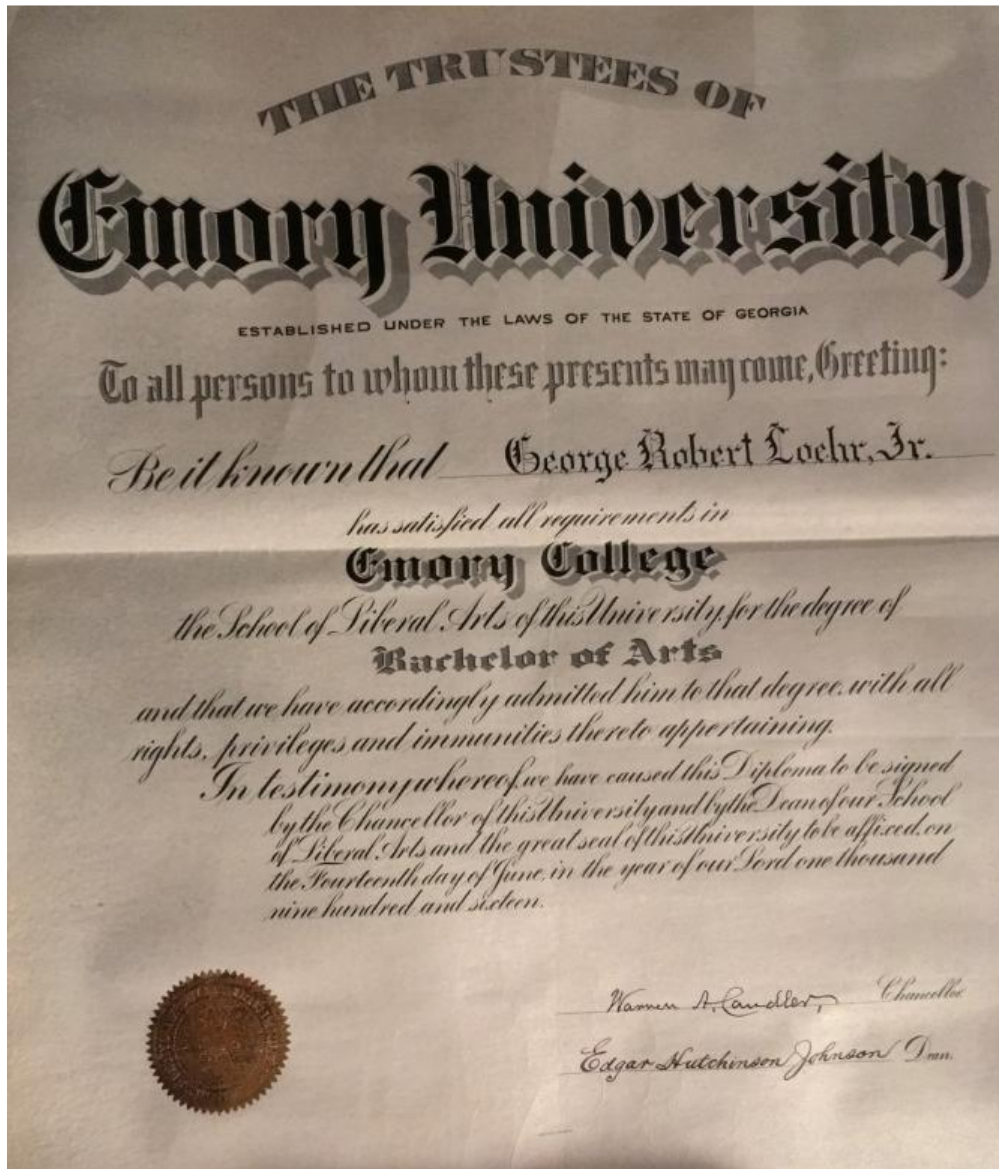
My autobiography. Geo. R. Löhr  
Essay, **May 15<sup>th</sup> 1915**

[Endnote on 1912 version:

Autobiography  
Geo. R. Loehr Jr.  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1912

**To be read by Father only. Please return. Late on account of many difficulties.]**





George R. Loehr, Jr. Bachelor Degree in Liberal Arts, Emory University and College, 14 June 1916. (GRL Collection)