Finding aid for the Mary Shon papers 3012

Sarah Cassone
USC Libraries East Asian Library
2018 March
Doheny Memorial Library
3550 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, California 90089-1825
URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/east-asian-library
Language of Material: Korean
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries East Asian Library
Title: Mary Shon papers
creator: Shon, Mary, 1916-2010
Identifier/Call Number: 3012
Identifier/Call Number: 938
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet1 bankers box
Date (inclusive): 1924-1964
Abstract: Mary Shon was a Korean-American social worker, teacher, and USC alum. This small collection consists primarily of yearbooks from Union Christian College and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Korea. The collection also contains a photo album, a photo book on Syngman Rhee and two publications relating to Korean life.
Language of Material: Collection is predominantly in Korean.
Arrangement
Materials are arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
The Mary Shon papers, 1924-1964, consist of three folders and fifteen loose items, relating largely to religious education, school administration, and Korean life. The collection comprises primarily yearbooks, the majority from Union Christian College and Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Korea. Although the covers of the bound Union Christian College yearbooks indicate the years as 1958 to 1964, it is possible these dates are when these yearbooks were assembled, seeing as the college itself closed in 1938. The connection between the yearbooks and Shon or her family remains unclear, as they had already been in the United States since the early 1900s. It is possible these items were in Shon's possession due to her academic studies and general interest in religious education.

The collection also contains a photo album featuring items relating to the school administration system in Seoul, again something that was relevant to Shon's academic studies. There is also a book documenting the pictorial history of the first fifty years of work of the Presbyterian Church in Korea and a published photo book on Korean President Syngman Rhee, who was also a friend of Shon's father. The remainder of the collection includes "Korean Ways" a book on Korean life, particularly framed from a Christian perspective, by Sin-young Choy and a Welcome to USA citizenship booklet from 1953, published by the United States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Biographical Note
Mary Chun Lee Shon was a Korean American social worker and teacher born on February 21, 1916, in Woodland, California. She is the daughter of Soonkee Rhee and Eunkee Chun, and older sister of Olympic gold medalist and USC alum Sammy Lee. In 1939, Shon graduated from USC herself, earning B.A.s in Sociology, Religious Education, and Social Work. She was the first ever Korean American to graduate from USC.

As a social worker she assisted Chinese, Korean, and Filipino women and children. In 1966, after the death of her husband Herbert Pedro Shon, Mary returned to school, earning a Master’s degree in School Administration from Pepperdine University. Thereafter she became an adviser to the Los Angeles Unified School District’s Asian Languages program and also taught at Eastman Elementary School.

In 1999, Shon was awarded the USC Alumni Award. She passed away on July 10, 2010.

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Preferred Citation
[Box/Folder# or Item name], Mary Shon papers, Collection no. 3012, Korean Heritage Library, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mary Shon.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Korean American women -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Presbyterian Church -- Korea -- Archival resources
Presbyterian theological seminaries -- Korea -- Archival resources
Religious education -- Study and teaching -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Social workers -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Sociology -- Study and teaching -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Women social workers -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Photograph albums
School yearbooks
Yearbooks
Shon, Mary, 1916-2010 -- Archives
Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Korea -- Archives
Rhee, Syngman, 1875-1965 -- Archives
Sungsil Haktang (P'yŏngyang, Korea) -- Archives

Box 1, Item 1 [Spiral bound photo album] undated
Box 1, Item 2 Korean Ways by Sin-young Choy undated
Box 1, Folder 1 Syngman Rhee [photobook] undated
Box 1, Item 3 Union Christian College Pyeng Yang, Korea [yearbook] 1924
Box 1, Item 4-5 Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Korea [yearbook, 2 copies] 1929
Box 1, Item 6 Chung Eui Hakkyo [Chongui Hakkyo] Class of 1929 [yearbook] 1929
Box 1, Item 7 [Yearbook] 1930
Box 1, Folder 2 The Korean Pacific Magazine Series II, Vol. I, No. III 1930-05
Box 1, Item 8 College Annual [yearbook] 1930-05-03
Box 1, Item 9 A Pictorial History Illustrating the First Fifty Years of Work of the Presbyterian Church in Korea Commemorating the Jubilee Year 1934
Box 1, Folder 3 A Welcome to USA “Citizenship” [booklet] 1953
Box 1, Item 10 [Union Christian College yearbook] 1958
Box 1, Item 11 [Union Christian College yearbook] 1959
Box 1, Item 12 [Union Christian College yearbook] 1960
Box 1, Item 13 [Union Christian College yearbook] 1961
Box 1, Item 14 [Yearbook] 1962
Box 1, Item 15 [Union Christian College yearbook] 1964