OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title: Linda Richards Correspondence

Collection Date(s): 1886-1890

Extent and Forms of Material: .15 cu ft., 1 box, 6 letters (23 original holograph pages and 9 typescript transcription pages, 1 box

Creator: Linda Richards

Abstract: Linda Richards was the first woman nurse trained in the United States at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. When these letters were written, she was a missionary nurse and the head of the first training school for nurses in Japan.


Collection Number: AC0221

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: This collection is in the public domain. Copyrights have expired.

Preferred Citation: Title and date of item, Linda Richards Correspondence, 1886-1890, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, box number X, folder number XX, digital file number XXXXXXX

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Administrative/Biographical History: Linda Richards was the first woman trained as a nurse in the United States. This was at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. During the years (1886-1890) in which these letters were written from Japan, she was a mission nurse and the head of the first training school for nurses in Japan.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of six letters written by Miss Richards to three friends. The letters relate to Miss Richards' work as a missionary nurse and head of the first training school for nurses in Japan. Typewritten copies of each of the letters are a part of the collection.

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In her letters, Miss Richards describes what she is doing both as a nurse trainer and a missionary in Japan. She gradually masters the language enough to work in the hospital but finds evangelizing among rural people requires an interpreter. She complains often about her own health - particularly colds and abscessed ears. Subjects include primarily personal information and missionary work, not nursing or nursing education.

**System of Arrangement:** This collection is arranged chronologically.

**Custodial History:** Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Medical Sciences, 1986/08/04.

**CONTAINER LISTING:**

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