

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Miller, Dr. Edgar (1899-1989)**
Miller, Dr. Elizabeth Bucke (1901-1983) **MC 1999.3**

Material: Scrapbook and Artifact Collection (c.1955-1984)

Volume: 4.50 linear feet (1 Document Box, 3 Artifact Boxes, 6 Loose Oversized Items)

Donation: Drs. Edgar and Elizabeth Miller, 1983

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Doctors Edgar and Elizabeth Bucke Miller, married in 1927, have been globally recognized for their major contributions to missionary and medical field work in Nepal. Edgar Miller, the son of Philip W. and Amanda E. Harman Miller, was born April 19, 1899. Upon graduation from New Freedom High School, PA, Miller enrolled at Dickinson College, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1920. Elizabeth Bucke was born in New Germantown, NJ, on April 21, 1901, to Jacob Edward Ambrose, a Methodist pastor, and Linnie May Coulter Bucke. She was educated at Williamsport High School, PA before entering Dickinson College. She graduated in 1923 and went on to the University of Pennsylvania, Women's Medical College in Philadelphia.

Dr. Edgar Miller and Dr. Elizabeth Bucke married in Wilmington, DE, in 1927. The married couple applied to the Mission Board to render medical service to countries with deprived populations. The Board rejected their request, and, as a result, the Millers opened a joint medical practice in Wilmington, where Edgar practiced as a heart specialist for twenty-eight years.

In 1946, Dr. Edgar Miller was elected president of the Dickinson Club of Delaware. In 1952, Dr. Elizabeth Bucke Miller received an award of distinction as a physician and a church leader, serving as a Sunday School teacher at the Richardson Park U. M. C. for twenty-seven years, by the Phi Mu Sorority. Also in 1952, she was honored as the outstanding woman of Phi Mu alumnae in PA, Delaware district.

In 1954, Drs. Edgar and Elizabeth Bucke Miller reapplied as missionaries, but the Board decided that at the ages of 55 and 53 the Millers were "too old" for missionary work. Finally in 1954, with the help of Dr. Bethel Fleming, an ornithologist from Nepal, the Millers dreams of becoming missionaries materialized. Accepted primarily as missionaries from Richardson Park U. M. C. and Grace U. M. C., they were stationed in Shanta Bhawan, Nepal. The hospital where the Millers practiced was located at the base of Mount Everest. As a small ten-bed hospital, the

original function of the hospital was to treat members of mountain climbing expeditions. With the Millers help, the hospital was modernized and expanded, and became one of the few hospitals in the world to admit leprosy sufferers. During their nine year mission in Nepal, the Millers established village clinics, helped staff the new hospital, and treat innumerable patients.

In 1964, the Millers were decorated by King Mahendra of Nepal. In 1965, Drs. Edgar and Elizabeth Bucke Miller returned from their mission work and resided in Liverpool, PA. On December 12, 1983, Dr. Elizabeth Bucke Miller died of a stroke at the age of 82. Dr. Edgar Miller, 90 years old, passed away June 19, 1989 at the Methodist Country Home.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Edgar and Elizabeth Bucke Miller Collection consists of four books, a scrapbook, and numerous artifacts collected by the Millers during their time as missionaries in Nepal. The collection is housed in one document box and three artifact boxes, with six loose oversized artifacts housed individually. This collection was given to Dickinson by the Millers in 1983.

This collection is divided into two sections, Memorabilia and Artifacts. The Memorabilia section consists of books, a hymnal, pamphlets, a map, and a scrapbook of India and Nepal. The books include *Glimpses of Progress in Nepal: 1952-1961*, two versions of *Nepal in Pictures*, and a Nepali hymnal. Also included in this collection are tourist pamphlets of Nepal and a map of India. A scrapbook containing items from the Millers' time in Nepal as well as items collected up through the mid 1980's is also found in this section.

