

Hong Kong Baptist University Library
Special Collections & Archives
Andrew Gordon Wilson Papers

Record Group No. 18

[December 21, 2015]

Wilson, Andrew Gordon, 1885 – 1965

Papers: 1907-1951, n.d.

1 DC box (total 0.5 linear footage), Articles, Books, Correspondence, Diary, Documents, Journal, Manuscripts, Newspaper clippings, Pamphlets, Photographs.

Restrictions: None

Anyone using this collection must sign an *Agreement* to use the Andrew Gordon Papers. Some materials may be photocopied.

Biography

Full name: Andrew Gordon Wilson, 衛理信 (Chinese name used in passport).

Other Chinese names: 衛理順, 威理信, 威利順

Birth date: February 20, 1885, at Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

Family:

Parents: William D. Wilson, Elizabeth Patterson

Siblings: Elsie, William & May

Martial Status: Married to Hettie Winter on December 22, 1910 in Canton

Children: Jessie May, Lillian, Agnes, Jean, Caird, Liuce

Career:

1908 – 1913 Business Manager of the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital called Canton Hospital 博濟醫局 in Guangzhou (Canton), China.

1914 – ? Clerk of Works and Building Supervisor of Canton Villages Mission.

1919 – 1925 Building Supervisor and Mission Treasurer of Kong Chuen Hospital 江村 普惠醫院 and Girls school in Jiangcun 江村 (Kong Chuen).

1943 – ? Material control officer in Australia.

[NOTE: In the Scope and Content description, the notation “folder 2-5” means box 2, folder 5]

Scope and Content

Andrew Gordon Wilson Papers document Rev. Andrew Gordon Wilson's work and life as an architect and missionary in Guangzhou (Canton), China from the late 1900s to the 1920s. Rev. Wilson worked at the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital (Canton Hospital) 博濟醫局 and was also involved in the construction and management of the Kong Chuen Canton Hospital 江村普惠醫院 and the schools. There are some pamphlets and many newspaper clippings on China and Guangzhou (Canton) in particular.

Series: Paper records and photographs

Arrangement: The overall arrangement of the collection was provided by the archivist, as were the titles of the folders. The folders are now arranged alphabetically by subject and document type, and then chronologically within each type of document classification. All oversize materials are put in the OS File.

Date range: 1907 – 1951, n.d.

Volume: 1 DC (0.5 linear footage)

Boxes: 1 box (15 folders)

Geographic coverage: China, Hong Kong and Australia

Types of documents: Articles, books, newspaper clippings, correspondence, diary, legal documents, journal, manuscripts, pamphlets, photographs.

Subjects: China, Guangzhou (Canton), Hospitals, Missionaries, Missions, World War I, World War II, Japanese occupation.

Notes:

Rev. Andrew Gordon Wilson was an architect and ordained at the Presbyterian Church in Woomelang, Victoria, Australia in 1934. In 1907, Rev. Wilson, being a missionary of the New Zealand Presbyterian Mission, was sent to Guangzhou (Canton), China to work as the Business Manager of the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital (Canton Hospital) 博濟醫局. Later in 1914, he became the Clerk of Works and Building Supervisor of Canton Villages Mission to oversee the design, construction and maintenance of the new Mission Hospital called Kong Chuen Hospital (also known as Kong Chuen Canton Hospital) 江村普惠醫院, residences and the Girls School in Jiangcun 江村 (Kong Chuen), Guangzhou (Canton). In 1919, he became the Building Supervisor and Mission Treasurer of Kong Chuen Hospital and Girls school.

Rev. Wilson stationed in Guangzhou (Canton) for almost two decades and he wrote about his work and life in Guangzhou in his **Poetry books** (folder1-2) and outgoing correspondence and diaries. For instance, he described his quarter provided by Messrs Purnell & Paget in 1908, his wife going to Guangzhou (Canton) for their wedding on February 29, 1910 and his trip to Pok Lo on the Pearl River with maps and pictures in

some **Correspondence** to his family (folder 1-7). In his **Diary** (folder 1-8), written in a 1924 almanac published by the China Baptist Publication Society, he recorded the progress of the Kong Chuen Hospital and schools project. This almanac also contains directories of missionaries, missionary societies, mission schools and committees in southern China and Hong Kong. A black **Diary** book in folder 1-8 contains entries for July-August 1914 during his voyage from Australia to China aboard the SS Tango Maru, as well as records of different jobs with budgets, staff duty, amount of materials e.g. steel and cement used in different projects in 1941-43 when he was the controller of materials in the Northern Territory, Australia. Rev. Wilson's work in China was successful. **Appreciation** to his work was documented in a January 3, 1910 letter written by John M. Swan, the Medical Superintendent of Canton Hospital (folder 1-4) and a Chinese letter written on silk (OS 22).

