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Western Theological Seminary

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Papers, 1888-1979. 1.75 linear ft.

Abstract

The papers of the China Mission cover the time period from 1888 to 1979. This collection includes diaries, autobiographies, articles, correspondence, and essays. Some of the earlier papers and essays include: “Sketch of the Amoy Mission, China,” 1888; “A Record of Every Day Incidents in China,” 1909; and “Our China Years, 1916-1930.” This collection reveals the history of the China Mission and many of the people involved. Some of those involved include: Elizabeth G. Bruce, Elizabeth Cappon, Alice Duryee, Jean Nienhuis, Helen Oltman, J. Platz, Rose H. Talman, John Van Nest Talmage, William and Alma Vander Meer, Florence Walvoord, and A. L. Warnshuis. This collection also contains many photographs from the mission.

Accession No: W88-0315
Provenance: China Mission
Donor: Various Contributors
Photographs: 654 images
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, November 1997
Ena Brooks, January 1998

History

The start of the China Missions began with David P. Abeel who made many trips to southeast Asia, with lengthy visits in Malaya, the Dutch Indies, and Borneo. He urged the Reformed Church to become involved with Foreign Missions and, in 1836, the church began the Borneo Mission. Political problems and illness among the missionaries caused the Borneo Missions to be closed. The resources of the previous mission were transferred to Amoy on the China mainland in 1842. Because David Abeel was so anxious to enter China, he arrived six months before a treaty allowed foreigners to be admitted. Although the Reformed Church had troubles in Southeast Asia, they had early contact with the Christian program in Singapore. Together, both areas worked to spread Christianity in many countries of Asia.

The Christian mission to the Chinese people is the oldest segment of the world mission of the Reformed Church. The family of the Reformed Church has served much time with the Christians in the Fukien Province in the city of Amoy. They have focused on conveying the Christian message in all aspects of life to the millions of people in that area. With the appearance of communist control in China, it was hard for Christianity to compensate for their loss of members. During this time of struggle, the missions outreach greatly changed. After many years of declined memberships, the mainland churches in China regained their strength. The China Mission continues in its strengths to spread the Christian faith.

Scope and Content

This is a collection of various contributors that were involved in the China Mission. The dates range from 1888 through 1979. There are various personal writings included in this
collection that tell the story of the China Mission. Some of these include dairies, essays and papers. This collection also contains many photographs of the missionaries and the people of Amoy, China. The folders within the collection are arranged alphabetically.

Container List

Annual Report of Hope and Wilhelmina Hospital, Amoy Mission, 1938-1940, 1949
(from Rose H. Talman)
Articles, Intelligencer-Leader and Church Herald, 1936-1953, 1937-1979
Books
   Amoy Dictionary by John Talmage, 1902 (Chinese)
   Amoy Dictionary by John Talmage, 1913 (Chinese)
   Daily Devotional in Romanized Amoy Chinese, n.d. (Chinese)
   Lessons in the Amoy Vernacular by Rev. H. P. De Pree and Peter Hsieh, 1955
   Pocket Dictionary of the Amoy Vernacular (Chinese/English) by Ernest Tipson,
      1934, 1935 (2 books)
Brochures, pamphlets
Correspondence
   1918-1977 (from Rose H. Talman)
   1946-1950 (from J. Platz)
   1947 (Unknown)
   1977 (from Elizabeth G. Bruce)
   Wm. and Alma Vander Meer, 1933-1976
Donor List-China Records Project, 1972
“Drawn from Real Life,” 1948
Essays by Rose Talman and others, n.d.
Greetings, invitations, pamphlet in Chinese, 1961 (from E. Bruce)
Japanese takeover, 1941-1942 (from A. Vander Meer)
Maps, Amoy, China, n.d.
Maps, China (see WTS Oversized Collections and Digital)
Miscellaneous publications, 1907-1970 (Amoy Mission)
   “Amoy Today,” 1946
   “Beginning with Me: The China Centenary of the Amoy Mission, 1842-1942,”
      1942
   “Brief History of the Pity-Children Home,” n.d.
   “Concert by Talmage College Band,” 1926
   “Foreign Missionaries of the Reformed Church: The Rev. David Abeel, Pioneer
      Missionary to China,” n.d.
   “Greetings from Amoy, 1842-1907,” 1907
   “How to Use the Church in Southeast Asia,” n.d.
   “Living Stones,” n.d.
   “Memorial Booklet, Amoy Girls Middle School,” 1970
   “The Miracle of a Century, 1842-1942: The Church of Christ in South Fukien,
China,” n.d.
“Rooted and Built Up in Him: The Story of Our Educational Work in China,” n.d.
“The Story of the Amoy Mission, 1842-1942,” 1942
“Talmage College, Changchow Fukien,” 1935
“The Untouched Task in the Amoy Mission Field,” n.d.
Mission articles, Christian Intelligence and Mission Field and Church Herald, 1926-1945 (from Rose Talman)
Newspaper articles, 1958-1977 (from Rose Talman)
“Our China Years, 1916-1930,” by Rose H. Talman
Photographic Negatives, Amoy, n.d. (from Rose Talman) (137 images)

Box 2

Photograph Album, Bessie Bruce, 1928 (433 images)
Photographs
Group and Hospital, Amoy Mission (from Elizabeth Cappon) (2 images)
Class picture, n.d. (from J. Platz) (1 image)
Dr. Song with volunteers, 1931 (from E. Bruce) (1 image)
Feeding the hungry, 1950 (from J. Platz) (2 images)
Graduating class, 1935 (from J. Platz) (1 image)
Jade Club, 1940 (from H. M. Oltman) (1 image)
Jean Nienhuis with students, n.d. (1 image)
Jessie Platz, friend, Jeannette Veldman, 1930 (from Jessie Platz) (1 image)
Missionaries of Amoy area, 1934 (from H. M. Oltman) (1 image)
Mission staff, 1948 (from J. Platz) (1 image)
Wedding Party, n.d. (1 image)
Hospital, etc., Amoy, China (from R. Talman) (4 images)
Talmage College, 1933, Amoy (from A. Vander Meer) (2 images)
Individuals
Dr. Song, evangelist, n.d. (from Elizabeth Bruce) (1 image)
Helen M. Oltman, 1946 (from H. M. Oltman) (1 image)
Jin Po-chhai and Elizabeth Bruce, 1931 (from E. Bruce) (1 image)
Missionaries, 1942, 1949, n.d. (from H. M. Oltman) (2 images)
From Rose Talman (54 images)
Play, by J. M. Platz, n.d. (from Jessie Platz)
Publications, 1938, 1940, n.d.
RCA Broadcast Station A-M-O-Y, 1940 (from Rose Talman)
Record of Every Day Incidents in China, 1909 by Alice Duryee (from J. Platz)
Report of the Neerbosch Hospital at Sio-Ke, China, in Connection with The Amoy Mission of the Reformed Church in America, March 1889-July 1890, 1890
Report on Conditions in Amoy, China, 1942 (from Theodore V. Oltman, M.D.)
Sketches

Amoy Mission, China, 1888, by John Van Nest Talmage (1 image)
Amoy Mission, 1906 by A. L. Warnshuis (1 image)
Song, “Church of China, Arise and Stand,” by K. C. Wang, 1934
“Such As I Have,” Autobiography by Elizabeth Gordon Bruce, n.d.