

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the ESTHER B. RHOADS PAPERS,
ca. 1895-ca. 1979

Collection No. 1153

60 document boxes and 1 album (31 linear feet)

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Gift of Caroline P. Rhoads and Jonathan Rhoads, 1989.

INFORMATION FOR USERS

All of the authors of letters to Rhoads and "third party" correspondence (letters not to or from Esther Rhoads) are included on hand-written lists which also give inclusive dates and number of items. For the main series of letters to Rhoads, a cross-reference card file is available. This file will aid researchers in finding individuals who wrote under organizational names, and in tracing the relationships among various corporate bodies. A "see" reference means that the name given first on the card will only be found under the name/s given below it. "See also" indicates that the name given first has its own file, and will be found under the names given below it on the card. No itemized list of letters from Rhoads is available.

Researchers may notice a large number of single items dated 1960. There are three reasons for this. Esther Rhoads retired from her work in Japan in 1960, and many letters were written to honor and thank her. Some of these were mounted in an album which was given to her as a gift by the Japan Committee (Box 11), but others are found in the general incoming correspondence file. In the summer of 1960 Rhoads received correspondence concerning opposition to the U.S. - Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. That fall, she went to work in Tunisia, and while there received various invitations and isolated letters.

Esther Rhoads had one flaw as a correspondent; she often did not fully date her letters. The collection contained hundreds of her undated letters, but most of them contained enough clues to provide, after careful reading, at least approximate dates. Information added by the cataloger is always penciled in lightly and bracketed.

RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

ABSTRACT

The papers of Esther Rhoads (1896-1979), a member of an influential Philadelphia Quaker family, Rhoads was a teacher, later head, of Friends Girls' School in Tokyo for over 50 years. She was also of great importance in work with Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia and with the American Friends Service , to assist Japanese-Americans affected by the War Relocation Act (evacuation and relocation).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

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.

A calendar view of the life of Esther Rhoads:

1900 - 1913 Esther was enrolled at Germantown Friends School from kindergarten through eleventh grade.

1913 - 1914 Spent her senior year at Quaker-run Westtown Boarding School in Chester County, Pennsylvania. One of her letters mentions her desire to study physics as a reason for attending Westtown.

1914 - 1916 Study at Drexel Institute (now University) leading to a Teacher's Certificate in Home Economics.

Summer 1915 Traveled to western United States and Canada with family members.

Summer 1916 Attended Young Friends Conference at Cedar Lake, Indiana.

1916 - 1917 Taught home economics at Episcopal Deaconess School, Germantown YWCA, Germantown Boys Club, and [Wissahickon School Club] in Philadelphia

Summer 1917 Attended Young Friends Conference again; met Thomas E. Jones and Esther Balderston.

Aug. - Sept. 1917 In the year that the United States entered World War I and Japan Yearly Meeting was founded, Esther Rhoads went to Japan for the first time, under appointment by the Missionary Association. She left from San Francisco on the S.S. Korea Maru, arriving in Japan on September 7.

1917 - 1918 During her first year in Japan she taught English, Bible, and foreign cooking at Friends Girls School in Tokyo. She was plagued much of the time by infected skin eruptions on her face, and in the winter felt generally unwell and unsure about remaining in Japan.

August 1918 Left for home on the S.S. Mont eagle to Vancouver.

[Fall] 1918 Coursework at the University of Pennsylvania.

1918 - 1919 Taught home economics at St. Mary's School in Burlington, N.J.

1919 - 1921 Studied for B.S. degree at Earlham College in Indiana.

August 1920 Traveled to England for Young Friends Conference at Jordans. Apparently as part of this same trip, Rhoads visited AFSC relief work in France, Germany, and Belgium.

1920 Coursework at the University of Pennsylvania

August 1921 With her cousin and close friend, Margaret Whitall Rhoads, Esther Rhoads returned to Japan. (Margaret W. Rhoads taught English for one year at Friends Girls School; after her return to Philadelphia, she served for ten years as secretary of the Mission Board, the Foreign Missionary Association's successor)

1921 - 1924 Study at Japanese Language School in Tokyo.

1921 - 1940 - Between her return to Japan in 1921 and her departure in 1940, Esther Rhoads' work at Friends Girls School included: teaching English, Bible, foreign cooking and sewing; coaching basketball and other sports; coaching English plays; advising student government ; and directing the dormitory (1922 - 1926).

Fall 1922 Underwent major surgery: appendectomy and partial hysterectomy.

April 1923 Esther's mother, Margaret P. Rhoads, arrived for a long visit in Japan.

Early Sept. 1923 Catastrophic earthquake and resulting fires destroyed much of Tokyo and other areas. Esther and her mother were out of the city for vacation and escaped injury. Esther was involved in relief work into 1924; she was a member of the original Japan Friends Service Committee, formed during this time.

Sept. 25, 1923 Margaret P. Rhoads left Japan.

Late March 1924 - Esther traveled to China, apparently for a Mid-April 1924 sightseeing vacation, via Korea.

1925 Organized school lunch program at Friends Girls School.

Jan. 24, 1926 Edward G. Rhoads died at Fairhope, Alabama. Late March 1926 Esther returned home for furlough.

