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Guide to the

**United China Relief records**

1928-1947

MssCol 3078

Processed by John D. Stinson.

## Summary

**Creator:** United China Relief (U.S.)

**Title:** United China Relief records

**Date:** 1928-1947

**Source:** Gift of United China Relief, 1950.

**Abstract:** United China Relief was founded in 1941 in New York City for the purpose of raising funds to aid the Chinese people during times of national crisis. The main function of United China Relief was to provide funds for the relief and rehabilitation of the Chinese people. Ancillary goals were to serve as a medium for informing Americans on events and conditions in China, and to help to reassure the Chinese people of continued American concern and friendship.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open for use.

**Preferred citation:** United China Relief Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

**Processing note:** Processed by John D. Stinson; machine-readable finding aid created by Catherine Lakenwood.

**Related Materials:**

United Service to China Archives, 1934-1967. Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University, 65 Olden Street, Princeton, NJ 08544

[http://libweb.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbsc/finding\\_aids/usc.html](http://libweb.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbsc/finding_aids/usc.html)

## Creator History

China, with its recurring famines, has long been the object of charitable and humanitarian aid. The Sino-Japanese War which broke out in 1937 added to the flood of refugees, and sick, wounded, and destitute persons. Throughout the war years many committees were formed in America for the purpose of raising funds to aid the Chinese people. In order to make the raising of funds more efficient by reducing duplication of effort, several committees joined together in 1941 to found United China Relief which was chartered in the State of New York, with its headquarters in New York City. Among the founding organizations were the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China, the China Emergency Relief Committee, the Church Committee for China Relief, and the China Aid Council. The records of the latter organization are contained in this collection. The main function of United China Relief was to provide funds for the relief and rehabilitation of the Chinese people. Ancillary goals were to serve as a medium for informing Americans on events and conditions in China, and to help to reassure the Chinese people of continued American concern and friendship. In practical terms the mission of United China Relief was to raise money for distribution to the various committees which had joined together in founding it. The founding committees retained their own individual identities and continued their own relief missions in China. In 1947 the name of the organization was changed to United Service to China. Mildred Price served as its executive secretary.

## Scope and Content Note

The records in this collection fall in the period 1928-1947 and are arranged into four series: I. China Aid Council; II. United China Relief; III. United Service to China; and IV. China Child Welfare. The files within each series are arranged by subject and, with few exceptions, bear the original folder titles. Many of the reports and memoranda are in the form of typed transcript copies, some of which were probably made in New York, possibly from originals on loan, while others appear to have been made and translated in China. Many of these documents are not identified by author. Some of the correspondence is likewise in the form of transcript copies. Taken as a whole the records reflect an important part of American private humanitarian aid to China in the two decades preceding the Communist takeover and the severing of contact between the two countries, as they reflect on the Chinese side the frightful suffering and destitution of a people afflicted by war, civil war, occupation, and famine.

**Arrangement:** Four series: I. China Aid Council; II. United China Relief; III. United Service to China; IV. China Child Welfare

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Child welfare -- China  
Medicine -- China  
Nutrition -- China  
Public health -- China  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Civilian relief -- China

### Geographic Names

China -- Economic conditions -- 1912-1949  
China -- History -- 1928-1937  
China -- History -- 1937-1945  
China -- Politics and government -- 1912-1949  
China -- Social conditions -- 1912-1949

### Names

United China Relief (U.S.)

Arnold, Julean Herbert, 1875-1946  
Juang, Garfield  
MacKay, James A.  
Nagle, J.S  
Roberts, Owen, Mrs  
Young, Arthur  
Zhou, Enlai, 1898-1976  
Child Welfare Committee  
China Aid Council  
China Child Welfare  
China Nutritional Aid Council  
National Child Welfare Association of China  
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration  
United Service to China

## Container List

### Series I. China Aid Council 1938-1947. (3 boxes)

The China Aid Council was founded in 1937 in New York City. Its main purpose was to provide medical aid to the refugees and victims of the war including the wounded of the Chinese armies and the guerilla forces fighting in the Northwest region. It raised funds for the purchase of drugs, medicines, surgical supplies and equipment, and through the China Defense League, chaired by Madame Sun Yat-sen, it channelled funds to the four International Peace Hospitals, the most famous of which was named after Dr. Norman Bethune. In 1940 the China Aid Council was merged with the American Committee for Chinese War Orphans and commenced its support of orphanages sponsored by Madame Chang K'ai-shek. The China Aid Council was a founding member of United China Relief. After the war the Council supported the development of child welfare programs in China. Oliver Haskell served as its director and Mildred Price as its executive director.