The Artifact Section contains 67 artifacts brought by Edgar and Elizabeth Bucke Miller to the United States following their nine year mission to Nepal. The arrangement of the objects in Artifact Boxes 1-3 is random, meaning the artifacts were placed in boxes for packing purposes only. Six oversized objects are housed individually. The artifacts in this collection represent Nepalese religious traditions and practices, decoration and symbolism.

Copies of *Nine Years in Nepal*, written by Dr. Edgar Miller, and *Medics in the Mountains: the story of Edgar and Elizabeth Miller*, written by Eleanor Preston Clarkson, can be found among the books in the Special Collections Department.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 1999.3

MEMORABILIA

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|------------|--|
| Folder 01) | <i>Nepal in Pictures</i> . Government of Nepal. Saraswaty Press, Calcuta. |
| Folder 02) | <i>Nepal in Pictures</i> . YETIS. Harrison & Sons Ltd., London. |
| Folder 03) | <i>Glimpses of Progress in Nepal: 1952-1961</i> |
| Folder 04) | <i>Nepali Hymnal</i> . The Nepali Christian Literature Society, Darjeeling. 1967. |
| Folder 05) | <i>Nepal on the Potter's Wheel</i> . The United Mission to Nepal. RBMU, Balham, England. |
| Folder 06) | Pamphlets |
| Folder 07) | Map of India |
| Folder 08) | Scrapbook of Nepal and India |
| Folder 09) | Loose scrapbook items |

BOX 1 - AC 1999.3

ARTIFACTS

- Item 01) Ceremonial Drum, blue laced with white straps. (8.5 cm)
- Item 02) Dragon Trumpet used to scare away demons and purify the area. Brass (42 cm)
- Item 03) Astrological Wall Hanging. Astrological symbols include Hexagrams, Zodiac Signs, Lotus Petals, Montra, and Yama, the symbol of death. Copper (16.5 x 19 cm)
- Item 04) Decorative Candle Holder. Tin (10.5 cm h)
- Item 05) Decorative Incense Burner used to burn sandalwood incense. Brass (34 cm h)
- Item 06) Prayer Wheel spun for the purpose of sending out the prayers that are written on scrolls enclosed in the wheel. Metal
- Item 07) Ceremonial Bell, used to awaken the deities. Brass (19 cm h)
- Item 08) Ceremonial Bell, used to awaken the deities. Brass (14 cm h)
- Item 09) Pitcher with Lid, for purification. Decorative symbols include a Dragon, Sun Signs, Eternal Knot, and Swastika. Copper (29 cm h)
- Item 10) Statue of Vajarasattva, the culmination of all the positive qualities of Buddha. Metal (11 cm)
- Item 11) Statue of Ganesha, Remover of Obstacles. Metal (9 cm h)
- Item 12) Statue of Buddha seated in the Earth Witness Pose. Bronze (12 cm h)
- Item 13) Statue of Tara, the Buddhist female embodiment of compassion. Bronze (16 cm h)
- Item 14) Statue of Tara, the Buddhist female embodiment of compassion. Bronze (16 cm h)
- Item 15) Statue of Ganesha, Remover of Obstacles. Carved wood (22 cm h)
- Item 16) Statue of Mahakala, the Fierce Protector. Carved wood (21 cm h)
- Item 17) Statue of Avolokateshvara. Carved wood (25 cm h)
- Item 18) Statue of Makra, possessing features of different animals, represents the reconciliation of opposites. Bronze (13 cm h)
- Item 19) Statue of Makra, possessing features of different animals, represents the reconciliation of opposites. Bronze (13 cm h)
- Item 20) Devotional Water Pot used for daily prayer with Montra inscribed on the side. (12 cm h)
- Item 21) Devotional Water Pot used for daily prayer. (12 cm h)
- Item 22) Hukka Pipe. Wood (30 cm)
- Item 23) Statue of Woman with Child. Bronze (13.5 cm h)
- Item 24) Statue of Yaksha, the protectors often found at the entrances to temples. Bronze (14 cm h)
- Item 25) Ritual Purification Pot with Dipper adorned on front with image of Ganesha. Bronze (16 cm h)

BOX 2 - AC 1999.3

ARTIFACTS (cont.)

