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VISUAL DOCUMENTATION  
IN  
THE WILLARD D. STRAIGHT PAPERS

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## PREFACE

The Willard D. Straight Papers document Straight's career through personal and official correspondence, reports, diaries, manuscript articles, photographs, scrapbooks, artwork, maps and textiles.

In 1974, selected personal letters, financial records, diplomatic and military papers were microfilmed and a guide, "The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University" was published. In 1980 a computer-generated index was produced to provide folder-level access to the papers of both Willard D. Straight and Dorothy Whitney Straight Elmhirst. Those documents that were not microfilmed, including the papers of George C. Bennett and records of the Willard Straight Post of the American Legion, were listed in a typescript guide.

One of the valuable and unique aspects of the collection is that the historical documentation of the written material is supplemented by an extensive collection of photographs and artwork. The purpose of this guide is to provide optimum access to the photographs and artwork.

The project was assisted by the generous support and cooperation of the William C. Whitney Foundation and Michael W. Straight.

CHRONOLOGY

1880 Born January 31 in Oswego, N.Y. to Henry H. and Emma D. Straight

1886 Death of Henry H. Straight

1887 Accompanied family to Japan

1890 Death of Emma Straight, children returned to Oswego to live with family friends

1896-1897 Attended Bordentown Military Institute, Bordentown, N.J.

1897-1901 Attended Cornell University, majoring in architecture

Nov. 1901 Appointed to position with Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service

Jan.-July 1902 Studied at Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service College, Nanking, China

July 1902- Feb. 1904 Appointed personal secretary and assistant to Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service in Peking

July 1902 Illustrated Verse and Worse for J.O.P. Bland

Feb. 1904- Sept. 1905 Russo-Japanese War

Feb. 1904- June 1905 Reuters war correspondent

March 1904 Traveled to Japan

late June 1904 Traveled on Japanese steamer, Manshu Maru, with other western correspondents

July 1904 In Tokyo

Aug. 1904 In Korea

Sept.-Dec. 1904 In Japan

Jan. 1905 Fall of Port Arthur

Feb. 1905 Returned to China

June 1905 Appointed to post as Vice-Consul under Edwin V. Morgan in Seoul

Sept. 1905 Alice Roosevelt visit to Korea

Nov. 1905 American consulate in Seoul closed

Nov. 1905 Appointed Vice-Consul under Morgan in Havana, Cuba

June 1906 Appointed Consul-General at Mukden, Manchuria; traveled via Trans-Siberian Railroad to Mukden

Oct. 1906 Arrived in Mukden

March 1907 Obtained new building for Mukden consulate

Nov. 1907 Met William H. Taft in Vladivostok

May 1908 Manchuria trip with "Commander" Gillis: Mukden, Kuang-Chengtsu, Kirin, Hun-Chun, Ninguta, Harbin, Habarovsk, Aigun, Fakumen

1909 Illustrated Houseboat Days in China for J.O.P. Bland

June 1909 Appointed Peking representative of American Group

Nov. 1909 Funeral of Empress Dowager

Nov. 1909 Dorothy Whitney visit to Peking

April 30, 1910 Negotiated Chinese Currency Reform and Industrial Development Loan for American Group

Sept. 7, 1911 Married Dorothy Whitney in Geneva

Oct. 1911 Straights returned to Peking

Jan.-Feb. 1912 Straights traveled from Peking to Manila, Shanghai, Seoul, Mukden, and returned to Peking

Feb. 29, 1912 Straights forced to leave home during rebellion in Peking

Summer 1912 Straights left China permanently; loan negotiations in Europe concluded

1912-1913 Affiliated with J.P. Morgan after dissolution of American Group

1913 Elected president of American Asiatic Association

1914 New Republic founded

1914            Asia magazine founded

1915            Resigned from J.P. Morgan and Co.

Aug.-Sept.  
1915            Participated in "Preparedness Movement" at Camp of Instruction, Plattsburg, N.Y.

Oct. 1915        Appointed third vice president of American International Corporation

Summer  
1917            Enlisted in United States Army

Aug. 1917        Assigned as Assistant to the Adjutant, 35th Division, Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma

Oct. 1917        Assigned to organize overseas administration of War Risk Insurance Bureau

Dec. 1917        Sailed for Europe

Feb. 1918        Attended Army Staff College, Langres, France

1918            Some Men of East Asia published

Dec. 1,  
1918            Died of pneumonia in Paris

COLLECTION ORGANIZATION

Visual material described in this guide constitutes subgroup 3 of the Willard D. Straight Papers.