The records of the China Aid Council, which coincide with the period of World War II, include reports on the medical and public health problems created by the war and by the Japanese occupation, some clinical case reports of medical treatments, reports on the manufacture and use of penicillin, and reports on the political, social and economic conditions in the Northwest regions occupied by the Chinese guerilla forces. Only a smattering of correspondence is present; some of which relates to the difficulties of transporting medical relief supplies during the renewed civil war between the Communist and Nationalist forces in the Northwest including copies of correspondence between Chou En-lai and officials of UNRRA.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Budget estimates from needs in China 1941-43**
- b. 1 f. 2 **Child Welfare Planning Conference, Shanghai. Nov. 4-9, 1946**  
Report, *Child Welfare in China*, Nov. 4-9, 1946; with collateral papers.
- b. 1 f. 3 **China Child Welfare Service, Nanking. 1946-47**  
Correspondence of Mildred Price and minutes of meetings.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Chinese Liberated Areas Relief Association. 1945-46**  
Included are copies of correspondence between Chou En-lai and officials of UNRRA relative to transportation of medical relief supplies during the conditions of civil war the prevailing.
- b. 1 f. 5 **Chinese Liberated Areas Relief Association. Reports. 1947**
- b. 1 f. 6 **Chinese Red Cross. 1938-40**  
Correspondence (of Oliver Haskell, et al.), memoranda, reports, printed ephemera.
- b. 1 f. 7 **Chinese Women.**  
Clippings and other ephemera.
- b. 1 f. 8-9 **Conditions in the Northwest (of China). 1939-46**  
Copies of reports and memoranda. 1939-46.
- b. 2 f. 1-2 **Drugs and medicines. 1941-47**  
Memoranda and reports on supplies need or furnished, 1941-47.
- b. 2 f. 3 **Education. Reports and memoranda 1946.**
- b. 2 f. 4 **Famine Relief. Reports and memoranda. 1943.**
- b. 2 f. 5-7 **General Information. 1940-47**  
Miscellaneous reports, memoranda, and printed ephemera relating to medical aid to China, 1940-47.
- b. 2 f. 8 **Guerillas. ca. 1939-44**  
Memoranda, ca. 1939-44.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Industrial Development. Miscellaneous papers 1941-44**
- b. 2 f. 10 **International Affairs Watchers, Hong Kong. Correspondence 1940.**  
Included are copies of translations of speeches by Chang Kai-shek and Gen. Chen Cheng.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Labor Reports and memoranda 1942-44**

Series I. China Aid Council (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 12 **Medical aid to China. 1938-41**  
Reports and memoranda, 1938-41.
- b. 2 f. 13 **Medical instruments, ambulances 1939-41**
- b. 2 f. 14 **Medicine in the Northwest. 1942-44**  
Memoranda and reports, 1942-44.
- b. 2 f. 15 **Penicillin. 1944-46**  
Reports and memoranda on its manufacture, its clinical use, 1944-46.
- b. 2 f. 16 **Questionnaire for Robt. Barnett's trip to China 1942.**
- b. 2 f. 17 **Transportation and Routes to China.**  
Mainly printed ephemera.
- b. 2 f. 18 **What Money Will Do in China. 1941-42**  
Memoranda for fund-raising, 1941-42
- b. 3 f. 1 **Work in China. 1942.**  
Reports on aid, medical work in Northwest, budget estimates and other papers, 1942.
- b. 3 f. 2 **Yen, Dr. Y.C. James. 1942.**  
Report on *The Chinese Mass Education Movement - A Summary*, 1942.

**Series II. United China Relief 1938-1944. (3 folders)**

The records classified under United China Relief consist of copies of reports and memoranda relating to the military situation in China including eyewitness accounts of battles and conditions there.

