Guide to the Bell Family Collection, circa 1930-1946

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Bell Family Collection
Dates: circa 1930-1946
Identification: OCH/BFC
Creator: Bell Family
Physical Description: 1.96 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Old China Hands Archives

Abstract: Kitty Bell was born in Paris, but moved to Shanghai at eight years of age to live with her new adoptive parents. At age 15, she was sent to an internment camp in China by the Japanese, where she met her husband, Chris Bell, who was interned at the Chapei camp outside of Shanghai. They were married soon after their release, and immigrated to the United States where they had four children. The collection mainly consists of photographs of Shanghai, the Bell family, and Chris Bell’s extended family during the 1930s and 1940s. Also included are postcards from China and California, print materials saved by the Bell family, and the board game “Shanghai Millionaire.”

Family History:
Kitty Bell was born in Paris, France, but moved to Shanghai at eight years of age to live with her new adoptive parents. She attended Sacred Heart and the Holy Ghost Convent in Tsingtao among other schools. At age 15, she was sent to an internment camp in China by the Japanese, where she met her husband, Chris Bell, who was interned at the Chapei camp outside of Shanghai. The Bells were married shortly after their release, then immigrated to the United States, where they had four children. Most of the family now resides in the San Francisco Bay area.

Genre/Form of Material:
Ephemera
Paper records
Photographic material

Processing Information:
Jessica Geiser, 2013

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Conditions Governing Access:
The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation:
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.
Old China Hands Archives

Scope and Contents
The Bell Family Collection mainly consists of photographs of Shanghai, the Bell family, and Chris Bell’s extended family during the 1930s and 1940s. Also included are postcards from China and California, a pamphlet on the Medal of Immaculate Conception, a transcript of a toast given by Francisco Noodtosan, and a Monopoly knockoff board game called “Shanghai Millionaire.”

Box 1, Folder 1 Photographs, ca. 1930-1946
Box 1, Folder 2 Postcards
Box 1, Folder 3 "The Miraculous Medal" Pamphlet, 1934
Box 1, Folder 4 Francisco Noodtosan Toast
Box 2, Item 1 "Shanghai Millionaire" Board Game