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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Floyd Alonzo McClure Papers
Identifier: Accession 88-125
Date: circa 1916-1981
Extent: 12.31 cu. ft. (10 record storage boxes) (1 document box) (1 12x17 box) (2 16x20 boxes)
Creator:: McClure, Floyd Alonzo, 1897-1970
Language: English

Administrative Information

Prefered Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 88-125, Floyd Alonzo McClure Papers

Historical Note

Floyd Alonzo McClure (1897-1970) was one of the world's leading authorities on the bamboo plant. Born in Shelby County, Ohio, McClure went to China as a teacher in 1919 after completing his undergraduate work at Ohio State University. He stayed in China for 24 years, working most of the time as professor of economic botany at Lingnan University in Canton. When the Japanese invaded China, McClure returned to the United States and became a consultant on bamboo for the United States Department of Agriculture. In the 1940s, he was appointed honorary research associate for the National Museum of Natural History, a position he held until his death in 1970.

Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of an addition to the papers of Floyd Alonzo McClure. Materials consist primarily of correspondence with his wife and family, as well as some materials concerning the school where he taught in China, and reprints of his publications. The papers also consist of assorted materials, mostly in Chinese, including scrolls and books.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Subjects:
Botany

Types of Materials:
Artifacts
Black-and-white photographs
Brochures
Manuscripts
Maps

Names:
Ling nan da xue (Guangzhou, China)
McClure, Floyd Alonzo, 1897-1970
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.)
United States. Department of Agriculture

Geographic Names:
China
Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 14 Ruth Drury (wife) to Floyd Alonzo McClure, 1917-1943 (23 folders)
Box 1 of 14 Miscellaneous Personal/Family Correspondence
Box 1 of 14 Parents to Floyd Alonzo McClure, 1917-1920 (2 folders)

Box 2

Box 2 of 14 Parents to Floyd Alonzo McClure, 1921-1922, 1941-1942 (2 folders)
Box 2 of 14 Ruth Drury to Floyd Alonzo McClure, 1920
Box 2 of 14 Grandfather
Box 2 of 14 Sophie Drury
Box 2 of 14 Gladys McClure (sister)
Box 2 of 14 John T. McClure (brother)
Box 2 of 14 Agnes Drury
Box 2 of 14 Miscellaneous Relatives
Box 2 of 14 Miscellaneous Personal (alphabetic)
Box 2 of 14 Unidentified Personal Correspondence
Box 2 of 14 Ruth Drury - Incoming Correspondence
Box 2 of 14 Floyd Alonzo McClure Miscellaneous Memorabilia
Box 2 of 14 Miscellaneous Professional Correspondence
Box 2 of 14 Correspondence re: Job Applications
Box 2 of 14 Lingnan University Correspondence
Box 2 of 14 Miscellaneous Greeting Cards
Box 2 of 14 Chapman, Conrad
Box 2 of 14 Ohio State University
Box 2 of 14 Ruth Drury to Floyd Alonzo McClure, 1925-1927
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, 1939
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, 1919-1923 (2 folders)
Box 2 of 14  "Diary Record," 1922
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Sophie Drury
Box 2 of 14  Friends to Floyd Alonzo McClure
Box 2 of 14  Ruth Drury McClure to Family and Friends
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, undated
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, 1933
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, 1942-1943
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, 1927 and undated
Box 2 of 14  Parents to Floyd Alonzo McClure, 1944-1945
Box 2 of 14  A.W. Drury to Ruth Drury
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, undated
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury (2 folders)
Box 2 of 14  Ruth Drury to Floyd Alonzo McClure, undated
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, 1937-1939 and undated (2 folders)
Box 2 of 14  Ruth Drury to Floyd Alonzo McClure
Box 2 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure to Ruth Drury, 1944-1945, 1948-1965
Box 2 of 14  Parents to Floyd Alonzo McClure, 1924-1925

Box 3

Box 3 of 14  Unsorted Correspondence (5 folders)
Box 3 of 14  Ruth's Letters
Box 3 of 14  Personal Letters, Accounts and Records
Box 3 of 14  Personal Correspondence
Box 3 of 14  Personal Letters and Materials
Box 3 of 14  Miscellaneous Correspondence
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<td>Letters - Family</td>
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<td>&quot;Toward a Personal Philosophy,&quot; by McClure, January 1954</td>
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<td>Floyd Alonzo McClure Memorial</td>
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Box 5 of 14  Lingnan
Box 5 of 14  Canton Christian College
Box 5 of 14  Maps
Box 5 of 14  Lingnan - New York Office
Box 5 of 14  Books and Periodicals
Box 5 of 14  Unsorted Correspondence, primarily 1916-1918 (8 folders)

