

## Inventory

### **Series 1, Folder 1: Booklets**

1. Monitor and Officer's Manual, Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of California, adopted 1941. Used by Col. M. B. DePass, Inspector. Signed by L. Wilson, Grand Secretary.
  2. Funeral Service text, Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of California, adopted Oct 1929. 1942 reprint. Used by Col. M. B. DePass, Inspector.
  3. Constitution and By-Laws, Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of California, used by Col. M. B. DePass, Inspector. By-laws are filled out in pencil.
  4. Ceremonies, Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of California, published Jan 1937. used by Col. M. B. DePass. Signed by John Whicker, Grand Secretary.
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### **Series 2, Folder 2: Correspondence (post-Dispensation)**

1. Radiogram Confirmation of 48550 Chinese Dollars for Masonic Relief Cabled on March 15, 1943—Grand Lodge of California to Bank of China, Grand Lodge of California to Lott Wei.
2. Stapled Letters and Receipt of \$2,500 and Cable Charges for Masonic Relief in China  
Mar 5, 1943—Bank of Canton to Grand Lodge; receipt for 2,500 USD payable to Lott Wei  
Mar 26, 1943, Apr 1, 1943—L. Wilson, H. Oliphant, K. Kwong (President of Bank of Canton), F. Keesling; letters on cable charges and relief fund.
3. Stapled Letter and Telegram on Delivery of Materials by John S. Service  
Apr 3, 1943—L. Wood to M. DePass; letter stating that Service is bringing guidebooks and masonic materials to Fortitude Lodge and requesting DePass to send a copy of by-laws and complete statement of lodge activities by Oct 1, 1944.  
Apr 4, 1943—J. Service to L. Wilson; telegram of urgent departure to Washington.
4. Apr 7, 1943—M. DePass to Grand Lodge of California; letter of appreciation for the relief fund
5. Apr 19, 1943—C. Warlow to L. Wilson; letter attaching poem on American attitudes towards Chinese people.
6. Apr 30, 1943—L. Wilson to M. DePass; letter requesting photostatic copies of Dispensation to be signed and returned by charter members.

7. Letters and Receipts for G. Stocker Individual Contributions to Relief Fund of NC \$1000 Apr 9, Apr 13, May 6, May 10, May 18, 1943—L. Wilson, G. Stocker (Irwin Lodge No. 645), A. Fellers (Secretary, Irwin Lodge No, 645), K. Kwong, Bank of Canton, Bank of China
8. Letters and Telegrams Between M. DePass and L. Wilson during DePass's Stay in Washington.  
May 12, Jun 10, Jun 16, Jun 18, Jun 22, 1943; manuscript and typed, discusses Special Representative status, requirements for taxes, fees, and reports, and transportation of administrative materials.
9. Aug 19, 1943—M. DePass to L. Wilson; letter discussing signing of Dispensation photostatic and arrangements to hold Institution ceremonies on Sept 10, 1943. Contains mailing instructions.
10. Letters on Lee Mullen Report on Fortitude Lodge.  
Aug 30, Sept 1, Sept 10, 1943—between L. Mullen and L. Wilson
11. Informal Report to the Grand Lodge of California, on Charter Members, Wartime Delays, and Masonic Spirit, n.d.—L. Mullen, L. Collings, G. Page
12. Sept 26, 1943—M. DePass to L. Wilson; letter describing Institution of Lodge, and transmitting pictures of Chiu Ching School and other articles, i.e., copy of notice of meeting; copy of history; copy of by-laws. Has duplicate.
13. Copy of Christmas Card from M. DePass and Fortitude Lodge to L. Wilson, Nov 17, 1943
14. Summons to attend Dec 3rd special meeting at the Chungking Printing Factory, from Paul Feng, Secretary, Nov 23, 1943
15. Receipt for 48,550 USD for Masonic Relief, Bank of China, Jan 14, 1944
16. Letters between M. DePass and L. Wilson on Administrative Materials and Lodge Updates  
Feb 23, May 3, Jul 3, 1944; DePass sends and requests copies of membership return form and other materials, describes movement to new meeting place, and growth of Fortitude Lodge. Jul 28, 1944; DePass proposes setting up a US Dollar Account for Fortitude Lodge to make purchases abroad. Describes plans for constructing a Masonic Building with the YWCA.
17. Jul 29, 1944—G. Fitch to L. Wilson; letter explaining five-month journey to Chungking, requesting for confirmation of relief fund sums, and noting appreciation.

