

Everett L. Cattell Library, Malone University
OHRAB Grant Progress Report through August, 2012

Preservation, Description, and Access for the Friends Mission Collection

The Cattell Library at Malone University received a check in the amount of \$1137.00 from the Ohio Historical Society on April 27, 2012. Rather than ordering supplies immediately, we decided to wait for the expertise of our new archivist, Amy Yuncker. Ms. Yuncker began work at Malone on June 16 and jumped into the project full time.

By the beginning of July, Ms. Yuncker had surveyed the entire collection and ordered supplies. Some folders, paper, and odd-sized boxes were backordered, but enough arrived to allow her to begin arranging, organizing and rehousing the collection into properly fitting, acid-free, stable long-term storage.

In our original proposal, we planned to hire a dedicated intern to work on the project. We thought that the intern and the archivist would each spend about 20 hours a week throughout the summer. Rather than hiring an intern, Ms. Yuncker devoted almost all of her time to the project during the summer months and will continue allotting as much time as necessary to complete the project. She had assistance from our regular summer student workers as needed and will have a designated student assistant during the school year.

The collection has been organized by geographical regions. By the end of August, Ms. Yuncker had created the following finding aids which have been posted to the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository (<http://ead.ohiolink.edu>).

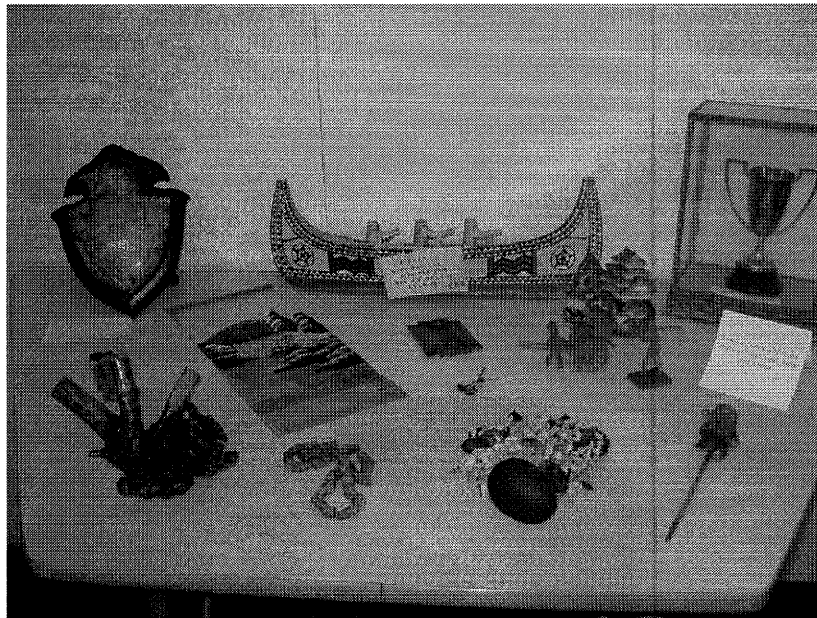
- Friends Foreign Mission Collection: Africa (dates 1901-1906)

- Friends Foreign Mission Collection: Central and south America (dates 1971-1990)
- Friends Foreign Mission Collection: China and Taiwan (dates 1898-1989)
- Friends Foreign Mission Collection: General Materials (dates 1897-1988)
- Friends Foreign Mission Collection: India (dates 1892-2008)
- Friends Foreign Mission Collection: Missionary Collections (dates 1888-2012)

At this point, 79 boxes have been completely processed. Most of the manuscripts have been indexed and moved into acid-free folders and boxes. Ms. Yuncker has viewed all the reel-to-reel movies and written descriptions of each one. We have plans to convert those movies to DVD format when the university's InfoTech department has the available time. She is still working on the artifacts. She tried to photo-document the artifacts collection, but lighting was an issue. As a result, Ms. Yuncker is taking detailed notes and trying to preserve the items by wrapping them in acid-free tissue and storing them in appropriately sized containers.

As we complete the organizing, indexing and preservation of the collection, we want to turn our efforts to accessibility and marketing. The grant has been mentioned in press releases and various campus communications, but we want to let people know about the contents of the collection. In addition to the OhioLINK finding aids, Ms. Yuncker was able to highlight some of the artifacts from the collection during the EFC-ER bicentennial symposium and celebration. This fall she will work with our Instruction and Electronic Services Librarian Kris Owens to create and maintain a Friends Missions Collection LibGuide. This online resource will provide information about the collection along with links to the finding aids and other related materials. We hope to place a link to our research guide on the Evangelical Friends Church Easter Region web page to assist people who are searching for historical missions information. We have also created a new display area in the main library that will feature rotating items from all areas of our archives.

This process has uncovered interesting artifacts and information. Some of the favorite finds so far have been the unique toys from the African collection and various items of clothing from the China collection. There are also written accounts of missionaries' experiences during the Nanking Incident in 1927 that describe being held at gunpoint, having their money taken from them, and being hidden by supporters. There are many other letters written from missionaries to supporting churches in the United States describing the culture and daily activities from around the world. We are excited that researchers will finally be able to benefit from this collection.



Artifacts from the Friends Missions Collection, Everett L. Cattell Library.