

Rose Galaida and the Central China Relief Records, 1946: Discovery, Investigation, and Implications

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Introduction

On December 28, 1945, Rose Galaida, an American social worker, and four other Westerners¹ arrived at the city of Hankou in central China to work at the Hubei Regional Office of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA).² The group of five had traveled on a river steamer along the Yangzi River, a major route that millions of Chinese were taking to return home from their refuge in western China during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945). The war ended in China with the surrender of Japan in August, and soon afterward UNRRA began its China mission, through coordination with its counterpart, the Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (CNRRA), to help the country recover with financial assistance, material support, and professional expertise.³ The UNRRA-Hubei Regional Office, one of about a dozen such regional offices in China, focused on the Province of Hubei, most of which was occupied by Japan during the war.⁴

During her eleven-month tenure as a welfare specialist in Hubei, Rose Galaida witnessed this war-torn province struggling to recuperate under the increasing threat of a new war between the Nationalists and the Communists. She received and processed applications requesting assistance from both the Chinese organizations and the international community in the province. She also undertook an extensive survey trip throughout Hubei from April to May 1946, when she saw with her own eyes the wartime losses and damages. In addition, Galaida was involved in helping out in Xuanhuadian, an isolated Communist territory in the northern part of the province. The battles taking place during the retreat of Communist forces from Xuanhuadian at the end of June 1946 reignited the Chinese Civil War.⁵ Immediately before and after the withdrawal of the Communist forces, Galaida traveled to Xuanhuadian four times to work on some politically sensitive issues.

When Galaida left her post in the UNRRA office in November 1946, she managed to bring several hundred pages of office files with her. Sixty-two years later, these files were rediscovered in a department in the Rutgers University Libraries in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Initial examination indicated that these were authentic historical documents. However, because the provenance of the

collection was unknown at the time, an in-depth research was conducted, including the close reading of the documents and the study of other primary sources, in order to determine first, the origin and nature of the collection, and subsequently, the appropriate level of access that the library can afford to researchers.

This paper reports on the process and results of this rather unusual project of discovery and investigation. In the following pages, I will first describe how this collection was discovered and how the original collector, Rose Galaida, was identified. Then the life and career of Galaida before her China year will be outlined, followed by a description of the collection to highlight Galaida's activities in Hubei. Finally, I will discuss Galaida's life after UNRRA and the general implications of this study. This paper hopes to emphasize the role of librarians as the custodians of cultural records by introducing the files from one UNRRA regional office and how they have been described and made available. Equally important, the paper provides an introduction to the China records of UNRRA, a gold mine of information that remains largely unexplored by the scholarly community.⁶

An Unexpected Discovery

In September 2008, a large manila envelope was found by a student assistant who was helping clean up old office files in a library department in Rutgers University. The unmarked envelope contained three folders of documents, mostly typescripts in English. When the student assistant showed the documents to me, I first thought that these were probably library office files from the age of typewriters. However, after looking through a handful of them, I realized that these were not ordinary library files, but original historical documents related to post-World War II relief in China.

Clues to the actual age of the documents abounded. Many of them are on a flimsy, thin type of paper, the sort used in earlier decades for making carbon copies but seldom employed today. The documents had rusty metal objects (pins, clips, and staples) attached to them, indicating that these objects and thus the documents themselves were probably decades old. The few documents I skimmed were dated 1946, and some of them happened to be letters from the Catholic missions in Hubei requesting relief assistance. What struck me most was a group of four photographs (4.5" x 6", black and white) showing damaged buildings. Handwritten notes on the back explained that the buildings, part of the Catholic mission in Laohekou (a town in northwestern Hubei), were bombarded in 1945, during the final months of the Sino-Japanese War.

With a preliminary understanding of the nature of the collection, I consulted two library staff members with preservation expertise, who apprised me of the measures needed to conserve the documents. Following their advice, my student assistant and I removed the rusty metal objects from the documents. Most

documents were actually in fairly good shape in terms of paper quality, but as a precaution, we enclosed each document in a piece of 11" x 17" acid-free white paper.

In the meantime, I informed two China historians on the faculty of Rutgers University about this unexpected discovery. Due to my initial impression from encountering a fair amount of Catholic materials, especially the four photographs mentioned above, I told them that these documents were relief papers of the Catholic missions in China. (I subsequently realized that this description was inaccurate.) Both historians confirmed the research value of this collection and inquired about ways to access it.⁷ In order to provide them and other researchers an appropriate level of access, I felt we must first find out who owned these documents and how they came to the library.

I tried but failed to find any written information in the Rutgers Library explaining the origin of the collection; neither could anyone I consulted in person recall exactly how and when the papers came to the library. After some time, I realized that reading the documents closely was probably the only way to find conclusive information. Even though close reading would be a very time-consuming process and would not necessarily lead to the information I sought, there seemed no alternatives. I started to read the documents; in several weeks I finished the task. Reading these documents corrected my erroneous initial impression that these were Catholic records. Rather, the collection seemed to present a comprehensive view of postwar relief in Hubei, with some items concerning the neighboring Henan and Jiangxi provinces. Therefore, I tentatively named this collection "Central China Relief Records, 1946," or CCRR for short.

While I was reading the documents, I noticed that the personal name Rose Galaida appeared on almost every English document.⁸ This name appeared in different variations—Rose Galaida, R. Galaida, Miss Galaida, Galaida, or simply R.G., and in different contexts—sometimes she was the author of a document, sometimes the sole addressee of a letter, and still other times, one of several recipients of an office communication. In the last scenario, there was often a checkmark after her name on the list of recipients, obviously an acknowledgment of her receipt of this particular memo. Putting this together, I began to believe that she was the person who had owned these documents before they came to the library. Otherwise it would be very hard to explain why her name appeared on most documents. But who was this Rose Galaida?

