The American Historical Collection (AHC), established in 1950, consists of 13,518 books, 18,674 photographs, and other materials related to the American experience in the Philippines and the relationship of the two countries. With the possible exception of the holdings of the U.S. Library of Congress, the AHC is the largest, most diverse, and most complete collection of materials of this kind in the world.

In 1950, U.S. Ambassador Myron Cowen, who saw the devastation wrought by the Second World 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.

Acquisitions, donations, and funds were administered by the American Historical Committee.

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.



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



American Historical Collection

Presents

Notable Americans in the Philippines and Donors to the AHC

On exhibit June – December 2012



W. Cameron Forbes



Eugene A. Perkins



Leonard G. Dawson



David T. Sternberg



Frank F. Hale

These donors individually made their mark in Phil-Am history. They contributed to shaping the nation as Governor-General (Forbes); as a Manila lawyer, a mason, and a bibliophile (Perkins); as government treasurer (Dawson); as a guru in Manila (Sternberg); and as a pioneer shoe manufacturer (Hale).



William Cameron Forbes Governor-general, 1909-1913

The W. Cameron Forbes Collection is the single most valuable donation to the Collection. The collection consists of document serial pieces and non-official books about the Philippine Islands. The government publications include annual reports of officials and departments, U.S.-Philippine Commission Reports and Journals,

the Official Gazette, the Executive Orders, and a set of Public Laws.





Eugene A. Perkins Manila's lawyer, a mason, and a bibliophile

Comparable in importance to that of the Forbes Collection is the Eugene A. Perkins Collection. The Perkins collection is rich in ephemera, embracing early and late Spanish-Philippines items.

It is also rich in government publications and official documents of the American period (1898-1935), particularly in periodicals and pamphlets and other publications of the United



States Congress, especially hearings on political and economic affairs between the two countries. The Commonwealth period [1935-1946, except 1942-1945] is also well-represented.



Leonard G. Dawson
Provincial treasurer

Mr. Leonard G. Dawson, served as provincial treasurer of several provinces — Ilocos, Tayabas, Pangasinan, Leyte, Albay, and Iloilo — in the early 1900's.

A valuable addition to the holdings to the AHC is the Leonard Geeding Dawson Collection. The donation was made by his widow, Helen Dwyer Dawson. Mrs. Dawson came to the Philippines as a public school teacher assigned in Ilocos province. The Dawson Collection is particularly strong in the middle and late Spanish period, but it also includes a wide selection from

the early American era in the Philippines.





David T. Sternberg Guru in Manila

According to Father Miguel Bernad, SJ, Sternberg was a great American and a true friend of the Philippines. Most of the books from the Sternberg collection deal with Philippine-American relations. The collection is also rich in Southeast Asian books.

A frequently borrowed book from the donation is the "Philippine Pseudonyms, Aliases, Pen Names, Screen Names, and Names Aberrations (1967)."





Frank F. Hale

Pioneer shoe manufacturer

Hale came to the Philippines with the U. S. Army as a civilian employee in 1898 and rose to become one of the pioneering industrialists in the country. He was the proprietor of the Hale Shoe Company.

Ruth Hale Cobb Hill donated to

the AHC her grandfather's memorabilia items – a leather suitcase, a pair of shoes, a brass instrument, a tin suitcase (used by the US Army, ca. 1898), a leather briefcase with inscription "F.H. Hale," and other mementos.