Box 6
Box 6 of 14  Unsorted Correspondence (2 folders)
Box 6 of 14  Diary, 1919-1921
Box 6 of 14  Personal (Floyd and Ruth McClure)
Box 6 of 14  Unsorted Correspondence
Box 6 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure - A Tribute
Box 6 of 14  Kwangsi Trip
Box 6 of 14  Floyd Alonzo McClure Publications
Box 6 of 14  Bamboos of the National Geographic Society
Box 6 of 14  Lecture - "Bamboo Kill," Japan, 1969
Box 6 of 14  Botany Staff Photograph, 1965
Box 6 of 14  Miscellaneous Articles and Publications
Box 6 of 14  FOCI Bamboo
Box 6 of 14  Current Correspondence re: Floyd Alonzo McClure and Bamboo
Box 6 of 14  Unsorted Correspondence
Box 6 of 14  McClure Papers #1-47 (2 folders)

Box 7
Box 7 of 14  McClure Papers #48-110 (2 folders)
Box 7 of 14  Annals of Dong-guan County, Volumes 1-14 and Atlas (8 folders). Xin Hai Revised Work (post-Republic); Published by Chen Bai-tao [Ch'en Pai-t'ao]. Each volume is divided into 102 chapters [zhi-juan (chih-chuan) - literally: "annals scrolls"]].
Box 8

Box 8 of 14 Annals of Dong-guan County, Volumes 15-20 (3 folders)

Box 8 of 14 Assorted Books, numbered 1-15 (5 folders).

Image(s): Zhongguo Zuojia (Chinese Writers Monthly), August 1939, Volume 1, Number 1, published by the Federation of Chinese Writers, Chungking, China. The publication features stories and articles by Chinese writers, as well as book reviews.

Note:

• 1) Zhong-guo Ban-ben Lue-shuo (A Short Treatise on Chinese Book Publishing) by Cai Yuan-tou?
• 2) Gui Yu Hong Xue (Travel in Guangxi - an account of a tour of Guanxi Province by the author and a group of people. Contents include a number of photographs of the city of Guilin, which was the old capital of Guangxi.);
• 3) A Gardening Vocabulary in English and Chinese, the Hong Kong Horticultural Society;
• 4) Xunmeng Qianziwen (A Thousand-character Text for Teaching the Young), published in Guangzhou (Canton);
• 5) Qianzi Keben (Thousand-character Lesson Book), four volumes;
• 6) TongSu Jiaoyu Duben (A Popular Education Reader), three volumes;
• 7) Guomin Xuexiao Xizitie (Citizens School Character Exercise Sheets - a book for practicing tracing characters), volume 1;
• 8) Xin Guo Wen (The New National Language - illustrated primer to teach character recognition);
• 9) Koo-Soo Lik Ch'ing (Translation of Robinson Crusoe into Cantonese - Romanized/alphabetized), published in Pakhoi in 1914;
• 10) Shizi Bairitong (Learn to recognized characters in 100 days), published by Shanghai World Book Shop, 1912 (2 copies);
• 11) Republic of China Proclamation on the death of Mr. Gao Ji-feng, December 19, 1933;
• 12) Tian Gongkai (Account of traditional Chinese technology in agriculture, transportation, crafts, etc.), 2 sets;
• 13) Blank copybook;
• 14) Zhongguo Zuojia (Chinese writers), August 1939, Volume 1, Number 1, published by the Federation of Chinese Writers, Chungking, China;
• 15) Zhongguo Paitaopai Lixuehui (Phi Tau Phi, Scholastic Honor Society of China), May 1936.
Calligraphy Samples. Rubbings or Photographic Reprints of Rubbings of Classic Forms of Calligraphy.

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V.A.1.: Tao Junxuan Longcang Si. Folds out like a screen; some of the padding or backing seems to have come from German advertising.

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V.A.2.: Yan Lu Gong Xiao Qie Si Zhong. Four varieties of reduced-size rubbing of Yan, Duke of Lu; folds out like a fan.

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V.A.3.: Wang Youjun Zheng-cao Bai Jiaxing. Wang Yujun's 100 family surnames, in regular and grass script; folds out like a screen.

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V.A.4.: Zhang Jizhi Shu Sishi Dushu Le. Zhang Ji-zhi's "The Joys of Reading in All Seasons."

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V.A.5.: Examples of running script, by stroke order, as in a dictionary.

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V.A.6.: He Zi Zhen Lin Huang Ting Jing. "Classic of the Yellow Hall?"

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V.C.1.: Fang Tu An Ji. "Squares and Circles Buddhist Monastery Record," Northern Song dynasty, January 3, 1924, Shanghai.

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V.C.2.: Tang Shan Wen-Quan Ming. Inscription of Shan Wen-quan of the Tang dynasty, Shanghai, June 1920.

