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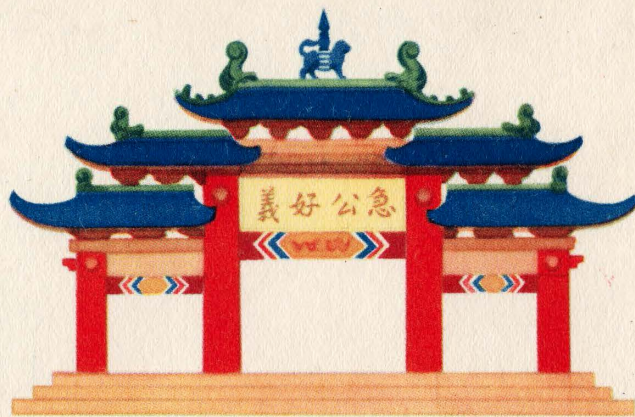
Item: Chiang, Mei-ling (Sung). Award of recognition, China Relief Legion to Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Kellogg Ford, undated. DS. 1 page.

Series: Original Documents.

Collection: Ford, Allyn K., collector. Allyn Kellogg Ford collection of historical manuscripts.

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AWARD OF RECOGNITION

TO

MR. & MRS. ALLYN K. FORD

a member of the

CHINA RELIEF LEGION

FOR WHOSE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CHINA
I EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION + + +



Mayling Soong Chieung



China Relief Legion

Interpretation of the Symbols on Madame Chiang's Award of Recognition to China Relief Legion Members

The border of the certificate depicts plum flowers and bamboo leaves on a field of "auspicious clouds".

The motive is that of "The Three Friends of Winter" (the pine, the bamboo and the plum)—a symbol of friends who stand together in times of need. In the cold winter months when snow is deep on the ground, there is little vegetation to be seen anywhere in China. But there are always the pine trees, often old and knotty, but with green needles, standing out against the winter sky. And there are the bamboos, standing with green winter shoots by the side of the pine trees. Through storm and blizzard, these two species of the evergreen stand together against the onslaught of cold weather.

Then with the coming of February, the plum trees begin to bloom, presaging the coming of spring to the two old comrades who have stood alone, braving the winter.

And so the pine, the bamboo and the plum, in China, are symbols of sturdy character and everlasting friendship which survive all trials and hardships. The plum is particularly loved, not alone because of its beauty but because it smiles calmly and cheerfully when the other flowers have gone into hiding. The plum should be a symbol of the free nations who are still standing out against aggression.

* * *

The red seal is the official seal of Madame Chiang. In China, the official document does not bear alone a written signature, but must bear a seal as well. In fact, the identification of the seal and the red solid ink used is an important part in establishing the genuineness of ancient Chinese paintings or calligraphy. The script on the seal, which is made of ivory, is a particular style of Chinese writing, known as the "seal script". It says, Chiang Soong May Ling.

* * *

The Chinese character on the upper corners of the certificate is *fu*—meaning "good luck". The character on the lower two corners is the stylized writing of *shou*—meaning "long life". Well-shaped clouds in a clear sky have come to mean to the people of China an augury for good luck.

* * *

The picture in the center is that of a *pai-lou*, or memorial arch. Made either of stone or wood, built in dedication to a benevolent magistrate of a city, or a heroic father, mother or son, they are seen everywhere in China.

The Chinese characters on the front panel of the arch are *Chi Kung Hao Yi*—*anxious—public affairs—love and justice*. The inscription means, "He is public-spirited and loves justice".

Lin yutang