Guide to the Margaret Park Redfield Papers 1916-1975

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier
ICU.SPCL.PARKRED

Title
Redfield, Margaret Park. Papers

Date
1916-1975(inclusive)

Size
1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

Repository
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Abstract
The papers of Margaret Park Redfield, anthropologist and wife of Robert Redfield, include personal correspondence with family and friends, correspondence related to the publication of Robert E. Park: Biography of a Sociologist and China's Gentry, and miscellaneous professional writings.

Information on Use

Access
No restrictions

Citation
When quoting material from this collection the preferred citation is:

Redfield, Margaret Park. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Margaret Lucy Park, daughter of Clara Cahill and Robert Ezra Park, was born December 6, 1898 in Lansing, Michigan. She grew up in Wollaston, Massachusetts, where the Park family lived while Robert Park worked as an assistant to Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. After graduation from high school in Quincy, Massachusetts, and a year of study at Wellesley College, she transferred to the College of the University of Chicago. In 1920, she received her PhB in anthropology and married Robert Redfield, a classmate and son of a Chicago lawyer. The Redfield family eventually grew to include four children: Lisa (b. 1924), Robert III (b. 1926, d. 1938), Joanna (b. 1930), and James (b. 1935).

Margaret Park Redfield’s anthropological writings were based on field work conducted with her husband in the Mexican towns of Tepoztlan, Dzitas, and Chan Kom. She also accompanied Robert Redfield on a trip to China in 1948-1949, during which she renewed her acquaintance with Fei Hsiao-tung, a noted Chinese sociologist and anthropologist who had studied with her father and whose work she edited for publication in the United States. Following the death of Robert Redfield in 1958, Mrs. Redfield compiled two volumes of her husband’s papers for the

**Scope Note**

The papers of Margaret Park Redfield, anthropologist and wife of Robert Redfield, consist of 1.75 linear feet of material. It includes personal correspondence with family and friends, correspondence related to the publication of Robert E. Park: Biography of a Sociologist and China’s Gentry, and miscellaneous professional writings.

The papers have been arranged into three series: Correspondence, Publications on China, and Other Writings and Memorabilia. The correspondence series is largely personal in nature but also includes significant information on the careers of Robert E. Park and Robert Redfield. This series also includes exchanges with Winifred Raushenbush. Series II, Publications on China, includes correspondence, drafts, photography, contracts regarding her two works, Earthbound China: A Study of Rural Economy in Yunnan and China’s Gentry: Essays in Rural-Urban Relations. Series III, Writings and Memorabilia, contains a group of her anthropological writings.

**Subject Headings**

- Redfield, Margaret Park
- Redfield, Robert
- Park, Robert Ezra
- Raushenbush, Winifred
- Fei, Xiaotong
- University of Chicago. Dept. of Anthropology
- Anthropology
- Anthropologists

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Correspondence**

Though largely personal in nature, the correspondence of Margaret Park Redfield contains significant information on the careers of Robert E. Park and Robert Redfield. In addition to letters from Park describing his experiences in Europe and the Pacific Northwest, this series includes a lengthy exchange with Winifred Raushenbush concerning the argument and factual details of Raushenbush’s study, Robert E. Park: Biography of a Sociologist (1979). Robert Redfield’s letters to his wife are an important supplement to the professional material in the Redfield Papers; typically, as in his group of reports from Chan Kom, Yucatan, discussions of family matters are mingled with revealing accounts of his work in the field. Mrs. Redfield’s replies have been made part of the Robert Redfield Papers Addenda.