18. Oct 30, 1944—M. DePass to L. Wilson; letter describing overdraft from Bank of China due to misrepresentation of CN\$50,000 as US\$50,000, requesting confirmation and aid.
19. Stapled Letters and Receipt on Sending Seal to Fortitude Lodge  
Jul 12-Nov 7, 1944—L. Wilson, W. Axtell (Charles W. Mead Lodge No. 862)
20. Dec 21, 1944-Mar 6, 1945—M. DePass, L. Wilson, G. DeForest (Grand Master), J. Hansen; letters and telegram on arrival of Mason C. Wu to New York from Chungking; departure of M. DePass from Chungking; appointment of J. Paxton as new Inspector for Fortitude Lodge; shipment of lodge seal; confirmation of funding amount of CN\$48,550; and approval for US Dollar Account.
21. Letters between J. Paxton and L. Wilson on Overdraft, Administrative Materials, and Lodge Updates  
Mar 19-July 3, 1945; letters discuss funding for overdraft repayment, arrival of seal, authorization as Inspector, elections, payments to Grand Lodge, membership returns, reestablishment of Philippines Grand Lodge, and a cholera outbreak.
22. Jun 29, 1945—M. DePass to L. Wilson; letter noting appointment of J. Paxton as Inspection, with appreciation and greetings.
23. Aug 7, 1945—L. Wilson to K. Kwong; letter requesting that the Bank of China be responsible for part of unpaid overdraft with the Grand Lodge of California.
24. Mar 21, 1946—M. DePass to L. Wilson; letter, with copies, on the termination of the war and closure of Fortitude Lodge. Explains that Paxton has turned position of Inspector over to Sterquelle. Suggests special member demits and disposition of funds to the District Grand Lodge of China, Philippine Constitution. Notes return of dispensation with certificates, membership returns, and Inspector masonic materials.
25. March 29, Apr 5, 1946—L. Wilson, J. Hansen; letters discussing future of Fortitude Lodge, deciding on the extinction of Fortitude Lodge.
26. Jun 7, 1946—M. DePass to L. Wilson; letter noting dispersal of Fortitude Lodge members, transfer of funds to W. Au (District Grand Master, China, for Grand Lodge of Philippines), and DePass' travel to Washington.

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**Series 3, Folder 3: Correspondence (pre-Dispensation)**

1. Stapled Letters and Telegram Introducing Dispensation Request for Fortitude Lodge

Jul 16, 1942—J. Hansen to Grand Lodge of California; telegram requesting dispensation for Fortitude Lodge, with Master-elect George Fitch, due to interrupted communication with Grand Lodge of Philippines.

Jul 20, 1942—F. Smith (Grand Master) to L. Wilson (Grand Secretary); letter requesting opinion on Hansen's telegram.

Jul 27, 1942—H. Oliphant (Asst. Grand Secretary) to Masters and Wardens; letters, Grand Master requesting opinions on Hansen's telegram.

Jul 30, 1942—F. Smith to L. Wilson (Grand Secretary); letter requesting Wilson to cable Hansen for more information.

Jul 31, 1942—L. Wilson to J. Hansen; cable, asks for all information sent to Grand Lodge of Philippine.

## 2. Stapled Letters Discussing Dispensation

Aug 31, 1942, July 11, 1942— [Deputy District Grand Master of District Grand Lodge of China] to L. Wilson; letters describing impressive Masonic spirit in Chungking.

Oct 15, 1942—E. Wilford (Master of Szechwan Lodge No. 112) to F. Smith; letter certifying Master Mason status of names on Chungking petition, and proficiency of officers-elect.

Dec 21, 1942—W. Herveys to L. Wood; letter advising on issue of dispensation, discusses patriotic motives and inability to supervise.

Dec 27, 1942—L. Wood (Grand Master) to L. Wilson; letter rejecting request for dispensation due to distance and excessive considerations.