June - July 1926 Esther and Jonathan traveled to Alabama to pick up their father's car, sightseeing and attending the Young Friends Conference on the return trip.

1926 - 1927 Study for M.A. in Religious Education at Columbia University, while living at International House in New York.

Aug. - Sept. 1927 Returned to Japan via California.

Aug. - Nov. 1928 Margaret W. Rhoads' second visit to Japan.

Summer 1929 Esther came home for short furlough.

Summer 1930 Given much responsibility at Friends Girls School when principal Toki Tomiyama traveled abroad.

Summer 1930 Jonathan E. Rhoads visited Japan for the first time.

May 1932 Major surgery: removal of myomatous uterus.

1932 Correspondence reveals concern about Japanese invasion of Manchuria.

Late June 1932 Esther returned home for furlough, traveling over the southwestern route in the U.S.

[Fall] 1932 Spent four months at Pendle Hill, the Quaker study center in Wallingford, Pa.

1932 Coursework at the University of Pennsylvania, [perhaps while at Pendle Hill.]

Jan. 1933 Returned to Japan, arriving on the 28th.

Early 1933 Margaret W. Rhoads resigned from the Mission Board, due to ill health.

Mid-March 1934 Margaret W. Rhoads died in South Carolina.

July 1934 Esther's sisters, Ruth E. and Caroline P. Rhoads, arrived in Japan, staying until some time during the fall.

June 1936 Esther traveled home.

Nov. 1936 Returned to Japan, via northern route across U.S., and Seattle.

Spring 1937 Became a Trustee of Friends School.

1937 Concern over Japanese aggression in China is evident in 1937 correspondence.

1939 - 1940 Taught English at Tsuda College in Tokyo.

Dec. 1939 - Visited Shanghai and Nanking to observe

Jan. 1940 relief work and refugee camps.

April 1940 Returned home for furlough; the intended length of the furlough is unknown, but Rhoads was prevented by U.S. government regulations from going back to Japan

1940 - 1941 One term at Columbia University.

1941 - early 1942 Worked for AFSC in Philadelphia, in the Civilian Public Service section.

Feb. 1942 - 1945 Esther relocated to California, working out of the AFSC's branch offices in Pasadena, to assist Japanese-Americans affected by the War Relocation Act (evacuation and relocation). This work, supported in part by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Mission Board, involved

working with evacuees in assembly centers and internment camps. She also helped working people and college students relocate to other regions of the country; her work with students was sponsored by the National Student Relocation Council.

Rhoads did an enormous amount of traveling throughout the west and seems to have been employed by more than one organization at a time. She often visited Civilian Public Service camps for Conscientious Objectors, and in at least one instance she arranged for men in a CPS camp to assist Japanese-American internees. She also had some connection with AFSC camps which brought together European refugee children and ethnically- diverse young Americans.

Fall 1943 Esther Rhoads was in residence at the Poston, Arizona relocation camp.

1945 Organized the Evergreen Hostel in Los Angeles, which functioned as a sort of "halfway house" for people returning from the relocation camps, many of whom had lost their homes and belongings.

June 1945 Rhoads and J. Passmore Elkinton were sent to Washington by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; to communicate to the State Department the Meeting's concern for peace, and condemnation of the widespread incendiary bombing of Japan.

End of 1945 Left the California work, which was winding down with the end of the war, and returned to Philadelphia.

Feb. - June 1946 Worked at AFSC Japan Desk in Philadelphia; apparently also did work for the Mission Board during this time.

June 21, 1946 Arrived back in Japan, supported by AFSC and the Mission Board, as AFSC representative to LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia). While at first the work involved primarily ordering and distributing food and used clothing, Esther Rhoads became an important figure in the overall LARA program. Her work involved a great deal of travel, visiting sites where relief work was needed or in progress. She noted that she visited 28 cities which had suffered bombing.

In addition to her LARA work, Rhoads worked toward the regrouping of Japanese Friends and the revival of Friends Girls School (after the war it was generally called simply Friends School). Tokyo Meetinghouse and all of the school buildings had been destroyed by bombing. She moved to the surviving Mission residence, functioning as head of both Friends Mission and the AFSC Japan Unit. AFSC projects in which she was involved included: Neighborhood Centers (2 in Tokyo and 1 in Mito); local and international work camps; International Student Seminars; and the Peace Lecture Series.

Early 1947 Rhoads was teaching part-time at Friends School.

Sept. 1947 Severe floods in Japan; Rhoads was involved in flood relief in addition to her other work.

1947 Became a Trustee of Tsuda College.

July - Dec. 1948 Visited the United States, partly for the purposes of reporting to AFSC in Philadelphia and LARA in New York.

Mid-Feb. 1949 Margaret Paxson Rhoads died.

1949 Esther Rhoads replaced Toki Tomiyama as principal of Friends School.

Aug. - Sept. 1950 Jonathan E. Rhoads visited Japan for medical seminars.

Dec. 1950 Elizabeth Gray Vining left Japan; at her suggestion, Rhoads became English tutor to the Crown Prince, and later, other members of the Imperial Family.

