

Beloit College Archives

Guide to the Arthur Henderson Smith Papers

MC 101

Unique ID:	us-wbb-MC101
Repository:	Beloit College Archives
Collection Title:	Arthur Henderson Smith papers
Creator:	Beloit College
Date (inclusive):	1852-1932, 1964, 1989-1992
Extent:	1 linear foot (3 boxes)
Access Note:	This collection is open for research; however, certain materials are fragile and require Archives staff for handling, or use may be restricted altogether.
Language:	English
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Abstract:	<p>Arthur Henderson Smith, Beloit College class of 1867, was a Civil War veteran and prominent missionary to China, along with his wife Emma, best friend and classmate Henry Porter, and Porter's wife, Elizabeth Chapin Porter, and sister, Mary Porter. Smith wrote many volumes on China for Western audiences, including <i>Chinese Characteristics</i>, <i>Village Life in China</i>, and <i>The Uplift of China</i>. He was in Shandong during the Boxer Rebellion and was instrumental in the United States returning China's indemnity for use in educating Chinese students in American schools.</p> <p>This collection includes many examples of A. H. Smith's original writing, such as correspondence, a Civil War diary, biographies, and handwritten manuscripts, along with published versions of his various articles and books. There are also articles about Smith, photographs, and an autograph book Smith kept featuring signatures and handwritten notes from many prominent figures of the 19th century.</p>

This finding aid was completed in March, 2013 by Michelle Tom. Contents of finding aid are subject to changes and updates as necessary.

Biographical Note

Excerpted with edits from the Claremont Courier (September 2, 1932), selections from the Beloit Alumnus (December, 1927), and other primary source materials from the collection.

Dr. Arthur Henderson Smith was born in Vernon, Connecticut, July 18, 1845, the son of a Congregational minister. He enlisted as a volunteer in Company B, 40th infantry of Wisconsin, and served in the Civil War in the year 1864.

He was graduated by Beloit College in 1867 and studied in Andover Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, in preparation for the work to which he had dedicated himself upon the foreign field.

In 1871 he was married to Emma Jane Dickinson of Beloit, Wisconsin. Together they went to China under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1872, where he served continuously for 54 years. His remarkable abilities as scholar and as administrator began early to manifest themselves. Very few men have known Chinese life so intimately or have been able to interpret it so accurately and vividly.

Nine volumes have come from his pen, including *Chinese Characteristics*, which has been translated into French, German, Chinese and Japanese, and *The Uplift of China*, which has been translated into German, Danish, Norwegian and Swedish.

Dr. Smith has much to do in organizing and distributing Chinese relief during various famines which have devastated China. He was present at the siege of Peking during the Boxer raid in 1900; and when the Chinese government proposed to pay to the United States an indemnity, he made a trip to America to suggest to President Theodore Roosevelt the return of the indemnity with the idea that it be used to make possible education of promising Chinese youths in American colleges. President Roosevelt cordially approved and put into operation the suggestion of Dr. Smith. Through his interview with Roosevelt, Arthur Smith inaugurated a change in Western policies toward China, a tendency toward fair and equal friendship.

In 1906 the American Board asked that he be relieved of all local responsibilities that he might become missionary-at-large to interpret through his voice and his pen the meaning of the missionary movement in this rapidly changing world.

Dr. Smith died on August 31, 1932 in Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California. He and his wife Emma had three children. One daughter, Florence, died at one month old. Another daughter, Marie, lived to the age of 18. Their son, Henry Dickinson Smith was graduated from Beloit College in 1902 and later became student secretary of the institution. He was drowned in Lake Geneva on August 8, 1906 while making a heroic but unsuccessful attempt to rescue a companion.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes many examples of Arthur Henderson Smith's original writing, such as correspondence, a Civil War diary, biographies, and handwritten manuscripts, along with published versions of his various articles and books. There are also some articles about Smith, photographs, and an autograph book Smith kept featuring signatures and handwritten notes from many prominent figures of the 19th century, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, P. T. Barnum, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Millard Fillmore, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and William Howard Taft.

The diary, autograph book, and other select writings are accompanied by transcriptions. Several other published volumes are cataloged in the Beloitana special collection housed in the Beloit College Archives.

Acquisition Note

The autograph book and selected materials were the gift of Francis C. Tucker. Mr. Tucker was born in China and grew up with well-known Beloit alums, including Arthur Henderson Smith and Henry and Elizabeth (Chapin) Porter. Mr. Tucker's brother, the late Arthur Smith Tucker, was named after Arthur Henderson Smith.

