

RUTH LITTLE

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Regrets incomplete formal education
Lack of instruction for wives entering Foreign Service
Meets Horace Smith; within three months was married and living in Peking
Lack of knowledge about China, "a large blob on the map"
Horace Smith chose China because of alleged better salaries and comfortable living
Foreign Service wives should not have careers other than that of assisting their officer husbands
Observations of newly arrived Occidental in China
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Social contacts with Chinese in Canton begun by Joseph Ballantine, U.S. Consul General
Later, British began similar contacts after realizing positive response from Chinese
Short posting to Tsinanfu (Horace Smith only U.S. officer)
Description of household servants in Tsinanfu
Horace Smith selected for special study leave in U.S. (Harvard University)
Return to Shanghai; again diplomatic life did not include Chinese
Horace Smith's physical prowess: Judo Black Belt
Extraterritoriality in China
Description of life on Shamien Island, the diplomatic community in Canton
Social contacts with Chinese in Canton
Close association of Americans in China
Medical and teaching missionaries admired
Smith children cared for by Chinese amahs and governess
Little community involvement between diplomats and Chinese
Ease of representational entertaining
Deplores separation of Foreign Service families: probable cause of Smiths' divorce

State Department allegedly judged reports from field by size, not content
Wives knew little about confused Chinese political situation
Most wives (single exception recalled) liked life in China
Description of poverty and hardship for many in Shanghai before World War II
Entertainment in China recalled