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W96-1208. Nienhuis, Jean (1887-1975).
Papers, 1920-1992. 1.50 linear ft.

Abstract

Graduated from Hope College Preparatory School (1902) and Blodgett Memorial School of Nursing in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Reformed Church in American (RCA) missionary to China from 1920-1952. Founded and headed Nurses Training School at the Hope and Wilhelmina Hospitals in Kulangsu, Amoy, China. The collection contains correspondence, a Chinese song book, miscellaneous notes on scripture passages, notes for speeches at churches, and several photograph albums.

Accession No: W96-1208, W06-1305
Provenance: Jean Nienhuis
Donor: Jean Nienhuis, Wendell P. Karsen
Photographs: 1,883 images
Processed by: Elaine Bruins, September 2010

Biography

Jean Nienhuis was born in May 1887 in the area of North Holland, north of the city of Holland, Michigan. Her home was the Cloverdale Farm on Route 2, Holland, owned by P. M. Nienhuis & Sons. She was a member of the North Holland Reformed Church. Nienhuis graduated from Hope College Preparatory School in 1902 and received her nursing degree from Blodgett Nursing School in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Nienhuis went to Amoy, China, in 1920 and organized the Nurses Training School at Hope and Wilhelmina Hospitals at Kulangsu, Amoy, China, for the Reformed Church in America (RCA). She served there until 1952. In her later years, Nienhuis served many Detroit area churches in visitations.

Jean Nienhuis died on April 3, 1975, at the Haven Park Nursing Home in Holland, Michigan, at the age of eighty-seven.

Scope and Content

The collection consists primarily of photograph albums, beginning with Nienhuis as a young girl and student, then five albums of photographs from her years in China (1920-1935), as well as separate folders of photographs. There is some correspondence and many notebooks on scripture passages and speeches she gave. The collection is arranged alphabetically.

Container List

Biographical, 1975
Correspondence, 1921, 1937, 1939
Hope and Wilhelmina Hospital, Kulangsu, Amoy, China, 1934-1951 (6 images)
Newspaper Clipping, 1938
Notebooks, 1939-1945

Notes for Speeches in RCA churches, n.d., 1934-1935, 1941

Photograph, Church, Kimchi, China, n.d. (1 image)

Photograph Albums

Childhood and Family (68 images)

First Album, 1920-1925 (457 images)

Album, n.d., 1926, 1929 (405 images)

Album, 1930-1935 (157 images)

Album, n.d., 1935, 1936 (102 images)

Album, 1935 (326 images)

Album, n.d. (326 images)

Photographs

Chinese Weddings, n.d., 1932 (3 images)

Loose from albums, n.d. (36 images)

Missionaries and Staff, n.d. (photocopy)

Nursing School Classes, n.d. (2 images)

Songbook (Chinese), 1934