Language of Material: Multiple languages
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives
Title: Elsa Shelton Miller Collection
Identifier/Call Number: OCH.ESMC
Extent: 0.21 linear feet
Date (inclusive): 1946-1950
Abstract: Elsa Shelton Miller was born in 1916, and lived in China and Japan until the early 1950s. She worked as a stenographer for a variety of employers, including the U.S. forces in Peiping after World War II, and Time Life International in Tokyo. The collection contains documents from Miller’s life in Asia, including identification and citizenship documents, a travel visa, Chinese Yuan from the late 1940s, postcards with pictures of Shanghai, and documents regarding Miller’s attempts to gain a visa to the United States in 1950.
Language of Material: English, Chinese
Biographical Information:
Elsa Shelton Miller was born Elsa Fischer in 1916. She married Jim Shelton, a bar owner in Shanghai, at around the age of 17, but the marriage was short lived. She worked as a stenographer for a variety of employers, including the United States Armed Forces in Peiping, China, and Time Life International in Tokyo. Her brother-in-law, Bob Miller, also worked for Time Life as a reporter, and in 1950 he tried to help her obtain a visa to the United States. As the waiting list for U.S. immigration was prohibitively long, they tried appealing to various contacts, including Senator William F. Knowland, but were unsuccessful. Ultimately, they decided to marry in order to get Elsa a visa. While the marriage was only for convenience and therefore did not last long, it did get Elsa into the United States where she eventually became an American citizen. She passed away in June of 1998.
Scope and Contents
The Elsa Shelton Miller Collection contains documents from her life in Asia during the late 1940s and early 1950s. Items in the collection include identification and citizenship documents, a travel visa, Chinese Yuan from the late 1940s, postcards with pictures of Shanghai, and documents regarding Miller’s attempts to gain a visa to the United States in 1950.
Related Material
Olaf Torgersen Collection, 1907-1957
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Janet Augestad, 08/31/2011.
Preferred Citation:
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.
Processing Information:
Jessica Geiser, 2013
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Ephemera
Documents

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Civilian Employee Identification Card and Temporary Travel Visa - Peiping, China, 1946-1947 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Chinese Yuan (Currency), 1946-1949 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Norwegian Citizenship Certificate, 1948 |
Box 1, Folder 4  United States Visa Correspondence, 1950
Box 1, Folder 5  Shanghai Postcards