Finding aid for the China Society of Southern California records 3311

Sarah Casone
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Title: China Society of Southern California records
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Identifier/Call Number: 3311
Physical Description: 5 Linear Feet6 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1935-2015
Abstract: The China Society of Southern California was founded in 1935 as a non-profit cultural organization and is the oldest Sino-American organization of its kind in the United States. The records of the China Society consist primarily of correspondence, board meeting minutes, the Bulletin of the China Society, and financial records. There are also materials surrounding events held by both the China Society and neighboring organizations, foundation documents, articles and clippings, as well as certificates and ephemera.

Historical Note
The China Society of Southern California was founded in 1935 as a non-profit cultural organization. It is the oldest Sino-American organization of its kind in the United States. The Society was initiated on May 8, 1935 by a group of Chinese and American friends who met together at the home of Dr. Yi-Seng Kiang, the former Vice-Consul and Consul-General of the Republic of China. Under its first President, Peter SooHoo, the China Society's first official meeting was held on June 6, 1935 at Soochow Café in Los Angeles.

The goals of the China Society of Southern California, as noted in its Constitution and By-Laws, are to "foster friendly relations between Chinese and Americans", "promote among Americans and Chinese a true understanding and appreciation of the history, culture, ideals, and customs of their respective countries", "provide Chinese and Americans with opportunities for mutual sharing of the beautiful and useful creations of their respective civilizations, including those in the realm of art, literature, philosophy, science, and religion" and "to co-operate with other organizations in sympathy with its aims and interest."

Included among the Society's history of members are Lillie SooHoo, Dr. Theodora Chen (Chairman of the Department of Asiatic Studies at the University of Southern California), Nobel Prize winner Pearl S. Buck, Chang Wen-ti, Chang Shu-chi, Dr. Y.G. Chen, Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, and Sue Yong.

Scope and Contents
The China Society of Southern California records, 1935-2015, consist of correspondence, minutes, financial records, bulletins, brochures, invitations, event materials, articles, clippings, publications, certificates, and ephemera documenting the 80-year history of the oldest Sino-American organization in the United States. The majority of the material in this collection comprise correspondence to and from members, board of directors meeting minutes, financial records in the form of statements, account books, financial reports, receipts, and balances, as well as original copies of the Bulletin of the China Society of Southern California, from its inception in 1935 through the 1990s.

Additionally, the collection includes items related to events and gatherings, held by both the China Society and neighboring organizations, in the form of event programs, brochures, invitations, menus, notes, photos, and mock-ups of announcements and programs.

The collection also contains foundation documents consisting of the China Society's Constitution, By-Laws, and Articles of Incorporation as well as Board of Directors information, rosters, membership applications, and lists.

The remainder of the collection includes a some articles, newspaper clippings pertaining to China, a few newsletters and journal publications, certificates, and ephemera in the form of a tie.

Organization

Materials were found to be primarily in chronological order. This arrangement has, largely, been maintained.

Conditions Governing Access
Advance notice required for access of physical materials. Access of the select digitized items is available through the China Society of Southern California collection via USC's Digital Library.
http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15799coll32

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
The collection came to the University through connections made by Clayton Dube, Associate Director of USC's U.S.-China Institute. Representatives of the China Society of Southern California, including its President, Robert Lee (2014), visited USC to discuss the donation of the material.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Chinese Americans -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Chinese Americans -- Societies, etc. -- Archival resources
History -- Societies, etc. -- Archival resources
Nonprofit organizations -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Societies -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Brochures
Bulletins
Certificates
Clippings
Correspondence
Ephemera
Financial records
Invitations
Menus
Minutes
China Society of Southern California -- Archives
Buck, Pearl S. (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973 -- Archives
Kiang, Yi-seng, 1908- -- Archives
Meyer, Milton Walter -- Archives
SooHoo, Peter, Sr. -- Archives
Wong, Anna May, 1905-1961 -- Archives

Foundation documents

Box 1, Folder 1  [The China Society of Southern California: its history and aims] undated
Box 4, Folder 9  [Membership application forms] undated
Box 1, Folder 84  China Society 1935
Box 1, Folder 2  [Proposed constitution] 1935
Box 1, Folder 3  [First draft of the proposed By-Laws] circa 1936
Box 1, Folder 4  [By-Laws of the China Society of Southern California] 1936-06-29
Box 1, Folder 5  [Proposed amendment to the constitution] 1936-12-15
Box 1, Folder 6  [2nd Annual Meeting correspondence and Constitution and By-Laws booklet] 1936-12-19
Box 1, Folder 10  Membership lists 1936-1982
Box 1, Folder 11  Directory of China Organizations 1939-11
Box 1, Folder 7  [Articles of Incorporation] 1946-02-11
Box 4, Folder 12  [Articles of Incorporation copy, meeting info, business cards] 1946-1986
Box 4, Folder 13  China Society of Southern California Board of Directors term of office 1965-1975
Box 3, Folder 19  [Members, deceased members, cancelled memberships] 1966-1976
Box 4, Folder 14  [Board meetings and By-Laws] 1969-1986
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Board personnel, names 1973-1986