July - Oct. 1951 Visited home.

June 1952 LARA program ends; Rhoads and others honored at a large gathering. Relief work, and rehabilitation, taken over by National Council of Social Work.

Nov. 1952 Jonathan E. Rhoads visited Japan, en route to Korea for AFSC.

1952 Esther Rhoads received the Fourth Order of the Sacred Treasure from Emperor Hirohito.

April - June 1954 Traveled west across Asia and Europe, ending at Philadelphia.

January 1955 Returned to Japan.

1955 Turned principalship of Friends School over to Oriie Shimazaki, a graduate of the school.

April 1957 Visited Korea.

May - Sept. 1957 Trip home to United States.

Aug. 1958 Oriie Shimazaki killed by a drunk driver. Rhoads resumed principalship of Friends School.

Sept. 1958 - Jan. 1959 Ruth E. Rhoads visited Japan.

Oct. and Dec. 1958 Esther Rhoads visited Hong Kong [probably because of interest in the Chinese refugee situation.]

ca. Oct. 1959 Toshi Ishida, a graduate and former teacher, became principal of Friends School.

April 1960 Esther Rhoads retired and left Japan, returning to Philadelphia. As she prepared to leave Japan she received many honors and tokens of appreciation, including the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure (becoming one of the few women to be so honored).

Summer 1960 Testified before U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee concerning U.S. – Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. Many Japanese feared that it would cause remilitarization in Japan, and there was widespread opposition to the treaty.

Oct. 1960 Rhoads left for Tunisia, to work for AFSC on projects aiding Algerian War refugees. On the way to Tunis she met with people in Europe knowledgeable about the situation. She lived in Tunis, but often traveled to more remote areas; her work was primarily with sewing centers which provided refugee women with fabric and equipment to make garments.

Late Sept. 1961 Left Tunisia; joined by Japanese Friend Mariko Nitono for travel in Egypt, Lebanon, Europe, and the British Isles.

1961 - 1979 After returning to the United States permanently in late 1961, Esther Rhoads involved herself in many Friends activities: Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings; AFSC; and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Japan Committee (the body which succeeded the Mission Board in 1955). To all of this work she brought her particular interest in world affairs. She made her primary home in Germantown with her sisters; as in their early years, they spent considerable time at Maple Grove. She and her sisters hosted many visitors, Japanese and others, at New Hope and Germantown.

Early 1963 Traveled, with Japanese Friend Katsuko Kikuchi, in England, Europe, Algeria, India, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Japan, Hawaii, and California. Along the way they visited Friends and Friends activities.

1965 Attended two National Council of Churches conferences on foreign service and world order, as Quaker representative.

1966 Participated in a peace panel at Howard University's centennial. Traveled to North Carolina and California for AFSC. Attended another National Council of Churches conference.

1967 Attended Quaker U.N. Program Committee meeting at Powell, N.Y.; and the National Christian Council "Church and Society" conference in Detroit.

Dec. 1967 Ruth E. Rhoads died.

Aug. 1968 Traveled to California, Hawaii, and Japan (with Philadelphia Friend and former Friends School teacher Sally Smith). In October, Rhoads left Japan with Helen Barns and visited the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, India, Kenya, Uganda, and Ghana.

Fall 1968 Attended the U.N. Regional Seminar on the Civic and Political Education of Women, in Ghana, as an observer for the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

1969 Esther Rhoads became chairman of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Japan Committee; she continued in that capacity until the committee was laid down in 1974.

Late 1969 Rhoads suffered a heart attack.

1970 By March, she was returning to Committee work.

Dec. 1972 Attended National Christian Council Triennial Meeting in Dallas, then went on to Mexico to sightsee and visit Friends work.

April 1973 Completed term as clerk of Germantown Monthly Meeting. Visited Hawaii and California.

Sept. 1973 Attended Friends Committee on National Legislation Conference in New Hampshire.

1974 Japan Committee laid down. Rhoads became a member of the body which succeeded it, the Committee on International Outreach.

1975 Travel to Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Japan.

1976 Celebrated 80th birthday. Busy with family activities and visitors to Philadelphia for U.S. Bicentennial.

1977 Traveled to Japan for 90th Anniversary of Friends School. On the way home, visited Yellowstone and the Tetons.

Dec. 1977 Hospitalized for three months.

1978 Still involved in committee work.

Dec. 1978 Rhoads and Elizabeth Gray Vining had dinner with Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko when they visited Philadelphia.

Feb. 4, 1979 Esther Rhoads died peacefully at home in Germantown following a family dinner.

