

The *American Historical Collection* (AHC) which established in 1950, consists of about 13,000 books, 18,000 photographs, and other materials related to the American experience in the Philippines and to the relationship of the two countries. With the possible exception of the holdings of the *Library of Congress*, the AHC is the largest, most diverse and most complete in the world.

Ambassador *Myron Cowen* (1949-1951), who saw the devastation wrought by the war on many things including the memory of the times preceding it, encouraged the American community to donate books and other materials pertaining to the first half of the 20th century. His initiative was responsible for the early phase of the collection.

The AHC was housed first at the *U.S. Embassy*, then at the *Thomas Jefferson Center* at Makati. It is now kept at the *Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University*. The *Rizal Library* is committed to preserve the collection following the high standards it uses when conserving its own holdings. Furthermore, it is committed to facilitate the research of scholars.

The *American Historical Collection Foundation, Inc.* aids and supports the AHC.

Ownership of the AHC is in trust with the *American Association of the Philippines*.

Filipinos and Americans are encouraged to donate appropriate books toward the development of this great collection.



American Historical Collection

Myron Melvin Cowen



U.S. Ambassador
(May 23, 1949-November 18, 1951)

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Library Hours:

Monday-Friday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m.-12:00 nn.



Cowen with President Truman, President Quirino and Secretary Acheson



Cowen receives a medal- a sign of appreciation from President Quirino



Cowen and President Magsaysay



Medal Received from President Quirino

America's new Ambassador to the Philippines, the Hon. Myron Melvin Cowen, arrived in Manila on Saturday, May 21, 1949.

Mr. Cowen was born in Iowa in 1898 and is lawyer by profession, with offices in both Washington and New York. President Coolidge appointed him to the U.S. Court of Claims as Commissioner but he returned to his private law practice in 1933. In 1948, President Truman appointed him Ambassador to the Australia, a position which he occupied for some nine months before his appointment to the Ambassadorship to the Philippines.

The Ambassador has already made a number of public statements which have attracted wide attention; one, that the United States considers and will always consider the Philippines as "a member of her immediate family," and another that the Philippines "has assumed paramount importance in Asia from the viewpoint of the democratic nations" and that the United States will continue to do "everything in its power to aid the Philippines."

Slightly enigmatic was his statement at a dinner given in his honor by President Quirino that "America will work with you and contribute to the safety, growth, and development of this country for just as long as you want us to, and a long as we are welcome here."

Source: The American Chamber of Commerce Journal, May 1949, page 227



Exchange of letters between Cowen and Pres. Eisenhower re importance of 1953 Philippine Election



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