Box 4, Folder 15  
[Board meetings info and directions] 1974-1985

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[By-Laws revisions] 1975-12

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Box 6, Folder 43  
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Correspondence

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[Press releases and form letters to members] undated

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Correspondence 1970s

Box 6, Folder 11  
[Milton Meyer correspondence, photo, and appreciation award] 1971-2010

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Tararin, Adrienne 1980-1986

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Box 6, Folder 18  
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[Correspondence to members] 1985-1986

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Letters - out 1986-1987

Box 6, Folder 33  
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[Correspondence with members] 1987-1991

Box 6, Folder 40  
[Typed and written correspondence and letters] 1988-1992

Box 6, Folder 45  
[Helen and Harold Giedt correspondence and (blank) application] 1991-02-21

Box 6, Folder 51  
[Board of Directors nominations correspondence] circa 2004

Box 6, Folder 52  
[Correspondence to members re: dues] circa January 2007

Box 6, Folder 53  
[Voting results] circa 2007

Box 6, Folder 58  
[Board of Directors nominations correspondence] circa January 2013

Box 6, Folder 59  
[Yvonne Chang - treasurer (notes and Christmas card)] circa January 2013

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Minutes 1936

Box 1, Folder 83  
Members meeting minutes 1936-1972

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**Financial records**

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<td>Financial statements 1936-1973</td>
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<td>Relief committee 1938</td>
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<td>Cash reports 1938-1973</td>
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<td>[Bank of America signature cards] 1939-1947</td>
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<td>Statements for dinner meetings 1939-1973</td>
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Finances [Statement of Financial Condition, tax info, periodic reports] 1976

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Box 3, Folder 17  
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Scholarship [notes and clipping] 1986

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Box 6, Folder 1  
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Box 4, Folder 43  
[Paper art and logo symbol] undated

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Programs - past - notes undated

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[Moon Festival invitation] 1959-09-13

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Box 4, Folder 31  [China Jade notes] 1972
Box 4, Folder 32  40th Anniversary of the China Society [program] 1975-10-06
Box 4, Folder 33  [Proof-reader’s marks and corrections] 1981
Box 6, Folder 17  [Event brochures, notes, and newsletters] 1981-1985
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Box 4, Folder 34  [Chinese Historical Society brochures and programs] 1985
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Box 6, Folder 23  Speakers - past - and program 1985
Box 6, Folder 28  Program [notes and clipping] 1986-01-12
Box 5, Folder 7  Proofs (work for printing) 1986
Box 6, Folder 29  Restaurants [menus and notes] 1986
Box 6, Folder 36  [Friends of Soochow menu 23rd Annual Dinner] 1988-03-14
Box 4, Folder 40  Chinese Historical Society of Southern California 1988
Box 6, Folder 41  China Society pictures (duplicates) 1988-1995
Box 6, Folder 48  China Society flyer 1997-1998
Box 6, Folder 50  Noel Toy Young memorial invite 2004-01-31
Box 6, Folder 54  [China Society monthly events invitations] 2006-05-2011-06
Box 6, Folder 55  [75th Anniversary Dinner logo and menu] 2010-10-04

Articles, clippings, and publications

Box 1, Folder 15  Articles undated
Box 1, Folder 16  Articles: Albert Fields undated
Box 6, Folder 4  "Seeing Last Emperor tugs Restaurateur’s Family Ties" [LA Times clipping] undated
Box 4, Folder 38  Information Bulletin Vol. III, Number 4 1937-02-11
Box 4, Folder 39  The 8 Ball [publication] 1969-10-17
Box 4, Folder 40  [Clippings] 1972-1992
Box 4, Folder 41  "Soochow Advocate” 1974-03-1976-03
Box 4, Folder 42  China most recent clippings 1979, 1984-1985
Box 5, Folder 1  China articles [clippings] 1983-1984
Box 5, Folder 2  [Caroline Chan articles, bio, award ceremony (includes photos)] 1984
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Box 5, Folder 4  Orginal typed article and layout for 50th Anniversary submitted to L.A. Chinatown Chamber of Commerce souvenir book 1985
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Box 6, Folder 26  Chen, Theodore, Dr. [clipping] 1986-02-17
Box 6, Folder 34  [Asian Week Vol. 8, No. 21 and notes] 1987-01-09
Box 6, Folder 37  First Class Confidential [newsletter] 1988-05
Box 6, Folder 44  Chinese New Year’s True Meaning USA Weekend [clipping] 1991-01-25-1991-01-27
Box 6, Folder 56  [Milton Meyer publications] 2012
Box 6, Folder 57  "Travels with Milt No. 6: Countries Visted" by Milton Walter Meyer 2012

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Box 4, Folder 45  [Certificate of Congressional Recognition - 80th Anniversary] 2015-11-21