
Guide to the Sydney and Ruth Jonah Collection, circa 1890-circa 1990

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Sydney and Ruth Jonah Collection

Dates: circa 1890-circa 1990

Identification: OCH/SRJ

Creator: Jonah, Sydney and Ruth

Physical Description: 4.66 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Old China Hands Archives

Abstract: Sydney Jonah was born in China, and moved to the United States in the 1930s. In 1935, he married Ruth (Rudy) Cohen in Los Angeles, California. The collection consists mainly of personal photographs belonging to both the Jonah and Cohen families, which show some of Sydney's time in China, their life and travels together as a married couple, and family photos sent to and collected by Sydney and Ruth. Also included in the collection is a small amount of personal correspondence and collected papers, most notably letters between Sydney and his family regarding a relative living in Shanghai during the 1940s.

Biographical Information:

Sydney Jonah was born in China in 1910, to Ephraim and Gertrude Jonah. He attended the Public and Thomas Hanbury School for Boys in Shanghai, and immigrated to the United States, settling in San Francisco in the 1930s. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1942, and became a naturalized US citizen in 1944.

Ruth (Rudy) Cohen was born in Michigan in 1912 to Philip and Yetta Cohen, and moved with her family to Los Angeles sometime before 1930.

Sydney and Ruth were married in Los Angeles in 1945.

Access Terms

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:

Paper records

Photographic material

Processing Information:

Jessica Geiser and Eric Yin, 2013

Conditions Governing Use:

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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](#)

Arrangement of Materials:

Series I: Personal Materials, 1912-1985

Subseries A: Correspondence and Clippings, 1912-1985

Subseries B: *Arts and Commerce Magazine*, 1928-1930

Series II: Photographs, ca. 1890s-1990s

Subseries A: Loose Photographs, ca. 1890s-1990s

Subseries B: Photographs Albums, ca. 1890s-1985

Scope and Contents

The Sydney and Ruth Jonah Collection consists of family photographs spanning from the 1890s to the 1990s, as well as some correspondence, news articles, and publications collected by the Jonahs. The collection is divided into two series:

Personal Materials (1912-1985) and Photographs (circa 1890-1999).

Series I, Personal Materials, is sorted into two subseries: Correspondence and Clippings (1912-1985) and *Arts and Commerce Magazine* (1928-1930). The Correspondence and Clippings subseries consists firstly of correspondence between Sydney's family, including postcards of China sent to Sydney from his father, Christmas cards sent to Sydney and Ruth, and a series of letters written in 1945 concerning Sydney's aunt still living in Shanghai. Also included in the subseries are clippings related to China, including a picture of Hongkew schools and an article on Dr. Ma Haide. The *Arts and Commerce Magazine* subseries consists of five issues of the magazine, which was published by students at the Public and Thomas Hanbury School for Boys.

Series II, Photographs, is divided into two subseries, Loose Photographs (circa 1890-1999) and Photograph Albums (circa 1890-1985). The Loose Photographs subseries consists of miscellaneous photographs of the Jonah family, as well as some photographs of members of Ruth's family, the Cohens. The Photograph Albums subseries consists of photographs placed into albums by the Jonahs, including two albums of Sydney's early life in Shanghai and San Francisco with captions written by Sydney.

Series I: Personal Materials, 1912-1985

Subseries A: Correspondence and Clippings, 1912-1985

Box 1, Folder 1	Postcards Sent to Sydney Jonah From His Father Ephraim Jonah, 1914
Box 1, Folder 2	News Clipping: Honkew Schools Photograph, 1927
Box 1, Folder 3	Christmas Cards Sent to Sydney and Ruth Jonah, ca. 1940-ca. 1969
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence Sent to Sydney From His Mother (Gertrude) and Brother (Irvine) Regarding an Aunt Living in Shanghai, September, 1945
Box 1, Folder 5	US-China Review Articles on Journalists in China in the 1940s and Dr. Ma Haide, ca. 1982

Subseries B: *Arts and Commerce Magazine*, 1928-1930

Box 1, Folder 6	<i>Arts and Commerce Magazine</i> - Autumn Issue, Vol. 1 No. 3, 1928
Box 1, Folder 7	<i>Arts and Commerce Magazine</i> - Easter Issue, 1929
Box 1, Folder 8	<i>Arts and Commerce Magazine</i> - Summer Issue, Vol. II No. 6, 1929
Box 1, Folder 9	<i>Arts and Commerce Magazine</i> - Xmas Number, Vol. III No. 7, 1929
Box 1, Folder 10	<i>Arts and Commerce Magazine</i> - Easter Issue, Vol. III No. 8, 1930

Series II: Photographs, ca. 1890-ca. 1999

Subseries A: Loose Photographs, ca. 1890-ca. 1999

Box 1, Folder 11	Albumette and Framed Photographs, ca. 1910-ca. 1950
Box 1, Folder 12	Loose Photographs, ca. 1890-ca. 1929
Box 1, Folder 13	Loose Photographs, ca. 1900-ca. 1929
Box 1, Folder 14	Loose Photographs, ca. 1920-ca. 1949
Box 1, Folder 15	Loose Photographs, ca. 1920-ca. 1949
Box 1, Folder 16	Loose Photographs, ca. 1930-ca. 1959
Box 1, Folder 17	Loose Photographs, ca. 1930-ca. 1959
Box 2, Folder 1	Loose Photographs, ca. 1940-ca. 1969
Box 2, Folder 2	Loose Photographs, ca. 1950-ca. 1979
Box 2, Folder 3	Loose Photographs, ca. 1950-ca. 1979
Box 2, Folder 4	Loose Photographs, ca. 1960-ca. 1979
Box 2, Folder 5	Loose Photographs, ca. 1970-ca. 1989
Box 2, Folder 6	Loose Photographs, ca. 1980-ca. 1999
Box 2, Folder 7	Loose Photographs, ca. 1980-ca. 1999
Box 2, Folder 8	Hilda Cohen Photographs, ca. 1930-ca. 1969

Box 2, Folder 9	Landscapes and Scenery, ca. 1920-ca. 1949
Box 2, Folder 10	Solomon Family Photos, ca. 1910-ca. 1959
Box 3, Folder 1	Oversized Loose Photographs, ca. 1920-ca. 1949

Subseries B: Photograph Albums, ca. 1890-1985

Box 2, Folder 11	Sydney and Ruth's 25th Anniversary, 1970
Box 2, Folder 12	Trip to Canada, 1971
Box 2, Folder 13	Trip to the Orient, ca. 1970-ca. 1979
Box 2, Folder 14	Photograph Album, 1976-1985
Box 4, Item 1	Red Photograph Album - Los Angeles and Miscellaneous, ca. 1940-ca. 1969
Box 4, Item 2	Black Photograph Album - "Sydney E. Jonah - Of People And Things", 1927
Box 5, Item 1	Black Photograph Album - China and California, ca. 1900-ca. 1949
Box 6, Item 1	Red Flower Photograph Album - "Of Scenes and Things", 1932-1937
Box 6, Item 2	Grey Print Photograph Album - China and California, ca. 1920-ca. 1959