Finding Aid for

**Samuel Dodd Papers, 1861 - 1958**

Photo credit: Samuel Dodd Diary, Series 1 Box 1 Folder 10; The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York


**Summary Information**

Creator: Samuel Thompson Dodd  
Title: Samuel Dodd Papers  
Inclusive dates: 1861 - 1958  
Bulk dates: 1861 - 1877  
Abstract: Samuel Dodd, 1832 - 1894, American United Presbyterian Missionary in Ningbo, China; Hangzhou, China. Copy of journal, photograph album  
Size: 1 box, 0.50 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
Administrative Information
Provenance: The collection was donated in 1958 by John Nevius Dodd, son of Samuel Dodd, to the independent Missionary Research Library. In 1976 it was accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.

Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.

Access Restrictions: Most of the collection is unrestricted to readers. The photograph album in folder 16, however, is very fragile and [RESTRICTED]. Please use instead the scanned images on the CD-R in folder 18.

Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: Samuel Dodd Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography
Samuel Dodd was born on January 21, 1832 in County Down, Ireland. He emigrated to America in 1850 and after about a year joined the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of New York City. In 1854 he heard the Scottish missionary Alexander Duff speak and was inspired to dedicate himself to mission work. He attended New York University and Princeton Theological Seminary before heading to China in 1861 under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions.

He first lived in Ningbo, Zhejiang and worked at various churches and mission schools in the area. In 1865 he married Sarah Green, 1836 - 1907. In 1867 they moved to Hangzhou where he supervised a mission school. In December 1877 they left Hangzhou to return to the United States, after which he served at a number of Presbyterian churches, including that of Stephentown, NY, where he was pastor from 1884 until his death in 1894.

Collection Scope and Content Note
The diary with photographs was copied and typed from Samuel Dodd’s original by his eldest son, Samuel Thompson Carter Dodd. Samuel T. C. Dodd was born in Ningbo in 1866, attended Princeton University in the 1880s and later worked for the General Electric Company.

It was during a business trip for this company in 1922 that he stopped in Hangzhou, revisiting many locations mentioned in the diary. During this visit he was able to collect background information on his father and took the photographs collected in folder 16. His explanatory notes can be found inserted throughout the typescript copy of the diary. Photographs in this collection are fragile. Please use digitized copies on the CD-R. These fragile photographs are located on the following pages: 49A; 130A; 171; 177; 186; 236A; 290B.

1 Now part of Northern Ireland, Great Britain.
The third eldest son of Samuel Dodd, John Nevius Dodd, wrote the continuation to the preface found in folder 14, and donated the collection to the MRL in 1958.

Processing
Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Further Sources
The China Records Miscellaneous Personal Papers Collection at Yale University Archives has one folder of biographical material on the Dodd family.

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