In 1989, Arthur H. Smith's Civil War 100-Day Diary was donated to the Beloit College Archives by the Pilgrim Place in Claremont, California, where Smith lived and died. The transaction was a result of Beloit College Professor of History Nelson Van Valen requesting to view the diary in order to transcribe it. Documentation on the donation and transcription is included in the collection.

A copy of Smith's book *China in Convulsion* was a gift to the Beloit College Library from Ellen Chapin.

Related Materials

Beloit College Collection of Civil War Materials (AC 33)
Beloit College Collection of Missionary Materials (AC 75)
Porter Family papers (MC 87)

Subjects

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
Beloit College--History
China--History--Boxer Rebellion, 1899-1901.
Missionaries--China--History
Porter, Henry Dwight, 1845-1916
Smith, Arthur Henderson, 1845-1932
United States --Foreign relations --China.
United States --History --Civil War, 1861-1865.

Collection Inventory

Folder Title	Box
"Arthur Henderson Smith and the American Mission in China," by Theodore D. Pappas, <i>Wisconsin Magazine of History</i> --- Spring, 1987	1
"The Best Method of Presenting the Gospel to the Chinese" --- 1883	1
60th Reunion of the Class of 1867 --- 1927	1
Beloit College Days - Valedictory Speech, Class Secretary --- 1867	1
Biographies	1
Biography of Henry Dwight Porter, by A. H. Smith --- 1867	1
Book - Autographs (including Ralph Waldo Emerson, P. T. Barnum, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Millard Fillmore, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and William Howard Taft, etc.)	1
Book - Autographs - Transcriptions and Biographies	1
Book on China (2 folders)	1
Book - Latin Textbook	1
Book Given to Wife, <i>Summer Rest</i> , by Gail Hamilton --- 1866	1
"Arthur Henderson Smith and the Boxer Indemnity" --- 1918	1
"Arthur Henderson Smith and the Boxer Indemnity Money" --- 1924	1
Civil War Diary (original) --- May 16, 1864-September 21, 1864	2
Civil War Diary Transcript	2
Civil War Diary Donation --- 1989, 1992	2
Class Letters --- 1876-1926	2
"The Foreign Student in the United States," by Forrest Moore --- 1964	2
Letters of Elizabeth Chapin Porter to her father, A. L. Chapin (summaries, include Bessie's descriptions of her missionary trip to China with A. H. Smith and her husband, Henry D. Porter) --- 1879-1891	2
Letters to F. T. Gates (from the Rockefeller Archives) --- 1907-1924	2
Letter to Irving Maurer --- 1932	2
Letters by A. H. Smith	2
Letters to Stanley Lathrop (class of 1867) --- 1920-1926	2
Letters about Arthur H. Smith --- 1882	2
Letters about Henry D. Smith --- 1906	2
Letter to Mrs. Robert Chapin --- 1927	2
Letters to Dr. Eaton --- 1906	2
Letters of Francis C. Tucker (friend of A. H. Smith and Henry and Elizabeth Porter from China) --- 1991	2
Letters - Miscellaneous --- 1907, 1921	2
"The Most Helpful Books on China" (lists multiple A. H. Smith books) --- 1921	2
Mystery Document - Composition on Europe by A. H. Smith --- 1852	2
Miscellaneous	2

Folder Title	Box
Newspaper Articles by A. H. Smith --- 1882-1926	2
News Clippings	2
Obituaries --- 1932	2
Obituaries for Mrs. Arthur H. Smith --- 1926	2
Outline of Early Life Story of A. H. S. Beloit College Class of 1867 (from original manuscript dated and signed at end: "Shanghai, China, May 4/17. A. H. Smith")	2
Outline of Early Life Story of A. H. S. Beloit College Class of 1867 (original) --- 1917	2
Photographs	2
Publications by Family - Marie J. Smith, Emma D. Smith (Mrs. Arthur J. Smith) --- 1906-1923	2
Publications - <i>North China Herald</i> , Special Anniversary Supplement (A. H. Smith's copy) --- 1920	2
Publications - Pamphlets and Articles by A. H. Smith (2 folders)	2
Publications - <i>China in Convulsion</i> --- 1901	3
Publications - <i>The Uplift of China</i> (in Chinese)	3
Publications - Writings and Articles by A. H. Smith	3
Requests for Information About A. H. Smith, Responses	3