

Collection #
P 0840

**PRINCE PU LUN COLLECTION
MAY 1904**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	5
Contents	5

Processed by

Barbara Quigley
24 August 2022

Revised 26 June 2023

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 OVB folders, 1 Flat File folder, 1 pamphlet

COLLECTION DATES: May 1904

PROVENANCE: Gold silk handkerchief, gift from Ione Wilson Pattison of Indianapolis, June 1977; Banquet menu and program, gift from Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana, July 2018; provenance of other items is unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 0000.1225v0155, 1977.0611a0001, 2018.0227p0003

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On 14 March 1904, 30-year-old Prince Pu Lun, nephew of the Emperor of China and second in line of succession in the Qing dynasty to that throne, left China for the first time, making a trip around the world. He and his entourage visited Indianapolis from 18 May to 27 May 1904, with one night spent in Lafayette, Indiana. While in Indiana, he toured many schools and businesses.

He first visited Japan, and then arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 10. April. He arrived in San Francisco on 17 April, and then was in Washington, DC, 23–27 April, where he met with President Theodore Roosevelt.

Prince Pu Lun traveled in his capacity as Imperial Commissioner to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, the World's Fair held in St. Louis, Missouri. As part of his entourage, he was accompanied by Vice Commissioner Wong Kai Kah, who had been educated at Yale University and served as the prince's interpreter. There were twelve more who traveled with the prince, including four secretaries, two bodyguards, two barbers, and four servants. They arrived in St. Louis by train on 28 April. The prince participated in numerous social activities in addition to the Fair.

He left St. Louis on 14 May on the Wabash Railroad for Chicago. After three days there, he went to Indianapolis for a week and a half, then to New York, before returning to St. Louis. Wong Kai Kah was a friend of journalist and Indianapolis civic leader William Fortune, so that was how Indianapolis came to be a destination for an extended visit by the prince.

Prince Pu Lun arrived in Indianapolis on Wednesday afternoon, 18 May, at Union Station. He was greeted by Governor Winfield T. Durbin, Mayor John W. Holtzman, and others, and escorted by carriage to the Statehouse for a reception. The procession included patrolmen and the Indianapolis Military Band. Once at the Capitol, local Chinese restaurateur Moy Kee presented the prince with bouquets, and several dignitaries spoke. The prince shook hands with hundreds of members of the public before heading to his rooms at the Claypool Hotel. Not long after his arrival he ordered a piano from the Starr Piano Company of Richmond, Indiana, to be shipped to his home in Shanghai.

On 19 May a banquet was held for Prince Pu Lun at the Claypool Hotel. The menu included canapes, whitefish, lamb chops, peas, potatoes, cheese, coffee, martinis, cognac, cigarettes, and cigars. Hon. John W. Kern served as toastmaster, a welcome address was made by Senator Charles W. Fairbanks, and the prince spoke through his interpreter, Mr. Wong. Senator Albert J. Beveridge spoke on "The Pacific," James Whitcomb Riley presented his poem "The Name of Old Glory," Mayor Holtzman spoke about the city, Meredith Nicholson spoke on "The Brotherhood of Art," Hon. John L. Griffiths spoke on "Our Debt to the East," and Hugh McGibney performed a violin solo.

On 20 May, Prince Pu Lun visited three girls' schools: Knickerbacker Hall, the Girls' Classical School, and Tudor Hall. Later he attended the graduation ceremony of the Girls' Classical School, held at the Propylaeum, sharing the stage with May Wright Sewall. Mrs. Sewall announced that the prince had asked her to name his new daughter, who was born while he was in Japan, at the start of his trip. After the graduation ceremony, the prince attended a concert by Ernestine Schumann-Heink at English's Opera House.

There was a full schedule for the prince on 21 May. He and his party toured the Waverley automobile factory, the Indiana Rubberworks, and T.B. Laycock Manufacturing Company's plant where bed springs and iron beds were produced. A luncheon was held for him in the Officers' Club Room at the Laycock company, which was attended by more than two dozen men, including Thomas B. Laycock, Detective William Holtz, Mayor John W. Holtzman, Clemens Vonnegut Jr., and William Fortune. Afterwards, they toured the Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane and the Eli Lilly Company and attended the Gentry dog and pony show and a high school baseball game. That evening he was a guest at a "smoker" at the German House, with many local prominent business and professional men.

On 22 May, the prince and his retinue went to see diving horses at Fairview Park. They then went to Crown Hill Cemetery and visited Benjamin Harrison's grave. Later, they had dinner at William Fortune's home in Woodruff Place. James Whitcomb Riley was among the guests.

On 23 May, the prince visited Manual Training High School, Shortridge High School, schools 10, 29, and 45, and the Indianapolis Kindergarten and Primary Normal Training School. At Manual he toured shops and laboratories. At both high schools he observed fire drills. He enjoyed samples from a cooking class at the Normal Training School. In the evening he met with Dr. B.M. Gundelfinger, who demonstrated a "static electric machine" and X-ray. The prince experienced electricity charging through him, causing his hair to stand on end.

On 24 May, Prince Pu Lun and his party were part of a thirty-automobile caravan, led by Carl Fisher and the Automobile Club of Indiana, from Indianapolis to Lafayette. Before starting, the car that was to carry the prince caught fire. Cans of milk from a passing milk truck were used to extinguish the fire. Purdue University cadets performed drills for the prince, and there was a banquet at the Hotel Lahr and a reception at the Lafayette Club. The caravan made its return trip to Indianapolis the next day.

On 26 May the prince had his palm read by the well-known palmist, Nellie Meier. In the evening, a farewell reception was held for the prince at the Commercial Club.

