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Specialized Archival and Library Resources for the Study of East Asia Within the Mid-Atlantic Region

The above is the collective title given to five separate papers read at a special panel of the 6th Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region/Association for Asian Studies held at Princeton University October 29-30, 1977 (See topic "Meetings and Conferences" item V). Two of these papers, both relating to Christian missionary sources, appear below; the three remaining papers are scheduled for publication in the next (March) issue of the Bulletin. The authors, Ms. Dove and Ms. Kelsall are both graduate students in the History Department of the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

I. Resources on China, Japan and Korea Within the Presbyterian Historical Society Archives in Philadelphia

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Almost ten years ago Professor John K. Fairbank, in an address to the American Historical Association, called upon historians to end their neglect of the foreign missionary, who, he said, seemed "to be the invisible man of American history." He also pointed out that mission archives had not been sufficiently used for monographic studies. This need, although somewhat alleviated since then, has not been entirely met. Many church archives, while rich in social, cultural, and political as well as religious history, remain untapped. The Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) in Philadelphia is but one example of this phenomenon.

Asian historians may be surprised to learn the value of these "religious" archives. In contrast with the late development of Asian Studies in this country (essentially a development of the past three decades), the Presbyterian Church organized its historical society in 1852, thereby preserving the records of the local and national church governments, as well as home and foreign mission endeavors, which began in China in 1838, in Japan in 1859, and in Korea in 1884. It is among these records that the historian can find a wealth of information about local political situations in Asia, social customs, religious beliefs, prevailing technology, attitudes of Asians towards Westerners, modes of dress, and a myriad of other subjects.

The PHS is the official archives for materials relating to the United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the National Council of Churches. It collects materials pertinent to all American Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. This beautiful library contains more than 118,000 published volumes and several thousand cubic feet of manuscripts, which include diaries, journals, minutes, letters and other documents that provide primary source material. The Society lists its manuscript holdings in the National Union Catalog. There are special collections of audio-tapes, phonograph records, microfilm, motion picture film, photographs, prints and museum artifacts. Preserved there is the lap desk of the first American Presbyterian missionary.
to be martyred in China—Walter Lowrie, who was drowned at sea by Chinese pirates as he travelled from Shanghai to Ningpo in 1847. The PHS also preserves biographical data in 40,000 dossiers on people who were associated with the American Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in many different capacities. The manuscript material is formally closed for an initial fifty-year period, but the United Presbyterian Program Agency will usually grant permission for its use. The address of the Agency may be obtained from the PHS. The Society, with its collections, museum, vaults, reading rooms, microfilm readers and photoduplication facilities, is the most complete denominational research center in the nation, and it receives numerous inquiries from students and faculty in the United States and abroad.

The primary documents relating to East Asia can be located through three separate avenues in the library: the card catalog, the loose-leaf guides to pertinent record groups and the printed calendar to the microfilm collection. The card catalog at PHS includes published and manuscript materials. Under the subject "China" there are about 1,150 entries, while under "Japan" there are about 425 and under "Korea" about 250. A further search under "mission" reveals approximately 550 cards dealing with China, 150 with Japan and 200 with Korea. There is some duplication between these two areas of the catalog.

The loose-leaf guides briefly describe the materials in the processed record groups. The guides give the number of boxes in each group and the number of folders in each box. Some of the boxes contain as few as 8 folders, while others may have as many as 27 folders. The tabs on the folders provide an idea of the content, but reference to any particular document in a folder must be very precise and include, for example, such specifications as "RG 82, Box 1, Folder 3" together with the date (or a similarly specific identification) in order to locate it. The particular document cited above is an annual report of the American Presbyterian Mission Press for the years 1894. This three page report was not indexed in the card catalog and was not located on microfilm. A thorough scrutiny of any of these record groups would require one to search box by box and folder by folder.

