

**Collection #**  
**M 1163**

**MARION HARCOURT**  
**DONATION, CA. 1916-2010**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## **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."

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: U.S. China Peoples Friendship Association Central Indiana**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
Historical Information, National USCPFA, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 2
Historical Information, USCPFA Central Indiana, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1972-75	Box 1, Folder 4
USCPFA Central Indiana, 1972-75	Color Photographs, Folder 1 of 4
Correspondence, People to People Committee, 1972-79	Box 1, Folder 5
Notes for Slide Presentation, ca. 1974	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence, 1976	Box 1, Folder 7
Correspondence, Oscar Lowery Trip to China, 1976	Box 1, Folder 8
Indiana People's World Affairs Committee, China Trip, 1976	Photographs, Folder 4 of 5
Clippings, 1976-95	Box 1, Folder 9
Minutes, 1976-2008	Box 1, Folder 10
Correspondence, 1977	Box 1, Folder 11
"Friendship First" Newsletter, 1977-85	Box 1, Folder 12
Correspondence, 1978	Box 1, Folder 13
Correspondence, 1979	Box 1, Folder 14
Correspondence, 1980-89	Box 1, Folder 15
"Three Communiques Between the PRC and the USA", ca. 1982	Box 1, Folder 16
Membership Lists, 1982-95	Box 1, Folder 17

“Friendship First” Newsletter, 1986-89	Box 1, Folder 18
Chinese New Year Celebration, 1988	Color Photographs, Folder 2 of 4
USCPFA Midwest Regional Conference, 1988	Photographs, Folder 5 of 5
Constitution and By-laws, 1989	Box 1, Folder 19
Press Releases, 1989-94	Box 1, Folder 20
Harris Family Holiday Photographs, ca. 1990s	Color Photographs, Folder 3 of 4
“Friendship First” Newsletter, 1990-92	Box 1, Folder 21
Correspondence, 1990-94	Box 1, Folder 22
Receipts Lists, 1991-92	Box 1, Folder 23
Correspondence, Membership Dues, 1993-95	Box 2, Folder 1
“Friendship First” Newsletter, 1993-2001	Box 2, Folder 2
Chinese New Year Celebration	Color Photographs, Folder 4 of 4
Correspondence, USCPFA Convention Planning, 1995	Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1995-99	Box 2, Folder 4
Correspondence, Shanghai Women’s Federation Visit, 1996	Box 2, Folder 5
Correspondence, 2001-10	Box 2, Folder 6

**Series 2: John Louis Goldthwaite Materials**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Purdue University Snapshots, ca. 1916-21	Photographs, Folder 1 of 5
[Baseball Game], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 1

[Boy Scouts Group Photo], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 1
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 2
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 3
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 4
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 5
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 6
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 7
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 8
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 9
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 10
[Buildings and scenery around campus], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 11
[Buildings and Scenery Around Campus], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 2
[Class Football Game], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 3
[Classroom Interior, Professor at the chalkboard], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 12
[Couple standing at bridge over Wabash River], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 4
[Crowd on the football field], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 5

[Crowds in Courthouse Square, Lafayette], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 13
[Five men sitting at a table surrounded by pennant flags], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 6
[Four males students in an office], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 14
[Fort Ouiatenon], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 7
[Group observing construction progress], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 8
[Group of female students (sorority?) outside a residence], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 15
[Group of female students (sorority?) outside a residence], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 16
[Group of female students (sorority?) outside a residence], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 17
[Group of female students (sorority?) outside a residence], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 18
[Group of male students], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 19
[Groups of male students], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 20
[Group of male students posed on building steps], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 21
[Group swimming outing], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 22
[Group swimming outing], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 23
[Horse drawn vehicle, Tippecanoe Co. schools], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 24
[Interior of a building containing heavy machinery], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 25



[Male student in a Purdue letter sweater and belted trench coat], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 26
[Man climbing through a cellar], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 27
[Man in mock uniform], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 9
[Man studying at a desk surrounded by books], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 10
[May Day celebration], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 11
[May Day celebration], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 12
[Men entering academic building with books under their arms], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 28
[Parade Scene], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 13
[Pigs], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 14
[Professor at his desk], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 29
[Professor in the lab], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 15
[Purdue Marching Band], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 30
[Purdue Marching Band], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 16
[Purdue track and field athlete], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 31
[Students in a chemistry lab], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 32
[Students in a chemistry lab], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 33

[Tippecanoe Battlefield Monument], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 17
[Track meet], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 18
[Two male students in trench coats, one with a letter sweater], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 34
[Unidentified man in overalls], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 35
[Unidentified man in various poses with his hat], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 36
[Unidentified man with a Purdue pocket chain], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 19
[Unidentified men], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 37
[Unidentified men posed with bicycles], ca. 1916-21	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 38
[Unidentified woman with a parasol and muff], ca. 1916-21	5x7 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 20
Purdue University Marching Band, 1917	Photographs, Folder 2 of 5
Record, Hoagy Carmichael and Cass Daley, ca. 1920s	2010.0230
Record, The Benson Orchestra of Chicago, ca. 1920s	2010.0230
Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s	Photographs, Folder 3 of 5
Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 39
Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 40
Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 41
Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s	4x5 Acetate Negatives, Box 1, Folder 42

Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s

4x5 Acetate Negatives,  
Box 1, Folder 43

Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s

4x5 Acetate Negatives,  
Box 1, Folder 44

Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s

4x5 Acetate Negatives,  
Box 1, Folder 45

Boat with an Allison engine, ca. 1940s

4x5 Acetate Negatives,  
Box 1, Folder 46

## 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.