

Haverford College Library  
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the  
GILBERT MacMASTER PAPERS, 1901-1968

Collection No. 1016  
3 document boxes (1.5 linear feet)  
©February, 2007

**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions

**RELATED MATERIALS**

See also Pamphlet Group for biographical information

**ABSTRACT**

Gilbert MacMaster (1869-1967), a Quaker, was involved in charitable work in post-World War II Europe. The papers include his letters, photographs, and especially his diary covering his and his wife's 30 years of service, 1920-1950, with the A. F. S. C. child feeding mission in Germany, after World War I, as head of the Friends Center in Hamburg, during Hitler's rise to power, and as American Friends' representative in Basel, Switzerland, during World War II and later.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Gilbert MacMaster (1869-1967), a Quaker, went to Germany in 1919 under the American Friends Service Committee to work in child feeding. In 1925, he arranged the first peace conference between Poland and Germany, again under the auspices of the A.F.S.C. During the 1930s, MacMaster was active on behalf of Germans in prison and Jews in concentration camps. In 1946, he organized sending food parcels to Germany for Quakers and others. At the time of his death, he was a member of a Friends Meeting in Basel, Switzerland.

(Information from the Dictionary of Quaker Biography)

## **SUBJECT HEADINGS**

### **Brown, H. Tatnall (Henry Tatnall), 1900**

Jones, Margaret E., 1895-1984

MacMaster, Gilbert, 1869-1967

Pickett, Clarence, 1884-1965

Scattergood, Alfred Garrett, 1878-1954

Steere, Douglas V. (Douglas Van), 1901-1995

American Friends Service Committee

Quakers – Germany – History – 20th century

Society of Friends – War relief and reconstruction

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

These papers, which are closely related to the Archives of the American Friends Service Committee, consist of letters (both autograph and typed, mostly signed), diaries, passports, clippings, photographs, etc. Especially important is the diary of Gilbert MacMaster's life, covering his and his wife's 30 years of service, 1920-1950, with the A. F. S. C. child feeding mission in Germany, after World War I, as head of the Friends Center in Hamburg, during Hitler's rise to power, and as American Friends' representative in Basel, Switzerland, during World War II and later. His correspondence with A.F.S.C. officials, 1918-1967, and with individual Friends, notably Clarence E. Pickett (1884-1965), Margaret E. Jones, Henry Tatnall Brown (1871-1938), Alfred G. Scattergood (1878-1954) and Douglas V. Steere (1901-1995) parallels and amplifies his record of the events of these years. Taken together the papers form an unusually vivid account of the upheavals in Europe from the point of view of a private citizen, both as observer and as participant.