- b. 3 f. 3-5 **China Defense League. 1938-44, n.d**

**Series III. United Service to China. 1946-1947 (4 folders)**

The records classified under United Service to China consist of minutes of meetings of the Child Welfare Committee at Shanghai and Nanking relating to the development of a national child welfare program for China.

- b. 3 f. 6-9 **Child Welfare Committee. 1946-47**  
Correspondence, minutes of meetings at Nanking and Shanghai, reports and memoranda.

**Series IV. China Child Welfare. 1928-1944 (1 box)**

China Child Welfare was founded in New York City in February of 1928 under the title Association for the Welfare of the Children of China, its principal officers being at the time J.S. Nagle, executive secretary, and A.J. Fisher, associate secretary. In 1930 the name of the organization was changed to China Child Welfare. Its purpose was to raise funds for the relief of children in China, especially orphans and those suffering from the effects of civil war and famine. Its goals developed gradually to include the promotion of a nation-wide program of child welfare in China. Its officers in the period 1939-42 included Mrs. Owen Roberts, chairman, Julean Arnold, director, Florence Broseler, secretary, J.E. Swan and James A. Thomas, treasurers, and James A. Mackay, chairman of its finance committee in China. During the earlier period of its existence the main recipient of its aid appears to have been the National Child Welfare Association of China, a sister organization also founded in 1928 in Shanghai. With the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War its resources were devoted to the care of refugee children in the war zones and in the free and occupied territories. In the 'thirties and 'forties China Child Welfare promoted the development, manufacture and distribution of soya bean milk and bean cakes for the children in the refugee camps in Shanghai and in occupied zones. With the death of its chairman, Mrs. Owen Roberts, in July of 1944 it was recommended that the organization be merged with the China Aid Council of United China Relief, but evidence of this merger is not contained in the records preserved here, nor is there any evidence that the organization continued to function beyond 1944.

The records of China Child Welfare include correspondence and minutes of meetings of the China Nutritional Aid Council at Shanghai and Chungking relating to the implementation of a program of soya bean nutrition through the manufacture and distribution of soya bean milk and cakes to needy children. This file includes correspondence of Mrs. Owens Roberts, James A. Mackay, Julean Arnold, and Dr. Arthur Young. Present also is correspondence and minutes of meetings of the National Child Welfare Association of China. This organization sought to expand welfare work from the traditional emphasis on relief of destitute children and support of orphanages to a program more comprehensive in nature including child health, guidance, recreation, and education. This file includes correspondence of J.S. Nagle and Garfield Huang.

- b. 4 f. 1-2 **China Nutritional Aid Council. 1939-44**  
Correspondence, minutes of meetings of Children's Nutrition Committees in China.
- b. 4 f. 3 **Miscellaneous Correspondence 1937-41**  
Mainly of James A. Thomas and Mrs. Owen Roberts.
- b. 4 f. 4 **Miscellaneous Reports and Papers 1937-41**
- b. 4 f. 5-6 **National Child Welfare Association of China. 1928-42**  
Correspondence mainly of J.S. Nagle (and successors) with Garfield Huang, secretary of the Association at Shanghai regarding aid to famine victims and war refugee children.
- b. 4 f. 7-8 **National Child Welfare Association of China. 1929-31, 1934-35, 1928-30**  
Minutes of meetings held at Shanghai, Financial statements, 1928-30; Miscellaneous papers including constitution of the Association and draft of proposed agreement with China Child Welfare.
- b. 4 f. 9 **The Salvation Army (Peiping). 1937-39**  
Correspondence of Mrs. Owen Roberts, 1937-39.
- b. 4 f. 10 **Shanghai Anti-Tuberculosis Association. 1940-43**  
Copies of correspondence between James A. Mackay, chairman of the finance committee of China Child Welfare in China, with officials of the Association; includes some correspondence of Mrs. Owen Roberts, 1940-43.
- b. 4 f. 11 **Shanghai Public Hospital for Children. 1940-41**  
Correspondence (copies) of James A. Mackay, at Shanghai, 1940-41.
- b. 4 f. 12 **Shanghai Refugee Children Nutritional Aid Council. 1937-40**  
Correspondence and papers of James A. Mackay, at Shanghai, 1937-40.
- b. 4 f. 13 **Yang, Dr. Marion (of the National Health Administration, Chungking). 1939-40**  
Correspondence, 1939-40.