SUBGROUP III.	Visual Material	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Map Case Drawers</u>
Series I.	Photographs		
	subseries 1. Albums	50-61	
	subseries 2. Prints	62-67, 75	
	subseries 3. Negatives	68-71	
	subseries 4. Postcards and Views	72-74	
Series II.	Artwork by Willard Straight	79, 80	1, 2
Series III.	Collected Artwork		
	subseries 1. Western	76-78	3
	subseries 2. East Asian		4,5
Series IV.	Certificates		6
Series V.	Maps		6
Series VI.	Textiles		7, 8

#### DESCRIPTION OF VISUAL MATERIAL

Visual material in the Willard D. Straight Papers includes a variety of art and media forms. Series I contains photographs, albums, negatives, postcards, and commercial views. Series II contains published and unpublished watercolors; pen, pencil, and crayon sketches; and charcoals by Willard Straight. Series III contains artwork that was collected by Willard and Dorothy Whitney Straight. Series IV contains certificates presented to Willard Straight and Series V contains maps.

Earliest photographs in the collection include professional photographs of Straight family members and friends. After the death of Willard Straight's father in 1886, Emma Straight accepted an invitation to teach English at the Girls' Normal School in Tokyo, Japan. Here Willard sketched people and scenes that interested him and studied drawing with a Japanese master. The collection includes a small sketchbook from these lessons. After his mother's death in 1890, he was sent to live with family friends in Oswego, New York, where he continued drawing and painting. Watercolors, maps, and greeting cards from this period are included.

After graduating from Bordentown Military Academy, Straight studied architecture at Cornell University. The collection contains student work including architectural drawings, watercolors, and life drawings as well as published and unpublished sketches for the Widow and the Cornellian, two student publications. There is also a calendar with caricatures of notable Cornell figures of the time and a booklet of humorous verse, "Kornell Krinkles," illustrated by Straight. Straight's Cornell scrapbooks contain photographs and memorabilia.

Willard Straight was appointed to the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service after graduating from Cornell. From 1901 until 1912 he spent most of his time in the Far East. His fascination with China, Korea, and Japan is documented by extensive diaries and numerous sketches and photographs. In 1902 he wrote, "as for the life, I like it better all the time. It's full of interest and color and there is

no end of chances for sketching, sketching, sketching." In his first months at Nanking, he illustrated a humorous volume by J.O.P. Bland, Verse and Worse. A copy of that work and a number of the original sketches are included in the collection. There are also many small sketches and studies of Chinese people and scenes from this period, as well as portraits of friends and associates. Some of these sketches were used as illustrations for the biographies of Willard Straight by Herbert Croly and by Louis Graves. Other sketches were published by Asia Publishing Company in 1918 under the title, Some Men of East Asia.

When the Russo-Japanese War began in February 1904, Straight joined Reuters as a war correspondent. Throughout the war he sketched Japanese and Russian soldiers and officers, Korean people, and other war correspondents. Many of the sketches were intended to illustrate articles. Photographs depict people and events of the war, including the sinking of the Russian fleet and the battle of Mukden.

As Vice-Consul at Seoul under Edwin V. Morgan, Straight continued to sketch Korean people. A major event of this period, the visit of Alice Roosevelt to Seoul is depicted in a group of photographs. With the closing of the legation in Seoul, Straight accompanied Morgan as his Vice-Consul in Cuba. There are no sketches from this period and only a few photographs.

In June, 1906, Theodore Roosevelt appointed Straight Consul-General to Mukden, Manchuria. As Straight became more involved with diplomatic work, he had less time for sketching and photographs became more important for documenting people and events. There are numerous photographs of diplomats, social acquaintances, and events. A major group of photographs, taken in May 1908, documents a trip through Manchuria with Commander Gillis. The State Department authorized the trip as a means to explore agricultural and commercial possibilities; because of potential dangers, the Manchurian administration provided official credentials and a military escort. The only group of sketches from this period was done to illustrate Houseboat Days in China by J.O.P. Bland, published in 1909.

In June 1909, Straight was appointed Peking representative of the

American Group, a consortium of bankers promoting American participation in Chinese investment. Photographs from this period include views of Peking landmarks; events, including the funeral of the Empress Dowager; and people, including Dorothy Whitney.

Through 1910 and 1911 Straight was deeply involved in various loan negotiations. Following the conclusion of these negotiations, he traveled in Europe with Dorothy Whitney. The collection includes sketches done that summer in Brittany. After their marriage the Straights returned to China. Sketches and photographs depict their house and friends in Peking. Many photographs were taken on a trip to Manila, Shanghai, Seoul, and Mukden in early 1912. In February 1912, rebellion broke out in Peking. Numerous photographs document the disturbances and destruction of the city and the Straights' home. During the summer of 1912 the Straights left China permanently.

From late 1912 through 1915 Straight continued to encourage American foreign interests through his work with J.P. Morgan and Company, the American Asiatic Association, and India House. He helped found two magazines in 1914: Asia, and The New Republic. Many photographs and sketches from this period include the Straight children, Whitney, Beatrice, and Michael.