Since Rutgers has been the flagship public university in New Jersey since the 1950s, people giving the library their papers and documents are often New Jersey residents. After consulting genealogical resources, I quickly identified three New Jersey women named Rose Galaida who were active in the twentieth century, with birth dates in 1894, 1914, and 1920.⁹ All of them could have gone to China in 1946, so which one was the right person? I then started to look for publications by

or about Rose Galaida. One day, when I was searching for “Rose Galaida” in OCLC WorldCat, something on the computer screen struck me like a bolt of lightning. One of the WorldCat records was the “Rose Galaida papers (1962-1968),” which was actually in the Special Collections and University Archives of Rutgers University Libraries! Excited beyond words, I immediately went to the Special Collections and requested her papers. She was indeed the person for whom I had been looking.

The Collector: Rose Galaida before Her China Trip

Though the Rose Galaida personal papers are not very extensive, they do include a copy of her resumé from the 1960s,¹⁰ which confirms that she worked as the UNRRA welfare specialist in Hubei. The resumé also stated that she was 5'7" tall, wore glasses, and was of a “heavy-frame,” with excellent health and “no physical defects;” her pictures in the papers showed a stern-looking woman. In addition, local newspaper accounts are helpful to reconstruct her life history.

Rose Galaida was born in Hungary to Hungarian parents on January 9, 1894.¹¹ She traveled to the U.S. several times with her family because of her father’s business connections. After her father died while she was still a child, her family settled down in central New Jersey.¹² One can speculate that the loss of her father at a young age might have contributed to her rebelliousness later in life (she called herself “a rebel with lots of crackpot ideas” in a newspaper interview in 1968¹³), but financially her family managed to fund her college education. She was admitted to Randolph-Macon, a private women’s college in Virginia, in 1911.¹⁴ Why would a young woman from an immigrant family in the Northeast attend a college in the conservative South? Both her own adventurousness, evident in her later life, and the school's particular reputation might have played a role. According to Pearl S. Buck, who started at Randolph-Macon a year earlier than Galaida, the school was known for educating girls exactly as though they were boys, at least in terms of the curriculum.¹⁵ However, Galaida dropped out after only one year at Randolph-Macon because “it lacked challenge.”¹⁶

With one year of college education, Galaida soon found a job as a school teacher in a “desperately poor area” in New Jersey, and a year later she was promoted to principal. In this rural school, Galaida implemented some ideas that were considered novel at the time, such as introducing arts and physical exercises into the curriculum and asking for help from mothers in lunch programs.¹⁷ Though details are unavailable, it is probable that Galaida held a variety of government jobs in the next decade after leaving this school.

We know more about Galaida's career and personal life in the two decades from 1924, largely thanks to local newspaper accounts relating to her career and social activities. For several years in the 1920s, she befriended Miss Marian

Lockwood, a local school nurse.¹⁸ She alternated between teaching and social work jobs: she was the Director of the State Home for Girls in Trenton before becoming a school teacher in 1930;¹⁹ during the New Deal era, she was loaned to a New Jersey state agency to develop an emergency relief program for “White Collar Workers and Women;”²⁰ from 1940 to 1944, she was the County Supervisor of the Child Welfare Services of Middlesex County.²¹ She was also active in the local community and from time to time was invited to speak to the public about women's issues and child welfare programs, topics related to her professional expertise.²² She pursued academic study persistently, receiving her bachelor's degree from Rutgers in 1929²³ and continuing on with the master's and doctor's programs in education through 1939. She completed her coursework in the Doctor of Education program at Rutgers and finished a 36-hour internship, but dropped out of the program after her dissertation topic “had been pre-empted by another.”²⁴ From 1940 onward, she settled down in the social work field and went on to receive a master's degree from New York School of Social Work at Columbia University in 1944.²⁵ A year later, in August 1945, the same month when Japan surrendered and the Second World War ended in Asia, she joined UNRRA as a welfare specialist.²⁶ Four months later, she arrived at the City of Hankou.

This brief outline leads us to conclude that Galaida was a strong, independent woman, who loved adventure and thrived on challenge. As someone who spent most of her career helping the underprivileged, she probably had a penchant to root for the underdog. A professional woman who remained unmarried throughout her life, Galaida was probably viewed as unconventional by her contemporaries, which perhaps further reinforced her sense of being a “rebel.” All of these factors might have affected the decisions she made while in China.

Galaida's life history up to this point apparently had little to do with China, so her decision to work for UNRRA in China, instead of Europe where her family emigrated from, showed her adventurousness again. This also means that her perspectives on issues she faced in China would be influenced by people she encountered there. This was probably where Yang Xiandong, a provincial leader in the cause of relief and reconstruction in Hubei, came in. When Galaida arrived at Hankou in 1945, Yang held the position of Deputy Director of CNRRA – Hubei Regional Office. With a Ph.D. from Cornell University (hence referred to as “Dr. Yang” in the CCRR documents), Yang was uniquely qualified to work with his UNRRA colleagues and, as the events unfolded, he did exert considerable influence over them. However, probably unknown to these Westerners, at least initially, was that Yang had established a working relationship with the Communists while active in the Nationalist territory, and he intended to help the Communists again from his CNRRA post.²⁷ As we will see in the next section, Galaida's involvement in Xuanhuadian, the Communist territory, can be attributed directly to Yang's request.

The Collection: Materials in the Central China Relief Records

The materials in the Central China Relief Records (CCRR) collection provide a window to the experiences of Rose Galaida in Hubei. The collection consists of about 100 documents totaling over 300 pages (excluding duplicate copies) and 5 photographs. The size of the collection permits me to highlight only a few representative documents from the collection, according to its original organizational scheme.²⁸

Organization

As described earlier, the documents were discovered in three folders inside a large unmarked manila envelope. The envelope did not seem to be a part of the original collection. By contrast, the three folders were apparently used in the UNRRA office, and therefore are historical artifacts and an integral part of the CCRR collection.²⁹

Galaida wrote in pencil on the cover of each folder, respectively, "Galaida Survey Material Apr 11 – May 20 /'46," "Action – Applications for relief," and "Communist Territory." These can be viewed as names she gave to the folders because they match the contents in the folders. As we will see below, the documents in these three folders inform us about the three areas of Galaida's work in Hubei: conducting an extensive survey, processing relief applications, and carrying out special missions to a Communist-controlled territory.