Rev. Wilson collected some **Newspaper clippings** (folders 1-11 to 1-13) from the Canton Times, South China Morning Post and Outlook spanning the period 1917-1938, as well as some Australian newspapers such as Herald, Woomelang and Argus from 1932 to 1941. Most of the clippings are related to missionaries, China and Guangdong during World War I, warlords fighting years, Japanese attack in the late 1930s and World War II. Folder 1-12 also contains Rev. Wilson's birth certificate and his annual report in the capacity of the clerk of works and building supervisor for the Canton Villages and Kong Tsuen project. Other documents related to **World War I** (folder 1-14) include a broadsheet of Canton War Investments Association about war loan and a journal entitled *Chen Hua* (Vol. II, no. 12, November, 1918). The conditions in China, particularly in Jiangcun 江村 (Kong Chuen), Guangdong and Hong Kong from 1912 to 1950 were also recorded in the **Republic of China** file (folder 1-14) and some incoming **Correspondence** (folder 1-5). A printed pamphlet in folder 1-14 entitled '*Did Marshall Feng Act Rightly?*' discussed Marshall Feng's 馮玉祥 Christian Army in the Peking 'coup d'état'. Incoming correspondence (folder 1-5) from Rev. Wilson's friends e.g. Dr. Avis P. Thomson mentioned about Lingnan University, hospitals and schools in Jiangcun, Guangdong and Hong Kong under the Japanese attack and occupation from the 1930s to 1940s. A letter dated March 17, 1950 mentioned about the impact of the communist soldiers in Jiangcun.

Rev. Wilson had used several legal documents to stay and work in China. OS 21 is his oversize **Passport** printed in Chinese. Other **Legal documents** (folder 1-10) include a 1924 'Strike Temporary Pass' issued by the Shameen Municipal Councils; some certificates of registration as a missionary and British subject issued by the British Consulate between 1910 and 1916, one of these certificates has a photograph of the Wilson family. Another document is his handwritten English translation of a deed of perpetual lease between Messrs Shewan Tomes & Co. and Chang Shan Tang, dated December, 1902.

There are some interesting materials in the collection. The **Chinese pamphlets and notice** file (folder 1-3) include a Cantonese opera program 高陞戲園人壽年劇團粵劇劇刊 and a 1925 printed manifesto of a general labour union in Hong Kong 香港工業維持會宣言. Folder 1-4 contains some commercial trade cards

advertising businesses in Canton, Swatow and Shanghai together with 5 personal cards and cards with New Testament passages; and folder 1-7 contains a letter written by Rev. Wilson on wooden paper.

Provenance

The materials for this collection were received by the Special Collections & Archives in June 2011.

Accession: 11-01

November 4, 2011

December 21, 2015

Mandy Liu

Irene Wong

LOCATION RECORD

Accession: 11-01

Type of material: Oversize materials

The location of the following items is indicated in parentheses following the folder title.

PASSPORT (OS 21). One Chinese passport issued by the British Consul-General for Rev. Wilson. The passport holder could go and stay in Guangdong (Kwangtung) Province, China for one year. In the size of 62 x 47 cm. 1918.

APPRECIATION LETTER (OS 22). A Chinese letter on a piece of white silk written to Rev. Wilson on his departure to Australia. In that letter, a group of Chinese expressed their admiration to Rev. Wilson's personal integrity and their gratitude to his remarkable work as an architect in the construction of the Kong Chuen Hospital 江村普惠醫院. In the size of 33 x 40 cm. 1920.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Bible reading notes: Manuscript	n.d.
1	2	<i>Chinaware and Mulgawood</i> : Poetry books	194-?
1	3	Chinese pamphlets & notice	1924 – 1932
Correspondence			
1	4	Correspondence: Incoming	1908 – 1925, n.d

1	5	Correspondence: Incoming	1934 – 1950, n.d.
1	6	Correspondence: Incoming: Invitation cards in Australia	1947 – 1951, n.d.
1	7	Correspondence: Outgoing	1907 – 1914, n.d.
1	8	Diary	1914 – 1943, n.d.
1	9	Kong Chuen Hospital, St. Catherine's School 仁德女學校 & temple: Photographs	n.d.
1	10	Legal documents & certificates	1910 – 1938, n.d.
		Newspaper clippings	
1	11	Newspaper clippings	1910 – 1929, n.d.
1	12	Newspaper clippings: Scrapbook	1911 – 1937, n.d.
1	13	Newspaper clippings	1932 – 1941, n.d.
1	14	Republic of China: Broadsheets and pamphlets	1924, n.d.
1	15	World War I: Broadsheets and pamphlets	1917 – 1918, n.d.