

**Esther B. Rhoads collection
on Quakers in Japan, 1897
MC.950.156**

Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

March 2016

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Summary Information

Repository	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator - Correspondent	Hartshorne, Anna C. (Anna Cope), 1860-1957
Creator - Correspondent	Nitobe, Inazo, 1862-1933.
Creator - Collector	Rhoads, Esther Biddle, 1896-1979
Title	Esther B. Rhoads collection on Quakers in Japan
Date	1897-1935
Extent	2.0 Folders
Language	English

Preferred Citation

Esther B. Rhoades collection on Inazo Nitobe (MC.950.156), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

Biographical note

Inazo Nitobe (1862-1933) was a Japanese Quaker, author, educator, and politician. He rose to fame as an agricultural sugar expert, was the president of several colleges, and was a Carnegie exchange professor to the United States.

At 13, he entered Tokyo English School. By studying English, he became acquainted with Christianity and the Bible. In 1877 he entered the newly founded Sapparo Agricultural College in the northern island of Hokkaido and graduated in 1881. William S. Clark, from Amherst College, was the viceprincipal of the Sapparo Agricultural College, although he left the college before Nitobe started attending. He left a strong influence on the students, particularly in the way ethics was taught. He said the only way he could teach ethics was by teaching the Bible. All of his students became Christians and signed Clark's "Covenant of Believers in Jesus." Nitobe subsequently became a Friend when he was 22 years old while doing graduate study at Johns Hopkins University. He joined Baltimore Yearly Meeting. In 1885, Inazo and a Japanese classmate were invited from Baltimore to Philadelphia by the Women's Foreign Missionary Association of Friends to advise them about establishing a Quaker mission in Japan. This ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Friends Girls School in Tokyo and ten agricultural missions in Iberaki Province, just north of Tokyo. Most notably, he was the leader of the Japanese delegation to the League of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1919, and when he arrived there he was promptly appointed under-secretary general of the League. Nitobe is famous for coining the phrase, "Bridge across the Pacific"; for writing the history of William Penn; and for the book, *Bushido: The Soul of Japan*. He is the only known Quaker whose picture is on his country's currency.

Anna Cope Hartshorne (1860-1957) was born in Germantown, Pa, the daughter of Henry Hartshorne and Mary Elizabeth Brown. Anna Hartshorne was prominent in the founding of Tsuda College for women in Tokyo, Japan in 1900 and nurtured it over the next forty years. She almost singly raised funds in the United States to rebuild the college after the 1923 Earthquake. Anna met Ume Tsuda, the founder of Tsuda College, one of the first women's institutions of higher education in Japan, at Bryn Mawr College in 1885 where the Japanese woman was studying at the invitation of President James E. Rhoads and where Anna was studying Greek. The only child of Dr. Henry Hartshorne, an advocate of female medical education, Anna would sit for the Harvard University Examinations for Women in 1888, which she passed with high credit in Elementary Greek and German.

Anna renewed her acquaintance with Tsuda when she came to Tokyo in 1893 with her father at the invitation of a group of Japanese doctors impressed with Dr. Hartshorne's work, "Essentials of the Principles and Practice of Medicine." In 1897 she and her father again returned to Japan as lay missionaries and Anna taught at the Friends' School in Tokyo. When her father died later that year, it was Ume Tsuda who helped her friend overcome her sorrow.

But it would be Anna who would be the mainstay of Tsuda College when it was founded as Joshi Eigaku Juku (Women's Institute of English Studies) in 1900 with the financial assistance of a group of Philadelphia women. It was the first institute for women in Japan to offer an education beyond the high school level.

Anna had helped to raise those funds for Tsuda's school in association with the Committee of The American Women's Scholarship for Japanese Women. She came again to Japan in May, 1902 to teach at Tsuda's school but only planned to stay for six months. She may not have intended to return but during travels in Europe she became aware that her life's work was truly in Japan. As a teacher and administrator at Joshi Eigaku Juku until 1940, Anna would influence two generations of Japanese women. Because of her friendship with Mary Elkinton, author Nitobe Inazo's wife, she was instrumental in the writing of "Bushido: The Soul of Japan" (1900), an explanation of the Japanese samurai ethic in English, a book still in print today.

She published her own book, "Japan and Her People" in 1902. But most importantly, Anna Hartshorne helped support and guide Tsuda College until the onset of World War II. When the 1923 Earthquake devastated Japan, when hundreds of thousands were killed and Tsuda College destroyed, Anna took off for the United States and, over the next few years, raised \$500,000, a substantial sum at the time, to rebuild the college. Ume Tsuda died in 1930, but Anna remained to oversee rebuilding of the college and continue Ume Tsuda's expectations for Japanese women.

Anna went on home leave in 1940 with every intention of returning to Tsuda College, but once the Pacific War began was unable to fulfill her promise. She died in Philadelphia on October 2, 1957 at the age of 97.

Esther Biddle Rhoads (1896-1979), a birthright Quaker, was born in Philadelphia the daughter of Margaret Paxson Rhoads and Edward G. Rhoads, M.D. She grew up in a home environment of religious commitment, and surrounded by the kind of far-reaching, intertwined kinship network. She was one of four children in what she once described as a "happy, active" household. Her siblings were an older sister, Ruth Ely Rhoads; a younger sister, Caroline Paxson Rhoads; and a younger brother, Jonathan Evans Rhoads (who became a prominent Philadelphia physician and educator). Although the family made their home in Germantown, they also owned a farm called Maple Grove, outside of New Hope in Bucks County, PA. Maple Grove had been in the Paxson family for generations; for Margaret and Edward Rhoads, their children, and many of their relatives, it was a retreat for weekends, holidays, summers. Jonathan E. Rhoads, her paternal grandfather, was a Friends minister who visited Japan in 1892. Margaret P. Rhoads was a member of the Women's Foreign Missionary Association of Friends of Philadelphia; as a child, Esther sometimes helped to make Christmas boxes for Friends Girls School in Tokyo. Edward G. Rhoads, in addition to being a physician, was an influential Friend and minister of Germantown Monthly Meeting. He, too, was strongly interested in missionary and peace work.

Scope and Content note

This collection is comprised of three folders of materials related to Quakers in Japan, and specifically focuses on the American Quaker, Anna C. Hartshorne, and the Japanese Quaker, Inazo Nitobe, collected by Esther B. Rhoades. The collection includes mainly Nitobe's correspondence, but also includes photographs of various members of the Hartshorne family, as well as members of Inazo Nitobe's family.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections March 2016

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.950.140 Inazo Nitobe papers
 - MC 1153 Esther B. Rhoads papers
 - MC 1030 Hartshorne family papers
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Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Correspondence.
- Photographs.

Geographic Name(s)

- Japan

Subject(s)

- Japan -- History
- Japanese authors
- Quakers
- Quakers--History
- Society of Friends--Japan.

Correspondence

Collection Inventory

Correspondence 1897-1935 1.0 Folder

Scope and Content note

Letter writers include: Inazo Nitobe, Mary Nitobe, Anna C. Hartshorne, Naokichi Akai, Michi, Seiji Tokito, Rachel Reid, Shu Kasai, and Yoshio Nitobe.

Photographs 1897 1.0 Folder