2-1-1984

The "Golden Chain" Manuscripts on East Asia at the Maryland Historical Society

Karen A. Stuart

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Baltimore entered the China trade on August 12, 1785, only a few months after the arrival of the Empress of China in New York. Since that time, Marylanders have been actively interested and involved in the commercial, political, and cultural aspects of East Asia.

The Maryland Historical Society, a private society founded in 1844, has actively sought to collect, preserve, and make known books, manuscripts, and artifacts relating to the history and culture of the state and its people. Though by reputation and design a local history collection, the far-flung activities of Marylanders as reflected in the Society's collections indeed serve to bind us to "all the Nations of the Globe."

I would like to thank Lynn Maskell and Donna Ellis of the Society staff for their assistance in the preparation of this paper.
The Society's Manuscripts Division, one of four library departments, administers holdings now numbering almost 3,000,000 items in over 2,500 collections. New materials are added regularly. General types of holdings include:

**family papers:**
probably the largest such collection in the state, spanning the 16th-20th centuries. Includes such things as letters, diaries, personal financial and legal records.

**business records:**
chiefly from the 18th-20th centuries. records of private clubs, civic groups, literary societies, political groups, and churches.

**private organizations:**

The Society is not the repository for official records of the state or city governments, that responsibility being given by statute to the Maryland Hall of Records (our state archives, in Annapolis) or the Baltimore City Archives.

Manuscript holdings of greatest interest to scholars of East Asia seem to be found most often in collections of family papers, but material of interest also appears occasionally in business and organizational records. These holdings rarely comprise entire collections, but rather are found as single items or small groups of papers or volumes within a larger body of material. Over forty manuscript collections have been listed in Appendix A, and arranged into six categories: Commerce and Maritime; Immigration; Material Culture and the Arts; Military and U.S. Foreign Relations; Missionaries; and Travel and Exploration.

Other available funding aids (published volumes, card catalogues, and guides to individual collections) provide name and subject access, but the researcher should nevertheless be prepared to encounter general rather than specific descriptions, and sometimes to sort through a box or more of unrelated material in order to locate specific items of interest. Where our cataloguing is imprecise, a scholar's own knowledge of the subject and its possible connections to local people or organizations is an invaluable tool. Finally, staff members (trained as archivists or librarians, often having a good knowledge of Maryland history) are available for consultation and assistance.

The Library is open to the public Wednesday-Saturday, 9:00-4:30. Members are admitted free; non-members must pay a daily readers' fee of $2.50. It is advisable to write or telephone ahead to confirm hours of operation and fees before planning a research trip. Requests for more detailed information about collections should be made in writing; extensive searches must be conducted by the researcher in person.

Manuscript material will almost always be hand- or typewritten; its legibility and physical condition vary from poor to quite good. For the protection of the manuscripts, the usual special handling restrictions apply to all collections. Xerox or photographic copies are generally available for a fee,
and existing microfilm may be borrowed on interlibrary loan. Manuscripts are generally in English, and few access restrictions exist. Undergraduate students must supply a letter of introduction from a professor indicating that the student has had sufficient preparation to undertake research in manuscripts.

It might be asked how these obviously American sources could be of any use in the study of East Asia. First, though the perspective of the American traveler is biased and sometimes shallow, the bias is very often blatant and sometimes interesting in and of itself. For example, studies might be made comparing travelers' impressions and stereotypes to actual conditions. Then, too, some travelers are sophisticated and aware observers, and their accounts may offer fresh insight. Second, as a source for student work our collections offer a ready response to the frequently-heard complaint, "What does this have to do with me?", for it is evident from these collections that Marylanders are a part of the world community. Third, these collections are a relatively untapped resource for study, with particular strengths in 19th-century social, biographical and diplomatic history. Finally, the argument of convenience: our collections are in the mid-Atlantic regions of the United States and written in English.