Survey Material

One of the most significant activities Rose Galaida undertook in Hubei was an extensive survey trip. An untitled note in the folder lists the names of 21 cities and towns in Hubei that were either population centers or transportation hubs in the province. The cities and towns, as written on the list, are:

1. Hankow; 2. Chang-kiang-pu; 3. Yingcheng; 4. Chao shih; 5. Shayang; 6. Shih-li-pu; 7. Tangyang; 8. Ichang; 9. Kiangning; 10. Shasi; 11. Chingmeng; 12. Icheng; 13. Hsiangyang; 14. Fangcheng; 15. Lao-ho-kou; 16. Chaoyang; 17. Suihsien; 18. Anlu; 19. Yungmeng; 20. Puchi; 21. Hankow.

The CCRR collection includes materials from most places on this list. Hence, it is very likely that the list was Galaida's survey trip itinerary. If this supposition is correct, she started her trip at Hankou (where her office was), went westward to Yichang, a major city on the Yangzi River bordering Sichuan Province, turned back to Jianglin and Shashi in the central Hubei, traveled to Xiangyang, Fancheng, and Laohekou in the northwestern Hubei, came back to Hankou along Suixian-Zaoyang corridor, and finally went south to Puqi. Her survey route resembled the shape of a butterfly on the map and covered a significant portion of Hubei.

As Galaida crisscrossed the province, she met with local officials and

community representatives and received information about wartime damages and relief needs. The amount of materials in the files from each place varies: from some there was simply a roster of people who attended the meeting with Galaida, while from others detailed statistics and descriptions were submitted.

We can use the materials from Puqi, the last stop of Galaida's survey trip, to illustrate what she might have encountered on the road. Galaida visited Puqi and held a meeting with the locals on May 18, 1946. The meeting minutes, which were produced in Chinese and translated into English, inform us who attended the meeting and how it proceeded.³⁰ Galaida went to the meeting with three Chinese from Hankou--two CNRRA regional office employees and one Catholic priest (possibly serving as a translator). The meeting attendees from Puqi were mostly local officials, but three Chinese priests of the local Catholic churches were present as well. The meeting was chaired by Yan Fu, the governor of Puqi. After the senior CNRRA staff member stated the purpose of the visit, the governor gave a detailed report on the losses and damages during the Japanese occupation period, with regard to population, houses, living standards, economic output, agricultural fields, schools, and factories. The governor also reported on existing relief work, emergency relief needs, and additional needs.

In Puqi, Galaida also received a report of "Investigation on Relief Work in Rural Villages," a map "Showing Paths for Mails and Telegrams to & from Puchi Hsien," and information about the local branch of the Hubei International Relief Association (HIRA), a voluntary organization. On the same day, she sent her assistant, M. Farr, to visit the Middle School of Puqi and interview its principal and faculty.³¹

Galaida's meeting in Puqi appears to have been among the more productive ones of her survey trip. The governor of Puqi, Yan Fu, was something of an expert on local *xian*-level governance in the Republican China, having authored a book on this subject.³² However, not every place Galaida visited was as organized and helpful as Puqi. After the survey trip, Galaida reported in an internal UNRRA memo that local Chinese officials in Shayang and Zaoyang could not substantiate their claims that people in their areas were starving.³³ Indeed, the quantity and quality of information Galaida collected from each place seems to be an indicator of the varying capabilities of the local officials in leading the postwar relief and reconstruction, a topic worthy of further study.

Relief Applications

Galaida named the second folder "Action: Applications for Relief." This folder holds relief applications from all over Hubei, including places Galaida did not visit on her survey tour. Understandably, applications from the city of Hankou and the neighboring towns of Wuchang and Hanyang, the largest metropolitan area of

the province, appear to be most numerous. Below I will use the materials from these three towns to illustrate the type of relief applications that Rose Galaida received.

One document included in the folder was the charter of the Hankou Relief Institution, in both Chinese and English. The charter revealed that the Institution was a semi-official relief coordinating organization supported by the Hankou city government. Under the Institution's umbrella, there were facilities for the homeless, disabled, seniors, and orphaned and poor children, as well as a hospital. The folder also included a detailed 1946 budget of the Institution's Training Camp for the Poor, possibly submitted for the purpose of seeking support from UNRRA. On the same day that Rose Galaida received these documents, she also received an anonymous report named "The Disposition and Out-look of the Relief Work in Hankow City," which gave a brief summary of and a plan for the postwar relief work in the city. Because the plan addressed many of the same issues found in the charter of the Hankou Relief Institution, this anonymous report probably came from the same organization.

Galaida kept in the folder her responses to relief applications from two other Chinese entities in Hankou with political and military ties to the Nationalist government. One application, from the Hankou New Life Movement, requested ten sewing machines.³⁴ (The New Life Movement was a movement promoted by the Nationalist leader Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and his wife.) The other application, from a training school for military auto-mechanics in Hankou, asked for 600 tins of canned food.³⁵ Galaida rejected both applications on June 25, 1946.

Since Hankou was one of the biggest inland cities in China, the region was home to a substantial number of foreigners who, for understandable reasons, seemed to prefer to deal with the UNRRA office directly instead of going through the Chinese government. Requests by the international community might come from voluntary organizations, such as the Hubei International Relief Association (HIRA), which had branches in various parts of the province,³⁶ missionary entities, such as St. Joseph's School³⁷ and the Wuchang Catholic Orphanage and Infancy,³⁸ or particular national groups, such as the Russians in Hankou.³⁹

The presence of over 2,000 Korean prisoners of war in Hanyang was a complicated issue for Galaida and her UNRRA colleagues. During the war, these Koreans were drafted by Japan and sent to China to serve in the Japanese army⁴⁰ as the "Wuhan Branch of the Korean South China Consolation Corps;" after the surrender of Japan, they were placed in a concentration camp in Hanyang as prisoners of war. The Corps Master of the Korean unit wrote two memos to the UNRRA Hubei Office to complain about the conditions at the camp and to request that his soldiers be repatriated to Korea.⁴¹ The issue concerning Korean POWs in China was taken up by the headquarters of the UNRRA China Office in Shanghai and

eventually by the UNRRA General Counsel in Washington, D.C.⁴² In the spring of 1946 the U.S. Army decided to repatriate all Koreans in the China Theatre, whose total number was estimated at 57,000.⁴³ The 2,000 Korean POWs in Hanyang might have been repatriated under this program.

