Finding aid to the
Harry Morton Merriman Photo Album
circa 1925

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Created by Morgen Stevens-Garmon, Project Archivist
22 October 2009
Reference code
US NNEC CFI P 2 Merriman Album (provisional)

Level of description
Item

Extent and medium of the unit of description
1 volume, 106 photographs

Name of creator
Harry Morton Merriman

Historical note
Harry Morton Merriman was born in 1874 in Waterbury, Connecticut. A businessman, yachtsman and traveler, Merriman lived in New York and was for some time President of the H.K.H. Silk Company. During the 1930s, he and his wife were also involved with the Memorial Hospital, the nation's oldest cancer hospital, now part of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Merriman became an associate member of The Explorers Club in 1912 and a Life Member in 1921, having traveled to Labrador, Asia and Mexico.

Scope and content note
This is a description for a single item, a photograph album containing images of China. Subject matter focuses on the life and social customs of Chinese people in both urban and rural settings. Also included are images of Chinese architecture and ships. Though the album is undated, the style of clothing worn by Western women shown in some of the pictures indicates the photographs were most likely taken in the 1920s.

System of arrangement
Items are listed as they appear in the photograph album. Items 1-76 are attached as two photographs per album page (Items 1 and 2 appear on page 1, Items 3 and 4 appear on page 2, etc.). Items 77-105 are attached as one photograph per album page. Item 106 is loose.
Descriptive titles are based on the handwritten inventory created by Cherie Acierno.

Archival history
Harry Morton Merriman's photograph album was described and inventoried in December 2005 by New York University graduate student Cherie Acierno. According to Acierno's report, at some point before processing the album was unbound, numbered in the upper left corner, and rebound again covering the numbers. When she unbound the album in 2005, Acierno discovered that page 57 had been rearranged to fit between pages 61 and 63 and that pages 47, 54, and 62 were missing. The pages are kept in the order in which Acierno found them.
A note in the minutes for The Explorers Club's annual business meeting of April 14, 1959 states the album was one of two donated by Merriman's son. The location of the second album is currently unknown.
Immediate source of acquisition or transfer
According to a note found with the album, the collection was donated by Harry Merriman, Jr. on July 17, 1958.

Conditions governing access
Collection is open to the public by appointment. To make an appointment or request permission to publish, please contact Curator of Research Collections. Contact information is available on The Explorers Club website: www.explorers.org

Preferred Citation:
CFI-P-2-Harry Morton Merriman Photo Album, The Explorers Club Research Collections.

Conditions governing reproduction
Scanning, digital photography, and/or photocopying is permitted at curator’s discretion and performed by curatorial staff or other professionals as time permits.

Language of material
Chinese

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Images are in black and white. All items with the exception of Item 106 are adhered to photograph album paper.
- Items 1-76 measure 11 cm x 8.8 cm, items 77-105 measure 14.3 cm x 9 cm, and item 106 measures 14 cm x 8 cm.

Finding aids
One handwritten inventory and a descriptive essay were written by Cherie Acierno in 2005.

Access points
Name
Merriman, Harry Morton

Subject
Architecture, Chinese--Pictorial works.
China--Pictorial works.
China--Social life and customs--Pictorial works.
Photograph album.
Photograph collections.
Ships--China--Pictorial works.

