

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Douglas Newton Forman Papers, 1930 - 1949

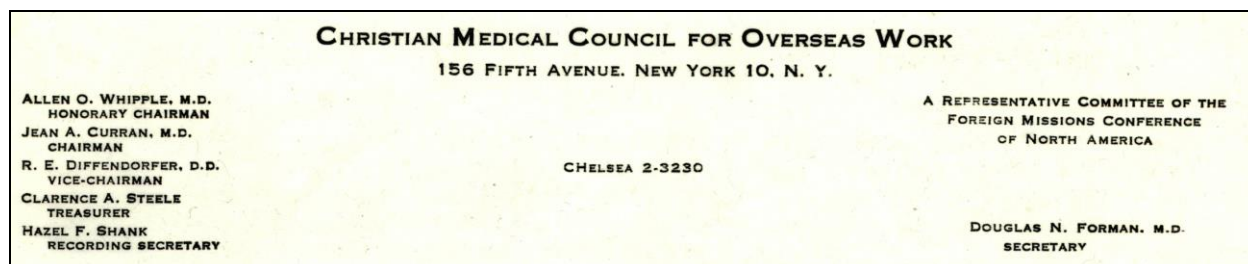


Image Credit: MRL6: Douglas Newton Forman Papers, Box 1, Folder 8,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, January 2010

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

Summary Information

Creator: Douglas Newton Forman, 1890 - 1961
Title: Douglas Newton Forman Papers
Inclusive dates: 1930 - 1949
Bulk dates: 1941 - 1946
Abstract: Papers collected by Forman during his tenure as secretary for the Christian Medical Council for Overseas Work (CMC). Contains reports from wartime China, medical missions in China and medical supply companies, as well as reports, proposals and programs related to the CMC.
Size: 2 boxes, 1.00 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: These records were donated to the independent Missionary Research Library by Douglas Newton Forman some time before his death in 1961. The records were accessioned to the Burke Library when the MRL was closed in 1976.
- 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. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: Douglas Newton Forman Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography¹

Douglas Newton Forman was born on March 22, 1890 in Jalandhar in the north of India to a missionary family. His father Charles W. Forman was a medical missionary in India for forty-three years, and his grandfather C.W. Forman founded the Forman Christian College in Lahore, now part of Pakistan.² Douglas Forman graduated from Wooster College and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He married Amy Gilson March, daughter of missionaries to Syria, in 1915 before serving in the United States Army Medical Corp from 1917 to 1919. After that he and his wife lived in India as medical missionaries under the auspices of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. until 1939 when they returned to the United States.

In 1943 Forman began working under Edward Hicks Hume, the director of the Christian Medical Council for Overseas Work (CMC), and three years later took over from Hume as executive secretary. The council had been founded in 1938 by Hume, was located in New York City and was a division of the National Council of Churches and a representative committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. Allen O. Whipple, professor of medicine at Columbia University from 1921 to 1946, was chairman of the council.

Forman retired from the CMC in 1960, and he died on September 25, 1961 after a long illness. He was survived by his widow and six children, including the American diplomat Douglas Forman Jr.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is comprised of papers on medical mission work collected by Forman during his tenure at the Christian Medical Council. The bulk of the material deals with China, although some of the data is drawn from other mission fields, such as the Philippines, India, and Africa.

¹ Much of the information in this section is based on "Douglas Forman obituary", *New York Times*, 26 September 1961, p. 39.

² The college is still in operation. See <http://fccollege.edu.pk/>.

The papers in folders 3-4 were produced as part of a report to the State Department on American medical mission institutions and staff in China following the outbreak of war with Japan. Folders 8-10 are mainly concerned with the planned establishment of a Hospital Service Agency in Shanghai to meet the needs of war-damaged mission hospitals in China.

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. Especially degraded material was photocopied on to acid-free paper.

The folders which were assembled by Forman did not appear to follow a chronological or strictly thematic order, but were divided into seven bulky folders with the original folder headings and new folder order as follows:

Original Folder Heading	New Folder Number(s)
China - Miscellaneous Hospitals and Universities	1
Harvard-Yenching Institute	2
Medical Work in China for State Department	3 - 4
China - Miscellaneous - Clippings and Medical	5 - 6
China Hospitals Statistical Report	7
China Hospitals - Equipment and Supplies	8 - 10
Hospitals in Mission Areas	11 - 12

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. Unprocessed material was integrated at this time and is in box 2.

Further Sources

The Divinity School Library of Yale University has the following related collections: Forman Family Papers, Box 9, Folders 17-22 containing correspondence, writings and biographical information on Douglas Forman.

Yale-China Association Records, Box 26, Folders 157-159 containing records from the Christian Medical Council.

Some further documents concerning the CMC can be seen within the MRL archival collections at Burke Library: MRL6: Higher Educational Institutions in China, Series 1 Box 1 Folder 10. The Burke also offers other related collections such as the National Council of Churches Papers and the Edward Hicks Hume Papers. Please see the Archives page for more information: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives.html>.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Mission Hospitals and Universities in China: Correspondence, Reports, 1946-1949
1	2	Harvard-Yenching Institute: Correspondence, Meeting Minutes, 1943-1946
1	3-4	Reports on Medical Work in China for State Department: Project Correspondence, Tabulated Data, Mission Board Reports, 1941-1942
1	5-6	Wartime China: Clippings, Correspondence, Reports, 1938-1947
1	7	Chinese Hospitals: Statistical Reports, 1945
1	8-10	Mission Hospitals in China - Equipment and Supplies: Correspondence, Reports, 1941-1948
1	11-12	Hospitals in Mission Areas: Tabulated Data, Reports, Correspondence, 1930-1946
1	13	Forman Instructional Correspondence, 1957 [2 letters]
Christian Medical Council for Overseas Work		
2	1	Reports and Proposals, 1944-1945
2	2	Reports, Programs and Proposals, 1943-1948
2	3	Announcements, Policies and Principles, 1948-1949
2	4	Hospital and Medical Policies and Procedures, 1948-1949
2	5	Health Needs and Instructions, [194?]
2	6	Instructions on Disorders, Diseases and Treatments, [194?]
2	7	Director's Report, 1940