This folder also contained some communications that Galaida received from her Chinese counterpart, the CNRRA-Hubei Regional Office. One revealing document reported on the corruption among the CNRRA personnel. This letter from Lo Jee-Ou, a staff member of the CNRRA-Hubei Regional Office, to the Director of the CNRRA Highway Transport (CHT), complained that a CHT truck team leader used refugee trucks to carry private goods and pick up passengers on the road, an illicit practice called “yellow fish” at the time.⁴⁴

Communist Territory

Perhaps Galaida’s most intriguing activities in Hubei were her special missions to Xuanhuadian, the Communist territory north of Hankou. On January 10, 1946, the Nationalists and Communists signed an agreement to cease all military action against each other in three days. When the truce was announced, a Communist force of about 50,000 soldiers led by General Li Xiannian (who later in the 1980s served as the President of the People's Republic of China) found themselves trapped in a small area around Xuanhuadian, encircled by the much larger Nationalist army. In the ensuing peace negotiations between the Nationalists and Communists mediated by General Marshall, the Communists sought without success an agreement to evacuate their force peacefully. Under the imminent threat of a Nationalist attack, on June 26, 1946, General Li’s force took military actions to break through the lines of the surrounding Nationalist army and withdraw from the area. Termed *zhongyuan tuwei* 中原突围 (Breakout on the Central Plains), this event marked the renewal of the Chinese Civil War (1946-1949).⁴⁵

During the truce period from January to June, 1946, the Communists utilized all available connections to help General Li’s force survive in isolation. Both Chambers Chow, the Director of CNRRA-Hubei Regional Office, and Yang Xiandong, Chow’s deputy, happened to be Communist friends and sympathizers. Under their leadership, the CNRRA-Hubei Regional Office played an active role in delivering large quantities of UNRRA food items to the Communist-controlled area, citing the non-discriminatory policy of UNRRA. The CNRRA-Hubei Office also set up a local “sub-office” in Xuanhuadian, which reportedly established a hospital in the nearby town of Lantian, provided small loans to local farmers (including repatriated Communist soldiers), and opened a farm tool factory using damaged weapons as raw materials.⁴⁶

Rose Galaida became involved in issues concerning the Communist territory

near the end of the truce period—she had been on her survey trip elsewhere in April and May. Her CNRRA colleagues asked her to get involved, probably because of her role as the UNRRA welfare specialist and her American identity. She made her first field mission to Xuanhuadian June 19-22, 1946, only a few days before the resumption of military conflict.⁴⁷ Details of this trip are unknown, but the inclusion of the business cards of two Communists in the folder suggests that she might have met them in Xuanhuadian. While on this trip Galaida probably also received organizational charts of the regional Communist government and the Communist relief associations throughout the country. In addition, the folder included a memo from the Communists, detailing an attack on their relief team on June 16 by a small Nationalist force in Xinyang County of Henan Province, an event that highlighted the tension and hostility between the two sides during the truce period.⁴⁸

After the Nationalist military took over Xuanhuadian following the retreat of the Communists, Galaida became more deeply involved in the area. She made three additional field missions to Xuanhuadian during July and August. In the chaotic transitional period, the Nationalist army occupying this former Communist territory showed hostility toward both the staff of the CNRRA sub-office in Xuanhuadian and workers and patients at the CNRRA hospital in Lantian. Galaida apparently was sent to Xuanhuadian by her Chinese colleagues to help transfer the hospital staff and patients, some of whom were indeed Communists.⁴⁹

Galaida's trip to Xuanhuadian from July 17 to 27 was reported in a memo from Dr. A. S. Miller.⁵⁰ Dr. Miller and Galaida went to Xuanhuadian "to investigate and to aid" the hospital in Lantian. They managed to relocate the hospital to Xuanhuadian and to transfer to Hankou nine hospitalized soldiers who had been wounded in guerrilla fighting against the Japanese (presumably on the Communist side). While in Xuanhuadian, Galaida also worked to repatriate refugees.⁵¹

About two weeks later, Galaida went to Xuanhuadian again, clearly at the request of Yang Xiandong, the Deputy Director of CNRRA - Hubei Regional Office. The mission was triggered by a letter to Chambers Chow from General Cheng Qian, the senior Nationalist officer in the province, which included threatening statements about the patients at the Xuanhuadian hospital and the CNRRA staff there. After her trip, Galaida wrote to Yang separately and described the political situation at Xuanhuadian, the relationship with the Nationalist army officers, the achievements and problems of the CNRRA program, and conditions on the Hankou-Xuanhuadian highway. In the end, she made some recommendations, such as reassigning CNRRA staff members in Xuanhuadian to other areas to ensure their safety. In the same memo, Galaida also made unflattering remarks about Col. Chang, District Commander of the Nationalist Army at Xuanhuadian, describing him as having a "jovial and zestful" manner, but "underneath it all is a subtle, shrewd and ruthless

character.”⁵²

Materials in this folder substantiate a brief note on Galaida’s resumé that she conducted “emergency rescues & pickup” while working in Hubei.⁵³ They also complement contemporary Chinese narratives about the relief activities in Xuanhuadian⁵⁴ and the role of Rose Galaida in them.⁵⁵

Conclusions: An Unfinished Story and Its Implications

We have described the content of Central China Relief Records in the previous section, and now move on to assess the research value of this collection. This collection is valuable in at least three aspects. First, it shows in rich detail how the UNRRA field staff worked in China on a daily basis, which can further the study of UNRRA operations, an important topic in its own right. Second, the survey materials and the relief applications in the collection tell us about the life of ordinary people, Chinese and foreigners alike, in both the urban and rural areas during the immediate postwar era. This information is useful for the study of social and economic history. For example, many relief applications in the collection included local price information in their budget estimates, which can be used to research inflation, a huge socio-economic issue facing the Nationalist government and the populace in this period. Finally, the records related to the Communist territory are relevant for studying the Nationalist-Communist conflict, the dominant political and military issue of the time.

