Guide to the Small Family Nanking University Collection, 1907-2004

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Small Family Nanking University Collection
Dates: 1907-2004
Bulk Dates: 1907-1928
Identification: OCH/SFN
Creator: Small, Alexander and Mary Schurman, Jacqueline W.
Physical Description: 0.23 linear feet
Language of Materials:
English
Chinese
Repository: Old China Hands Archives

Abstract: The Small Family Nanking University Collection consists of a family history, a map of Nanking, copied correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other materials on Nanking University, Lex's career as an architect, and the Nanking Incident, compiled by Jaqueline Schurman, the Smalls' granddaughter.

Biographical Information:
Alexander and Mary Small, also known as Lex and Polly, travelled to China in 1912 shortly after being married. Lex initially worked at the Fati Language School in Canton, where he was the school's engineer, involved in various small building and maintenance projects. After one year he was assigned to be the Superintendent of Construction for the Nanking University, part of the China Union Universities, created and administered by four US missions in New York. For over thirteen years, Lex supervised the construction of 66 buildings on campus, and he and Polly hosted numerous visiting missionaries. In 1927, the Smalls fled down the Yangtze River with few of their possessions in the midst of the Nanking Incident, an uprising of Nationalist and Communist soldiers in which foreign residents were attacked and their property looted and destroyed. The family left China for the United States, eventually settling in Pasadena, California, where Lex worked for an architectural firm and then the Los Angeles Board of Education.

Genre/Form of Material:
Paper records
Publications

Processing Information:
Ellen Jarosz and Tim Kauffler, 2012

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The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation:
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Scope and Contents
The Small Family Nanking University Collection consists of a family history, a map of Nanking, copied correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other materials on Nanking University, Lex's career as an architect, and the Nanking Incident, compiled by Jaqueline Schurman, the Smalls' granddaughter.

Box 1, Folder 1: Nanking University Documents, 1907-1949
Box 1, Folder 2: Articles from The American Architect about Alexander Small's Work at Nanking University, 1925-1928
Box 1, Folder 3: Nanking Incident Documents, 1927
Box 1, Folder 4: Affidavits Regarding Alexander Small's Career Accomplishments in China, 1927
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