The Manuscripts Division is but one of the Society's divisions with collections of potential interest to scholars of East Asia. Separate library departments administer holdings of prints and photographs, oral history interviews, and a general library of books, rare books, newspapers, and microfilm. The Museums, or "Gallery," has notable collections of paintings, furniture, costumes, silver, ceramics, and other objects. The George Radcliffe Maritime Museum, another division of the Gallery, occupies an entire floor of the building. Inquiries about specific holdings should be addressed to the librarians or curators of the collections in questions care of:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
201 West Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Telephone: (301) 685-3750

APPENDIX A

COMMERCE, MARITIME


Didier Collection (MS. 295) General information on shipping, including a list of tea ports in China [ca. 1806].
Fahrney Papers (MS. 202) Correspondence and accounts, 1856-1857, between Dr. Daniel Fahrney and the firm of Smith & Atkinson, pharmaceutical suppliers. Letters discuss the disruption of trade (particularly rhubarb) occasioned by the war between China and Great Britain.

Hicks Correspondence (MS. 950) Correspondence between Alfred, Charles, and Robert Hicks, 1840-1848, concerning the tea trade and England's planned blockade of the port of Canton.

McCulloh Papers (MS. 1356) Copybook, March-November 1802, of letters and accounts kept by Samuel McCulloh while on business in Canton. Subjects of letters include: trade and the manner of conducting business in Canton; accounts identify merchandise shipped, including ginseng, tea, ceramics, and textiles. [1 vol.]

Samuel Smith Papers (MS. 1790) Letter, 17 July 1807, from Albert Gallatin to Smith concerning the precautions necessary to protect the China and East Indian trade given the war climate and involvement of the British.

John Campbell White Papers (MS. 1005) Correspondence, 1825-1828, with Nicholas Biddle concerning the China trade.


Wright-May-Thom Family Papers (MS. 2416) Copy of R.B. Forbes' Remarks on China and the China Trade (Boston, 1844) inscribed to W.H.D.C. Wright, U.S. Consul to Río de Janeiro and commercial shipper.

IMMIGRATION

Leslie Chin Interview (OH. 8223) Oral history interview of Chin (1923- ), who emigrated from China to Baltimore at about the age of 10. Interview covers his youth in China; difficulties of entering the United States, "paper sons," growing up and education in Baltimore, comparison between life in China and the United States. Transcript available.

Ethnic Heritage Project Papers (MS. 2365) Research notes, clippings assembled during the Maryland Bicentennial Project on Nisei/Sansei in the Maryland/D.C. area; membership lists, reminiscences, and memorabilia of Koyu Kai, Inc. and Sakura Kai, groups devoted to friendship, culture and education. ACCESS RESTRICTED—PLEASE CONSULT STAFF.

Maryland World War II Collection (MS. 2010) Materials collected by the World War II Records Division of the Maryland Historical Society concerning the state's military, industrial, agricultural, and civilian contributions to the war effort. Used in compilation of Maryland in World War II (Baltimore, 1950-65; 9 vols.).

Subjects covered include: Chinese Women's Association of Baltimore; Maryland War Relocation Authority.

Separate index available; ADVANCE NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE THIS COLLECTION MUST BE PROVIDED.
Baltimore Chinese History Collection (MS. 2238) Manuscript entitled "Early Baltimore Chinese Families" by Lillian Lee Kim: history of many Chinese families in Baltimore; contributions and achievements; Chinese food; New Year's celebrations. [1 vol.; 1976]

**MILITARY AND U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS**

*Archer-Mitchell-Stump-Williams Family Papers* (MS. 1948) Letters, 1853-1854, written by Dr. Lewis J. Williams during Naval tours of duty aboard the USS Mississippi and USS Saratoga to his wife Harriet Archer Williams. Places visited by Williams include: Singapore, Napa (Soo-choo), Shanghai, Hong Kong, and various other places in China and Japan. Subjects covered include: Perry's treaty negotiations with the Japanese; extensive physical description; observations on local food, religion, customs; trade; politics, etc.

*Aulick Expedition Papers* (MS. 1187) Copies of documents relating to Commodore John Henry Aulick's expedition to procure a treaty from the Emperor of Japan: Aulick's commission and instructions from Secretary of State Daniel Webster, President Millard Fillmore's letter to the Emperor of Japan, a letter from Webster to Secretary of the Navy William A. Graham, and George L.L. Davis's paper "The Origin of the late Japan Expedition." Aulick's instructions antedated Perry's, but he was recalled and Perry sent instead. [1851-1857]

*Bonaparte Papers* (MS. 141) Letters and memoranda, 1906, addressed to Charles J. Bonaparte, Secretary of the Navy under Theodore Roosevelt, concerning the strength of the Japanese navy. Correspondents include Admiral George Dewey.