Place
China

Container list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Young child bending bamboo strip.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Young child in floral patterned clothes.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3  A toddler.  
4  Child with hairdo sticking up and out in long strands.  
5  Street vendor serving hot food.  
6  Bundled up person with basket, looking at camera.  
7  Shirtless barber shaving man outdoors.  
8  Street vending transaction.  
9  Making tea outside.  
10 Two figures standing outside, one holds bowl and chopsticks.  
11 Street scene with hanging laundry.  
12 Street scene with signage.  
13 Street performers.  
14 Acrobatic street performers.  
15 Street performers with audience.  
16 Street performer with audience and overturned pot.  
17 Street vendor under an umbrella.  
18 Street vendor selling shirts.  
19 Man in sunglasses on the street with banner.  
20 Two men outside brick building, one seated.  
21 Fisherman with net.  
22 Fish market.  
23 A parade photographed from above.  
24 People supporting a litter on shoulders.  
25 People in ornamental robes.  
26 Marching band in parade.  
27 Large figurative statues on wheels in the street.  
28 Parade in street photographed from above.  
29 Small boats in waterway between buildings.  
30 Small boats moored along buildings.  
31 Man in turban in street.  
32 Waterfront promenade with boats, city in the background.  
33 Dragon statue outside a temple.  
34 Building exterior including ornate gate and lion statue.  
35 Exterior near temple.
Three figurative statues outside wall.
An old man reading at an outdoor table.
Man carrying two tables suspended from a pole on his shoulder.
Washing laundry by the waterside.
Man walking towards boats filled with people.
Many small boats docked.
People on dock surrounded by small boats.
Pagoda style building with elevated walkway.
Men looking into street-side entertainments.
Crowd outside large building, shot from above.
Person kneeling with face down on low bench.
Three men on bamboo peddling apparatus in field.
Person at rural well.
Covered boxes in a field.
Three story building.
Man supporting vending station on shoulder.
Person carrying stool and basin stand on shoulders.
Two people on a country path carrying a chair.
People sitting by the side of the country road.
Donkey with feedbag hitched to millstone.
Person poling small boat on water.
Man on dock with buckets balanced on pole.
Rowboats alongside dock.
Street scene with vendors.
People seated outdoors on long bench, woman at folding table.
Closed litter left on street.
Stone bridge.
Four men carrying two dead boars suspended on poles.
Bearded man in ceremonial robes holding objects.
Three people pulling heavily laden cart.
Man in small boat.
Chinese boat with sail.
Chinese boat with two sails.
69  Chinese boat with a patched sail.                      circa 1925
70  Chinese boat with two large sails and one smaller sail. circa 1925
71  Five masted Chinese ship, sails up.                    circa 1925
72  Front view of Chinese boat at full sail.               circa 1925
73  Three masted Chinese ship, crescent moon on prow.      circa 1925
74  Three masted Chinese ship, round shelters on deck.     circa 1925
75  People in small round boats.                          circa 1925
76  Person eating outside mat covered structures.          circa 1925
77  Street market.                                        circa 1925
78  Crowded street scene.                                 circa 1925
79  Three young people looking at camera, boats moored on left side. circa 1925
80  Group of children sitting, shadow of photographer visible. circa 1925
81  Men outside mat covered structure.                     circa 1925
82  People under outdoor tables.                          circa 1925
83  Uniformed men marching in loose formation.             circa 1925
84  Donkey pulling cart.                                  circa 1925
85  Donkeys laden on dirt road.                           circa 1925
86  Street market.                                        circa 1925
87  Three people walking toward three story building.      circa 1925
88  Exterior of Chinese building.                         circa 1925
89  Western group sit at tables, rolled scrolls rest against a wall. circa 1925
90  Western group sit at tables.                          circa 1925
91  Western group sit at tables, Chinese men display unrolled scrolls. circa 1925
92  Group of Chinese men in robes.                        circa 1925
93  Chinese man in robes outside building, looking at camera. circa 1925
94  Western woman with two infants in rickshaw.            circa 1925
95  Two rickshaw pullers looking at camera.                circa 1925
96  Men walking in courtyard.                              circa 1925
97  A man holding a large, patterned cloth behind three seated Western women. circa 1925
98  Chinese men in robes in a courtyard.                   circa 1925
99  Three Western women standing outside a building. A rickshaw driver looks at the camera. circa 1925
100 Donkey pulling covered cart.                          circa 1925
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Entrance to pagoda structure surrounded by trees.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Old Chinese man looking at camera.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Western man sitting on an outdoor wall.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Three women in Western dress seated at base of building.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Detail of pagoda-roofed building.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Western man and woman surrounded by people outside a building.</td>
<td>circa 1925</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>