

Ms
Coll.
00174C

Mabel Oldfield (1878-1965) and Walter Oldfield (1878-1958) Papers

Gift of Michael Dawson, 2022

Dates:

1850-1958

Extent:

2 boxes [0.5 metres]

Biographical Information:

Mabel Oldfield (née Dimock) was born on April 9, 1878, and Walter Oldfield was born on October 19, 1878. Mabel and Walter Oldfield were married in Hong Kong in 1910, and they had two children (Mildred and Ernest) born in 1911. The Oldfields worked as Canadian missionaries with the New York-based Christian and Missionary Alliance during the first half of the twentieth century. Between 1900 and 1947, Mabel and Walter Oldfield were stationed in Guangxi, China where they were actively involved in developing and implementing Christian conversion and evangelization programs. They published several accounts (books and pamphlets) of their missionary activities and lived experiences in Guangxi, China including *With You Always: The Life of a South China Missionary*, *Kidnapped by Chinese Bandits*, *Over "the Hump" with God*, *Pioneering in Kwangsi [Guangxi]: The Story of Alliance Missions in South China*, *Travels Among the Tribesmen*, and *Two Hundred Miles of Miracles*. Mabel and Walter Oldfield left China definitively in 1947 and returned to Canada. Walter Oldfield died in 1958, and Mabel Oldfield died in 1965.

Mildred Oldfield (married name Millar) lived with her parents in China until the age of 16 when she returned to Canada. Mildred would later attend Victoria College, University of Toronto from 1929-1933, and she married F. Graham Millar in 1934 or 1935. Both graduated 1933. Graham Millar's mother was E. Maud Graham, who wrote *A Canadian Girl in South Africa*. The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library holds the papers of E. Maud Graham and F. Graham Millar.

Scope and Content:

This accession of Walter and Mabel Oldfield's papers contains correspondence, official documents, reports, diaries, newsletter clippings, and materials related to Mabel's family history. The accession also includes some documents related to their daughter, Mildred Oldfield (married name Millar), and her experiences as the daughter of Christian missionaries. Mabel and Walter Oldfield's papers document the

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activities and priorities of Christian missionaries working in China in the first half of the twentieth century and the couple's experiences and observations on the significant social and political upheaval in Guangxi, China in the first half of the twentieth century.

Custodial history: Papers were donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library by Michael Dawson in 2022.

Notes:

Folder descriptions are taken from the list of materials provided by Michael Dawson and derived from the content of the accession.

Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are to be translated as follows:

ALS: Autograph letter signed (signed by the author of the letter, handwritten)

TLS: Typed letter signed (typed letter signed by hand)

TL: Typed letter not signed

Restrictions on access: Open

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BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
1:1	Report and correspondence	Three typed reports from Walter or Mabel Oldfield regarding their activities in Guangxi in 1938. Two incomplete TL written by Walter or Mabel Oldfield recounting the earliest days of the Japanese invasion of Guangxi and the fall of Nanning during the Second Sino-Japanese War.	1938-April 1940
1:2	Poems	A collection of typed and handwritten poems.	n.d.
1:3	Personal correspondence sent by Mabel Oldfield to friends and relatives in North America.	19 ALS. The folder also includes one map of Guangxi, China.	1903-1904
1:4	Personal correspondence sent by Mabel Oldfield to friends and relatives in North America.	22 ALS.	1905-1907
1:5	Personal correspondence sent by Mabel Oldfield to friends and relatives in North America.	7 ALS. 3 TLS.	1908
1:6	Personal correspondence sent by Mabel Oldfield to friends and relatives in North America.	7 ALS. 2 TLS. This folder also includes Walter and Mabel Oldfield's marriage announcement on card stock.	1909-1910

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1:7	Personal correspondence sent by Mabel Oldfield to friends and relatives in North America.	4 ALS. 2 TLS.	1911
1:8	Personal correspondence sent by Mabel Oldfield to friends and relatives in North America.	9 TLS written in a “report” format recounting the Oldfields’ return to China in 1946 after the end of World War II in the Pacific theatre. The letters describe their travels and experiences in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Guangxi, China. The letters also document the Oldfields’ return to North America in the fall of 1947 due to ill health.	February 1946- July 1947
1:9	<i>The Alliance Weekly</i>	Clippings of Walter Oldfield’s reports and articles published in <i>The Alliance Weekly</i> on the effects of World War II in Guangxi, China.	[1941]
1:10	Diaries	Five handwritten diaries. All five diaries document Mabel Oldfield’s daily activities as a missionary in Guangxi, China. The diaries also include Mabel Oldfield’s reflections and notes on major historical events in Guangxi, China in the first half of the twentieth century.	January 1905- October 1948
1:11	Documents	Folder includes passports for Mabel and Walter Oldfield, Walter Oldfield’s laminated birth certificate card, copies of Mabel and Walter Oldfield’s official birth certificates, Mabel and Walter’s marriage certificate from Hong Kong, Mabel and Walter’s fingerprinting records from the RCMP, and Walter Oldfield’s ordination papers. The folder also includes a letter from Walter Oldfield’s mother certifying that his birth certificate is valid and two documents certifying copyright for Mabel’s book <i>With You Always: The Life of a South China Missionary</i> .	1878-1945
1:12	Family History	Folder contains notes, lists, and a family tree identifying members of the Dimock family (Mabel’s family). The folder also includes a typed	n.d.

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		account of Mildred Oldfield's childhood memories of her itinerant life as the child of Christian missionaries as well as a list of dates and locations the Oldfield family lived between 1885-1943.	
Box 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Holy Bible. English Standard Version Bible. Oxford: Oxford University Press. <p>Mildred Oldfield's bible presented to her on July 24th, 1928, by Principal E. Rice when she left school.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Oldfield, Walter. <i>Pioneering in Kwangsi</i>. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Christian Publications, Inc, 1936.3. Oldfield, Mabel Dimock. <i>With You Always: The Life of a South China Missionary</i>. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Christian Publications, Inc, 1958 (hardcover).4. Oldfield, Walter. <i>Travels Among the Tribesmen</i>. Wuchow, China: The South China Alliance Press, n.d. (pamphlet).5. Oldfield, Walter. <i>Over "the Hump" With God</i>. New York: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, n.d. (pamphlet).6. Oldfield, Walter. <i>Kidnapped by Chinese Bandits</i>. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: The Christian Alliance Publishing Company, 1930. (pamphlet).7. Oldfield, Walter. <i>Two Hundred Miles of Miracles</i>. Chefoo [now Yantai, China], China: James McMullan & Co, 1922. (pamphlet).8. Oldfield, Mabel Dimock. <i>With You Always: The Life of a South China Missionary</i> Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Christian Publications, Inc, 1958. (softcover)		