*Anna Ella Carroll Papers* (MS. 1224) Letter, 30 July 1856, from Millard Fillmore to Carroll. In response to her questions, the Reciprocity Treaty and Japan expedition originated under his administration, but received little or no encouragement from his successor.

*Civil War Scrapbook* (MS. 1916) Includes newspaper clippings on events in China and Japan, 1846-1867.

*Gist-Jones Papers* (MS. 1572) Letters and research notes from 20th-century genealogical research, having to do with an ancestor's participation in Perry's 1853 expedition to Japan, and a shawl supposedly presented to the ancestor (John Adlum Green) by the Emperor of Japan.

*Anna Melissa Graves Collection* (MS. 2031) Typescript copies of letters, 1950s-1960s, from Graves (world traveler, writer, and speaker on political causes) to friends and officials regarding her beliefs on pacifism, atheism, U.S. politics and foreign policy, the Korean War, China, propaganda, etc. Also includes a letter, 1955, from Grace Lis, Tientsin, to a Mr. Hessler on conditions under the government of the People's Republic of China and on U.S. propaganda.
Isaac Jones Papers (MS. 501) Pamphlet, "Narrative of the U.S. Expedition to
Corea, 1871; the Storming of the Forts on Kanghoo Island; and An Appendix,
containing the Diplomatic Correspondence on which the Expedition is based,
reprinted from the Shanghai Evening Courier, 1871.

John Pendleton Kennedy Papers (MS. 1336) Comments, ca. 1850s, of "An Old
Soldier" on the Japan Expedition, addressed to Secretary of the Navy Kennedy
and President Millard Fillmore.

McIlvain Collection (MS. 1081) "Notes on the situation in China, 1857,"
including the surrender of the Taku forts to Sir Michael Seymour. Source
uncertain—may be taken from secondary source or a transcription of original
material.

See also: Various papers in other categories

MISSIONARIES

Graves, Canton, to "W[illiam]"; pamphlet In Memory of Rosewell Hobart Graves,
M.D., D.D., Our Honored and Beloved Senior Missionary (Canton: China Baptist
Publication Society, [1912]) and other printed articles on Graves' missionary
career.

Shoemaker Papers (MS. 1968) Letters of Samuel Moor Shoemaker (1893-1963)
concerning missionary activity in China, 1917-1919.

Waters Papers (MS. 1457) Printed certificate, 7 April 1905, certifying M[ary]

See also: Hyatt Collection (MS. 1007), under TRAVEL

TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION

Atkinson and Smith Family Papers (MS. 2473) Travel diary of Eliza Blow
Atkinson covering a trip made to Japan (Yokohama, Nikko, Kyoto) and China
(Shanghai, Chefoo, Tientsin and Peking), 1924-1925. Includes Atkinson's
observations on architecture, theatre, landscaping, dress, religious
observances, hospitals and various places visited.

Brune-Randall Family Papers (MS. 2004) Letters, 1911, from Emily Brune Randall
Webster to various family members, describing travel in Japan and China.
Notable are her observations on political conditions in China immediately
after the Revolution.

Letters of Dr. Harry Richmond Slack and his wife Elizabeth Blanchard Randall
Slack from the period of their residence in China, 1922-1923, while Dr. Slack
worked at the Peking Union Medical College.

Register available.
Buckler Papers (MS. 168) Business and personal papers of William Buckler, Baltimore dry goods merchant, including a journal kept while on a ship returning from China, November-December 1842; social invitations, 1847, from the period of Buckler's residence in Macao; letter, 1851, from W. A. Hunter, Macao, to Thomas Buckler, Canton.

D. Fred Crowley Collection (MS. 1640) Letters, 1944-1945, written by Air Force Sgt. Dale Dozen while stationed in China (Kunming, Peishiyi, and Shanghai) to Mr. and Mrs. D. Fred Crowley. Topics discussed include the silk paintings of Dr. D'ung, Foochow lacquerware, and silk gowns, as well as more general comments on the weather and the life of a serviceman.

