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Indusco Bailie School Collection

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1940-1952

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Following the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, the New Zealand expatriate Rewi Alley threw his considerable talents behind the war effort. Building upon knowledge acquired over a decade of living in China, Alley helped organize the Chinese Industrial Cooperative Movement (CIC). The CIC coordinated the creation of industrial cooperatives throughout unoccupied China to keep industrial production flowing, and it sponsored a series of industrial schools named after Alley's friend Joseph Bailie to provide training and support.

The Indusco Bailie School Collection includes documents and photographs relating to the establishment and operation of the Bailie Schools in China during and immediately after the Second World War. Probably associated with the Indusco offices in New York City, these documents include a model constitution for industrial cooperatives, typewritten reports on Bailie Schools, and published articles describing the schools' efforts. The reports extend through 1949, and include three mimeographed newsletters from the Shantan Bailie School for the months immediately following the school's liberation by Communist forces. Also included are printed works by Alley and eighteen photographs taken between 1942 and 1944 of students and scenes at Bailie Schools.

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Background on Indusco Bailie School

Following the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, the New Zealand expatriate Rewi Alley threw his considerable talents behind the war effort. Having lived and worked in China almost continuously for a decade, Alley was intimately familiar with the country, well-traveled, and well connected, including to Mao Zedong and the Communist underground.

After witnessing first-hand the devastation of the Japanese assault in Shanghai, Alley gathered a group of eleven like-minded friends at a local restaurant in April 1938 to help organize and support the resistance. The result of that meeting was the formation of the Chinese Industrial Cooperative Movement (CIC), also known as the Gung Ho Movement from the Chinese slogan for "work together." From the outset, the CIC was an ambitious enterprise built upon the chaos of war and, at least initially, it drew support from both Communists and Nationalists. The plan was to establish a network of industrial cooperatives throughout the unoccupied regions of the country, away from the vulnerable coastal cities, mobilizing labor from among the large pool of refugees to produce everything from vehicles to armaments, machinery, clothing, and other durable goods needed for the war effort. With the blessing of the British and Chinese governments, Alley arranged to have factories freighted inland to keep production flowing, engaging the Chinese workers in the gung ho spirit to do the work themselves. To fund the movement, in 1939, Alley's energetic associate Ida Pruitt created Indusco, Inc., as a New York-based fundraising arm of the CIC.

Alley expanded his efforts by founding a series of industrial schools named in honor of his friend, Joseph Bailie, an American missionary. Beginning in 1942 with a school in Shuangshipu, Shaanxi Province, the Bailie Schools proliferated, taking in orphans, refugees, and workers from the cooperatives to teach basic literacy and industrial skills and to build a sense of comradeship and commitment to the gung ho ethos. When the Shuangshipu school was relocated in 1944 to Shandan, Gansu Province, to escape Nationalist pressure, Alley went along as headmaster.

The victory of Communist forces in 1949, left Alley's stock as a pro-Communist foreigner at relatively high ebb. Although he was displaced from his position as headmaster at Shandan when the school was reoriented to heavy industry in 1952, Alley remained in China, working as a writer and sometime propagandist for the Communist government. An advocate of international peace, he was a vocal critic of American intervention in Asia during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and became recognized as one of the elite group of foreign "friends of China." Although he suffered a fall from privilege during the Cultural Revolution, Alley remained in China until his death on Dec. 27, 1987.

Alley's friend and CIC co-founder, Edgar Snow, considered Alley to have been as important to China during the Sino-Japanese War as T.E. Lawrence was to the Arabs during the First World War, "and perhaps more," symbols of active resistance, as much as agents of change. "Where Lawrence brought to Arabia the destructive techniques of guerrilla warfare," Snow wrote, "Alley is teaching China the constructive organisation of guerrilla industry."

Scope of collection

The Indusco Bailie School Collection includes documents and photographs relating to the establishment and operation of the Bailie Schools in China during the Second World War. Probably associated with the Indusco offices in New York City, these



Bailie Technical School boys with masks

documents include a model constitution for industrial cooperatives, typewritten reports on Bailie Schools, and published articles on the schools' efforts. The reports extend through 1949, and include three mimeographed newsletters from the Shantan Bailie School for the months immediately following the liberation of the school by Communist forces.

Also included are a copy of Alley's book, *Yo Banfa!* (We Have a Way), printed in Shanghai, 1952, a promotional brochure for the Shantan Bailie School (1949), and eighteen photographs of students and scenes at Bailie Schools taken between 1942 and 1944. Most of these photographs are stamped on the verso: "Indusco, the American Committee in Aid of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives."

Inventory

Manuscripts and printed materials

1940-1952

Indusco: Model constitution for Chinese industrial cooperative societies

1940 July 7

TMs, 13 p.

Folder 1

Indusco: CIC Appeal for Bailie School -- Technical Training School for Boys in Lanchow, Kansu

1942 Feb.

TMsS, 3p.

