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Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Walter and Margaret Tong Papers

RG 189



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

2003

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New Haven, CT 06511
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 189

CREATOR: Tong, Walter

TITLE: Walter and Margaret Tong Papers

DATES: 1923-1972

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Detailed correspondence and reports document American missionary work in the Philippines and Taiwan. Walter and Margaret Tong were missionaries serving under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Davao, Mindanao, Philippine Islands from 1931 to 1947. Following World War II Walter served as Candidate Secretary of the ABCFM and later they worked with Church World Service in Taiwan.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.189>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.189>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Tong family.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Walter and Margaret Tong Papers (RG 189), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Walter Tong was born in New Haven, Connecticut, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Charles Tong. He received a B.S. degree from the Connecticut Agricultural College in 1928 and a B.D. from Yale Divinity School in 1931. Margaret (Peg) Whitfield Tong was born in Knowlton, New Jersey, the daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Richard Whitfield. She graduated from Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, where she majored in home economics.

The Tongs served under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Davao, Mindanao, Philippine Islands from 1931 to 1947. Walter had oversight of ABCFM work in Mindanao, including the Davao Mission Hospital. In 1941, the Tongs were interned by the Japanese in separate camps - Walter alone, and Margaret with their three children, Eloise, Curtis, and Annarae. They were reunited in 1944 but remained interned until American forces liberated them in 1945. After the War, Walter returned to Davao to help in relief and reconstruction work.

In 1948, Walter was appointed Candidate Secretary for the ABCFM, a position he held until joining Church World Service in 1956 as a representative of the Congregational Christian Churches in Taiwan. In Taiwan, Margaret taught English and cultural skills to Chinese students recommended for study in the United States. Following their return from Taiwan, Walter returned to administrative work with the United Church Board for World Ministries (former ABCFM).

Scope and Contents

[I. Correspondence](#)

[II. Writings and Notes](#)

[III. Collected Materials](#)

[IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia](#)

The first section of Series I, Correspondence, consists of detailed letters written by the Tongs to family members in the United States while they were serving in the Philippines and Taiwan. These letters provide a good overview of their mission work and family life. The second section of Series I consists of letters written by Walter to his wife and children when he was in the Philippines and they were in the United States following World War II. Davao was devastated during the war and Walter was involved in re-establishing the mission work. These letters provide good documentation of the post-War situation in the Philippines. The third section of Series I contains non-family correspondence to and from the Tongs. Many of these letters are to/from colleagues in the Philippines, and to/from the central office of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The final section of Series I, Circular Letters, includes circular letters of the Tongs and of other missionaries, which provide a good summary of their work.

The Writings and Notes of Series II are primarily those of Walter and Peg Tong. They provide additional documentation regarding their missionary work in the Philippines. The Collected Materials of Series III include detailed field reports of ABCFM mission work in the Philippines. Also included in this Series are materials related to Peg Tong's work with the Committee on Christian Literature for Women and Children in the Mission Field. The archives of this Committee are contained in YDSL Record Group No. 90. Series IV, Personal Items and Memorabilia includes programs and memorabilia from the Philippines and Taiwan as well as biographical information related to the Tongs.

Arrangement

I. Correspondence

II. Writings and Notes

III. Collected Materials

IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

To extended family in the US		
b. 1, f. 1	Trip to Philippines and from Davao	1931 Oct - 1932 Dec
b. 1, f. 2	From Davao	1933 Jan-Jun
b. 1, f. 3	From Davao	1933 Jul - 1935 Jun
b. 1, f. 4	From Davao	1939 Aug- 1940 Dec
b. 1, f. 5	From Davao	1941 Jan-Sep
b. 1, f. 6	From Taipei, Taiwan; from dedication of Brokenshire Hospital	1957-1958; 1968
Walter to Peg, children, family in US		
b. 1, f. 7	From Manila, Davao	1946 Feb-Jun
b. 1, f. 8	From Davao	1946 Jul-Sep
b. 1, f. 9	From Davao	1946 Oct-Dec
b. 1, f. 10	From Davao	1947 Jan- Apr
b. 1, f. 11	From Davao	1947 May-Sep
To/from others		
b. 1, f. 12	A - B; incl. Herbert Brokenshire, M.D., Elton W. Brown	1934-1958
b. 1, f. 13	C - H; incl. Chinese students of Margaret	1945-1957
b. 1, f. 14	J - M; incl. K. S. Latourette, Effa and Frank Laubach, James McKinley, Fred Moore (Director of Church Committee for Relief in Asia)	1932-1958
b. 1, f. 15	O-S; incl. the Sexons, re. Davao Mission Hospital / Brokenshire Memorial Hospital	1945-1951, n.d.
b. 1, f. 16	T-Y, unidentified; incl. from Frank Woodward	1945-1960
b. 1, f. 17	Misc. Filipino friends and colleagues	1945-1952
b. 2, f. 18-22	To/from ABCFM re. mission work in Philippines	1923-1947
b. 2, f. 23	To/from ABCFM re. mission work in Philippines; while Walter was in ABCFM administration; decision to work for Church World Service	1958-1959
b. 2, f. 24	Misc. correspondence not to/from Tongs, re. mission work	1933-1962
Circular letters		
b. 2, f. 25	Tongs	1932-1948

