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Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

Missionary for the Board of World Missions of the Reformed Church of America at the Amoy Mission in China and the Philippines, 1935-1975. The collection consists of pages detailing de Velder’s ascent to mission work from the scrapbook of his mother-in-law, Frances Phelps Otte; multiple articles written by de Velder detailing his missionary work; and his personal memoir, “Nine Personal Decades in the 20th Century: A Missionary Journey Over Nine Decades.”

Accession No: W88-0033
Provenance: Walter de Velder
Donor: Philip de Velder, Rebecca de Velder Brockmeier
Photographs: 2 images
Processed by: Jodi McFarland, January 1994

Biography

Walter de Velder, born in 1907, graduated from Hope College in 1929 and taught in China at Talmage Memorial College in Changchow, Fukien, from 1929 to 1932. In 1932, de Velder returned to America and married Margaret Otte, a daughter of the first medical missionary for the Reformed Church of America to China and granddaughter of the first president of Hope College (Philip Phelps). She died in childbirth while delivering their only child, Philip. Walter de Velder attended New Brunswick Theological Seminary from 1932 to 1935, and in 1936 was licensed and ordained for the New Brunswick Classis. De Velder did missionary work at the Amoy mission of China from 1935 to 1951, at a mission in the Philippines from 1951 to 1955, and then at a Hong Kong mission in 1955. De Velder was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Hope College in 1964 and continued missionary work until 1972.


Scope and Content

The collection includes articles written by de Velder detailing his missionary work and the Chinese condition, which appeared in both The Church Herald and The Intelligencer-Leader; two items of correspondence of the de Velders’; pages from the scrapbook of Mrs. Frances Phelps Otte, who included some items from the missionary work of her husband, John A. Phelps; and “Nine Personal Decades in the 20th Century: A Missionary Journey Over Nine Decades” by de Velder.
Container List

Articles, 1942-1969
Biographical, 2005
New Brunswick Seminary Coursework, 1935
Photographs, 1937, 1974 (2 images)
Scrapbook pages, 1920-1940