(The information in this outline came for the most part from Esther Rhoads' own letters, and her resumes and personal histories, supplemented at times by other materials in the collection. There is no book-length study or even long article about her in English at this time. There is a Japanese book, *Footprints of a Quaker--Esther Biddle Rhoads*, a copy of which may be found among the Quaker Collection books.)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

American Friends Service Committee

Bryn Mawr College

[Friends Girls School \(Tokyo, Japan\) -- History](#)

[Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945.](#)

Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

[Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends \(Orthodox : 1827-1955\). Japan Committee](#)

[Quakers -- Education -- Japan -- History](#)

Society of Friends -- Ibaraki (Japan)

Society of Friends -- Japan Yearly Meeting

Society of Friends -- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting --Mission Board

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

[World War, 1939-1945 -- Evacuation of civilians](#)

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series List:

Series I. Letters to Rhoads

Series II: Letters from Rhoads

Series III: Letters to and from Persons other than Esther Rhoads*

Series IV: Friends School (Tokyo) and Japanese Education

Series V: World War II in the United States

Series VI: Post-World War II Relief and Other AFSC Activities

Series VII: Philadelphia Friends and Japan*

Series VIII: Quakerism in Japan, General

Series IX: Japanese Imperial Family

Series X: Tunisia and Algerian Refugees

Series XI: U.N. Regional Seminar on Civic and Political Education of Women (Ghana, 1968)

Series XII: Biographical and Educational Information and Memorabilia

Series XIII: Japan Miscellany

Series XIV: Alice Lewis Pearson

Series XV: Anna C. Hartshorne

Series XVI: Oversize

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

The two major divisions of the collection are correspondence and other papers. The non-correspondence items are arranged in thirteen series.

Letters to Rhoads (11 boxes) are filed alphabetically by name of author. As noted above, a cross-reference card file is available (for the material in Boxes 1 -10 only), and there is a complete list of correspondents. There are large files of letters from close relatives and corporate bodies such as the American Friends Service Committee, Friends School in Tokyo, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Japan Committee.

Letters from Rhoads (12 boxes). Esther Rhoads was a rather energetic correspondent; because of the close ties within her family and the interest of her relatives in her work, she wrote home often and in detail. Many of these letters include news of Friends in Japan other than herself, because many of them were known to the Rhoads family. Of course, gaps occur at times when she was living or visiting in Philadelphia and had no need to write letters. After her permanent return home in 1961, many of her letters are Japan Committee business or printed holiday messages. Items in this series which are not letters to relatives are almost all professional or committee correspondence. The copies of professional letters begin with her work in California in 1941, although there are some copies of personal reports from earlier years in Japan. Researchers interested in Friends School, LARA, AFSC, and the Japan Committee should not overlook the letters from Rhoads.

Letters to and from Others (3 boxes) are divided into two sections. One is a box of condolence letters on the death of Esther Rhoads, most addressed to Caroline P. Rhoads, from 1979. A wide variety of people, from notables to neighbors, is boxes of general "third party" letters, arranged alphabetically by author, regardless of addressee. Almost all are to relatives of Rhoads. During processing, it appeared that some of these letters had been inadvertently mixed into the collection; others may have been enclosed with family letters to or from Esther, but they had been removed from their original contexts. Because of the family-wide interest in Japan and missions, there is certainly useful material here. List available.

Friends School (Tokyo) and Other Japanese Education (5 boxes) is the first non-correspondence series, and contains a great variety of material. There is a sprinkling of pre-war material, including financial data, reports, a 1937 history of the school, and photographs of rather good quality (including some dating from before Rhoads' arrival in 1917). Post-war items are present in abundance, because Rhoads was so instrumental in resurrecting the school after its destruction. Documents, various printed matter, blueprints, and student work are all well represented. The greatest strength of this series is probably in its post-war photographs, which number in the hundreds. They document the school over a period of about thirty years. Most are small prints and not identified, but after spending some time with these files, it is possible to identify some activities and faces.

World War II in the United States (1 box) represents Esther Rhoads' work in the United States during the war years. In addition to various kinds of official paperwork, there are notes, clippings, pamphlets, and photographs. There is information about Civilian Public

Service Camps and Conscientious Objectors in general, as well as the Japanese-American relocation program which was Rhoads' main concern. Most of the photographs in this series are of relocated Japanese-Americans and western landscapes, with a few of AFSC children's camps, and possibly one snapshot of a CPS camp.

Post-World War II Relief and Other AFSC Work (6 boxes and 1 large, unboxed album). LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia) activities begin this series, which also includes AFSC work in post-war Japan, Korea, and a scattering of other locations. There is also some information about refugees in Hong Kong and Palestine. The quantity of LARA paperwork and photographs, including larger prints mounted in albums, is considerable. Japan expressed thanks to LARA in the form of numerous testimonials, art work, and calligraphy, also sometimes mounted in albums. AFSC was part of LARA, but had its own, separate activities. These included neighborhood centers, international student seminars, and work camps. Because of the post-war roots of such programs, trying to separate them from the other AFSC materials seemed unwise. Many small photographs are found here; unfortunately, most are only identified only as "AFSC."

Philadelphia Friends and Japan (3 boxes) contains primarily organizational printed matter, from the early years of this century to about 1975. It represents the Foreign Missionary Association, the Mission Board, and the Japan Committee (most heavily, because of Rhoads' chairmanship). Pre-Japan Committee items seem to have come for the most part from Esther's relatives, and are quite incomplete.