Circular letters (continued)

b. 2, f. 26	Other missionary colleagues B - K	1946-1960
b. 2, f. 27	Other missionary colleagues M - W	1948-1970

Series II: Writings and Notes, n.d.

b. 2, f. 28	Incl. re. Davao, Christmas in the Philippines, Dr. Herbert Brokenshire	n.d.
b. 2, f. 29	Notes for talks and prayers	1945-1958, n.d.
b. 2, f. 30	Notes, quotations, poems	n.d.
b. 2, f. 31-33	Notes for talks	n.d.
b. 2, f. 34	Biographical essay re. Norman Thomas	n.d.

Series III: Collected Material

ABCFM Philippines Mission

b. 2, f. 35	Field reports incl. Evangelistic work at Lanao, Cagayan, Davao, Silliman Bible School, Cagayan Mission Hospital	1931-1932
b. 2, f. 36	Field reports incl. Mission schools, Northern Mindanao, Ebenezer Girls' Dormitory; Davao, Lanao, Agriculture - Baliangao	1932
b. 2, f. 37	Field reports incl. Literacy campaign, Davao, Silliman Bible School, Dansalan station	1933
b. 2, f. 38	Field reports incl. Davao, Lanao, Ebenezer, Silliman Bible School	1934
b. 2, f. 39	Field reports incl. Davao, Curth Memorial Hall, Cagayan Hospital, Silliman, Lanao, North Mindanao	1935
b. 2, f. 40	Field reports incl. Ebenezer, Nursery (trees) work in Dansalan, Lanao, Maranaw Folk School	1935-1937
b. 2, f. 41	Personal reports: Tong, Laubach, Woodward, and others	1932-1934
b. 3, f. 42	Annual meeting minutes - Philippine Mission, incl. standing rules	1932-1937
b. 3, f. 43	Annual meeting minutes - Philippine Mission, incl. joint meeting UEC Executive Committee, Missionaries, and Boards deputation	1946-1947
b. 3, f. 44	Annual meeting minutes - Philippine Mission incl. Mindanao Inter-conference council meeting	1947-1948
b. 3, f. 45	Financial reports - Davao Hospital; Missions treasurer	1927, 1935
b. 3, f. 46	Financial reports - incl. Cagayan Hospital	1936
b. 3, f. 47	Financial reports - incl. Cagayan Hospital	1946-1947
b. 3, f. 48	Financial reports	1948, 1970-1972
b. 3, f. 49	Miscellaneous statistics - Davao, Lanao	1931-1933
Other material		
b. 3, f. 50	Miscellaneous	
b. 3, f. 51	Taiwan Church World Service	1950-1971
b. 3, f. 57	News clippings	
Committee on Christian Literature for Women and Children in the Mission Field		
b. 3, f. 52	By-laws, Committee reports	1966
b. 3, f. 53	Budgets and minutes	1967
b. 3, f. 54	Annual and semi-annual meeting reports	1968
b. 3, f. 55	Annual meeting, budgets, book lists	1969
b. 3, f. 56	Lit-Lit Newsletters and other printed material	1960s

Series IV: Personal Items and Memorabilia

b. 3, f. 58	Programs, postcards	
b. 3, f. 59	Regarding work at Davao Hospital, Cagayan Hospital, Silliman Bible College	
b. 3, f. 60	Memorial service for Dr. Herbert C. Brokenshire	1946
b. 3, f. 61	Taiwan memorabilia	
b. 3, f. 62	Biographical material: WT's Commission in Army reserves	
b. 3, f. 63	Biographical material: Commissioning as missionaries: news clippings, etc.	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Missionaries
Missions -- Philippines

Names

Tong, Margaret
Tong, Walter

Corporate Body

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions -- Philippines

Contributors

Tong, Walter
Tong, Margaret