No documents in the Central China Relief Records are dated after August 1946, which seems strange since Galaida did not leave the UNRRA office until three months later.⁵⁶ As reported in Yang Xiandong’s biography, when Yang was prosecuted by the Nationalists in the media and in the court for his role in providing assistance to Xuanhuadian, Galaida was one of the Westerners rallying around him.⁵⁷ It seems clear that when Galaida did leave Hankou in November, she took several hundred pages of office files with her, the files that make up the collection under discussion. One can speculate that Galaida removed these documents at least partly out of concern for the safety of her Chinese colleagues, since the documents relating to the former Communist territory might be used against Yang Xiandong and others involved if the Nationalists got hold of them. We know that many of the documents Galaida took with her were the only copies in the UNRRA-Hubei Regional Office, since the last Acting Director of the Regional Office discovered, after Galaida had left, that the Office had only “limited files” related to welfare, the area in Galaida’s purview.⁵⁸

After returning to America, Galaida continued her career in social work for more than two decades. She mainly worked in the New York-New Jersey area, and had another one-year adventure in Alaska.⁵⁹ In 1968, she was named the New Jersey Social Worker of the Year, an award that recognized her many contributions

in a long career, particularly her most recent work in providing social service to migrant workers in search of seasonal farm jobs.⁶⁰ She died in October of 1984 at the age of 89 in Woodbridge, New Jersey.⁶¹

During her later years, Rose Galaida seemed to have intentionally concealed from the public her experience in China. For instance, when a local newspaper interviewed her in 1968 for the award she received, she managed not to mention China or even UNRRA.⁶² In her profile published in a professional newsletter in the same year, UNRRA was mentioned once (but not explained) and there was no reference to China.⁶³ In 1970, when she gave her personal papers to Rutgers University Libraries, she withheld the office files she brought back from China.⁶⁴ Since relations between the United States and Communist China were hostile during most of the Cold War era, it is understandable that Galaida might choose to suppress her China connection to avoid any unwanted scrutiny. In 1981, when Yang Xiandong, who still remembered Galaida for her involvement in Xuanhuadian, toured the U.S. as a senior agricultural official of the Chinese government, he did not meet Rose Galaida.⁶⁵

However, in a true rebel spirit, during the time when Galaida effectively concealed her China connection, she carefully safeguarded the files she brought back from Hubei. One can argue that this revealed her intention to make her China experience known to the world someday, since if she had not wanted anybody to know, she could have simply thrown the documents away or destroyed them. Galaida also dropped a hint of her intention in the 1968 newspaper interview, in which she reflected on her life's work saying, "I have had a good broad education in colleges and in life. I have enjoyed travel and I have been enriched by contacts with people I have loved and worked with. If I ever retire, I would write a book about it all."⁶⁶ If Galaida had actually written a book "about it all" (which was doubtful even to the journalist interviewing her), then this book would certainly have covered her China year. It might well have been one of the most fascinating chapters of the book, given what we have learned from the Central China Relief Records. After her death, perhaps according to her will, one of her acquaintances or relatives brought the files to the library.⁶⁷ But for some unfortunate reason, the collection just sat among other library office files until its discovery in 2008.

Through this investigation, we have reconstructed the story of Rose Galaida and the Central China Relief Records, but this story is far from complete. As a woman whose life spanned eighty-nine years in three continents, Rose Galaida left a few puzzles about both her private life and her career. Some of the puzzles may be solvable with additional information, while others may be not. As for the collection she procured in 1946, it will take on a new life in the virtual world when it is placed in the digital repository of Rutgers University Libraries in its entirety and becomes accessible to the public.⁶⁸ After that, the physical collection will be processed by

archivists according to archival standards, which will certainly entail creating the cataloging record and finding aid.

There are other broader implications to the story of Rose Galaida and the Central China Relief Records. First and foremost, it is a cautionary tale of things forgotten that turn out to be valuable. Alarming, the unique historical materials in the collection (and the experiences of an extraordinary woman) could have been lost if my student assistant and I had not been cautious enough while cleaning up the office files in the library. This chance discovery reminds us about the important responsibility of all librarians, not just those working in special collections, to be custodians of cultural and historical records.

Due to the lack of information about the origin of the documents, I had to conduct in-depth research in a time-consuming process, while this information could have been easily written down by the library staff who received the documents. Fortunately, my time was not spent in vain. The understanding of the context and content of the collection I have gained and presented here can certainly benefit future researchers. The description of the collection may help researchers determine if it contains the information they are looking for. If they decide to proceed with reading the documents, they no longer need to spend time guessing, for instance, what RG stood for or who Dr. Yang (Yang Xiandong) was, with this paper as a reference.

Secondly, the story of CCRR offers a rare glimpse into the China records of UNRRA, a largely unexplored treasure trove of information. After the UNRRA operation in China ceased in 1947, most of the documents stemming from the operation were transferred to the United Nations Archives in New York City, along with UNRRA records from other parts of the world. Besides UNRRA publications, the United Nations Archives houses: (a) 560 archival boxes of records from the UNRRA China Office (including both its headquarters in Shanghai and regional offices),⁶⁹ and (b) about 200 unpublished monograph reports on China from the UNRRA Office of the Historian.⁷⁰ The monograph reports are subjective accounts by UNRRA staff working in the field. Even though they were commissioned by the Office of the Historian for the purpose of compiling the official UNRRA history,⁷¹ they were in general more critical of the UNRRA programs than the official history since they were not intended for publication.⁷² The China-related reports focus on specific subjects (such as industrial rehabilitation) or particular regions (for example, Hubei). These reports are usually more organized and readable than the original office files, so researchers looking for information beyond existing publications may wish to peruse the relevant reports first before starting to dig in the office records. It is also worth noting here that Columbia University Libraries has an extensive microfilm set of UNRRA records held in the UN Archives.⁷³ For various reasons, not all the records of UNRRA China Office went to the UN Archives.

Smaller collections like the CCRR can be found across the United States, while the Hoover Institution of Stanford University seems to have the most extensive collection outside of New York City.

