Herbet Nicholson papers, 1949-1982
MC.950.138
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard
# Table of Contents

Summary Information ................................................................................................................................. 3  
Biographical note ........................................................................................................................................ 4  
Scope and Content note ................................................................................................................................. 4  
Administrative Information .............................................................................................................................. 4  
Related Materials ......................................................................................................................................... 5  
Controlled Access Headings .......................................................................................................................... 5  
Collection Inventory ..................................................................................................................................... 6  
  Correspondence ........................................................................................................................................... 6  
  Manuscript .................................................................................................................................................. 6  
  Research notes .......................................................................................................................................... 7  

- Page 2 -
## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Nicholson, Herbert V. (Herbert Victor), 1892-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Herbet Nicholson papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>1949-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>3.0 Folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred Citation

Herbert Nicholson (MC.950.138), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

Herbert Nicholson (1892-1983) was born in 1892 in Rochester, New York, to Quaker parents. Nicholson was educated at Quaker schools, including Haverford College. On his 23rd birthday he announced he wanted to become a missionary in Japan. In 1915 he began working as secretary to a Quaker missionary in Tokyo, Gilbert Bowles, where he met Congregational missionary Madeline Waterhouse, whom he married in 1920. In 1922, feeling the call of rural duty, the couple relocated to Mito in Ibaraki Prefecture where farmers were less responsive to proselytizing than to practical aid. Nicholson started a savings account program for them, launched a goat farm, involved himself in the temperance movement, built a home for the aged, and ministered to lepers. In the late 1930s, Japan's aggressive military incursions in China and the resulting political tensions between Japan and America hampered the Nicholsons' ability to work and live in Japan. They returned to America in 1940 and settled in Pasadena, California. During World War II, in addition to offering spiritual succor and ferrying belongings and people between concentration camps, detention centers and medical facilities, Nicholson defended prisoners in speeches at churches and community organizations, traveled to U.S. military bases to comfort Nisei soldiers, and to the halls of power in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the release of their families from prison camps. When Nicholson was approached to fill in for an ailing Methodist minister at the all-Japanese American West Los Angeles Methodist Church in 1940 for $40 a month, he agreed, preaching in both English and Japanese while Madeline served as Sunday School superintendent.

Scope and Content note

This collection is comprised of the papers of Herbert Nicholson. It includes sections of a manuscript, possibly "Valiant Odyssey: Herbert Nicholson in and out of America's concentration camps," letters to Herbert Nicholson from individuals he met in Japan, some thanking him for his efforts to aid Japanese-Americans in the U.S. after World War II began, photographs of Herbert Nicholson and others, and Nicholson's research notes related to Japanese internment.
Use Restrictions
Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition
Unknown.

Processing information
Processed by Kara Flynn; completed March 2016.

Related Materials

Related materials
- MC 1192 William Warder Cadbury and Catherine J. Cadbury papers
- MC 1020 William Bacon Evans papers

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)
- Correspondence.
- Photographs.
- Research notes

Subject(s)
- Manuscripts
- Quaker missionaries
- Society of Friends -- Missions -- Japan
- World War, 1939-1945
## Collection Inventory

### Correspondence 1949-1982

**Scope and Content note**

Typed and handwritten correspondence addressed to Herbert Nicholson, some letters thanking him for his efforts to aid Japanese-Americans in the U.S. after World War II began.

### Manuscript 1973

**Scope and Content note**


### Controlled Access Headings

**Genre(s)**

- Correspondence.
- Photographs.
- Research notes

**Subject(s)**

- Manuscripts
- Society of Friends--Japan.
Research notes

- World War, 1939-1945

Photographs Undated

Scope and Content note

Photographs of Herbert Nicholson and various family members.

Research notes Undated

Scope and Content note

Typed lists, including a "list of the people who contributed in Mito for Nicholson's journey in Japan," "list of the people who attended Sunday Worship and Luncheon in Mito," a list of letters from the people who did not attend the welcome party in Mito, a map of Relocation Centers and Prisoner of War camps, and a map of Japan.