- Item 26) Decorative Hair Ornament and Comb worn by weaving it into the hair.
- Item 27) Brass Ankle Bells worn for dancing.
- Item 28) Plaque depicting birth of Buddha from the side of the Great Mother. Wood (8 x 20.5 cm)
- Item 29) Statue of Lama, a teacher or monk. The drum symbolizes detachment of the body and the ball, female wisdom. Wood (23 cm h)
- Item 30) Photo Case containing photos of the Royal Family. Velvet
- Item 31) Print Wall Hanging, "Himalayan Beauties." (13 x 19.5 cm)
- Item 32) Necklace of Rudraksha Beads associated with the worship of Shiva.
- Item 33) Durga Plaque of a Hindu Goddess standing astride a lion and a lotus throne Wood, Free standing (13.5 x 22.5 cm)
- Item 34) Wall Hanging , see above.
- Item 35) Durga Plaque. Copper (10 x 15 cm).
- Item 36) Makra Idol represents the reconciliation of opposites. Wood (9.5 cm h)
- Item 37) Statue of Bhairava, God of Power. Wood (16 cm h)
- Item 38) Sewn Leaf Bowl
- Item 39) Hand-woven Basket
- Item 40) Decorative Box adorned with coral and turquoise and pressed metal plates. Wood (8.5 x 12 x 15 cm)
- Item 41) Decorative Octagonal Box, see above. Wood (20 x 15 cm)
- Item 42) Stupa a three-dimensional mandala, a palace of Buddha named "Vajrabhairava." Wood (17 cm h)
- Item 43) Doll of a Woman. Wood (21 cm h)
- Item 44) Doll of a Basket Carrier. Wood (21 cm h)
- Item 45) Shadow Box depicting three individuals working. Wood (20 x 21.5 x 12 cm)
- Item 46) Pot with Lid. Wood (11 x 10 cm)

BOX 3 - AC 1999.3

ARTIFACTS (cont.)

- Item 47) Bowl decorated with brass Buddhas and skulls. Wood (11 cm)
- Item 48) Plate, undecorated. Brass (21.5 cm)
- Item 49) Goblet, undecorated. Brass (14 cm h)
- Item 50) Oil Lamp, undecorated. Brass (19 cm h)
- Item 51) Cups, 2 undecorated. Brass
- Item 52) Teapot, no lid, undecorated. Brass (18 cm h)
- Item 53) Statue of Buddha Head, royalty symbolized by the long earlobes. The hair bump, according to myth, is that it is not a hairstyle, but rather the extra grown wisdom of the Buddha. Brass (19.5 cm)
- Item 54) Knives, 2 small and one large, in same sheath. (44 cm)

BOX 3 - AC 1999.3 (cont.)

ARTIFACTS (cont.)

- Item 55) Decorative Stupa adorned with coral and turquoise, and mounted on a black base. Gift of Captain and Mrs. Nirmula Kana. Metal (17 cm h)
- Item 56) Decorative Candlestick adorned with coral and turquoise, and mounted on a black base. (18 cm h)
- Item 57) Flag of Nepal
- Item 58) Nepalese Fabric, light green and gold.
- Item 59) Nepalese Fabric, orange, gold, black, and white pattern.
- Item 60) Fabric Bag, red with woven gold design.
- Item 61) Map of Southern Asia, Friendship Press. Framed (25 x 32 cm) - 1963

OVERSIZED - OC 1999.3

ARTIFACTS (cont.)

- Item 01) Prayer Doors behind which would be a god to whom a person would pray. Wood (55 x 48 cm)
- Item 02) Hand-woven Basket (48 cm diameter)
- Item 03) Photo of Nepalese Village. Framed (44 x 54 cm)
- Item 04) Photo of Nepalese Village. Framed (44 x 54 cm)
- Item 05) Photo of Nepalese Village. Framed (44 x 54 cm)
- Item 06) Photo of Himalayan Mountains. Framed (50 x 60cm)

This collection register was prepared by Holly K. Clark, September 1999.