Martin and Margaret Hiller Collection of Audiovisual Materials on China, 1945-1948

Extent

1,946 slides
8 reels of 16mm film
4 reels of 8mm film
3 magnetic audio tapes
0.1 linear feet of manuscript notes and printed materials

Creators

Hiller, Martin W.
Hiller, Margaret E. Lauer.

Provenance


Scope and Contents

The Hiller Collection documents cities, industries, farming, and everyday life in China during the second phase of the Chinese Civil War, 1945-1948. Of interest are also documentation of transportation and family life among Americans abroad. The collection has material of potential interest for researchers of the history of China, agriculture, and the American military.

The collection contains over 1,900 glass and acetate slides, several reels of 16mm film, four reels of 8mm film, and magnetic audio tape created by Army Air Corps Capt. Martin Hiller while stationed with his family in Shanghai, China. Hiller organized the slides by subject and city, and the original arrangement has been preserved. The film reels are organized by the city in which they were taken. The audio reels correspond to the 16mm film reels and were intended to be played simultaneously to provide narration for the film. Hiller also documented the films through written notes, which are included in Series 3.
Biographical Sketch

Martin Hiller was a captain in the Army Air Corps, the predecessor to the Air Force, and later retired as an Air Force officer. He was stationed in Shanghai, China from 1945 to 1948, along with his family. Margaret Hiller was a school teacher who taught at the base school in China and later obtained a master’s degree and continued her teaching career in the United States. Most of the photographs and films were taken by Martin Hiller, but some were taken by Margaret Hiller.

Collection Details and Conditions of Use

The collection is open to all researchers. Use is governed by Special Collections policies. Copyright is held by the University of Missouri per donor agreement. Original materials are held offsite. Please request materials at least 48 hours in advance.

Series Descriptions

Series One: Slides contains 1,946 glass and acetate slides in color and black and white. The slides were originally arranged topically in drawers by subject, and that arrangement has been preserved. Each drawer held around 100-120 glass slides. Place names were transcribed as recorded by the creators.

Series Two: Film and Audio contains 8 reels of 16mm film and 4 reels of 8mm film along with accompanying audio tape. The audio tapes were created as narration for the 16mm films.

Series Three: Manuscripts contains a small amount of printed and handwritten materials that document and provide context for the contents of the films. Notes that were inserted into the original film canisters are included in this series.

Series 1: Slides

Drawer 1: Uncategorized [personal and family photos] (117 slides).

Drawer 2
  • Uncategorized [personal and family photos] (112 slides).
  • 1948 [personal and family photos], (4 slides).

Drawer 3
  • 1948 [personal and family photos] (13 slides).
  • AFLO (98 slides).

Drawer 4: Uncategorized (108 slides).

Drawer 5 was not among donated materials.

Drawer 6
  • Homes (49 slides).
- Temples (1 slide).
- Cemeteries (17 slides).
- Clubs (29 slides).

Drawer 7
- Nantao (71 slides).
- Soochow Creek (18 slides).
- Chapel (17 slides).

Drawer 8
- Peiping (151 slides).
- Tientsin (21 slides).

Drawer 9
- Nanking (84 slides).
- Soochow (31 slides).

Drawer 10
- Hangchow (48 slides).
- Mokanshan (29 slides).
- Chapoo (13 slides).
- Misc. (21 slides).

Drawer 11
- Kiangwan (14 slides).
- Thieves Market (15 slides).
- Festivals (8 slides).
- Signs (19 slides).

Drawer 12: Industry (117 slides).

Drawer 13
- Industry (56 slides).
- Farming (56 slides).

Drawer 14
- Farming (82 slides).
- Pacific Ocean (67 slides).
- Folks (57 slides).
- NYC to Wash. (127 slides).

Tray A: Uncategorized (35 slides).
Tray B: Uncategorized (35 slides).
Tray C: Uncategorized (36 slides).
Tray D: Uncategorized (36 slides).
Series 2: Film and Audio.

Subseries 1: 16mm Film.

Reel 1: India and Liuchow.
Reel 2: Peiping #1.
Reel 4: Shanghai #2.
Reel 5: Shanghai. Peiping.
Reel 6: Farming.
Reel 7: Nanking. Soochow.

Subseries 2: 8mm Film.

Reel 1: Japan, 1947.
Reels 2-4: personal and family film, including daily life in Shanghai.

Subseries 3: Audio.

The audio tapes were created to correspond to the 16mm films.

Reel 1: Corresponds to 16mm film reels 1 and 2.
Reel 2: Peiping, Peishiyi, Shanghai #1 and #2.
Reel 3: Shanghai, Peiping, Farming.

Series 3: Manuscripts

Subseries 1: Documentation from film canisters

FF 1-7 corresponding to reels 1-8 (7 folders).

Subseries 2: Notes

FF 1. War Area Service Corps pamphlets on Soochow, Peiping, Nanking, and Hangchow. Officers’ Moral Endeavor Association pamphlet on Nanking.
FF 3. Manuscript notes on Reel 3.
FF 5. Manuscript notes on Reel 5.
FF 7. Manuscript notes on Reel 6.
FF 8. Manuscript notes on Reel 7.