## 3. Petition for Dispensation

Oct 1, 1942—G. Fitch (Master-elect of Fortitude Lodge) and T. Tang (Secretary-elect) to F. Smith; letter describes formation of Chungking lodge, notable petitioners, difficulties communicating with Grand Lodge of Philippines, meetings despite the "bombing season," securing of a meeting area, and charter membership of fifty, with signed petition at end.

4. Oct 17, 1942—G. Fitch to F. Smith; letter attesting to Master Mason status of petitioners, notes membership cards lost on way to Philippines.

5. Jan 7, 1943—L. Wilson to J. Hansen; telegram and letter denying dispensation.

6. Jan 13, 1943—T. Tang to F. Smith; radiogram asking if application was received.

7. Feb 16, 1943—L. Wilson to G. Fitch; letter, discusses \$2,500 relief fund for Fortitude Lodge and meeting in New York.

8. Stapled Letters and Telegram on Report on Chungking Masonry, Approval for Dispensation, and Inspector Appointment

Feb 22, 1943-Apr 17, 1943—C. Warlow, R. Johnson, L. Wilson, H. Oliphant; letters and telegrams describing favorable conditions for masonry in Chungking reported by R. Johnson, Mason from Oregon and second cousin of C. Warlow (Grand Lecturer of Grand Lodge of California). Letters discussing photostatic copy of dispensation.

April 3, 1943—L. Wood to M. DePass; letter appointing M. DePass as Inspector of Fortitude Lodge, assigned Special District number 118.

9. Stapled Letters on R. Johnson's Report on Chungking

Feb 22, 1943-Apr 23, 1943—C. Warlow, R. Johnson, L. Wilson, L. Wood; letter describing influential masonic work in China, excerpt from R. Johnson's letter to wife.

10. Mar 1, 1943—H. Oliphant to G. Fitch; telegram requesting payee information for relief funds. Notes air mail letter for Chungking dispensation.

11. Mar 1, 1943—H. Oliphant to G. Fitch; letter, requests for selection of 25 names for dispensation.

12. Stapled Letters and Telegram on Relief Funding for Chinese Masons

Jan 6, 1943—G. Fitch to F. Smith; Copy of letter requesting funds for South China.

Jan 6, 1943-March 4, 1943—G. Fitch, F. Smith, F. Keesling (Grand Treasurer of Grand Lodge of California), H. Oliphant, Bank of Canton; request, approval, and confirmation for wartime relief funds for masons in the South of China to the sum of \$2,500.

13. Mar 9, 1943—G. Fitch to H. Oliphant; letter confirming Lott Weii of as payee for relief funds with cooperation from Bank of Canton, San Francisco, and listing the 25 names for charter list.

14. Mar 22, 1943—G. Fitch to L. Wilson; telegram scheduling phone call.

15. Mar 25, 1943—G. Fitch to L. Wilson; letter describing confirmation for dispensation, and DePass as Inspectorate.

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#### **Series 4, Folder 4: Courtesy Degrees and Certificates**

1. Certificate Appointing Morris DePass as Inspector of 118th District. Signed March 27, 1943, by Leslie Wood and Lloyd Wilson. Includes mailing instructions.
2. Letters of Certification for David Kiang, Henry Lin, and Bertram Rappe by J. Paxton, Inspector, Sept 14, 1945
3. Master Mason Degree Conferment for Timothy T. C. Mar; letter, Jun 27, 1946
4. Degree Conferment for Lincoln Mei; letters, Dec 21, 1945-Apr 27, 1946

5. First and Second Degree Conferment for James Arthur Sterling, Chengtu Lodge; statement, n.d.
  6. Degree conferment for Frank Liu; letters, Sept 1944
  7. Degrees conferred to Chengfu Wang; letters, Aug 1944
  8. Degrees conferred to James Peter Hum; letters, Aug 2, 1944-Aug 22, 1947
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#### **Series 5, Folder 5: Dispensation**

1. Official dispensation dated Mar 27, 1943, from the Grand Lodge of California. Signed by Leslie E. Wood, Grand Master, and Lloyd E. Wilson, Grand Secretary, in San Francisco. Has ribbon and seal.
  2. Photostat of dispensation with original signatures of 16 named members of Fortitude Lodge, in English and Chinese.
  3. Photostat of dispensation.
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#### **Series 6, Folder 6: History and Background**