The record groups that deal primarily with China and Japan are 31, 81, and 93. Record group 31 covers Presbyterian missions in general between 1829-1895. There are 131,450 items of correspondence, personal records, office files, materials relating to mission candidates' applications, the Civil War, etc. Record group 81 contains 146,000 items of the Foreign Mission Secretaries' records and correspondence from 1892-1965. Record group 82 contains the China mission records from 1890-1955. This group contains 71 boxes, which are stuffed with 390,000 items of correspondence and minutes and reports. Institutions represented include Canton Christian College, Peking Union Medical College and Yale-in-China. Individual correspondents include Pearl Buck and Leighton Stuart. Record groups 93 deals with missions in Japan from 1886-1965. There are 19 boxes, each containing about 3,000 documents. An example of a smaller record group that also deals with East Asia is group 56, which contains the papers of Frank Patrick Gilman, a missionary to China. This group includes diaries, notebooks, and a Chinese dictionary. Additional record groups contain the paper of administrators, missionaries and other Westerners who worked in East Asia such as John Lossing Buck.
Another wealthy source of primary material may be found in the 300-roll-microfilm collection of the earlier mission correspondence and reports. There is some overlap in the time covered by the record groups and the microfilm collection. The film covers the period from 1833-1911. The printed calendar for the microfilm comprises thirty volumes, nine of them dealing with China, 1837-1911, two with Japan, 1859-1911 and two with Korea, 1884-1911. There is a name file with the calendar which gives the name, the volume and the page number of the calendar in which the name appears, but to locate this information in the microfilm collection would require considerable patience and time. This source is not easy to use, in part because the quality of some of the film is poor. The papers, thus filmed, are divided by country and are in general chronologically arranged. There may be more than one index on each roll of microfilm, but each index at least precedes the letters which it represents. This material has only lately been managed by archivists, therefore each letter may contain one or more than one identifying numbers—a situation that can create untold confusion. Even more disastrous is the fact that the original letterbooks which contained the incoming letters from the field and the outgoing letters from the Foreign Mission Board have been destroyed, and not all of the letters in the books were microfilmed. Consequently, this is an incomplete record. The microfilm of these fading and occasionally illegible records is all that remains of some of the early history of American Presbyterian missionaries. Of the 300 rolls of microfilm, 54 deal with China, 23 cover Japan and 15 cover Korea.

Other areas of foreign missionary endeavor are also on microfilm: Africa, India, Laos, Latin America, Mexico, Persia, the Philippines, Siam (Thailand), and Syria. Aspects of the Korean independence movement as well as the Chinese community in California have been microfilmed and are available for purchase from PHS.

There are some materials at PHS which have not been indexed, such as 37 boxes on Korea and one box on Taiwan and numerous pamphlets on Japan and Korea. There is no collection in Chinese or Japanese as such. Occasionally one will find a pamphlet or a short notice in one of these three languages that was printed at the Mission Press. The Foreign Mission Board at one time had a very valuable collection of original Chinese works as well as a copy of each work printed by the Mission Press, but this library has been dispersed.

The printed Annual Reports for the Board of Foreign Missions from 1836 to the present are all in the library and provide quick access to material on East Asia. Because these Reports went into considerable detail during the earlier years, they are very helpful when used in conjunction with the microfilm and the documents in the record groups.

The breadth of material available at PHS is indicated in volume 49 of the Journal of Presbyterian History, dated Winter 1971. The theme of that particular volume is "China Missions in History," and the five articles included within it rely heavily upon the source materials at PHS. Likewise, my own master's thesis on the technological innovations in printing, as introduced to Asia by the Presbyterian Mission Press, was gleaned from the primary source materials at the Presbyterian Historical Society.
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II. Resources On China and Japan Among the Jesuit Publications
In the Woodstock Theological Center Library
Georgetown University

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The Woodstock Theological Center Library, formerly the library of Woodstock College (now closed), has been moved to the campus of Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. and is housed in the Lauinger Memorial Library. Part of the Woodstock Theological Center, an independent research institute, the library is an entity separate from the university library in which it is housed. The Woodstock collection, devoted to theology and associated disciplines, contains numerous titles related to Roman Catholic missions. Among the missionalia is a substantial collection of materials pertaining to Jesuit missions and many publications of the Jesuit mission presses. It is within the collection of Jesuitica that one finds most of the items of interest to scholars of Asian history.

The Woodstock Library does not present itself as having a collection of Orientalia. Scholars interested in the 16th and 17th century encounters between Europe and Asia, and in the history of the Christian missions themselves, should find the Woodstock collection worthy of note, however, because its holdings tend to compliment the far larger collections in the Library of Congress or the Catholic University. Those interested in the 19th and 20th century European presence in China will find works in woodstock, such as those of Henri Havret Louis Hermand, Joseph Hugon and Louis Pfister, which are not available in many much larger collections. In addition, the library has letters from the missions, periodicals and reference works pertinent to mission history including the Lettres edifiantes et curieuses, the Annales de la propagation de la foi, and the Relations de Chine. Among the modern reference works available are such various types of material as that included in the Catalogus Defunctorum in Renata Societate Jesu ab a. 1814 ad a. 1970, and the recently published Monumenta Historica Japonicae.

Among the work on China, Woodstock's Special Collection* contains one of the

* The Special Collection of the Woodstock Library does not circulate and may be used, under supervision, with the special permission of the librarian.