Quakerism in Japan, General (2 boxes). This is all of the material which concerns Japanese Quakerism outside of the Friends School and the Philadelphia-based committees. There are also items about mission work in general, including writings by Rhoads. Photographs and postcards depict Japanese Friends and American missionaries from various dates, some early in the century. There is also a gift album from Shimotsuma Meeting to Esther Rhoads, with photographs of people, places, and activities.

Japanese Imperial Family (2 boxes). Rhoads' association with the Imperial Family as English tutor is represented here, although relatively little of the material, except for some notes and the Imperial Duck-Netting Party file, really concerns her. There is an assortment of professional-quality photographs, and many clippings and complete periodicals. The wedding of Crown Prince Akihito and Michiko Shoda is emphasized.

Tunisia and Algerian Refugees (1 box) documents the 1960-1961 year which Rhoads spent based in Tunis, working on Algerian refugee projects for the AFSC. There are some notes, reports, documents, photographs, and general information about the refugees here; however, an equal quantity of material is concerned with tourism.

Biographical and Educational Information and Memorabilia (8 boxes). This large series contains a great variety of items related to Esther Rhoads' life outside of employment and other organizational affiliations, while it does include material from her own educational experiences. Otherwise, it is rather difficult to generalize about the series without

repeating the container list (see below). When the collection arrived at Haverford, some diaries and diary fragments were filed with information about particular projects which Rhoads worked on; additionally, there was a box of diaries and assorted official documents. All diaries were left as they were originally situated. Of possible interest in this series is childhood memorabilia, including art work and paper dolls; and a folder of papers on religious topics, perhaps written for Columbia graduate courses.

Japan, General (2 boxes). Items housed here are not concerned directly with Rhoads' work or with Quakerism. There are some informational materials about history, economics, and political matters, including the 1960 U.S. - Japan security treaty. Photographs of Japanese traditional culture, dating from early in Rhoads' Japanese career (and probably taken by her) may be of interest. There is also a file of clippings, with a few picture postcards, of the terrible 1923 earthquake.

Alice Lewis Pearson (1 box). It is not known how Rhoads came to have these papers of her friend and mentor in Japan. They have been arranged as a small collection unto itself; with correspondence, then other papers, memorabilia, and photographs. A list of the correspondents is available.

Anna C. Hartshorne (1/2 box). The comments made about the Alice Lewis Pearson papers all apply here.

Oversize Items (1 large box) contains large items which do not fit without folding into standard archival boxes. Those which have been identified have been noted in appropriate places within the preceding series.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The papers includes Esther Rhoads' correspondence, documents, typescripts and manuscripts, pamphlets, albums, periodicals, blueprints, works of art on paper, photographs, notebooks, notes, scrapbooks, calligraphy, clippings, yearbooks, business cards, passports, diplomas, citations and miscellaneous items.

Some correspondents include: Kazuko Abe, Iwao Ayusawa, Gurney Binford, Hugh Borton, Gilbert Bowles, Minnie Pickett Bowles, Howard Brinton, Chichibu no Miya Setsuko (Princess), Janice Clevenger, Clarissa Cooper, J. Passmore Elkinton, Herbert Hadley, Anna C. Hartshorne, Seiju Hiraakawa, Hirohito (Emperor of Japan), Hatsuko Ikeda, Masaharu Inagaki, Yukio Irie, Elmore Jackson, Thomas Elsa Jones, Michi Kawai, Ichiro Koizumi, Douglas MacArthur, Fumiye Miho, Lawrence McK. Miller, Nagako (Empress, consort of Hirohito), Herbert V. Nicholson, Inazo Nitobe, Mariko Nittono, Lucille Nixon, Alice Lewis Pearson, Caroline Paxson Rhoads, Edward G. Rhoads, Jonathan E. Rhoads, Margaret Paxson Rhoads, Margaret Whitall Rhoads, Ruth Ely Rhoads, Eleanor Roosevelt, Edith Sharpless, Ori Shimazaki, Harry Silcock, Jane Rittenhouse Smiley, Edward Wanton Smith, Sarah A.G. Smith, Hon Ham Sok,

Sarah C. Swan, Mitsuo Tanaka, Toki Iwasawa Tomiyama, Masa Uruguchi, Elizabeth Gray Vining, Yoshi Watanabe, E. Raymond Wilson, Yoshi no Miya Masahito (Prince).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I. Letters to Rhoads:

Box 1 A - Braun

Box 2 Brinton - Friends School (1969)

Box 3 Friends School (1970) - Japan. Imperial Household

Box 4 Japan. Ministry of Health and Welfare - P

Box 5 Q - Rhoads, Margaret Paxson (1922)

Box 6 Rhoads, Margaret Paxson (1923) - Rhoads, Richard

Box 7 Rhoads, Ruth Ely - Society of Friends. Japan
Friends Service Committee

Box 8 Society of Friends. Japan Yearly Meeting - Society
of Friends. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Japan
Committee (1969)

Box 9 Society of Friends. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.
Japan Committee (1970) - Uruguchi

Box 10 Usami - Yuasa; and Unidentified

Box 11 Album of letters (1960) compiled by the Japan
Committee for Esther Rhoads' retirement

Series II: Letters from Rhoads

Box 12 Very early n.d. - August 1917

Box 13 September 1917 - 1018

Box 14 N.d., ca. 1920's; and 1919 - March 1922

Box 15 April 1922 - August 1924

Box 16 September 1924 - February 1928

Box 17 March 1928 - 1931

Box 18 1932 - 1937

Box 19 1938 - 1943

Box 20 1944 - July 1947

Box 21 August 1947 - 1952

Box 22 1953 - 1960

Box 23 1961 - 1978; and n.d.

