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Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Catholic University Art Department, Peiping, China, 1937



Image Credit: MRL 6: Catholic University Art Department, Peiping, China, 1937, box 1, folder 1, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, May 2010

Reviewed and Updated by Brigette C. Kamsler, February 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Catholic University of Beiping; California College in China

Title: Catholic University Art Department, Peiping, China, 1937

Dates: 1937

Abstract: Two copies of a single bound volume of photographs of paintings produced by students in the art department of the Catholic University of Beiping, and exhibited at the California College in China in February 1937. Paintings depict Christian scenes using traditional Chinese artistic motifs and techniques.

Size: 1 box, 0.25 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: This collection was part of the independent Missionary Research Library prior to its closure in 1976, when its records were accessioned to the Burke Library.

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: The collection is unrestricted to readers.

Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: Catholic University Art Department, Peiping, China, 1937, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

In 1913 the Furen Academy 輔仁社 was established in Beijing¹ 北京 by two Chinese Catholic scholars, and it operated as a private Catholic academy until 1918. Its successor, the Catholic University of Beijing 北京公教大學附屬輔仁社 was founded in 1925. Two years later the school changed its Chinese name to 私立北京輔仁大學, and again in 1928 when the former capital city Beijing was renamed Beiping² 北平. In 1933 administration of the school was transferred from an American Benedictine order, whose financial backing had suffered during the Great Depression, to the German Society for the Divine Word. In 1950, under the new People's Republic, the school was renamed Furen National University 國立輔仁大學. It was able to remain open until 1952, when anti-Catholic pressure forced its closure and integration into Beijing Normal University. In 1960 Furen Catholic University 私立輔仁大學 was reestablished in Taipei County, Taiwan, where it continues to operate today.

The California College in China was first founded as the North China Union Language School in Beijing in 1910. The college was formally incorporated in 1930 by the missionary William B. Pettus for the purpose of educating Americans in Chinese history, language, and culture. In 1942, with the disruption of the war and Japanese forces occupying Beiping, the campus was moved to the grounds of the University of California at Berkeley.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two copies of a single bound volume containing 13 photographs of ink paintings. The book is titled 基督教聖蹟圖 (Christian Sacred Pictures). The original paintings were produced by four Chinese artists working in the art department of the Catholic University in Beiping, and exhibited in February 1937 at the College of Chinese Studies, California College in China. Although the subjects are Christian themes, the artworks are executed in the traditional

¹ Formerly romanized as "Peking".

² Formerly romanized as "Peiping".

Chinese style of monochromatic ink painting. The book includes a summary of the circumstances behind the exhibition written by W.B. Pettus, and a list of titles for the artworks.

The titles are as follows, with artist information based on painting inscriptions:

1. "Annunciation"
2. "No Room in Bethlehem" by [John] Lu Hongnian 陸鴻年 of Taicang 太倉
3. "The Madonna of the Bamboo" by Luke Chen 陳路加
4. "The Madonna of the Pine" by [Luke] Chen Yuandu 陳緣督 of Lingnan 嶺南
5. "The Madonna of the Little Children" by Lu Hongnian
6. "The Flight into Egypt" by Lu Hongnian
7. "Madonna and Child in Spring" by Lu Hongnian
8. "The Holy Family in Autumn" by Lu Hongnian
9. "The Holy Family in Winter" by Lu Hongnian
10. "The Prodigal Son" by Luke Chen Yuandu
11. "The Good Samaritan"
12. "The Last Supper"
13. "Phillip and the Ethiopian Ruler" by Xu Jihua 徐濟華

Lu Hongnian, 1919 - 1989, was a well-known Chinese artist and scholar of art.

Chen Yuandu, 1902 - 1967, was also a prolific artist who showed pieces internationally.

Xu Jihua was the eldest daughter of Xu Xiangsun 徐翔菴, the wealthy head of the Shanghai-based Huamei Pharmacy 華美藥房.

A copy of this book exists in the Graduate Theological Union Library, Berkeley, CA.

Processing

In 2010, the book was placed within an acid-free envelope.

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. It was during this time that a second, identical copy of the book of photographs was located and merged within the existing collection. The materials were placed within new acid-free folders and a box.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-2	Book of Photographs with Introduction by W.B. Pettus, 1937