

Hong Kong Baptist University Library
Special Collections & Archives

**Hinghwa Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church
Papers**

Record Group No. 21

[29 December, 2020]

福建興化 – 美以美會

Papers; 1933-1948, n.d.

3 folders; 0.02 linear feet

Restrictions

Anyone using this collection must sign an *Agreement to use the Hinghwa Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church Papers*. Photocopying of unpublished material is prohibited.

Preferred Citation

Hinghwa Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church Papers, RG. 21, Special Collections & Archives, Hong Kong Baptist University Library.

Background

Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC, 美以美會) sent missionaries to China in 1847, they first arrived at Foochow (Fuzhou, Fujian). The American missionaries founded schools, orphanages, hospitals and mission press in Fuzhou. Grew out of the Foochow Conference in 1896, the Hinghwa Mission Conference (興化佈道年議會) was organized with Rev. William Nesbitt Brewster (蒲魯士, 1862-1916) as superintendent. It was later conferred by the General Conference of 1904 as Hinghwa Annual Conference (興化年議會).

Since 1890, the Brewster couple served in Hinghwa (興化, today Putian 莆田), Fujian Province and established the headquarter that worked among Puxian dialect (莆仙語) speakers. The couple raised their family in China under Christian tradition, three of their children also became missionaries. The seven children were: Mary R., William Fisher, Francis T., Raymond, Edward B., Karis and Harold. Mary married Rev. George W. Hollister, a co-worker and missionary in Hinghwa. Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher Brewster (蒲星氏, 1862-1955) continued his husband work after his death in 1916.

Scope and Content

Papers of Hinghwa Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church (1933-1948, n.d.) consists of correspondence and articles sent to supporters, family and contributors in the USA, with descriptions of mission work and raising funds for their work.

Mrs. Brewster letters (**Folder 1**) wrote of the situation of the Hinghwa Conference as donation dropped due to the depression in the USA. She mentioned how they provided training for their orphans whom became nurse and doctors, also reported the desperate situation of preachers facing bandits and pirates, anti-foreign and anti-Christians movement.

Rev. Charles E. Winter (**Folder 2**), stationed in Sienyu (today Xianyou 仙游) since 1920, he was the principal of lower and higher primary schools in Sienyu East and West District that included the Guthrie High School. He and his wife, Mrs. Virginia B. Winter, mentioned the development of schools, their staff, the war against Japanese occupation, Dr. John Sung (宋尚節), the kidnap of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and how Chinese villagers survived in poverty and war.

Rev. George W. Hollister served as teacher in Hinghwa Biblical school and wrote Bible study books and textbooks. In **Folder 3**, a letter dated 1947

described what he observed in the hospital, his concern on villagers' health due to inflation.

Series: Paper records

Date range: 1933-1948, n.d.

Volume: 3 folders

Geographic coverage: Putian, Fujian, China

Types of documents: Articles and correspondence

Language: English

Subjects: Brewster, Elizabeth F.; missionary; Sung, John, 宋尚節; Methodist Episcopal Church, 美以美會; Christianity; Fujian, China;

Provenance

The materials for this collection were received by the Special Collections & Archives in 2011/12.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title	Year
1	Brewster, Elizabeth Fisher	1933-1948, n.d.
2	Winter, Charles E.	1936-1938
3	Hollister, George W.	1947