Photographs and an album document Straight's participation in the U.S. Army Camp of Instruction in Plattsburgh, New York in 1915. In 1917, Straight enlisted in the United States Army and in October was assigned to organize the overseas administration of the War Risk Insurance Bureau. He sailed for Europe in December and by February had accomplished his task. Reassigned, he attended Army Staff College in Langres. The collection includes photographs, sketches, and maps from this period and a series of watercolors done while in Normandy on leave in August. On December 1, 1918 Willard Straight died of pneumonia in Paris.

ARTWORK, CERTIFICATES, MAPS, AND TEXTILES

SERIES II. Artwork by Willard Straight, *map case 1-16-11-16*  
*3-01*

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<u>map case</u> <u>drawer-folder</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>items</u>
1-1	Childhood drawings a. watercolors, n.d. b. watercolors and watercolor greeting cards, 1892, 1895, n.d. c. watercolors (ships), 1894-1895 d. watercolors (portraits), 1894, n.d. e. pencil and charcoal sketches, n.d. f. watercolor and ink, 1892, n.d. g. watercolor maps and cards, 1891, n.d. h. pencil, watercolors, 1890, 1892, 1895 i. Bordentown charcoals, 1896	1-3 4-9 10-17 18-20 21-22 23-27 28-32 33-38 39-41
1-2	Student drawings, Cornell (published and unpublished) a. pencil, conte crayon sketches b. calendar with watercolors c. originals for Cornell <u>Widow</u> and <u>Cornellian</u> , 1900, 1901 d. pencil and watercolor drawings e. watercolors f. watercolors	42-48 49-52 53-60 61-63 64-67 68-71
1-3	Sketches and charcoals, Cornell	72-84
1-4	Sketches and charcoals, Cornell	85-97
1-5	Watercolor architectural drawings, Cornell	98-109
1-6	Architectural drawings, Cornell, plans for Tanner house	110-117
2-1	Oversize architectural watercolors, Cornell	118-122
2-2	Pencil, watercolor, crayon, charcoal sketches, China a. pencil, watercolor, crayon b. pencil sketches, studies, scenes and people c. pencil sketches, scenes and people d. charcoal, pencil and watercolor portraits e. Russo-Japanese war pencil sketches, annotated f. pencil sketches, scenes, Russo-Japanese war, annotated	123-126 127-132 133-139 140-142 143-151 152-157

<u>map case</u> <u>drawer-folder</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>items</u>
2-3	Sketches and watercolors, China and France	
	a. pencil sketches, China	158-165
	b. watercolors	166-168
	c. pencil and chalk sketches, Brittany, 1911	169-173
	d. pencil sketches of Dorothy and Whitney	174-175, 304
	e. watercolor placecards, China	176-185
	f. pencil sketches, Paris, 1912-1918	186-191
	g. watercolors, Villerville, 1918	192-193
2-4	h. watercolors	194-195
2-4	Chinese pencil, ink, and crayon sketches	
	a. chalk and ink sketches, China	196-197
	b. pencil sketches, China	198-202
	c. pencil sketches, China	203-207
	d. pencil, ink, and crayon portraits, China	208-214
	e. pencil sketches, China	215-219
2-5	f. pencil and ink sketches, China	220-225
	Original sketches used in publications	
	a. <u>Verse and Worse</u> sketches, pages 1-101, originals	226-232
	b. <u>Verse and Worse</u> sketches, pages 106-end, originals	233-240
4-3	c. <u>Some Men of East Asia</u> sketches, 2 originals 4 reproductions (mounted)	241-243
	Reproductions of sketches from <u>Some Men of East Asia</u> , mounted and framed	
2-6	a. portraits from Croly	244-252
	b. Croly illustrations to page 137, China, Korea, Japan	253-267
	c. Croly illustrations page 144-192, China, Korea, Japan	268-278
	d. Croly illustrations page 260-end, China, Korea, Japan	279-281
2-7	a. Croly illustrations, Brittany, 1911	282-285
	b. Croly illustrations, Normandy, 1918	286-289
	c. Graves illustrations (not included in Croly)	290-296
	d. Graves illustrations (not included in Croly)	297-303
<u>Box 79</u>	sketchbook #15: watercolors <u>c.</u> 1888	
	sketchbook #5: pencil, n.d.	
	sketchbook #2: pencil and watercolor <u>c.</u> 1905 (sketches of Koreans)	
	sketchbook #1: pencil <u>c.</u> 1890-1905	
	sketchbook #3: pencil and watercolor <u>c.</u> 1905-1915	
	sketchbook #4: pencil <u>c.</u> 1905	
	sketchbook #13: pencil <u>c.</u> 1894	