Dallam Papers (MS. 1250) Letters from Batavia (Jakarta) by Griffin Stith to Francis J. Dallam, January-February 1822. In addition to discussing local trade, exchange rates, opium, and the weather, references are made to Stith's previous experience in Canton, Whampoa, and Macao.

Duvall Journal (MS. 2387) Medical officer aboard the USS Constitution. Journal describes flora, fauna, native customs, topography, geology, mineralogy and meteorology of the Philippines, China and various Pacific island groups, 1843-1845.

Harwood Family Papers (MS. 1022) Papers of James K. Harwood dating from his service as ship's purser aboard the USS Vandalia in Japan and China, 1852-1856. Subjects covered include the foreign presence and local attitudes toward it, dress, food, customs and women's roles.

Hyatt Collection (MS. 1007) Correspondence, 1859-1901, of American naturalist and marine biologist Alpheus Hyatt. Includes letters, 1890-1898, between Hyatt and John T. Gulick on the subjects of geology, botany, and zoology of Japan (Osaka); an 1886 letter from Adele Field describing the activities of missionaries in Swatow, China.

Lehr Papers (MS. 709) Travel diary, ca. 1934-1939, kept by Mary E. Reed while on a round-the-world cruise. Places visited include India, Hong Kong, and coastal cities in China (especially Canton, Shanghai, Peking, and Japan). Entries are brief and impressionistic, concentrating mainly on weather, hotels, and meals.

Claudia Old McKittrick Diaries (MS. 2115) Journals, 1923-1937, kept by McKittrick while traveling with her husband, Capt. Harold V. McKittrick, Commander of the USS Augusta, on tours of duty in China, Japan and Hong Kong. McKittrick's detailed observations of life and culture are recorded in anecdotal and descriptive passages. Subjects covered include: geography, architecture, religion, markets, and the Japanese invasion of China in 1937.

Mayer and Roszel Papers (MS. 581.3) Travel diary, 1827-1828, kept by Brantz Mayer. Places visited include: Java, Macao, and China (Lintin, Whampoa, and Canton). Detailed observations on customs, dress, religion, the local economy, women, the theatre, smuggling, the foreign presence, and physical description.

Paul Patterson Collection (MS. 2395) Baltimore Sun newspaper editor: records relating to a trip to China in 1945, including a Chinese newspaper article about the trip, air priority certificates, memorabilia, and a luncheon invitation from Chiang Kai-shek.

Rodgers Papers (MS. 1410) Receipted bills for clothing and other purchases made by Adm. John Augustus Rodgers, USN, while on a tour of duty in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Nagasaki, 1872-1875.

Rogers Journals (MS. 701) Journal of James Lloyd Rogers' 1846 voyage aboard the ship Stephen Lurman. Places visited include China (Canton), Hong Kong, and Macao. General description, with specific comments on weather, architecture, local products, a wedding, and the Portuguese presence in Canton.

Steele Papers (MS. 1729) Letters, 1881-1894, from Dr. Guy Steele to his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Steele, while serving aboard the USFS Lancaster in China, Japan, and Hong Kong.

E.A. Williams Papers (MS. 899) Letter, ca. 1870's, from Mary Virginia Royall Withers to her daughter [Sue] Dabney [(Mrs. Henry) Williams]. General description of Hong Kong, local observance of Christmas, attitudes of the Chinese toward their children, and servants.

See also: Archer-Mitchell-Stump-Williams Family Papers (MS. 1948), under MILITARY

MATERIAL CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Bornschein Music Manuscripts (MS. 2254) Printed and manuscript music composed or arranged by Franz Carl Bornschein (1879-1948), a member of the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore. Some musical works are based upon legends from China. Register available.


See also: D. Fred Crowley Collection (MS. 1640), under TRAVEL
APPENDIX B

PUBLISHED GUIDES TO MHS COLLECTIONS


"News and Notes of the Museum and Library of Maryland History" [Bi-monthly newsletter of the Society, distributed as a benefit of membership. Lists new accessions.]

*National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* (Library of Congress, 1959-).


[Available in reprint form].
