Guide to the Thomas A. Butler Collection, circa 1930-2001

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Thomas A. Butler Collection
Dates: circa 1930-2001
Bulk Dates: ca. 1930s-1948
Identification: OCH/TBC
Creator: Butler, Thomas A., 1910-2001
Physical Description: 1.21 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Old China Hands Archives

Abstract: Thomas (Tom) A. Butler was an editor for the English-language North China Daily News in Shanghai from the early 1930s until 1948, when he and his family fled from Communist forces to Hong Kong. The collection consists of a selection of editorials written by Butler while at the North China Daily News on a variety of current issues, two news articles written about Butler upon his retirement and passing, and eleven silver trophies won by Butler as a member of the Shanghai Bowling Club.

Biographical Information:
Thomas A. (Tom) Butler was born in Clonmell, Ireland in 1910. He immigrated to the United States in 1923, where he attended high school in Pittsburgh and then joined the United States Marines. Butler was stationed in China, and he stayed there after his time in the Marine Corps, becoming a radio announcer, a foreign war correspondent for the London Daily Telegraph, and an editor for the English-language newspaper North China Daily News. While living in Shanghai, Butler married Cecilia dos Remedios, and they had two daughters, Cathy and Patricia. In 1948, upon hearing that Chinese Communist forces were incarcerating journalists, Butler fled with his family to Hong Kong, where he became the night editor of the South China Morning Post until 1955, when the family moved to Vancouver, Canada. Butler then worked as the news editor of The Vancouver Sun for 20 years until his retirement in 1975. He passed away at the age of 91 in 2001.

Genre/Form of Material:
Paper records

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

Arrangement of Materials:
Series I: Editorials and News Articles, ca. 1930-2001
Series II: Shanghai Bowling Club Trophies, 1934-1947

Scope and Contents
The Thomas A. Butler Collection mostly consists of news articles and memorabilia related to Butler's life and career in Shanghai during the 1930s and 1940s. The collection is arranged into two series: Editorials and News Articles (ca. 1930s-2001), and Shanghai Bowling Club Trophies (1934-1947).

Series I, Editorials and News Articles, consists mostly of editorials written by Butler during his tenure as editor of the North China Daily News on international current events, including commentaries on World War II diplomacy efforts, major events in Southeast Asia, local Shanghai concerns, and elections in the United States. Also included in the series are two newspaper articles written about Butler upon his retirement and passing.
Series II, Shanghai Bowling Club Trophies, consists of eleven silver trophies won by Butler as a member of the Shanghai Bowling Club.

Series I: Editorials and News Articles, ca. 1930-2001

Box 1, Folder 1
North China Daily News Editorials, ca. 1930-ca. 1949

Box 1, Folder 2
Vancouver Sun Articles on Tom Butler, 1975, 2001

Series II: Shanghai Bowling Club Trophies, 1934-1947

Box 2, Item 1
Mens Singles - Duck Pin Championship, 1934

Box 2, Item 2
Ten Pin - Runner Up, 1935

Box 2, Item 3
Ten Pin - High Triple, 1935

Box 2, Item 4
Ten Pin - High Single, 1935

Box 2, Item 5
Ten Pin - Mixed Doubles Championship, 1938

Box 2, Item 6
Foreign YMCA, 1939

Box 2, Item 7
Mens Doubles, 1939

Box 2, Item 8
Mens Doubles, 1940

Box 2, Item 9
YMCA Ten Pin, 1941

Box 2, Item 10
Singles Championship, 1941

Box 2, Item 11
Duck Pin - Mens Doubles, 1947