Series III: Letters to and from Persons other than Esther Rhoads

Box 24 Condolence Letters (1979) on death of Rhoads

Box 25 General "third party" letters, A - P

Box 26 General "third party" letters, Q - Z; and
unidentified

Series IV: Friends School (Tokyo) and Japanese Education

Box 27: Friends School

- f. 1 Pre-war documents and information: 1915 Bulletin; 1937 history; reports, financial data, clippings, etc.
- f. 2 Two grade books of Rhoads' (n.d.)
- f. 3 Post-war documents and information: speech texts by Rhoads; other graduation and dedication speeches; financial data; newsletters
- f. 4 Post-war printed matter: pamphlets; brochures; programs; articles; etc.
- f. 5 Post-war blueprints and related items
- f. 6 Notes on history of school by Rhoads; published history of school with English translation (1977)

Box 28: Friends School and Other Educational Institutions

- f. 1 Friends School post-war memorabilia, including student art work
- f. 2 English pronunciation text, probably used at Friends School
- f. 3 Education miscellany: English exercises [by Rhoads?]; list of schools and brochures from various institutions
- f. 4 Tsuda College: memorabilia; miscellaneous information; photographs (pre- and post-war)

f. 5 International Christian University (Tokyo): memorabilia; miscellaneous information

Box 29: Friends School and Other Photographs

- f. 1 - 4 Friends School: pre-war photographs
- f. 5 Printed photo essay, Japanese School Life Through the Camera (1937)
- f. 6 Friends School: post-war reconstruction photographs

Box 30: Friends School Photographs

Unfolded: Pre-war album of photographs Post-war photograph album: reconstruction, camp-building, etc.

- f. 1 Post-war photograph album: general

Box 31: Friends School Photographs

Unfolded: Groups of post-war photographs

- f. 1 Photograph album presented to Rhoads on her retirement in 1960

Series V: World War II in the United States

Box 32: World War II in the United States

- f. 1 - 4 Japanese-American relocation and related issues: reports; meeting minutes, bulletins; pamphlets; reprints; etc. Includes some material written by Rhoads
- f. 5 Conscientious Objectors and Civilian Public Service Camps: pamphlets; clippings; reports
- f. 6 Photographs: relocation camps; AFSC activities; landscapes

Series VI: Post-World War II Relief and Other AFSC Activities

Box 33: LARA Documents and Printed Matter

- f. 1 Documents-and writings by Rhoads
- f. 2 Brochures, thank-you messages, etc.
- f. 3 Pamphlets
- f. 4 Clipping scrapbook (in Japanese): 1 of 2
- f. 5 LARA and other relief work: clippings and TSs.

Box 34: LARA Printed Matter and Photographs

- f. 1 Clipping scrapbook (in Japanese): 2 of 2
- f. 2 LARA-related printed matter: Allied Forces reports; etc.
- f. 3 Refugee information pamphlets: Hong Kong, 1956 - 1957 and 1960; Palestine,

1953

f. 4 - 6 Photographs: LARA and other Japanese relief work

Box 35: LARA Photographs

Unfolded: LARA photographs mounted on paper with (English) captions

Box 36: LARA Tokens of Appreciation

Unfolded: Albums of photographs and children's art work presented to LARA

Unboxed: Large album of photographs and testimonials presented by the city of Kyoto to LARA

Box 37: AFSC in Post-War Japan

- f. 1 Writings by EBR and general information documents
- f. 2 -3 Miscellaneous documents, some by Rhoads (n.d. and 1947 - 1963)
- f. 4 Clippings, brochures, etc.
- f. 5 - 6 International Student Seminar and work camp materials
- f. 7 AFSC Japan Unit Newsnotes (1964 - 1966, incomplete)
- f. 8 Photographs marked "Tsuda Seminar . . .1952" (content seems to overlap with other AFSC photographs)
- f. 9 - 10 Photographs marked only "AFSC"
- f. 11 Photographs of Setagaya and Toyama Neighborhood Centers; and Ito Hospital for Aged Handicapped (ca. 1947 into the 1950's)
- f. 12 Neighborhood centers: Meeting minutes; planning report; calligraphy by Setagaya children

Box 38: AFSC Post-War Miscellany

- f. 1 AFSC in Korea: brochures; pamphlet; documents
- f. 2 Photographs: Korea (1954)
- f. 3 - 6 AFSC post-war miscellany representing many locations and activities: brochures; pamphlets; reports; reprints; etc.