Box 1
Folder 1
   Chen, Lucy
Box 1
Folder 2
  Fei, Hsiao-tung
Box 1
Folder 3
  Gutmann, Joanna Redfield
Box 1
Folder 4
  Levine, Donald
Box 1
Folder 5
  Park, Clara Cahill, 1916-1931
Box 1
Folder 6
  Park, Clara Cahill, 1932-1948
Box 1
Folder 7
  Park, Clara Cahill, undated
Box 1
Folder 8
  Park, Robert Ezra
Box 1
Folder 9
  Park, Robert H.
Box 1
Folder 10
  Peattie, Lisa Redfield
Box 1
Folder 11
  Raushenbush, Winifred, 1952-1967
Box 1
Folder 12
  Raushenbush, Winifred, 1968-1971
Box 2
Folder 1
  Raushenbush, Winifred, 1972-1975
Box 2
Folder 2
  Raushenbush, Winifred, undated
Box 2
Folder 3
  Redfield, Bertha Dreier
Box 2
Folder 4
  Redfield, Robert, 1918-1919
Box 2
Folder 5
Series II: Publications on China

Mrs. Redfield edited two works by Fei Hsiao-tung, Earthbound China: A Study of Rural Economy in Yunnan (1945) and China’s Gentry: Essays in Rural-Urban Relations (1953). Although both books received favorable reviews in the United States, a British edition of China’s Gentry issued by Cambridge University Press provoked controversy when Cedric Dover charged
that the Redfields had unwittingly exacerbated cold war tensions by publishing a work that its author had, under the influence of Mao-Tse-tung, repudiated. The Redfields defended themselves on the grounds that their translation had been dictated by Fei and published in the West at Fei’s express instructions (1:2, 3:12).

**Box 3**
**Folder 8**
Royalty payments for Earthbound China, 1949-1953

**Box 3**
**Folder 9**
Correspondence with University of Chicago Press concerning Earthbound China and China’s Gentry, 1951-1953

**Box 3**
**Folder 10**
Contract with University of Chicago Press for China’s Gentry, 1952

**Box 3**
**Folder 11**
Draft introductions for life histories in China’s Gentry

**Box 3**
**Folder 12**
Correspondence concerning a review of China’s Gentry in Encounter, 1955-1957 (includes Cedric Dover, Robert Redfield, Irving Kristol, and Fei Hsiao-tung)

**Box 3**
**Folder 13**
Miscellaneous writings of Fei Hsiao-tung

**Box 3**
**Folder 14**
Photographs of Fei Hsiao-tung

**Box 3**
**Folder 15**
Biography of Fei Hsiao-tung by Robert M. Marsh

**Series III: Other Writings and Memorabilia**

This series contains a miscellaneous group of Margaret Park Redfield’s anthropological writings. A more complete selection can be found in the following folders of the Robert Redfield Papers:

- Box 27 Folder 6 A Child is Born in Tepoztlan
- The Farmer’s Tools
- The Folk Literature of a Yucatan Town
- Notes on the Cookery of Tepoztlan [annotated draft]
- Box 44 Folder 1 to Box 45 Folder 7
- Ethnographic material collected by Robert Redfield, Margaret Park Redfield, and Alfonso Villa Rojas
- Box 48 Folder 3
- Life History of Antonia
- Box 62 Folder 7
- Disease and Its Treatment in Dzitas, Yucatan [written with Robert Redfield]
- Box 64 Folder 6
- Correspondence concerning the publication of Human Nature and the Study of Society
- Box 82 Folder 1
- Secular Social Attitudes Developed in Connection with the Maize Complex [student paper]

**Box 3**
**Folder 16**
"Chan Kom Viewed Again," 1973
Box 3
Folder 17
Field diary, undated

Box 4
Folder 17a
Tepoztlan diary, undated

Box 4
Folder 18
Guatemalan field materials (includes correspondence with Gertrude Tax)

Box 4
Folder 19
Human Nature and the Study of Society, introduction

Box 4
Folder 20
"Notes on the Cookery of Tepoztlan, Morelos," reprint

Box 4
Folder 21
Reminiscence of Boulder and Tepoztlan, undated

Box 4
Folder 22
Review of Stith Thompson, The Folktale (1946)

Box 4
Folder 23
Newspaper clippings

Box 4
Folder 24
Wedding announcement, 1920

Box 4
Folder 25
Passports; 1949, 1969