*K- not clear  
(-) =  
date*

Box 80

description

folio: Laura R. Newkirk Her Book-- contains printed published sketches from the Cornell Widow and the Cornellian  
scrapbook: mounted printed illustrations from Willard Straight in the Orient by Louis Graves  
sketchbook #20: pencil sketches and tracing from architecture class at Cornell  
sketchbook #14: watercolors and pencil drawings c. 1891  
sketchbook #18: watercolors and pencil drawings c. 1891-1901  
sketchbook #11: pencil drawings c. 1900  
sketchbook #6: pencil sketches, China n.d.  
sketchbook #8: pencil sketches, China c. 1903  
sketchbook #10: pencil sketches n.d.  
sketchbook #7: pencil sketches c. 1909  
sketchbook #17: watercolor, ink, and pencil drawings c. 1896-1899  
sketchbook #9: pencil sketches c. 1902  
printer's block for bookplate  
printer's plate photo of Willard Straight  
glass negatives and lantern slides by Straight children  
folder: calendar with portraits of well-known Cornell men, 1901  
folder: Ex Libris bookplates, sketches, photos and article "Kornell Krinkles"

SERIES III, Subseries 1. Collected Artwork, Western

map case

drawer-folder

description

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 3-1 | a. tracings by Timothy Cole<br>b. portrait of Abraham Lincoln, tracing  |
| 3-2 | a. French cartoons<br>b. French etchings and cartoon <u>c.</u> 1915<br>c. lithograph of West Front of Winchester Cathedral                            |
| 3-3 | a. etching by Ruth Sypherd Clements<br>b. English prints of Chinese subjects<br>c. two watercolors by Ellis<br>d. three watercolors by Helene Schulze |
| 3-4 | SIX AMERICAN ETCHINGS, published by the <u>New Republic</u> , 1924  |
| 3-5 | ink drawing of Willard Straight Hall <u>c.</u> 1925   |

SERIES III, Subseries 2. Collected Artwork, East Asian

map case

drawer-folder

description

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 4-1           | a. Japanese print of ceremony<br>b. Chinese cartoon<br>c. mounted photograph and poem by George Marvin<br>d. painting of Chinese mandarin<br>e. cloth collage  |
| 4-2           | prints of scenes from suppression of Formosan Rebellion  |
| 5-1           | twenty Tibetan paintings   |
| 5-2           | Chinese manuscript   |
| 5-3           | dry points by Nikolaki   |
| 5-4           | two prayer mats  |
| 5-5           | three cloth Japanese dolls   |
| <u>box</u> 76 | two foldout books on archery (Chinese)   |
| 77            | two Chinese books: scenes of country life<br>wood block with painting<br>painting on glass   |
| 78            | "Selections from Hokusai's Views of Mount Fuji," reproduced<br>by T. Hasegawa, Tokyo<br>"Collection II Masterpieces by Hiroshige," reproduced by T.<br>Hasegawa, Tokyo<br>four "comic books" on Russo-Japanese War:<br>"How to Destroy Russia"      "How to Kill Russia"<br>"How to Kill Eagle"          "Sarukani kassen" (folk tale)<br>seven parchment books: patterns and fabric designs for kimonos |

SERIES IV. Certificates

map case

drawer-folder

description

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 6-1 | "30 Count Certificate," Oswego High School, 1895<br>Bordentown Appointment as corporal, 1896<br>Bordentown diploma, 1897<br>Cornell diploma, 1901<br>Certificate of designation as New York State's delegate to<br>Second National Conference of Currency Reform, 1913<br>Tribute by Columbia University, 1919<br>Memorial certificate from Republic of France, 1919 |
|-----|--|

SERIES V. Maps

<u>map case</u> <u>drawer-folder</u>	<u>description</u>
6-2	Russo-Japanese War maps, Japan and Battle of Mukden, <u>c.</u> 1905
6-3	Russo-Japanese War maps, in Russian, <u>c.</u> 1905
6-4	maps of Manchuria in Chinese, three envelopes, n.d.
6-5	Sung-Hua River map, n.d.
6-6	China map, 1909
6-7	blueprint map: "sketch-plan of battlefields and surrounding districts Wuchang, Hanyang, and Hankow" c. 1912
6-8	Army Training maps, two from Plattsburgh, 1915; one from Langres, 1918
6-9, 10	road maps of France, <u>c.</u> 1916

SERIES VI. Textiles

7-1	silk with woven pattern of Chinese children
7-2	Indian woven textile, cotton
7-3	Indian woven textile, silk
7-4	two American flags, 46 star and 44 star
7-5	two signal flags
8	two large red Chinese silks with characters and figures attached, given as gifts of appreciation to Willard and Dorothy Straight.

## Willard D. Straight Papers. Supplement.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Description</u>
86	1-29	Modern prints of nitrate negatives in Box 71. See "Visual Documentation in the Willard D. Straight Papers" for folder titles
87		Contact negatives of nitrate negatives in Box 71

Negatives and prints were produced by Photoservices, 1983-1984.

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