Series VII: Philadelphia Friends and Japan*

Box 39: Foreign Missionary Association and Mission Board

- f. 1 Foreign Missionary Association: Annual reports; brochures; etc.
- f. 2 - 5 Mission Board meeting minutes (1937 - 1949)
- f. 6 Mission Board monthly newsletters (1924 - 1932)
- f. 7 Mission Board Annual Reports (1924 - 1932) and miscellaneous items

Box 40: Japan Committee

f. 1 - 9 Minutes and other documents (1951 - 1965)

Box 41: Japan Committee

f. 1 - 6 Minutes and other documents (1966 – 1975 and n.d.)

f. 7 Quarterly reports (1950 - 1968); and two pamphlets about Friends School in Tokyo (ca. 1960's)

*Note: The holdings of organizational materials in the series above are not at all complete.

Series VIII: Quakerism in Japan, General

Box 42: Quakerism in Japan, Documents and Printed Matter

f. 1 Assorted pre-war materials: brochures; clippings; meeting minutes

f. 2 - 3 Japan Friends News, Nos. 1 - 40 (1945 - 1952; incomplete)

f. 4 Miscellaneous pamphlets and periodicals

f. 5 Miscellaneous post-war material

f. 6 Missions and missionaries: writings by Rhoads; miscellaneous printed matter

f. 7 Missions and missionaries: pamphlets

Box 43: Quakerism in Japan, Photographs and Postcards

f. 1 Missionaries and other American Friends in Japan (various dates)

f. 2 Japanese Friends and Friends activities (various dates)

f. 3 Shimotsuma Meeting photograph album (presented to Rhoads in 1960)

Series IX: Japanese Imperial Family

Box 44: Imperial Family Miscellany

f. 1 - 2 Pamphlets; memorabilia; and miscellaneous information

f. 3 Rhoads MS. and TS. notes on Imperial Poetry Party and the palace grounds

f. 4 Clippings

f. 5 Photographs of Akihito as a young man

f. 6 Photographs of Imperial Duck-Netting Party, including Rhoads (ca. 1950's)

f. 7 Assorted photographs of the Imperial Family

f. 8 Photographs related to wedding of Akihito

Box 45: Imperial Family Periodical Articles

Unfolded: Complete periodicals and large clippings

Series X: Tunisia and Algerian Refugees

Box 46: Tunisia and Algerian Refugees

- f. 1 Rhoads' ms. notes.
- f. 2 Rhoads' field report; AFSC documents; refugee information; clippings
- f. 3 General and tourist information about Tunisia; memorabilia
- f. 4 - 5 Photographs and postcards, depicting relief work and tourist areas

Series XI: U.N. Regional Seminar on Civic and Political Education of Women (Ghana, 1968)

Box 47: U.N. Regional Seminar

- f. 1 Rhoads' notes (ms. and mimeographed); various printed matter concerning seminar
- f. 2 - 3 Programs and background papers
- f. 4 Clippings; small memorabilia; and photographs (including Rhoads)

Series XII: Biographical and Educational Information and Memorabilia

Box 48: Biographical and Educational Material

- f. 1 General clippings about Rhoads, including obituaries
- f. 2 Resumes; personal histories; business cards
- f. 3 Various photographs of Rhoads from childhood to old age, formal and informal
- f. 4 Miscellaneous early memorabilia (non-Japanese)
- f. 5 Paper dolls from Rhoads' childhood, including Japanese and other costume dolls
- f. 6 Rhoads' early art work
- f. 7 Westtown School memorabilia
- f. 8 Drexel Institute interior design class project by Rhoads, based on the Maple Grove house in Bucks County
- f. 9 Drexel yearbook (1916)

Box 49: Educational and Religious Materials

- f. 1 Earlham College yearbook (1921)
- f. 2 Esther Rhoads' papers from unidentified college courses [possibly Columbia graduate work?]
- f. 3 Miscellaneous printed matter from various educational institutions
- f. 4 Rhoads' early Friends activities: brochures, programs, photographs of 1926 Oskaloosa Young Friends Conference
- f. 5 Miscellaneous Friends printed matter

- f. 6 Miscellaneous Friends printed matter with a few photographs
- f. 7 Religion and theology: clipping of article "On Giving," by Rhoads; and other miscellaneous items
- f. 8 Peace and non-violence: various clippings, pamphlets, etc.

Box 50: Miscellany, Friends and Associates

- f. 1 Rhoads' bird watching and other natural history interests: Primarily ms. lists of sightings with some printed materials
- f. 2 Personal financial data from Japan (ca. late 1950's - early 1960's)
- f. 3 Gift lists: various dates and occasions
- f. 4 Caroline P. Rhoads' list of persons notified of Esther Rhoads' death (1979)
- f. 5 Rhoads Family and Bucks County: clippings; printed matter; documents (various dates)
- f. 6 Photographs: family; Pennsylvania landscapes and architecture; vacations (vacation photographs are very early; other photographs are from various dates)
- f. 7 Esther Rhoads' friends and associates: memorial messages by Rhoads (most TS.); clippings; pamphlets; etc.
- f. 8 Miscellaneous photographs of persons: most are snapshots, of small groups, primarily Japanese people, most unidentified, some including Esther Rhoads (various dates)

Box 51: Diaries, Passports, etc.

