

Archives and Special Collections  
Dickinson College  
Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Myrl Myers (1886-1964)** **MC 2017.01**

Material: Papers (1907-1946)

Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 Document Box and 1 Oversized Folder)

Donation: Purchase, 2014

Usage: There are no usage restrictions on these materials.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Myrl Myers graduated from Dickinson College in 1906. Following his graduation, he served briefly as an Assistant Principal in Auburn, PA before becoming a student interpreter for the American Legation in Peking (Beijing) in 1907. He was married to Alice Myers, and the couple had two daughters, Helen and Barbara. In between his diplomatic appointments, Myrl Myers lived with his family at their home in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Myrl Myers served as Vice and Deputy Consul General in Canton (Guangdong) in 1909 and Vice Deputy Consul General in Tientsin (Tianjin) in 1910. He was the Consul in Swatow (Shantou); the Consul in Chongqing from 1916-1917; Consul in Kunming from 1924-1926; Consul in Shenyang in 1927; and served as the Consul General in Mukden (Shenyang) from 1929 to 1932. He was present during the Japanese capture of Tientsin on December 8, 1941, and was named Consul General of Tientsin in 1945, and then Consul General to Peking in 1946.

Myers retired to Berkeley, CA. Following his death in 1964, his wife set up a scholarship at Dickinson College in his honor: The Myrl Meyers Memorial Scholarship Fund. His daughter Barbara donated a few Chinese textiles collected by her father to the college's Trout Gallery.

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

The Myrl Myers Collection is housed in one letter-sized archival box and one oversized folder, and the materials are organized into three categories: Journals, Miscellaneous, and Certificates. The collection was purchased in 2014.

The Journals category contains the personal journals kept by Myers. The first set of journals relate to his time as Vice and Deputy Consul General (1907-1909, 1911) and chronicle his day-to-day activities including who he met with, what his daily itinerary was, what sports he played, and his thoughts on the climate. The journals also describe his visits to local military academies and outposts, as well as a travelogue of his journeys to the local capital, including

measurements for distance traveled over the course of each day, notable villages and peoples he encountered, the local politics, remarks on local architectural styles and practices, local politics, observations on agricultural and religious practices, natural landmarks and features, and other industries in which the local populace engaged. The second set of journals (1941-1944) describe his activities during World War II, including his capture by the Japanese during the American surrender of Tientsin, how he spent his days inside the prison camp, as well as what books he read during his capture. Each journal in this set has entries for every day of the year described.

The Miscellaneous category contains a notebook Myers wrote translations in and a notebook which Myers used for a variety of records. The phrases are written in their native script, followed by phonetic spellings and an English translation. The records book primarily contains drink recipes Myers has developed or acquired, as well as notes on Chinese regional history and cultural practices, measurement conversions, and annotated arithmetic problems. This second notebook also contains loose sheets which include a poem titled "Heaven," and what appears to be recipes for punch written on calendar notepaper from September 1924.

The Certificates category contains official appointments to Vice and Deputy Consul General for the years 1909 and 1910 (Signed by Secretary of State Philander C. Knox), as well as his Certificates of Appointment to Consul General for the years 1945 and 1946 (Signed by President of the United States Harry S. Truman and Secretary of State James F. Byrnes).

## **COLLECTION INVENTORY**

### **BOX 1 - MC 2017.01**

#### **JOURNALS**

- Folder 1) Personal Journal - Sep. 30, 1907 - Aug. 1909
- Folder 2) Personal Journal - Apr. 22, 1911 - Jul. 1, 1911
- Folder 3) Personal Journal - 1941
  - Personal Journal - Jan. 1, 1942 - Aug. 11, 1942
  - Personal Journal - Aug. 12, 1942 - Oct. 18, 1942
- Folder 4) Personal Journal - 1943
  - Personal Journal - 1944

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Folder 5) Notebook containing written translation guide
- Folder 6) Notebook containing miscellaneous information

### **OVERSIZED - OC 2017.1**

#### **CERTIFICATES**

- Folder 1) Appointment as Vice and Deputy Consul General to Canton, China - 1909
- Appointment as Vice and Deputy Consul General to Tientsin, China - 1910
- Appointment as Consul General to Tientsin, China - 1945
- Appointment as Consul General to Peking, China - 1946

This collection register was prepared by Zacharia James Benalayay, March 2017.