

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Claude Kimberly Rupert was born on January 31, 1911 in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Lafayette College in 1932 with a B.S. degree in economics, having been a part of several music groups as well as the ROTC program as an undergraduate. In 1935 he married Sara (Sally) S. Somers and worked in Norristown and Philadelphia until enlisting in the Army Reserve in May 1939. In April 1941 he began active duty with the Army Air Corps and served overseas in India and China during WWII. After the war, Rupert briefly returned to the U.S. before again leaving for China with his wife in 1946 to serve as a logistics advisor to the Chinese Air Force of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government. Rupert remained in the U.S. Air Force after completing his service in China in 1948. He retired from the USAF in 1964, having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. Rupert then worked for an industrial association in Washington D.C. until he retired in 1972. He died on December 30, 1987 at the age of 76. His wife, Sara, endowed the Claude K. Rupert '32 Memorial Scholarship Fund at Lafayette College in 1998.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The materials in the Claude Rupert China Image Collection (1 linear foot; 3 boxes) are photographs, slides, books, and ephemera gathered by Rupert and his wife during his service as advisor to the Chinese Air Force from 1946-1948. The images depict locations in California, Japan, and China. The first series of the collection is comprised of 388 photographs and 18 contact strips and loose images formerly housed in a scrapbook. The second series consists of 190 35mm slides (color and black & white). The final series is assorted ephemera including a welcome booklet for American personnel in China, two books about China, an anniversary supplement to an English language Chinese newspaper, and 11 pamphlets produced by the military regarding cultural attractions in China.

I. Scrapbook Photographs	Folders 1-9 and scrapbook
II. 35mm Slides	Folders 10-16
III. Assorted Books and Ephemera	15 Books and paper items

## **NOTE ON PROVENANCE AND ACCESS**

The Claude Rupert China image collection was donated to Lafayette College in 2009-2010 by Kimberly Rupert, daughter of Claude and Sara Rupert, through Professor Paul Barclay in the Department of History. Access to the collection by qualified researchers is without restriction. Reproduction and publishing from the collection are allowed, subject to the guidelines of the repository and copyright laws.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS AND INVENTORIES**

### **SERIES I. SCRAPBOOK PHOTOGRAPHS AND CONTACT STRIPS (482 IMAGES)**

#### **Box 1**

Period scrapbook which formerly contained 66 pages (33 leaves) and a total of 388 images. Due to conservation needs five leaves were dismantled and the photographs re-housed in folders (1-9). Folders also contain 94 images in contact strips. Photographs vary in size and some were purchased in China. Dates in scrapbook captions range from 1944-1948 with most between 1946-1948. Pictured locations include San Francisco, Nanking, Japan, Shanghai, Beijing, Tomb of Sun Yat-Sen, and the Great Wall.

### **SERIES II. 35MM SLIDES**

#### **Box 2**

Folder 10: Primarily street scenes, posed photographs, sites of interest and military sporting event. Images possibly Nanjing (Nanking, Location abbreviation: N)

Folder 11: Black and white negatives housed in white holders. Mostly rural scenes, location unknown.

Folder 12: Street scenes and religious structures. Location possibly Peking (Beijing, Peiping, Location abbreviation: PPG).

Folder 13: Garden scenes, landscapes, civilian rifle target practice. Location unknown (Location abbreviation: H).

Folder 14: Soldiers, street scenes, two aerial images, rural peasant. Location unknown (Location abbreviation: C)

Folder 15: Panoramic views of shoreline, harbor, boats, buildings, soldiers. Location possibly in vicinity of Hong Kong. (Location abbreviation: H)

Folder 16: Street scenes, soldiers, buildings. Location possibly Shanghai. (Location abbreviation: S)

### **SERIES III. ASSORTED BOOKS AND EPHEMERA**

#### **Box 3**

(11) Pamphlets on culture and areas of interest published by The War Area Service Corps National Military Council Shanghai Office US military in English for soldiers in China. Dated from March 1946 to May 1947. (1 duplicate)

(1) "Magic Welcome to China" booklet printed by Army Advisory Group for families of service members.

(2) Books: *Things Seen in China* (1909) J. R. Chitty - *Thunder Out of China* (1946) Theodore H. White and Annalee Jacoby

(1) Chinese English language paper from October 10, 1948 published by The China Press. Special edition for anniversary of Republic's founding.