Folder 2

Signed by Rewi Alley, Hou Yu-Min, and Chang Kuan-Lien

Li-Shoo, T'ung: The Bailie School -- Indusco's answer to society

1942 Apr. 14

TMsS, 4p.

Folder 3

Shuangshipu Bailie School: Report on 1942

1943 Jan. 12

TMs, 14p.

Folder 4

Alley, Rewi: China's Industrial Future [offprint from *Free World*

1944 Aug.

Offprint, 3p.

Folder 5

Snow, Edgar: For China: Slums or Bretton Woods? [offprint from *Ammunition*

1945 June

Offprint, 2p.

Folder 6

Chen, Jack, 1908- .: *Progress of China's industrial cooperatives: a series of twenty drawings* (Shanghai: China Commercial Advertising Agency)

ca.1945

Pam., 20p.

Folder 7

Hogg, George A.: Problem child

ca.1945

TMsS, 3p.

Folder 8

Indusco.: Sandan Bailie School refugee work

1946 Jan. 26

TMs, 6p.

Folder 9

Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy: *Information Bulletin*, vol. 1, no. 8

1946 June

10p.

Folder 10

Tao Memorial Committee for Democratic Education in China Story of Heng-Chih Tao

1946 Dec.

4p.

Folder 11

Indusco: Report: Chinese industrial cooperatives -- Likiang

1946 June 30

TMs, 10p.

Folder 12

Gung Ho! (s.n.: s.l.)

ca.1947

Pam., 16p.

Folder 13

Indusco: Shantung cooperatives number more than 8000

ca.1947

TMs, 2p.

Folder 14

Alley, Rewi: Letter to "Friends"

1944 Aug.

TLS Cy, 2p.

Folder 15

Shantan Bailie School: Newsletter for Sept.-Nov. 1949

1949 Oct.-Nov.

Mimeograph: 3, 2, 4p.

Folder 16

Shantan Bailie School 1949 (Hong Kong: Tai Wah Press, 1949)

1949

Pam.

Folder 17

Pickett, Clarence E. (American Friends Service Committee): Letter to President Harry S. Truman

1950 Jan. 16

TLS Cy, 2p.

Folder 18

Alley, Rewi: *Yo Banfa!* (Shanghai: China Monthly Review)

1952

Pam., 193p.

Folder 19

Photographs

ca.1944

18 items

Photograph: Five Bailie School students prepare for a hike with Andrew Braid, Friends Ambulance Unit member loaned to the Bailie School work of the CIC. The boys spent 3 days investigating a river-bed [illeg.] and local industries

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 20



Photograph: [Chinese boy with mallet]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 20



Photograph: [Chinese boys brushing teeth]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 20



Photograph: These 4 Kanhsien Bailie School boys are from the Christian Herald Orphanage in Foochow, Fukien

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 21



Photograph: [Chinese boy and girl working with loom]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 21



Photograph: Mechanics students at a Bailie School try a hand at their new steam engine. Shuangshihpu, Shensi

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 21



Photograph: Bailie Technical School boys with masks they have made -- Northwest
ca.1944
8x10"
Folder 22



Photograph: [Bailie Technical School making masks]
ca.1944
8x10"
Folder 22



Photograph: Bailie School in Chengdu [boy in uniform standing behind boy with rabbit]
ca.1944
8x10"
Folder 23



Photograph: Bailie School in Chengdu [five boys in uniform with Andrew Braid(?)]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 23



Photograph: Bailie School in Chengdu [boys in uniform shaking hands]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 23



Photograph: [Bailie School in Chengdu: three boys in uniform with Rewi Alley(?)]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 23



Photograph: [Bailie School in Chengdu: group shot with students and instructors: Rewi Alley seated third from left, Andrew Braid fourth from left]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 23



Photograph: Bailie School in Chengdu [boys in uniform pointing at artwork]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 23



Photograph: A point well made. . . fellow students of this Chinese Bailie School member applaud his proposal. These boys will learn to become mechanics, leather and textile experts and will become cadre forces for future cooperatives

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 24



Photograph: [Group standing around donkey cart, raising fists in celebration]

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 24



Photograph: Shuangshipu School which has been endowed by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union

ca.1944

8x10"

Folder 24



Photograph: Planting [illeg.] teazels
ca.1944
8x10"
Folder 24



Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of James and Sibylle Fraser, October 2007.

Processing Information

Processed by Dexter Haven, June 2008.

Digitized content

Selected material in the collection has been scanned and are [available online](#) through our digital repository, Credo.

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

China--History--1937-1949.
Chinese industrial cooperatives.
Cooperative societies--China.
Shantan Bailie School (Kansu, China).
Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945
World War, 1939-1945.

Contributors

Indusco [main entry]
Alley, Rewi, 1897-1897.

Genres and formats

Photographs.

Link to similar SCUA collections

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