

THE CENTER FOR THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN HERITAGE
UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DAYTON, OHIO

Collection HC-48

The Dr. Frank Oldt Papers



Processed by Timothy Binkley

April 2005

INTRODUCTION

Collection HC-48 consists of two unpublished manuscripts: *Frank Oldt, Medical Missionary: His Story* (Accession 988.3) and *Dr. Oldt: Missionary to China* (Accession 988.2).^{*} These works document the career of Dr. Frank Oldt (1879-1976), a United Brethren medical missionary who served in China during the first half of the twentieth century.

Mary Ruth Oldt French and Margaret Elizabeth Oldt donated their father's memoirs to United Theological Seminary's Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage in 1988. The donors also gave a copy of the four volume *Frank Oldt, Medical Missionary: His Story* to the library of Otterbein College.

For organizational purposes, each of the works in the Dr. Frank Oldt Papers is considered its own series:

Series I: *Frank Oldt, Medical Missionary: His Story*

Series II: *Dr. Oldt: Missionary to China*^{*}

The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage does not possess a signed Deed of Gift for these materials. Therefore, specific donor restrictions and copyright designations are unknown.

Note:

^{*}At the time of the creation of this finding aid (April 2005), *Dr. Oldt: Missionary to China* has not been located. *TSGB*

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Dr. Frank Oldt was born in Beavertown (now known as Kettering), Ohio, on 19 December 1879. He graduated from Otterbein College and Ohio Medical University. After working briefly as a school teacher, Oldt served the United Brethren Church as a medical missionary in China beginning in 1905. He married Ora Maxwell that same year. She accompanied Frank into the mission field and died of influenza on 29 June 1938. Frank and Ora had three children: Dr. Mary Ruth Oldt French (m. David M. French 10 September 1938; d. 5 Dec. 1998), Margaret Elizabeth Oldt, and Frank Maxwell Oldt (d. 15 Jan. 1988). Dr. Oldt returned to Ohio and retired in 1951. During his retirement, Dr. Oldt prepared notes for his memoirs. He died in 1976 at the age of 97.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Topics of interest noted in the Oldt memoirs include: childhood memories near Dayton, Ohio; reflections on his spiritual development; Otterbein College; Ohio Medical University; Y.M.C.A.; the United Brethren in Christ Church; United Brethren South China Missions; life in China; Chinese politics and revolutions; China Medical Missionary Association; Miller Seminary; the Soviet Union; Japan; War; Lantou Mountain Camp; and family history.

Series I: *Frank Oldt, Medical Missionary: His Story* fills 1127 pages. The thirty-seven chapters of memoirs originally came in four three-ring binders (hence four volumes). For preservation and storage purposes, the pages have been placed in eighteen acid-free folders within two document cases. Dr. Oldt's memoirs begin with recollections of childhood and end in 1938 with the death of his wife, Ora. In the editors' preface, Mary Ruth and Margaret note that:

Some editing of the manuscript has been done, but care has been taken to preserve Dr. Oldt's own style in telling his story. There are repetitions in many places, and there is not complete uniformity of usage of Chinese place names. Where quotations from letters appear, they have been left unaltered.

Series II: *Dr. Oldt: Missionary to China* [materials not found in collections 2005]

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box Folder Description

Series 1: *Frank Oldt, Medical Missionary: His Story*

1	1	Preface Vol. 1, Chapter 1: Formative Years Vol. 1, Chapter 2: To China
1	2	Vol. 1, Chapter 3: Changing China Vol. 1, Chapter 4: Canton in 1905
1	3	Vol. 1, Chapter 5: The First Year in Canton Vol. 1, Chapter 6: Second Year in Canton, 1906-07
1	4	Vol. 1, Chapter 7: Canton, 1907-10 Vol. 1, Chapter 8: Siulam
1	5	Vol. 1, Chapter 9: Revolution, 1911-12 Vol. 1, Chapter 10: Furlough
1	6	Vol. 1, Chapter 11: Post-revolution Period, 1912-16 Vol. 1, Chapter 12: Missionary Work in Siulam, 1913-17
1	7	Vol. 2, Chapter 13: Political Developments After the Death of Yuan Shi-Kai, 1916-30 Vol. 2, Chapter 14: Medical Work and Building of the Hospital in Siulam, 1917-19
1	8	Vol. 2, Chapter 15: Mission Work in China, Postrevolution Period, 1912-19 Vol. 2, Chapter 16: Furlough, 1919-21
1	9	Vol. 2, Chapter 17: Sun Yat-Sen's Final Attempts to Unify China Vol. 2, Chapter 18: Cheung Kai-Shek and the Northern Expedition
1	10	Vol. 2, Chapter 19: Family Life, 1921-24 Vol. 2, Chapter 20: Medical Work, 1920-23
1	11	Vol. 2, Chapter 21: Summer in Kuling; Ora's Thyroidectomy in Shanghai Vol. 2, Chapter 22: Events in South China During Our Absence in Kuling and Shanghai, 1925-26 Vol. 2, Chapter 23: Medical Work, 1924-27

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
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Series 1: *Frank Oldt, Medical Missionary: His Story (continued)*

1	12	Vol. 3, Chapter 24: Life and Work in Canton Until Furlough, 1926-27 Vol. 3, Chapter 25: The Voyage Home, Furlough and Return to China, 1927-29
1	13	Vol. 3, Chapter 26: Events in China, 1927-29, While We Were on Furlough Vol. 3, Chapter 27: Turmoil In China: Eventual Unification Against Japanese Aggression
1	14	Vol. 3, Chapter 28: Life and Work in Canton, 1929-32 Vol. 3, Chapter 29: Lantau Mountain Camp
1	15	Vol. 3, Chapter 30: Medical Work, 1929-34 Vol. 3, Chapter 31: China's Changes (In All Aspects of Life) In the Thirties
2	1	Vol. 4, Chapter 32: Life in Canton, 1935-1937 Vol. 4, Chapter 33: The Changes In the 1930's
2	2	Vol. 4, Chapter 34: The Sino-Japanese War in China, July 1, 1937 - December 1941 Vol. 4, Chapter 35: Increasing Intensity of the War, First Six Months of 1938
2	3	Vol. 4, Chapter 36: Work in Wartime Vol. 4, Chapter 37: Ora's Last Illness

Series II: *Dr. Oldt: Missionary to China*

2	4+	<i>(Item not located 2005)</i>
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8/1/2005