In addition to unpublished office files and reports, the China records of UNRRA may also include relevant UNRRA publications and personal accounts (letters, diaries, etc.) of its staff members. Some personal accounts may still be in private hands.⁷⁴ UNRRA publications can also be considered primary sources, including a series of publications collectively titled "Operational Analysis Papers" (1946-1948). Published in book format, several of the UNRRA Operational Analysis Papers dealt with China, and they are more widely available than unpublished documents.

Despite the extensive collections of primary sources and the intensive public interest⁷⁵ in the China program of UNRRA while it was active, the UNRRA in China has generated little scholarly interest, at least as measured by the number of scholarly publications using these materials. In 1947, while UNRRA was winding down its China operation, J. Franklin Ray, Jr., formerly Chief of the Far East Affairs of UNRRA, wrote a review of the problems and difficulties facing UNRRA in China.⁷⁶ In 1948, UNRRA released an official assessment of its China operation.⁷⁷ Since the 1950s, no more than a handful of doctoral dissertations from American institutions have discussed UNRRA in China,⁷⁸ in relation to topics such as the UNRRA operation or its economic impact on China. Some of the dissertation authors also published book chapters or articles on the same topics, which are more accessible than unpublished dissertations.⁷⁹ Beyond these few specialists, there seems to be a general lack of awareness about the China records of UNRRA in the English-language scholarly circle, as suggested by their absence on the list of primary sources compiled by Endymion Wilkinson in his highly-acclaimed bibliography.⁸⁰ In the East Asian library field, the only reference to UNRRA records appears to be in a 1978 article describing the Chinese hydraulics collection at the Pennsylvania State University Libraries, which originated from the UNRRA-sponsored project to redirect the Yellow River to its pre-war course.⁸¹ By contrast, in China, the scholarly interest in UNRRA has been increasing since the 1990s, but researchers there have to rely primarily on the sources available in China, due to their difficulty in accessing more extensive collections in the United States.⁸²

In many ways, the China records of UNRRA are similar to China-related missionary records: they were both the byproducts of the same transnational process, during which Westerners endeavored to rescue the Chinese, materially or spiritually, and recorded information about China from perspectives other than indigenous ones. Of course, the UNRRA records covered only two years (1945-1947), a much shorter time span than the missionary records, which may help to explain why the UNRRA records have not received as much scholarly attention.

However, this two-year period was a significant turning point in history, as China struggled to recover from the long war against the Japanese while entering a civil war that led to the collapse of the Nationalist regime and the Communist takeover in 1949. The UNRRA records are certainly valuable for studying this important juncture of history. If this paper can alert the Chinese studies community about the availability and importance of the UNRRA records, then it has attained its goal.

Acknowledgment:

Since September 2008, a number of people have contributed in various ways to this unusual project of discovery, investigation, and digitization⁸³. Here I would like to acknowledge the contributions of my library colleagues Isaiah Beard, Jeanne Boyle, Timothy Corlis, Fernanda Perrone, and Li Sun; my student assistants Li Yinrong, Li Jierong, Jing Yang, Jeffrey Young, and Shuyi Zheng, and Professors Xun Lin and Odoric Wou. This paper also benefited greatly from the thoughtful questions and comments posed by the JEAL reviewers.

Notes:

1 The job title of Rose Galaida at that time was Acting Regional Welfare Officer. The other four UNRRA staff members on the same boat were Hollis Gale (Acting Director), Charles Carroll (Chief Accountant), William Pengelly (Observer), and Irene Ginter (Class II Typist). William E. Pengelly, "Monographs - country and area missions and offices - China 124 - CNRRA (Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) - Hupeh", 1947, "United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) fonds, 1943-1948." United Nations Archives, New York.

2 UNRRA was an international agency founded in 1943 by 44 countries led by the United States. It operated in both Europe and Asia to provide postwar assistance to countries occupied by the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan). For the official history of UNRRA, see George Woodbridge and United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, *UNRRA: The history of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1950).

3 United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, *UNRRA in China, 1945-1947* (New York: Garland, 1980).

4 Pengelly, "Monographs - country and area missions and offices - China 124 - CNRRA (Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) - Hupeh."

5 Hubei sheng E Yu bian qu ge ming shi bian ji bu & Hubei sheng jun qu zhong yuan tu wei shi zhuan ti bian zuan shi 湖北省鄂豫边区革命史编辑部、湖北省军区中原突围史专题编纂室, *Zhong yuan tu wei shi 中原突围史*. (Beijing: Jun shi ke xue chu ban she, 1996).

6 For example, Endymion Wilkinson did not mention UNRRA records in his highly-regarded tome on sources for Chinese history, *Chinese History: A Manual*, Rev. and enl., (Cambridge, Mass.: Published by the Harvard University Asia Center for the Harvard-Yenching Institute: Distributed by Harvard University Press, 2000).

7 One of the historians was also concerned about whether these documents had been published or used by other scholars previously, which does not seem to be the case.

