Phyllis Kihn research collection

A Guide to the collection at the Connecticut Historical Society

Collection Overview

Repository: Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut
Creator: Kihn, Phyllis
Title: Phyllis Kihn research collection
Dates: 1870-1998
Extent: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)
Location: Ms 81877
Language: English

Historical Sketch

The Educational Mission in Hartford, Connecticut, was the fulfillment of a dream of Yung Wing. He wanted Chinese youth to study American technology to improve China’s engineering and infrastructure. Yung Wing came to the United States in 1847 to study at Monson Academy in Massachusetts and at Yale. It was upon his return to China that he began planning to send Chinese students to America.

A group of thirty students ranging in age from ten to fourteen arrived in Hartford in 1872. They lived with host families, attended local schools, and in the summer studied Chinese classics at the Mission’s headquarters at 352 Collins Street, Hartford. In 1881 the Chinese government recalled the students because they were becoming too Americanized.

Scope and Content

The collection was given the accession number of the first gift to the Historical Society, a scrapbook donated by Phyllis Kihn. The other materials were donated at a later time by Kihn and were also gathered when the Historical Society developed an exhibit about the Mission for the Chinese Students Memorial Association in 2001.
Phyllis Kihn Research Collection,
Chinese Educational Mission

Box 1 contains photocopies of lists of Chinese students in New England, catalogs from Wesleyan Academy in Massachusetts, research notes, articles by and about the students, and biographical information about them. Box 2 also contains a large number of photocopies of research materials including articles about the founder, Yung Wing, and about the mission in general, Chinese periodicals, letters in Chinese that have not been translated, correspondence about the Historical Society’s research of the mission, and collection finding aids from other repositories. The third box contains a scrapbook of newspaper clippings compiled by Phyllis Kihn.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Use Restrictions

Use of the material requires compliance with the Connecticut Historical Society's Research Center regulations.

Subject Headings

Personal Names

Yung, Wing, 1828-1912.

Subjects

Chinese -- United States.
Chinese Educational Commission.
Scrapbooks.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

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History of Young Chinese Students in America, 1872-1881: Letters of the Chinese Educational Commission Students, edited by Timothy Kao
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Finding aid to Thomas La Fargue papers at Washington State University, 1987

Scrapbook of newspaper articles about the Mission, collected and compiled by Phyllis Kihn.