1. "Fortitude Lodge U.D., Chungking, China" Brief overview of Fortitude Lodge.
  2. "Records of Fortitude Lodge, U.D." Original inventory of collection.
  3. "History of Fortitude Lodge, U.D. Chungking, China." Historical sketch of Fortitude Lodge U.D. by Paul Feng, Assistant Secretary, on the process of attaining dispensation. Describes formation of lodge on Feb. 10, 1941 to institution of dispensation on Sept. 10, 1943.
  4. "Brief History of Fortitude Lodge." Historical sketch of Fortitude Lodge U.D. from February 10, 1941, to September 1943. Includes list of officer-elects.
  5. "Fortitude Lodge, U.D." by Dr. George F. Adams, P.M. in *Northern California Research Lodge F. & A. M. Quarterly Journal*, Vol. 27 No. 1, Mar. 1982, in San Francisco. Article summarizing the complete history of Fortitude Lodge.
  6. Service Letter No. 105, May 1948, prefacing "Fortitude Lodge U.D., Chungking, Szechuan, China" by Clarence E. Evans, P.M. Detailed account by C. Evans on his experience in Fortitude Lodge from June 1943 to its closure in 1946.
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#### **Series 7, Folder 7: Membership Returns**

1. Membership returns for entirety of 1945
  2. Membership returns for Sept through Dec 1943
  3. Membership returns for Jan through May 1944 and June through Dec 1944
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#### **Series 8, Folder 8: Payments and By-Laws**

1. Feb 1, 1946; Final Statement of Account of Fortitude Lodge

2. Feb 1, 1946; Dues to Grand Lodge of California from Aug 1, 1945, to Jan 31, 1946
  3. Dec 31, 1945; Dues to Grand Lodge of California from Jan to Jul 1945
  4. Mar 24, 1945; Dues to Grand Lodge of California from Jun 1944 to Dec 31, 1944
  5. Jun 1, 1944; Dues to Grand Lodge of California from Institution to May 31, 1944
  6. By-Laws of Fortitude Lodge, signed by Master and Wardens and members, n.d.
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### **Series 9, Folder 9: Photographs**

1. Picture of Fortitude Lodge's first meeting place, Chu Ching School, on Institution Day, Sept. 10, 1944. 10 x 8 inches.
  2. Picture of members and visitors at Fortitude Lodge, May 12, 1944. 14 x 11 inches. Includes member last names. Includes past masters and wardens: Evans, Sterquelle, DePass, Kiang, Huang, Paxton.
  3. Picture of members at Temple Dedication Ceremony, Nov. 10, 1944. 9 ½ x 6 inches.
  4. Picture of members with names and positions, n.d. 9 x 7 inches. Front row (left to right): Wei, Evans, Huang, Ure, Kiang, DePass, Kiang, Weise, Feng. Back row (left to right): Wu, Wei, Service, Rappe, Ling, Ling, Pan.
  5. Copy of #1, without text. 7 x 5 inches.
  6. Copy of #1, without text. 10 x 8 inches.
  7. Negative of #1, 5 ¼ x 4 inches. Print on side reads "3 AFGA SUPERPAN PRESS."
  8. Copy of #4, uncropped and without text. 10 x 8 inches.
  9. Negative of #4, 5 x 4 inches.
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### **Series 10, Folder 10: Print Materials**

1. The "Y" on World Fronts, bulletin of world service program of North American YMCA's, 1943. Includes notice on George A. Fitch.
  2. Program booklet of Menora Lodge No. 903 on welcoming the Chinese brethren of Amity Lodge No. 106. New York, Nov 17, 1943. Features George A. Fitch as past master of Amity Lodge.
  3. Chungking—Synonym for Courage, Rotary International article by George A. Fitch, n.d.
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### **Series 11, Folder 11: Roster of Charter Members**

1. List of 38 original members of Fortitude Lodge before Institution, attached to letter sent to J. Paxton, Inspector District No. 118, Aug 14, 1945
2. List of charter members of proposed Chungking Fortitude Lodge, Oct 1, 1942
3. List of members included in the dispensation, n.d.