

The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

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

Original Contents List compiled by Paul A. Byrnes, winter 1977; Revised by Ruth Tonkiss
Cameron, February 2008. Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, October 2009
Reviewed and Updated by Brigette C. Kamsler, February 2014 with financial support from the
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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.¹ 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 寧波, Zhejiang 浙江 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 杭州 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.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-10	"The Journal of Rev. Samuel Dodd Covering his Trip to and Life in China 1861 to 1877; Copied and with comments by his son Samuel T. Dodd," pp. 1 - 306, [1925?]
1	11	Index to "Journal," pp. 307 – 315
1	12	Appendix: "Rambles in North China; Being an account of a trip during summer of 1873, by Rev. Samuel Dodd, through Shantung Province to Tien-tsin and Peking up into Mongolia and return," [1925?] "Trial by Water," [1925?]
1	13	Typed Copies, [1925?] "Rambles in North China," and "Trial by Water"
1	14	Continuation of Preface to Diary, John Nevius Dodd and Samuel Thompson Dodd, June 1958
1	15	Correspondence Re Samuel and Sarah Green Dodd, February 1945
1	16	RESTRICTED Photograph Album by Samuel Thompson Dodd, 1922
1	17	Correspondence Re Acquisition of Collection, June, October 1958
1	18	CD of 8 Photographs from Journal (f1-10) and all Photographs from Album (f16) Printed Index to Images