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V.C.3.: Bei Song Shan Yunli Jiangjun Bei. Stele of General Shan Yun-li of the Northern Song dynasty, Shanghai, March 1926.

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V.D.: Rubbings from Song dynasty

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V.H.: Guan Sheng Dijun Shiji ("Re the Holy Book of Odes"). Inscription gives date as the 18th day of the second month of the second year of the reign of the Hong Zhi emperor of the Ming dynasty.

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V.I.2.: Da Tang Yizhou Tiexiang Bei (Great Tang [Dynasty] Yi-zhou Iron-image Stele); scree-fold.

Box 9 of 14

V.I.3.: Su Dongpo Huangzhou Shitie (Poem placard for Su Dong-po in Huanchou); screen-fold.
Miscellaneous Documents

1. Newsclipping reporting McClure receipt of Ph.D. from Ohio State, 1935 (2 copies)

2. "Graduate School of the Ohio State University: Final Oral Examination of Floyd Alonzo McClure...for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Friday, May 31st, 1935 at 2:00 PM." Inside is abstract of dissertation; back is brief autobiography.


4. Poem, Xerox copy from Epoch (Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, Fall 1978), by John Drury, for Ruth McClure, entitled "Bamboo"


6. "Notes on Floyd Alonzo McClure" (for obituary)

7. Untitled carbon copy of biographic summary

8. News clipping from the Washington Evening Star of April 6, 1942, reporting awarding of Guggenheim fellowships to Floyd A. McClure and George Kates


10. Booklet - Graduation exercises for the class of 1918, Ohio State University

11. McClure's Passport, issued at the U.S. Consulate General, Hong Kong, May 12, 1927

12. Member's Pass to House of Representatives visitor's gallery for McClure

13. Playbill - She Stoops to Conquer, presented by foreign members of the staff on Lingnan University, January 12, 1929 (McClure played George Hastings)

14. Invitation to tea party, Tokyo, undated

15. Placecard for Mrs. Floyd A. McClure; decorated with watercolor painting of bamboo

16. Draft sketch for "National Herbarium, Smithsonian Institution"

Box 9 of 14 18. Telegram - "Mick" to Ruth Drury, July 18, 1922
Box 9 of 14 19. Letter written by Sophie Bookwalter Drury to Mickey as he sailed to China
Box 9 of 14 21. Bamboo pencil sketch
Box 9 of 14 22. Floyd Alonzo McClure and Ruth Drury wedding announcement and invitation (double wedding ceremony with Drury's sister)
Box 9 of 14 23. Certificate - Election of Floyd A. McClure to the Ohio Academy of Sciences, May 13, 1937
Box 9 of 14 24. Menu from the South China Restaurant (Nan Tang Jiu Jia), Hong Kong, December 1, 1930
Box 9 of 14 25. Brochure - "Canton Christian College, Canton, China," Lingnan University
Box 9 of 14 26. Speech before the Thursday Club by McClure, "An Economic Botanist Looks at Plant Life," May 5, 1938, roof garden of the New Asia Hotel
Box 9 of 14 27. News clipping - Letter from McClure in China, January 18, 1920 (to "Grandpa and Grandma")
Box 9 of 14 29. Typescript - "Bamboo Messenger," eulogy to McClure
Box 9 of 14 30. Study Notes - Concerning Chinese history, language, etc., circa 1922-1931
Box 9 of 14 31. Collecting Permission Card - Botanical and Forestry Department, Hong Kong, permitting McClure to collect plant specimens in Hong Kong and Kowloon during the year ending December 31, 1937
Box 9 of 14 32. Notes - "Edible Toadstools - Tei K'oi"
Box 9 of 14 33. Envelope Face - Addressed in Chinese to McClure (Mo Gu-li), at Lingnan University. Characters in red indicate the #13 elementary school of the 6th district of Guangning.
Box 9 of 14 34. Receipt for cash received for purchase of fresh produce and foodstuffs
Box 9 of 14 35. Letter - McClure, Sidney, Ohio, to Ruth Drury, Dayton, Ohio
Box 9 of 14 36. Letter - McClure, Canton Christian College, to Ruth Drury, Dayton, Ohio
Photographs

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1. Floyd McClure, 1897

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2. Floyd McClure, Gladys McClure, circa 1901

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3. Floyd McClure at Ohio State University, 1918

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4. Floyd McClure (2 studio photos)

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5. Floyd McClure, late 1920s or early 1930s

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6. Floyd McClure, 1933

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7. Floyd McClure on postcard, taken by Dr. Lau Tai-chi at Graffs, February 28, 1927

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8. Floyd McClure, early 1940s or late 1930s

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Box 9 of 14  
10. Floyd McClure in field clothing in front of vegetation. Taken at Tingo Maria by a plant of Cruadua angustifolia from Summit - introduced into Peru by Russel Seibert, 1940s or early 1950s.

