

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Isaac Taylor Headland Papers, [1900?] - 1939



Portrait of Headland from 1914;

Image Credit: The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, April 2010

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

Summary Information

Creator: Isaac Taylor Headland, 1859 - 1942

Title: Isaac Taylor Headland Papers

Inclusive dates: [1900?] - 1939

Bulk dates: [1900?] - [1910?]

Abstract: As a missionary, professor and college president, Headland collected portraits of everyday life, people, and important personages in China, including images of Beijing, military forces involved in the Boxer Rebellion, and the Qing Imperial family.

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 source and accession date of this collection are undocumented. However the papers have been stamped by the Missionary Research Library, indicating that they were accessioned to that Library before 1976, when the MRL was closed and its holdings were accessioned to the Burke Library archives.
- 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: Isaac Taylor Headland Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Isaac Taylor Headland was born on August 16, 1859 in Freedom, PA. In 1888 he graduated with an A.B. from Mount Union College, and in 1911 he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. In October 1890, he arrived in China as a missionary under the auspices of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission. He was posted to Beijing, the capital of Imperial China, and worked as professor of science at Peking University. On June 11, 1894 he married Marian Sinclair, a doctor who served as physician to many aristocratic families in Beijing. Marian also treated the Empress Dowager Cixi 慈禧太后, then the political ruler of China.

Headland was associated with the Education Association of China, the Peking Missionary Association, and the YMCA. From 1901 to 1904 he served as president of the Anglo-Chinese College 鶴齡英華書院 in Fuzhou 福州. He also published numerous articles and books, many of which made use of the photographs in this collection. His publications include *Chinese Mother Goose*, 1900; *Chinese Heroes*, 1902; *Court Life in China*, 1909; *By-Products of Missions*, 1912; and *China's New Day*, 1912. After he returned to America, he taught comparative religion at Mount Union College from 1914 to 1937. He died on August 2, 1942 in Alliance, Ohio. A number of pieces of Chinese art in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston were donated by him.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of photographs and clippings from published works depicting people and scenes associated with China and Christian missions in China. The images include formal studio portraits and street scenes. Many historical personages and locations are depicted, but most of the photographs are undated, and many lack identifying information.

The photographic portraits which have already been identified include those of:

<u>Name / Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Shanqi, the 10 th prince Su 肅親王	1866 - 1922	Led the attempted 1917 restoration
Zhang Xun 張勳	1854 - 1923	Qing loyalist general
Wang Wenshao 王文韶	1830 - 1908	Prominent late-Qing official
Zhou Fu 周馥,	1837 - 1921	Viceroy of Liangguang
The Xuantong Emperor 宣統皇帝	1906 - 1967	Puyi, the last Emperor of China
The First Prince Chun 醇賢親王	1840 - 1891	Father of Puyi
Prince Pujie 溥傑	1907 - 1994	Younger brother of Puyi
Prince Pulun 溥伦	1869 - 1925	Nephew of the Guangxu Emperor
Moses and Nelly Parmelee	18?? - 18??	Missionaries to Armenia
George Heber Jones	1867 - 1919	Missionary to Korea

In addition, there are many portraits of Chinese people and Western missionaries that were clipped from publications.

The correspondence in folder 17 consists of personal correspondence between Headland and other missionaries and teachers, as well as correspondence regarding Peking University's endowment.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Photographs were placed in Mylar envelopes while clippings were placed in acid-free paper folders. The first two original copies of photographs were kept in place, and any additional copies were moved to folder 18.

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

Further Sources

The Missionary Research Library offers other collections that may be of interest, such as the George Heber Jones Papers and other records related to missions in China. For more information, see the Burke Library Archives website at:

<http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives.html>.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Collection Information
1	2	General: Photographs, Clippings and Drawings, [190?]
1	3	Chinese Modes and Manners: Parents and Children, [190?]
1	4	Landscapes: Clippings and Photographs, [190?]
1	5	Chinese Modes and Manners, [190?]
1	6	Chinese Modes and Manners: Children, [190?]
1	7	Chinese Modes and Manners, [1900? - 1907]
1	8	Soldiers: Photographs, 1901 - [190?]
1	9	Cities, Monuments, Buildings, Paintings: Photographs, [190?]
1	10	Peking University Students and Others: Photographs, [190?]
1	11	Peking University, [190?]
1	12	The Missions Building, Shanghai, [192?]
1	13	The Temple of Heaven, [19??]
1	14	Personalities, [19??]
1	15	Missionaries, [19??]
1	16	Missionary Portraits and Articles, [19??]
1	17	Clippings and Correspondence, [190?] - 1939
1	18	Duplicate Photographs: Original Copies from folders 1 - 17