8 The Chinese name of Galaida, 甘乃大 (Gan'nai'da) also appeared on some Chinese documents.

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- 9 "Social Security Death Index," <http://ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi>, accessed July 12, 2011.
- 10 "Annotated Resumé of Rose Galaida," Rose Galaida Papers, 1962-1968 (inclusive), Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries.
- 11 Hungary was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time.
- 12 Bettie F. Siegrist, "A Well-Earned Title: New Jersey's 'Social Worker of The Year,'" *Evening Times (Trenton, N.J.)*, March 15, 1968, p. 8.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Randolph-Macon Woman's College, *Register of graduates and former students, 1893-1941* (Randolph-Macon Woman's College, 1941), p. 65.
- 15 Raised in China, Buck stated her mother approved of Randolph-Macon because "the education there was planned exactly to be what a man would get." Pearl S. Buck, *My Several Worlds, A Personal Record* (New York: Day, 1954), pp. 91-92. It is unclear if Buck and Galaida ever met in college.
- 16 Siegrist, "A Well-Earned Title: New Jersey's 'Social Worker of The Year.'"
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Over the years, Galaida and Lockwood reportedly took day trips to New York, spent a weekend at a lakeside resort, went on a month-long motor trip in New England and Canada, and suffered a minor car accident together. See "Misses Ida and Marian Lockwood and Miss Rose Galaida of Ridgedale Avenue were New York visitors, Saturday," *Woodbridge Independent*, March 28, 1924, p. 10; "Miss Rose Galaida and Miss Marian Lockwood visited in New York, Saturday," *Woodbridge Independent*, February 13, 1925, p. 10; "Miss Marian Lockwood and Miss Rose Galaida spent the week-end at Green Pond," *Woodbridge Independent*, September 19, 1924, p. 8; "Miss Marian Lockwood and Miss Rose Galaida returned Wednesday night from a month's motor trip through the New England States and Canada," *Woodbridge Independent*, September 1, 1926, p. 8; "Local Women Hurt When Cars Crash," *Woodbridge Leader*, July 20, 1928, p. 1.
- 19 "Dental Clinic Consolidated by School Board," *Woodbridge Leader*, January 24, 1930, p. 5.
- 20 "Annotated Resumé of Rose Galaida."
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 See "A fine entertainment featured yesterday's Barton Avenue Parent-Teacher Association," *Woodbridge Independent*, March 11, 1927, p. 10; "Woman's Club Scores Public Service Buses," *Carteret Press*, December 16, 1927, p. 1; "Woman's Club Will Back Park Project," *Carteret Press*, January 11, 1929, p. 1; "Woman's Club On Jan. 20 Hear Talk, 'Child Welfare,'" *Fords and Raritan Township Beacon*, January 16, 1942, p. 3.
- 23 "Miss Rose Galaida to Receive Degree at Rutgers College," *Woodbridge Leader*, July 5, 1929, p. 1.
- 24 Siegrist, "A Well-Earned Title: New Jersey's 'Social Worker of The Year.'"
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 "Annotated Resumé of Rose Galaida."
- 27 Yang, Xiandong 杨显东, "Hui yi wo zai Hubei zhan dou de sui yue 回忆我在湖北战斗的岁月", *Hubei wen shi zi liao* 湖北文史资料, 2001(2):71-85.
- 28 Unless noted otherwise, the documents mentioned in this section are all from the Central China Relief Records (CCRR), 1946, held by the Rutgers University Libraries, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- 29 Two folders have writings on the tabs. One has "Requests - CNRRA - assistance - Hupeh" and the other has "Reports - China Office - Bimonthly" on one side and "News - Clippings" on the other

side. The tab of the third folder was cut off, but it is of the same color and size as the other two folders.

30 "Minutes of a meeting held for sake of UNRRA-CNRRA Hupeh Regional Offices Committee arriving at Puchihsien, May 18, 1946" (Chinese and English translation), CCRR.

31 "Middle School of Puchi - Memorandum from M. Farr to R. Galaida, May 1946," CCRR.

32 Yan, Fu 阎馥, *Xian zheng jian she* 县政建设 (Changsha: Hunan tu shu xiao fei he zuo she, 1930).

33 The final version of Galaida's survey report is not available in CCRR. But her complaints were quoted in Pengelly, "Monographs - country and area missions and offices - China 124 - CNRRA (Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) - Hupeh."

34 "The New Life Movement Application for Sewing Machines - Memorandum from R. Galaida to Mr. Kearney, June 25, 1946," CCRR.

35 "Apprentice Training Class, 2nd Car Repairing Plant, SOS., Sui Chang Second Road, Hankow - Memorandum from R. Galaida to Mr. Kearney, June 25, 1946," CCRR.

36 "Letters to Mr. Yu and Miss Galaida from Rev. S. Schneider, May 23, 1946," CCRR.

37 "Letter to Miss Galaida from M. Viropinia Maffei, June 4, 1946," CCRR.

38 "Correspondences between Sister M. Charitina and Miss Rose Galaida, May 24 and June 5, 1946," CCRR.

39 In response to the request of Russians in Hankou for food relief, Galaida informed them about the availability of the CNRRA Retail Food Store, where all Hankou residents could purchase food items with ration cards at prices considerably below the market price., "Letter from R. Galaida to Mrs. V. Melnicoff, May 27, 1946," CCRR.

40 Japan annexed the Korean peninsula as a colony from 1910 to 1945.

41 "Memorandums to the UNRRA - Hankow Office from The Korean South China Consolation Corps, Wuhan Branch (Corps Master, Chwan Yan-Wu), undated," CCRR.

42 The UNRRA General Counsel ruled that externally displaced Koreans were not considered "United Nations nationals" and therefore not eligible to receive relief from UNRRA; for Koreans considered "Intruded Persons," the UNRRA could assist in their repatriation after reaching agreement with the appropriate military command in Korea; however, Koreans who were active against and persecuted by the Japanese could be considered within the coverage of UNRRA (and therefore eligible for UNRRAL relief assistance). "Policy on UNRRA Operations on Behalf of Externally Displaced Koreans - Memorandum from Benjamin H. Kizer to UNRRA Regional Directors, March 13, 1946," CCRR.

43 "Letter from Benjamin H. Kizer to Mr. Henri Sokolove, April 10, 1946," CCRR.

44 "Letter from Lo Jee-Ou to CHT Director, June 18, 1946," CCRR.

45 *Zhong yuan tu wei shi* 中原突围史: Chapter 1 (historical background) and Chapter 2 (strategic plan), pp.1-73.

46 Ibid., pp. 36-37.

47 "Summary of 3 Field Missions to Hsuan-Wha-Tien - Handwritten Draft Memorandum from R. Galaida to Mr. Ko, July 31, 1946," CCRR.

48 "Request for Effective Measures to Halt Nationalist Troops Impeding Our Relief Work and to Restore Our Losses Caused by Them - Memorandum from Hsu Tzu-Wei to Executive Team No. 32, June 16, 1946," CCRR.

