

Archives
Church of Christ in Thailand

Record Group	Papers of the Rev. Francis M. Seely
Control Number	RG 002/78
Inclusive Dates	1954-1991
Terms of Use	According to the policies of the Payap University Archives

INTRODUCTION These papers are comprised of 10 boxes (4.5 linear feet) and divided into three series according to when each series was acquired by the archives. Series I was acquired in 1978, being donated by Thailand Theological Seminary and by the Dhamma Logos Project. Series II was added to this collection in August 2020, being previously kept with the Papers of Jeanne Bellerjeau (RG 005/90). Series III was given to the archives by Francis Seely in 1998. Together these records cover Seely's work as a missionary, an instructor at the Thailand Theological Seminary (TTS), and with the Foundation for Inter-Religious Dialogue (F. I. D.). This collection also contains one box (box 10) of file note cards used to prepare an English-Thai dictionary of philosophy and theology, 3 financial ledgers from the F. I. D., and a scrapbook used for promotion and fund-raising for the Dhamma Logos Project. Ms. Jirawan Asasupaakit processed Series I and Mr. William J. Hanna processed Series III.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH The Rev. Francis McLain Seely was born in Aurora, Illinois, on 13 February 1917 to Mr. Edmund and Mrs. Elizabeth (Merrill) Seely. He received a B.A. degree from Maryville College (1942) and a B.D. degree from McCormick Theological Seminary (1946). He married Ruth Louise West on 5 June 1940, and together they had eight children. Seely was ordained as a Presbyterian clergyman in 1946, and he and Ruth were appointed to be Presbyterian missionaries in Thailand that same year. They arrived in 1947 and spent their first three years in language study and then evangelistic work in Chiang Mai and then were stationed in Lampang for five years (1950-1955) and in Pitsanulok for two years (1955-1957). They returned to the United States for a period of time and then returned to Thailand where Seely taught the Hebrew language and Old Testament at the Thailand Theological Seminary (1960-1972). He took an early retirement in 1972 but continued to work with the T. T. S. theological textbook project until 1975. He then founded the Foundation for Inter-Faith Dialogue, which included the Dhamma Logos Project, but the Seelys left for the U.S.A. in 1978 due to Ruth's failing health. She died on 7 November 1978. Seely continued to carry out inter-faith work into the 1990s. On 27 January 1979, he married Jean Thompson, and he died on 12 September 2004.

COMMENTS

This is somewhat of an “artificial” collection in that it has been assembled from three sources and periods of time, however all three series reflect the life and work of the Rev. Seely as a missionary, translator and teacher of the Bible, and promoter of and participant in inter-faith dialogue. He was an important figure because he reflected a more progressive theology that was seen to be at odds with the more traditional theologies of other mission groups and of the churches. A notable item in this collection is his letter inviting the Venerable Buddhadasa Bhikku to deliver the Sinclair Thompson Lectures (Box 3, dated 29 January 1965). Series I and II cover his years as a missionary and then as an instructor at the T. T. S., and they include a good deal of material on teaching Hebrew as well as translating the Old Testament into Thai and preparing textbooks for teaching the Hebrew language. Series III covers his work with the F. I. D. and the Dhamma Logos Project.

ABBREVIATIONS

Com.	Committee
CCT	Church of Christ in Thailand
FID	Foundation for Inter-Faith Dialogue
FWAC	(Presbyterian) Fraternal Workers Affairs Committee
TTS	Thailand Theological Seminary
corr.	correspondence
docs.	Documents
misc.	Miscellaneous

Herbert R. Swanson
August 14, 2020

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Seely, Buddhism – Relations – Christianity – Thailand
Christianity and other religions – Buddhism – Thailand
Foundation for Inter-Religious Dialogue
Dhamma Logos Project
Koson Srisang
Baw Tananone
Grether, Herbert – Correspondence
Hamlin, E. John – Correspondence
Swearer, Donald – Correspondence
Thompson, Jean – Correspondence
Dobson, Ken – Correspondence
Church of Christ in Thailand. Oral History Project

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FOLDER LIST

SERIES I

Box 1

Folder 1	Dhamma Logos Project	corr., misc.	1976-1977
2	CCT District 1	minutes	1963, 1967-68
3	CCT District 1	minutes	1972-1974
4	CCT District 1	minutes	1975-1976
5	TTS Property Com.	corr., misc.	1971-1974
6	TTS Revival Com.	corr., misc.	1964
7	TTS Library Com.	corr., misc.	1972-1973
8	TTS Executive Com.	minutes	1972-1974
9	TTS Textbook Project	corr.	1970-1971
10	TTS Textbook Project	corr.	1972-1976
11	TTS Textbook Project	minutes, misc.	1972-1976

Box 2

Folder 1	TTS Textbook Project	typescript	n.d.
2	TTS Textbook Project	typescript	n.d.
3	TTS Textbook Project	typescript	n.d.
4	TTS Textbook Project	typescript	n.d.
5	TTS Textbook Project	typescript	n.d.
6	TTS Church History Research	corr., misc.	1967-1971
7	TTS Miscellaneous	misc.	1972