Unfolded: Diaries, passports; health certificates; driver's licenses; also, guest book from the Germantown Monthly Meeting memorial service for Rhoads

Box 52: Retirement Albums

Unfolded: Four albums containing photographs, calligraphy, messages, etc.; presented to Rhoads by various Japanese groups and institutions on her retirement in 1960.

Box 53: Honorary Degrees and Citations

- f. 1 Earlham College Alumni Citation (1960): clippings and citation
- f. 2 Earlham College Honorary Doctor of Humanities (1960): diploma and memorabilia
- f. 3 Drexel Institute Alumni Citation (1961): program; photographs; citation
- f. 4 Drexel Institute Honorary Doctor of Letters (1962): photographs; statements; clippings; diploma
- f. 5 Haverford College Honorary Doctor of Laws (1977): photographs; press release (diploma in oversize box)

Box 54: Miscellaneous Travel

- f. 1 Miscellaneous pre-war travel, non- Japanese, but including China: pamphlets; receipts; ms. notes; etc.
- f. 2 Pacific voyages: passenger lists and other memorabilia (various dates)
- f. 3 Travel memorabilia: England; Europe; Middle East; India; Pacific islands; and Japan (1960's and 1970s')
- f. 4 Travel photographs: includes China (1940); and Africa, Alaska, Hawaii (most 1960's)

Box 55: Miscellaneous Travel

- f. 1 Mexico: pamphlets and postcards (1972)
- f. 2 Japan, Australia, New Zealand: ms. notes and memorabilia (1975)
- f. 3 Japan: photographs (1975)

Unboxed: Large photograph album containing snapshots of Rhoads' 1968 trip to Japan with Sally Smith

Series XIII: Japan Miscellany

Box 56: Japan: General Information, Memorabilia and Photographs

- f. 1 Earthquake: clippings and postcards (1923)
- f. 2 Tourist information (ca. pre-war)
- f. 3 Takayama and Karuizawa information
- f. 4 Japan Committee for Intellectual Interchange and Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Japan (1953): various planning materials
- f. 5 U.S. - Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security: clippings and documents, including Rhoads' statement before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (1960)
- f. 6 Japanese politics, history, economics, etc.: pamphlets; reprints; programs; etc. (various dates)
- f. 7 Japan, general: clippings (various dates)
- f. 8 Japan, general: miscellaneous information and memorabilia

Box 57: Japan: General Information and Photographs

- f. 1 Kyoto (1960's or 1970's) and Iwate (1957) tourist pamphlets
- f. 2 Photograph album containing scenes of Friends School, missionaries, and Japanese life (ca. 1917?)
- f. 3 Photographs of Japan taken during visits by Margaret W. Rhoads (1928); and Caroline P. and Ruth E. Rhoads (1934)
- f. 4 Japanese landscapes, traditional culture, etc.: miscellaneous photographs (various dates, some early)

- f. 5 Photograph album titled "Places Esther Loved:" includes unidentified Japanese locations, with Esther Rhoads and several friends (ca. late 1960's?)
- f. 6 Miscellaneous, unidentified Japanese items

Series XIV: Alice Lewis Pearson

Box 58: Alice Lewis Pearson

- f. 1 - 6 Letters to Pearson in alphabetical order
- f. 7 Letters from Pearson (1904 - 1923)
- f. 8 Letters to William L. Pearson (from various)
- f. 9 Alice Lewis Pearson diaries (most 1905 - 1907)
- f. 10 Writings: play, War or Peace?; "My Message to Japanese Women;" and other descriptions of Japan
- f. 11 Miscellaneous items, most concerned with missions or temperance
- f. 12 Memorabilia and miscellany, most Japanese
- f. 13 Photographs

Series XV: Anna C. Hartshorne

Box 59: Anna C. Hartshorne

- f. 1 Letters to Hartshorne in alphabetical order
- f. 2 Letters to Henry Hartshorne (from various; 1895 - 1896)
- f. 3 Miscellaneous items, including some from Henry Hartshorne
- f. 4 Photographs (including Tsuda College)

Series XVI: Oversize

Box 60: Oversize Items

for those which are identified, there are notes in the appropriate folders indicating that items are found here

MATERIALS REMOVED

To Oversize drawers:

- (1) A complete Bangor, Maine newspaper with headline stories on the Sept. 1923 earthquake in Japan;
- (2) A complete copy of the Aug. 17, 1947 Pacific and Far East Stars and Stripes Weekly Review, with cover story about LARA relief work;
- (3) One copy of a poster commemorating Friends mission work in Japan, 1885 - 1949, published by the Mission Board. Three books were removed and placed with the Quaker Collection books: (1) Gurney Binford, As I Remember It: Forty- Three Years in Japan. N.p.: 1950; (2) Footprints of a Quaker--Esther Biddle Rhoads. Unidentified Japanese imprint, all Japanese text with English table of contents; (3) LARA - A Friend in Need.

Tokyo: The Ministry of Welfare, 1953.

Some 120 nitrate photographic negatives, made by Esther Rhoads in Japan ca. the 1930's, were found in the collection. Because nitrate is a dangerously unstable material, these negatives have been removed from the collection pending a decision about how to best copy them.