MARION HARCOURT
DONATION, CA. 1916-2010

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content Note
Series Contents
Cataloging Information

Processed by
Maire Gurevitz
December 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 boxes manuscripts, 1 box 4x5 Acetate negatives, 1 box 5x7 Acetate negatives, 4 folders color photographs, 5 folders black and white photographs, 2 records

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1916-2010

PROVENANCE: Marion Harcourt, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: P 0357 Goldthwaite Family Collection

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2010.0230

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association, Central Indiana Chapter, grew out of Joseph M. Smith’s leadership in creating a U.S.-China People-to-People program through the East Asia department of the Disciples of Christ. The Indiana Council of Churches then organized its own People-to-People Committee of Indiana. Another organization, the Chinese Association of Indiana, was also instrumental in coming together with the People-to-People Committee and the Disciples of Christ to eventually create a local chapter of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association in 1976. Founding members of the organization include Joseph M. Smith, Rik Spier, Victor Chiu, Bernice Chao, DeWitt Barnett, and Jayne Ann Jones. Members of the chapter organized lectures, tours, traditional Chinese dinners, and Chinese New Year celebrations in order to help promote their organizational mission. The chapter also worked to support Chinese students attending local Indiana universities. In 1995, the Central Indiana chapter hosted other chapters at the National Convention for USCPFA in Indianapolis. The Central Indiana chapter was disbanded in 200_, due to declining interest and aging members, but some members remained involved with the Midwest Region USCPFA.

Marion Harcourt (1929- ) was born in Indianapolis, Indiana to John and Helen Goldthwaite. She had a younger sister, Alice. Marion attended Shortridge High School and then DePauw University (Class of 1950), where she received a Bachelor's degree in Botany and Bacteriology. She continued her studies at Purdue University (Class of 1953), where she earned an MS in Microbiology. At Purdue, she met Robert Shaw Harcourt, whom she married in 1955. The couple had five children and later divorced. In the mid-1970s, Harcourt decided to go back to school at IUPUI, where she received her MSW in 1976. Harcourt worked for most of her career as a Psychiatric Social Worker and Family Therapist at Midtown Mental Health before retiring in 1996. In 2008, she was honored with the Social Worker of the Year award. Harcourt got involved with the USCPFA in the 1990s, and held a variety of leadership roles in the organization and attended regional and national meetings on behalf of her chapter. Harcourt is also involved with Indiana Landmarks and Disaster Mental Health for American Red Cross.

John Louis Goldthwaite (1896-1991) was the son of Edgar L. and Candace Goldthwaite of Marion, Indiana. Goldthwaite attended Purdue University from 1916-21, during which he served with the Army Signal Corps for World War I. While attending Purdue, Goldthwaite served as an unofficial photographer in the yearbook Debris. Goldthwaite graduated with a Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and went on to work for Allison Engine Company from 1927-64. Goldthwaite was married to Helen Whitehead and the couple had two daughters, Marion and Alice.

Sources:
Materials in the collection, Ancestry.com, IU School of Social Work Alumni Association
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains documents and photographs that relate to Marion Harcourt’s activities with the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), Central Indiana Chapter and also contains photographs and negatives from Harcourt’s father, John Louis Goldthwaite. The collection has been divided into two series, the first for USCPFA and the second for the Goldthwaite visual items. In both series, the folders have been arranged chronologically.

The USCPFA documents contain correspondence between members, minutes of meetings and newsletters. One folder of correspondence also documents Oscar Lowery’s trip to China with an American delegation in 1976. In addition there are clippings that relate to normalization of relations between the U.S. and China, activities of the USCPFA organization and human interest pieces about connections between Americans and the Chinese.

John Louis Goldthwaite’s items document his time at Purdue University as a student (and freelancer for the Debris, Purdue’s yearbook) and as an employee at Allison Engine Company. The Purdue images are generally unidentified, especially the negatives, but Goldthwaite himself is occasionally identified in the photographs. Instead, the negatives have been generally described if landmarks or events could be clearly ascertained from the images. The images from Allison seem to be documenting an event wherein an engine produced by Allison is being used to propel a boat. The images show groups of people watching the boat sail, as well as people on the boat taking turns steering. Finally, there are two records, one from the Benson Orchestra of Chicago featuring “Wabash Blues” and “Tuck Me To Sleep In My Old Tucky” and the other from Hoagy Carmichael and Cass Daley featuring “The Old Piano Roll Blues” and “Stay With the Happy People.”
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[Fort Ouiatenon], ca. 1916-21

[Group observing construction progress], ca. 1916-21

[Group of female students (sorority?) outside a residence], ca. 1916-21

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[Group of male students], ca. 1916-21

[Groups of male students], ca. 1916-21

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[Group swimming outing], ca. 1916-21

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[May Day celebration], ca. 1916-21

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[Purdue Marching Band], ca. 1916-21

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1163).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.