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**BATCHELDER-HALEY LETTERS
GEN MS 2**

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**By
Susie R. Bock**

**Portland, Maine
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Administrative Information

Provenance: The collection was donated by Mrs. W.M. Sweetser, grand-daughter of Mrs. Tibbets who received the letters.

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Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research. The originals are restricted at the discretion of the Special Collections staff.

Biographical Note

Abigail E. Batchelder graduated in the Second Class of 1899 of the Gorham Normal School. She traveled to Japan in 1906 and served as a teacher and later traveled to California. She married A.B. Cummins and lived in La Grande, Oregon. She died February 1, 1966.

Cora M. Giles also graduated in the Second Class of 1899 of the Gorham Normal School. She married George Haley and taught school in Japan in the first decade of the twentieth century. Mr. Haley seems to have been a missionary. During 1915-18, she lived with her husband on St. George and later St. Paul Islands (the Pribilof Islands off of Alaska). Mr. Haley may have been working for the Bureau of Fisheries.

Description of the Papers

Batchelder and Giles boarded with Mrs. Tibbetts in Whitsville, Massachusetts, early in their teaching careers and must have taught in the local schools. They seemed to regard her as a mentor and friend and wrote to her while they were living and working abroad.

Batchelder's letters from 1906 describe Tokyo, where she was working, teaching English, and Western missionaries and their lifestyle. She also mentions goods she wanted to buy. Haley's letters from 1906-07 describe the trips she and her husband made to Asama Volcano near Karuizawa (where she was teaching), Mt. Fuji, Oiso, Atami, Ito, Otaru, Matsushima Bay, Sendai, Aomori, Hokkaido Island. She also describes a ceremony in Tokyo where a ladder of swords is made and ascended. In 1907 Batchelder was in Pasadena, California and describes the terrain and watching immigrant workers wash and pack fruit. Haley's letters from 1915-18 describe the

wildlife and weather of the Pribilof Islands, including how birds and seals were hunted, and a bit about life there.

Batchelder's and Haley's letters were written on what seem to be scrolls of rice paper with printed designs. Although quite pretty, these are difficult to use and preservation photocopies have been made for general use. The originals are restricted at the discretion of the Special Collections staff.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Description of collection
	2	1906 (photocopies)
	3	1907 (photocopies)
	4	1908 (originals)
	5	1915-16, 18 (photocopies)
	6	1906 (originals)
	7	1907 (originals)
	8	1915-16, 18 (originals)