1. Two envelopes holding single page, coded telegrams addressed to the American Minister in Peking (Edwin Conger), from Shanghai. The envelopes are vertical with red Chinese script printed on and the place of origin and destination in black handwriting. “U.S. Minister” is penciled at the top of the envelopes. Also, two similar envelopes but lacking contents. From the Conger collection (mostly newspaper clippings). Date: ca. 1900. Gift of his granddaughter.

2. One additional coded telegram, without envelope. The names “Conger” and “Hay” and the word “seal” are not coded. Penciled in is the legend “from Shanghai.”

3. One envelope addressed to Hon. E. H. Conger, American Consulate General, Shanghai, from Legation of the United States of America, Peking, China. Contains newspaper clippings, including a 1-sheet (4 pages) copy of The China Review. An Evening Journal of Men and Matters in the Far East,” Tientsin, April 1, 1905. Penciled on envelope is “used clippings.” Envelope is postmarked Peking 4 Apr 05. A 10 cent postage stamp of the Chinese Imperial Post is attached. Red wax seal on the back of the envelope is broken.

4. One sheet of paper to which is stapled two newspaper clipping, one about Mrs. Edwin H. Conger and the other about the marriage of “Hsing Ling, the son of Yu Keng, Chinese Minister here [Paris].” Neither clipping is dated.

5. An encapsulated article on Mrs. Conger from an unnamed Sunday newspaper with headline “Hints Mrs. Conger Kowtowed to Empress/The London Globe Bitterly Denounces the Action of the Wife of the American Minister in Accepting a Gift/Declares That the Necklace she Received She Should Have Spurned as the Gift of Murders of Christians.”

NOTE: Items 1-5 are held in a single folder.


7. A worker’s registration card in red plastic case with gold lettering (not used); with a larger unused registration booklet for specialized trade household (penciled inside, “Collected at Shanghai Agricultural Exhibit Museum/May 1986;” with a single-sheet of characters in red, reproduced from a hand-written original, announcing workers’
support of Mao. Not dated, but mentions the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution; with small plastic covered booklet (red cover, gold characters), holding “Five Articles by Chairman Mao Tsetung,” in English. All items gifts of Prof. James L. Watson, 2008.

8. Materials from Martha Howard Johnson of Cambridge, MA, that belonged originally to her father [?] Brig. General James H. Howard. Consists of (a) ten original woodblock prints (1 in color, rest black & white) of war-time China (1940s), most with English-language label attached bearing title and name of artist. On the back of one, from which the name of the artist has been torn away, is written in English: “Communist Chinese woodcut, Yenan, ca. 1942.” Each print is pasted to a sheet of poor-quality war-time paper; (b) Anti-Opium and Anti-Morphia Supplement of the Peking & Tientsin Times, April 5, 1920 (10 pp., illustrated and fragile); (c) one painting on silk, affixed at corners to paper, and folded, labeled on reverse: “Chinese Funeral, Beijing 1931;” (d) one 8 x 10 photographic negative showing an aerial view of what appears to be a Chinese palace or temple complex at the edge of a lake; (e) 5 b&w photographs: one is a press photo of the Japanese signing the surrender at the end of WW II, with a printed description, with parts torn away, pasted to the back, dated September 9, 1945; one labeled on the back as “British officers released from internment, Chungking Aug. ’45;” one of 2 Western and one Chinese military officers, dated on back as “Nanking Aug. ’45;” one labeled on back as “Central Methodist Church---Kuilan, Nanking, China;” one of Chinese soldiers [?] sitting in a room with a slogan in Chinese across the wall behind them reading “Struggle for a democratic republic;” one looking down into a courtyard of a 2-storied building showing a Western woman at a table and chair, labeled on the back as “Yunanfu Br. Consulate Feb. 1935. E. H.;” (f) seven postcards of Japan, Hong Kong, and Aden; (g) seven Chinese woodblock prints, not identified, but on the reverse of one are written the words “China Photos 1937 & 1945 (Yenan) (Chungking, Nanking, Shanghai),” possibly referring to the photographs in the collection; (h) six professional photographs (sepia or color) of the campus of Yenching University. All are identified on the backs and one is stamped: Dec 11 1929. Stored as the last item in the box.


10. Committee on International Friendship Among Children in Japan, Welcome to the American Doll-Messengers (Tokyo: Printed at The Herald of Asia, August 1927), [1], 44 pp. Tipped-in label reads “The Library of Hazel I. Kirk.” Illustrated; stitch-bound “Oriental style” with paper cover. Loosely inserted is a one-sheet, typewritten text of what appears to be a speech, beginning “I. Recently? From America to Japan, came an honorable dolly to us at Joyama School.” Also a typewritten letter, dated April 8, 1927, from N. Kobayash, “for the school mates of this school [The Joyama Primary School,
Nagano City, Japan]” reading in part, “My dear friend, We very much appreciate the presence of your ‘Doll Messenger of Friendship’ in our school, whom the Department of Education was kind enough to send to us…We assure you that we shall take every possible care of her so that the Doll may not feel homesick.”


12. Nineteen watercolors on very thin paper, pasted to individual card stock, measuring approx. 8 x 5 inches. Views are of young women in classical dress, shown both outdoors and indoors. Some bear inscriptions on their right margins, but a few of those have been trimmed down the right side and one is in mirror image. Some also have inscriptions on the obverse noting that the images represent scenes from books, including *Hong Lou Meng* and *Xi Xiang Ji*. Source: unknown (found in Rare Books Room; HYL accession stamps show March 1, 1946). Condition: good but some are dirty.

13. Miscellaneous items on The Harvard Medical School of China, which existed from 1911 to 1916: an article (source not cited, date from internal evidence is after 1963) by Jean A. Curran who for 7 years was physician to the American Board Mission Hospital in Fenchow, Shensi; an obituary of Dr. Curran from an undated issue of the Boston Globe; an article by Paul C. Hodges from vol. 36, no. 1 of The PHAROS of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (Hodges taught at The Harvard Medical School of China); a single sheet extracted from an unidentified publication: “Medical Trends in China,” by Phillips F. Greene. Curran’s article on The Harvard Medical School of China notes that the impetus for founding the School came from students affiliated with Harvard’s Phillips Brooks House and from Edward B. Drew, formerly of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service and living in retirement in Cambridge.

14. Various publicity photos of East Asia at Harvard, including views of the stele beside Widener Library, a sheet of contact prints showing John Yung-hsiang Lai and Sidney Tai looking at rare books, a group photo of John King Fairbank, Edwin O. Reischauer, and Albert Craig appearing on a television program, and ones of Yang Lien-sheng and Yu Ying-shih teaching in a classroom at 2 Divinity Ave.
15. Miscellaneous items relating to “Princess” Der Ling 德齡, lady-in-waiting to the Empress Dowager Cixi 慈禧.


Compiled by Raymond Lum, 2013