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11. Floyd McClure, 1950s

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12. Floyd McClure, Saigon, December 1953

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14. Floyd McClure playing bamboo pipe, 1950s

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15. Floyd McClure in field setting, May 9, 1941

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16. Floyd McClure and [Ruth McClure?], 1961

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17. Floyd McClure, April 1965

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18. Floyd McClure on park bench, 1967

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19. Floyd McClure and Grace Shenk McClure (mother), 1948

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20. Floyd McClure and young girl in grove of bamboo, 1960s

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21. Floyd McClure, 1960s

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22. Floyd McClure at social function, 1960s

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23. Floyd McClure examining vegetation with unidentified man, Brazil, November 1943
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24. Floyd McClure and unidentified man standing in a field, possibly South America, 1940s

Box 9 of 14  
25. Floyd McClure wielding a wooden maul in front of thatched mud hut, between 1918-1922

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26. Floyd McClure and other on board ship, 1930s

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27. Floyd McClure, unidentified man and young child beside jeep, late 1940s or early 1950s

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30. Group photo, including Floyd McClure in center, circa 1932

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31. Floyd McClure and Ruth D. McClure in front of home on campus of Lingnan University, Canton, China, late 1920s or early 1930s

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32. Lingnan University campus, Floyd McClure garden, late 1920s or early 1930s

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33. Group photo, Floyd McClure squatting, first row, left, March 27, 1937

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34. Floyd McClure toting luggage off boat, 1930s

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35. Group photo with Floyd McClure left rear, at Lingnan University, between 1919 and 1922.

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36. Group photo with Floyd McClure seated center front, Lingnan University, between 1919 and 1922

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37. Group photo with Floyd McClure seated left front, late 1920s or early 1930s

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38. Group photo with Floyd McClure standing third from left, 1930s

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39. Studio photo, President Zhong Yun-guang of Lingnan University, December 1932

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Passport photo, undated

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Fastuosa at Charles Street home, Bethesda, Maryland (prints and negatives)

Box 9 of 14  
Ice Storm on Bamboo at Charles Street home (prints and negatives)

Slides
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Flowers of [fastuosa?] taken against stucco of McClure house, 1960s
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Damage from Ice Storm, 1962; England and Paris, 1961; McClure garden; miscellaneous
Box 9 of 14
Bamboo; Snow damage to bamboo, 1961; Along railroad adjacent Friendship Airport, 1960; Chinese goddess plants, August 1957

Box 10

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Negative Film Rolls
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Slides, 1940s-1950s (6 folders). Approximately 2000 color slides of people, Ireland, the McClure home in Bethesda, Central and South America, live wild bamboo, houses, aerial scenes, uses of bamboo, propagation of bamboo, flower gardens, people at work, general scenes of the countryside, and churches. Not all slides are annotated/labeled.

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Scrolls
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2. Two-line poem in cao-shu (grass writing) script
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3. One-line poem in kai-shu (clear writing) script
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4. Two-line poem in cao-shu script
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5. Two-line poem in cao-shu script
Box 11 of 14
6. Two-line poem in cao-shu script

Box 12

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1. Farewell to McClure, December 24, 1940
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7. Painting of bamboo and calligraphy on the left, identified as "Ching Dynasty"
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8. Four-line poem by Gui Zhan
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9. Painting of garden and accompanying calligraphy, titled Jia Guan Yuan (the Jia Guan Garden)
Box 12 of 14
10. Poem by Cao Shou-kun

Diplomas
Box 12 of 14
Floyd Alonzo McClure - Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts, Philosophy and Science, Ohio State University, 18 June 1918
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Floyd Alonzo McClure - Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, College of Agriculture, Ohio State University, 17 June 1919

Box 13

Books of Artwork

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VI.E.: Yun Nantian Yuesheng Ce. Volume containing black-and-white prints of flower paintings, Shanghai, 1918 and 1929.

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VI.F.: Ming Wen Zhengming Huajupu. Two identical volumes containing black-and-white printed paintings of bamboo and calligraphy, published by the Gu Gong (Imperial Palace) Museum in Beijing, 1936.

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Box 14

Calligraphy Samples. Rubbings or Photographic Reprints of Rubbings of Classic Forms of Calligraphy.

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V.B.1.: Bei Song Zhi Sheng Jiao Xu. Northern Song Dynasty Rubbing of Teachings of the Sage (Confucius).

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V.B.2.: Song Zhi Zhang Meng Long Bei. Song Dynasty Rubbing of the Meng Long ("fierce dragon") Stele.

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V.B.3.: Sui Ding Dao Hu Shu Qi Fa Si Bei. Temple Stele following the Calligraphic Style of Ding Dao-hu.

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