

REU

**Photocopies of Collections about Sophie Dorothea Smith ((née Reuter,
1860-1891) Missionary in China**

9 items, 1889-1998

**Presented by Sue Anderson (a descendant and former Henry Martyn
Trust World Mission Adviser) (Acc.19/29)**

**Catalogued by Jane Gregory, HMT Librarian June 2000 or earlier;
revised by Philip Saunders, Archivist, March 2016**

Sophie Reuter was born in Sarpsborg, Norway, in 1860. Her father was an immigrant mason from Germany who had worked in particular on the construction of several churches. In the early 1880s she was working as a governess in Kristiansand (now Oslo), and was a frequent visitor to the home of Teodor Rasmussen, a substantial merchant who had opened his house to visiting missionaries, especially the Swedish-American preacher Frederik Franson (for whom see A. Austin, *China's Millions* (CCCW Library, 266.11 AUS), pp.318-19). Franson introduced to Sophie an awareness of Christian mission, and eventually, through reading the China Inland Mission organ *China's Millions* gave her a sense of vocation to offer herself, with a friend Anna Jakobsen, in 1884 to the CIM offices in London. The following year she went out to China, where she met Stanley Peregrine Smith, with C.T. Studd, leaders of the 'Cambridge Seven', who had preceded her to China only months' earlier, and whom she married 16 September 1888. Her service sadly was very short, dying there 7 March 1891. S.P Smith continued in North China, where he was a fluent preacher in Chinese, though he broke with the CIM, till his death forty years' later, in 1931. [information based on REU 3-4 and J.C. Pollock, *The Cambridge Seven* (CCCW Library 922 POL) and Austin, *op.cit.*].

Stanley and Sophie Smith's sole child, for whom these transcripts (see REU 4/1), appear to have been compiled, was Algernon (Algie) Charles Stanley Smith (1890-1978), missionary (doctor and bible translator- see *Ruanda Family Album*, p.29 in J.E. Church Collection misc reference and archives, *passim*) in Uganda and Ruanda. They were presumably translated from Norwegian and appear to have been typed in late 1920s-c.1945 (see REU 1, 4/1). They may therefore be an attempt to rediscover the mother he had barely known and childhood in China that he could, presumably, barely remember as he left in 1899 or the result of efforts by Norwegian relatives to make him aware of his mother. References to his father, who remarried and had another family, seem to be strikingly slight and cool.

These photocopies of typed transcripts and of extracts from printed books, etc., on intermixed A4 and A3 size paper, given by Mrs Sue Anderson, grand-daughter of Algernon Stanley Smith and World Mission Advisor to Henry Martyn Centre, in February 1998. The photocopies were probably made some time before they were donated. They are unfortunately poorly copied and several pages are cropped. In 2016 the donor was unable to give further information about the source or locate the originals.

Contrary to best archive practice, catalogue numbers were given to the original letters transcribed rather than the physically separate items of the photocopied transcripts. The sub-divisions within each item shown in the second column are now therefore best ignored and page numbers only used for reference.

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| REU 1 | | Letters from Sophie Smith in China to her family in Norway, February 1889 - January 1891 |
| pp.1-2 | 1/1 | Lunyang-fu, to parents, 6 February 1889 |
| pp.2-3 | 1/2 | Lunyang-fu, to parents, 27 March 1889 |
| pp.3-4 | 1/3 | [Lunyang-fu], to parents, 1 July 1889 |
| p.4 | - | 28 June 1889 [<i>omitted in original catalogue</i>] |
| pp.4-5 | 1/4 | [Lunyang-fu, to parents, 27 July 1890 |
| pp.5-6 | 1/5 | Lu-cheng, to Nanna (Natalie) [sister], 12 January 1891 |
| p.6 | 1/6 | Part of a letter to Mattie [sister], probably January 1891 |
| p.6 | 1/7 | Lu-cheng, to sister Mattie and brother in law, 15 August 1889 |
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| REU 2 | | Letter of Esther Knutzen to Algie Stanley Smith, son of Sophie Smith. Describes the meeting and marriage of his parents. Undated, probably c.1945 (cf. REU3/1, 4/2) |
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| REU 3 | | Extracts from publications about life of Sophie Smith |
| p.1 | 3/1 | Note of Esther Knutzen concerning Sophie as a child, in 1876 |
| p.2 | 3/2 | Extract from <i>Spring Thaw</i> by Oscar Handeland [This book not identified but Handeland wrote an account of Foreign Missions <i>Kongens budbaerere</i> , 3rd edition 1948 (British Library catalogue), of which this may be a section] on beginnings of China Inland Mission in Norway and Sophie Reuter's decision to become a missionary |
| p.3 | 3/3 | Note on Sophie Reuter and Anna Jakobsen, who also went as a missionary to China |
| pp.4-5 | 3/4 | Extract from <i>Glory to Glory</i> by Abraham Grimstaedt or Grimstedt (1914) - outline of the early life of Sophie. |
| p.6 | 3/5 | Extract from <i>Glory to Glory</i> on the last days of Sophie in China. Refers to their letters published in this book. |

- REU 4** [Other photocopies omitted in original catalogue]
- 4/1** A typed list of dates of his parents (mother 1860-91, father 1891-1920) by A.S. Smith, apparently taken from correspondence or diaries. S.P. Smith's death at Tsechow 1931 added, but not certainly by his son. A different typeface to other papers.
- 4/2** A typed list of dates of the 'Life of Pastor Hsi' [His Liao-chih, notable Chinese evangelist who married A.S. Smith's parents]
- 4/3** Obituary of Revd. S.P. Smith from an English newspaper, 1931 [probably *The Times* 28 February or *Cambridge Review* 6 March – cf. *Venn*], photocopied with a note from his published diaries and note of their children by Sue Anderson. After 1985.
- 4/4** A very rough handwritten genealogical table of Smith Family, descendants of Samuel Smith of Redbourn [Herts] c.1990s
- 4/5** Rough notes of life of S.P. Smith by Sue Anderson or a sibling.
- 4/6** Notes by Norman Cliff of places associated with S.P. Smith in Shanxi, arising from a recent visit, typed by Sue Anderson. 1998