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- 49 Niu, Jian 牛健, "Zhong yuan tu wei hou de Lantian yi yuan 中原突围后的兰田医院" in *Tie Liu* 铁流, vol. 3 (Beijing Xinsijun Yan Jiu Hui, 2001), <http://www.1921.org.cn/book.php?ac=view&bvaid=11758&bid=335>, accessed July 12, 2011.
- 50 "Report of the Hsuanhwatien Medical Situation in July 1946 - Memorandum from Dr. A.S. Miller to Dr. Liu Shu-wan," CRR.
- 51 "Refugees - Hsuanhwatien District - Memorandum from R. Galaida to Mr. Ko, August 5, 1946," CRR.
- 52 "4th Mission to Hsuanhwatien August 9-10, 1946 - Memorandum from R. Galaida to Dr. Yang, August 1946," CRR.
- 53 "Annotated Resumé of Rose Galaida."
- 54 *Zhong yuan tu wei shi* 中原突围史, pp. 36-37.
- 55 In one of his published recollections, Yang Xiandong stated that he sent Rose Galaida to rescue wounded Communist soldiers trapped in the hospital in Lantian. Yang, "Hui yi wo zai Hubei zhan dou de sui yue," p. 84.
- 56 Pengelly, "Monographs - country and area missions and offices - China 124 - CNRRA (Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) - Hupeh."
- 57 Wu, Decai 吴德才, *Cong Mu Tong Dao Bo Shi: Nong Ye Ke Xue Jia Yang Xiandong Zhuan* 从牧童到博士: 农业科学家杨显东传 (Beijing: Zhongguo qing nian chu ban she, 1995), Yang Xiandong later escaped to Shanghai in early 1947 under intensive pressure from the Nationalists in Hubei.
- 58 Pengelly, "Monographs - country and area missions and offices - China 124 - CNRRA (Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) - Hupeh."
- 59 "Annotated Resumé of Rose Galaida."
- 60 Siegrist, "A Well-Earned Title: New Jersey's 'Social Worker of The Year.'"
- 61 "Social Security Death Index."
- 62 Siegrist, "A Well-Earned Title: New Jersey's 'Social Worker of The Year.'"
- 63 "Young and Galaida Social Workers of the Year," *Newsletter - NASW North New Jersey Chapter*, March 1968, p.1.
- 64 The catalog record of Galaida's personal papers indicated that they were received in 1970. Had the Central China Relief Records been given to Rutgers at this same time, it would be hard to explain why they were separate.
- 65 Yang, Xiandong 杨显东, "Dong Biwu zhi yin wo zou shang ge ming dao lu 董必武指引我走上革命道路," *Hubei wen shi* 湖北文史, 2008 (1): 1-25.
- 66 Siegrist, "A Well-Earned Title: New Jersey's 'Social Worker of The Year.'"
- 67 A former Rutgers library employee vaguely remembered that the collection was brought to the library by a professor at the university.
- 68 After consultations with the library administrator responsible for copyright issues and ultimately with the General Counsel's Office at Rutgers, it was determined that these documents can be made freely accessible without any restrictions. At the time of writing this article, a project to digitize this collection is in the final stages, which will bring the entire collection online through the repository of Rutgers University Libraries: <http://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu>.
- 69 See United Nations Archives, *Archival Finding Aid of UNRRA China Office*: <http://archives.un.org/unarms/en/unarchivesmgmt/unarchives/AG-018/China%20Office.xml>, accessed July 12, 2011.
- 70 See United Nations Archives, *Archival Finding Aid of UNRRA Office of the Historian*:

<http://archives.un.org/unarms/en/unarchivesmgmt/unarchives/AG-018/Office%20of%20the%20Historian.xml>, accessed July 12, 2011.

71 Woodbridge and United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, *UNRRA: The history of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration*.

72 Marilla Bliss Guptil, "Records of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration 1943-1948," *Journal of Refugee Studies* 5.1(1992):29-32.

73 Columbia University Library, *Finding Aid of UNRRA Microfilms 1943-1949*: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/archives/rbml/UNRRA/>, accessed October 20, 2011.

74 A case in point may be the recently published collection of letters by Roy S. Tucker, *Tractors and chopsticks: my work with the UNRRA Project in China, 1946 to 1947* (New York: iUniverse, 2005). The letters were (and perhaps still are) in the possession of the Tucker family.

75 For instance, *New York Times* published over 300 articles on the activities of the UNRRA in China from 1945 to 1947, according to a search conducted in the ProQuest database *Historical Newspapers: the New York Times*, accessed August 26, 2011.

76 Franklin Ray's paper was reprinted in *UNRRA in China, 1945-1947* (New York: Garland, 1980).

77 *UNRRA in China, 1945-1947*.

78 Irving Barnett, "UNRRA in China: A case study in financial assistance for economic development (with emphasis on agricultural programs)," Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1955; A. F. M. Shamsur Rahman, "United States economic and military assistance policy toward China during World War II and its immediate aftermath," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Kansas, 1988; Marilla Bliss Guptil, "The United States and foreign relief: UNRRA in China, 1942-1947," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Virginia, 1995; Chu-xiong George Wei, "Interest, mentality, and strategy: Americans and China's economic reconstruction, 1944-1949," Ph.D. dissertation, Washington University, 1996.

79 Rahman, "UNRRA, China, and the United States: Efforts to Achieve China's Reconstruction Through International Cooperation, 1943-1947," in *Sino-American Relations Since 1900* (Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong, 1991); Wei, *Sino-American Economic Relations, 1944-1949* (Greenwood, 1997) has a chapter on UNRRA and CNRRA.

80 Wilkinson, *Chinese History: A Manual*.

81 Leon J. Stout, "Resources on Twentieth-Century China in Special Collections at the Pennsylvania State University Libraries," *Journal of East Asian Libraries* 55.1(1978):49-52.

82 Wang, Dechun 王德春 *Lian he guo shan hou jiu ji zong shu yu Zhongguo* 联合国善后救济总署与中国 (1945-1947) (Beijing: Ren min chu ban she, 2004) is perhaps the first Chinese book on UNRRA in China. But Wang apparently did not get the opportunity to visit the UN Archives or other U.S. collections while doing his research.

83 Preservation was undertaken immediately after the files were discovered. Digitization was completed 2009-2010, and metadata creation 2010-2011.