On 27 May Pu Lun toured the Indianapolis Public Library, had lunch at the Columbia Club, and was taken to the top of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument to view the city. Later he dined on chop suey, beer, ice cream, and tea at Moy Kee's Chinese restaurant with Mayor Holtzman, James Whitcomb Riley, William Fortune, and others. That evening he and his entourage, with twenty-eight pieces of baggage, boarded a train for New York.

He returned to St. Louis on 6 June. On 12 June he met with a woman palmist in St. Louis for a reading. On 13 June he unveiled a portrait of the Dowager Empress An, which had just arrived from China. On 14 June he left St. Louis aboard a private car on the Big Four Railroad, headed for New York. From there he took a steamer to Europe, then went on to India, returning to China in August.

Sources:

“Auto Fire Gives Pu Lun Brand-New Excitement.” *The St. Louis Republic*, 25 May 1904, p. 1.

Banquet by the Citizens of Indianapolis to His Imperial Highness Prince Pu Lun. 19 May 1904. Pamphlet collection: pam F534 .I345 B36 1904

“Boys Blew the Prince a Grass-Blade Salute: Crowds Jostled His Highness at Fairview Park.” *The Indianapolis News*, 23 May 1904, p. 5.

“China’s Imperial Prince at the World’s Fair.” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 30 April 1904, p. 4.

“Chinese Prince at ‘Frisco.” *The New York Times*, 18 April 1904, p. 1.

“Farewells Waved to Prince Pu Lun’s Train.” *The Indianapolis News*, 28 May 1904, p. 7.

“Indianapolis Schools Visited and Admired by City’s Princely Guest.” *The Indianapolis Journal*, 24 May 1904, pp. 1–2.

“Moy Kee Honored by Prince’s Visit.” *The Indianapolis Star*, 28 May 1904, p. 2.

“Prince of Royal Blood Welcomed by Booming of President’s Salute.” *The Indianapolis Journal*, 19 May 1904, pp. 1, 6.

“Prince on Auto Trip was a True Democrat.” *The Indianapolis News*, 25 May 1904, p. 2.

“Prince Pu Lun Bids Farewell to St. Louis.” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 15 June 1904, p. 3.

“Prince Pu Lun Enters St. Louis Society by Attending a Fashionable Wedding.” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 29 April 1904, p. 1.

“Prince Pu Lun Returns.” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 7 June 1904, p. 9.

“Prince Pu Lun Says Farewell to Indianapolis.” *The Indianapolis Star*, 28 May 1904, p. 2.

“Prince Pu Lun Sees Something of an X-ray.” *The Indianapolis Journal*, 24 May 1904, p. 2.

“Prince Pu Lun’s Splendor Dazzles All Washington.” *The St. Louis Republic*, 24 April 1904, p. 1.

“Prince Who May Be Emperor of China Received in Honolulu with Honors: United States and Hawaii Greet Guest.” *The Pacific Commercial Advertiser* (Honolulu, Hawaii), 11 April 1904, pp. 1, 5.

“Prince’s Program is a Varied One.” *Indianapolis News*, 21 May 1904, pp. 1–2.

“Pu Lun Departs To-Day: Crown Prince Will Return to St. Louis After Eastern Trip.” *The St. Louis Republic*, 14 May 1904, p. 15.

“Throngs of Women Wait for His Imperial Highness Prince Pu Lun to Finish Royal Nap.” *The Indianapolis Journal*, 21 May 1904, p. 2.

“To Unveil Portrait: Dowager Empress An’s Picture Will Arrive Here To-Day.” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 13 June 1904, p. 1.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains four items pertaining to Prince Pu Lun's visit to Indianapolis in May 1904: 1) a mounted photograph of the luncheon held for him at the T.B. Laycock Manufacturing Company on 21 May; 2) a certificate presented to Detective William Holtz for his service to the prince; 3) a yellow silk handkerchief presented to George Wilson from the prince; and 4) a menu and program for the banquet held on 19 May at the Claypool Hotel, listing food served and speakers and their topics.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Mounted photograph of the luncheon served in the Officers' Club Room, in the factory of the T.B. Laycock Manufacturing Co., 21 May 1904. Seated at the head of the table is Prince Pu Lun. Others pictured at the table: Thomas B. Laycock, Mayor John W. Holtzman, P.B. Raymond, I.N. Richie, R.O. Johnson, Fung Kwo Shun, Cheng Chang, Detective William Holtz, Lewis Hoover, Detective [Edward] Bray, C.T. Paxon, C.C. Foster, A.F. Potts, Wong Kai Kah, Charles E. Coffin, Clarence E. Coffin, Gordon Varney, George Pangborn, E.A. Langen, Ching Ta Chen, Pang Ku Shun, [Clemens Vonnegut Jr.], Alfred A. Barnes, Edwin H. Forry, C.E. Holloway, William Fortune.

OVB Folder 1

"Medal of Honor" certificate issued by Prince Pu Lun to "William Holtz, of the Indianapolis secret service, rendered important service to Prince Pu Lun." Certificate on stiff board with Chinese and English writing, issued on "the eleventh Day of the Sixth Moon of the thirtieth Year of Kuanghsu" [1904].

OVB Folder 2

Yellow-gold silk handkerchief, measuring 21 ½ inches x 23 ¼ inches, with blue, red, and white embroidery of a dragon eating the sun and "Wong Kai-Kah" in one corner. It was presented by Prince Pu Lun to George S. Wilson, superintendent of the Indiana State School for the Blind, during the May 1904 visit.

Flat File 4-n

Banquet by the Citizens of Indianapolis to His Imperial Highness Prince Pu Lun. Held at the Claypool Hotel, 19 May 1904. Includes menu and program listing speakers and their topics.

Pamphlet collection:
pam F534 .I345 B36 1904

