

Introduction to Hokusei Jo Gakko Records in Primary Source Media Microfilm Materials

Hokusei Gakuen University owns a 55-roll set of microfilm materials containing copies of a large number of documents, some of which relate to Hokusei Gakuen's formation and development and lie interspersed among the others. The copyright for these records is owned by the Presbyterian Historical Society, which manages the historical documents of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA). The publisher of these microfilm materials is Gale Cengage Learning (Primary Source Media, formerly Scholarly Resources).

Many of the microfilmed documents were originally hand-written, and their readability varies greatly case by case. Many are numbered and briefly described in calendars, with the microfilmed original following this indexing system. Yet the summary descriptions of some records do not fully and accurately reflect the contents, and some are filmed but not included in the calendar lists. The originals were destroyed in many cases. With these challenges in view, the Smith Mission Center Steering Committee members transcribed key documents and present them here in order to increase their readability and accessibility while also avoiding copyright issues.

The Hokusei-related materials consist primarily of reports and personal letters written by missionaries who served at Hokusei Jo Gakko. Some reports cover events at the school as a whole, others are accounts of individual teachers' work, and still others deal with PCUSA educational and evangelical work in Hokkaido and across Japan, which was organizationally tied to Hokusei Jo Gakko. The letters include those both to and from the secretary of the denomination's Board of Foreign Missions. These documents originated in the years Sarah Smith's organization was establishing itself in Japan to approximately the end of

her service as a missionary. However, for the purposes of this project, only reports and letters from 1887 (the founding of Smith's school) to 1910 have been included. From 1911 to the end of Smith's years as a missionary, a fairly thorough accounting of each year is provided in the *Japan Mission Reports*, which appear in another section of this Web site. In addition, there are issues of the women's mission magazine, *Woman's Work for Woman* (with various versions of the publication's title), covering roughly the same years Smith served in Sapporo.

The bibliographical information on the microfilm materials is as follows.

Heuser, F. J., Jr. (Ed.). (1988). *Board of Foreign Missions (Presbyterian Church in the United States of America/United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America), records: Secretaries' files, Japan Mission, 1859-1972*. MF 23 R., 1859-1911; 1879-1972, 18 FT., RG 93, Boxes 1-16. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia. *A guide to foreign missionary manuscripts in the Presbyterian Historical Society. Bibliographies and indexes in world history*, Number 11. New York: Greenwood Press.

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church. (1886-1890). *Woman's Work for Woman and Our Mission Field: A Union Illustrated Magazine*, 1(1)-5(6). *Missions Correspondence and Reports Microfilm Series*. MF/POS./393/r.1. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church. (1890-1904). *Woman's Work for Woman*, 5(7)-19(12). Subtitles *A Union Illustrated Magazine* (1890-1897), *An Illustrated Monthly Magazine* (1898). Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church (1905-1916), Woman' s Boards of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. (1917-1920), Woman' s Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. (1921-1924). (1905-1924). *Woman' s Work*, 20(1)-31(3). Subtitle *A Foreign Missions Magazine* (1918-1924). *Missions Correspondence and Reports Microfilm Series*. MF/POS./393/r.4-6. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman' s Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church and Woman' s Presbyterian Board of Missions of the Northwest. (1880-1885). *Woman' s Work for Woman: A Union Magazine*, 10(1)-15(11). *Missions Correspondence and Reports Microfilm Series*. MF/POS./392/r.1-3. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.