Box 3

Folder 1	TTS Miscellaneous	misc.	1974-1977
2	CCT General Assembly	docs.	1962, 1966, 1970
3	CCT Church Development & Revivl Project	corr., misc.	1975-1976
4	United Christian Emergency Relief Fund	minutes, misc.	1973
5	FWAC Chiangmai Language Com.	corr., reports	1964
6	FWAC Chiangmai Property Com.	corr., misc.	1954-57, 1962-71
7	General	corr., misc.	1954-57, 1962-71
8	General	notebooks	n.d.
9	General	booklets	n.d.
10	Bible Translation - Genesis	notebooks	n.d.

Box 4

Folder 1	Bible Translation - Exodus	notebooks	n.d.
2	- Numbers, Psalms	notebooks	n.d.
3	- Psalms, Proverbs	notebooks	n.d.
4	- Proverbs	notebooks	n.d.
5	- Ecclesiastes, Isaiah	notebooks	n.d.

Box 5

Folder 1	Bible Translation - Isaiah	notebooks	n.d.
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2	- Ezekiel	notebooks	n.d.
3	- Ezekiel	notebooks	n.d.
4	- Daniel	notebooks	n.d.
5	- Minor Prophets	notebooks	n.d.
6	- Minor Prophets	notebooks	n.d.

Box 6

Folder 1	Bible Translation – Gospels ("Kukrit's Suggestions")	notebooks	n.d.
2	- I Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians	notebooks	n.d.
3	- Galatians, Philippians, II Thessalonians, Hebrews, James, Revelation		n.d.
4	Dhamma Logos Project	corr.	1972-1974
5	Dhamma Logos Project	corr.	1975
6	Dhamma Logos Project	corr.	1976
7	Dhamma Logos Project	minutes, misc.	1974-1976

SERIES II**Box 6**

Folder 8	Hebrew Textbook	drafts, aids, docs.	n.d., 1973-1974
9	Hebrew Lessons	docs.	1973
10	Hebrew Textbook: "Working Folder for Printer's Copy"	notes, docs.	1974

Box 7

Folder 1	Hebrew – Post-Exilic Narrative	memos, notes, docs.	1967, 1974
2	Materials used in Introduction Hebrew Class	docs.	1972-1974
3	Hebrew Beginning Class	notes, docs.	1973-1974
4	Beginning Hebrew	notes, docs.,	1972-1973
5	Intermediate Hebrew	notes	1973-1974
6	Hebrew 1 st Term Intermediate	notes, docs.	1973-1974
7	Materials for Future Classes	notes, printed matter	n.d.
8	Practical Hebrew	notes	n.d.
9	Grammatical Terms	notes	n.d.
10	[Folder "14"] Hebrew Examination Master Alcohol Copies	stencils	1972
11	[Folder "15"] Hebrew Exam Materials	docs.	1976, 1972, 1974
12	Hebrew Exams Extra Copies	docs.	1972, n.d.

NOTE: a folder numbered "11" and entitled "Heb – bits & scraps for pasting" was discarded as it contained only numerous small scraps with Hebrew words on them

SERIES III**Box 7**

Folder 13	FID – Foundational Documents	corr.	1974-1978
14	FID – Miscellaneous	corr.	1974-1979
15	FID – Miscellaneous	corr.	1976-1982
16	FID- Miscellaneous	corr.	1978-1986

Box 8

Folder 1	FID Correspondence with Individuals	corr.	1974-1979
2	FID Legal Correspondence	corr.	1974-1977
3	FID Dhamma Logos Project Stationary	stationary	1975?
4	Koson Srisang Interview	corr.	1978-1979

5	History of Buddhist-Christian Dialogue in Thailand	corr., docs.	1959-1974
6	FID Annual Meetings	summaries	1974-1981
7	FID Minutes & Accompanying Documents	minutes, docs.	1974-1980

Box 9

Folder 1	FID Finances – First Federal Bank	financial docs.	1986-1990
2	– Calvert Group	financial docs.	1986-1990
3	– Vanguard Group	financial docs.	1981-1989
4	FID U.S.A. Tax Documents	financial docs.	1990-1991
5	FID Delaware Tax Documents	financial docs.	1974-1990
6	Dhamma Logos Project	corr., reports, docs.	1976-1980
7	FID Fundraising	notes, docs.	1974
8	FID Financial Documents	notes, financial docs.	1979-1990

Box 10

This box contains file slips used for the *English-Thai Dictionary of Philosophy and Theology*.

Ledgers & Scrapbook

Ledger 1	FID accounts (USA)	ledger	1975-1980
Ledger 2	FID accounts (Thailand)	ledger	1976-1979
Ledger 3	FID accounts (Personal)	ledger	1971-1987
Scrapbook	Promotional & Fundraising	photos, clippings, misc.	1974-1976