

20th Century. The Wright Collection.

Papers and books bequeathed to the University by Stanley Fowler Wright (1873-1953), Commissioner of Customs and Personal Secretary to the Inspector-General, the Chinese Maritime Customs. This collection fills four shelves and is not yet (1961) catalogued: in addition to manuscripts there are books in Chinese, books and pamphlets on China and on the Chinese Customs, many official printed papers, reports, etc .. and copies of Customs publications, some with manuscript annotations by Wright. (See China. The Maritime Customs. IV Service Series: No. 51. List of Customs Publications with Alphabetical Index., Shanghai, 1935. The copy in Queen's Library indicates which publications are in the Wright Collection). Among the manuscripts in the collection are Wright's notes and papers for his various published works, including Hart and the Chinese Customs, Belfast 1950; some letters of Sir Robert Hart; some of Wright's own official papers; and some of Wright's later correspondence, relating mainly to his published books. There are, however, no private diaries or private letters from China. The manuscripts are listed and briefly described below.

A. Notes for published works

Notes on the China trade – list of books, extracts, and notes.
1 file.

Notes on State Papers relating to China.
1 file.

Notes on American State Papers relating to China.
1 file.

Notes based on Foreign Office archives relating to the Chinese Customs Service, with extracts from correspondence.
1 file.

Notes from the Foreign Office archives relating to the Chinese Customs.
1 vol.

Hart-Campbell correspondence: extracts and notes.
1 file.

Notes from the Hart-Campbell correspondence, with newspaper cuttings, etc.
1 vol.

Notes and extracts from The Times.
1 file.

Notes on the Chinese Government Agency in London, later the London office of the Inspectorate General of Chinese Maritime Customs (from 1874), with extracts from correspondence with Sir Robert Hart, etc.
1 file.

Telegrams to the Inspector-General from the Non-Resident Secretary, 1884-1886.
1 file.

Eight notebooks of various sizes containing rough notes on the Chinese Customs, with extracts, summaries, etc.

B. Sir Robert Hart's correspondence

- a. Hart's letters to Capt Forbes 18/9/1866 to 23/8/1871 (copies)
- b. Sir Robert Hart's letters to Paul King of the Chinese Customs. 11 August 1896 – 9 June 1907. 17 letters (originals and copies) in a large envelope.

Letter to Sir Robert Hart from Francis H. Carl, Customs House, Lappau. 27 June 1901. 3pp.

Copies of S/O letters from Sir Robert Hart to Commissioners of Customs and others. January 1904 – February 1908. 4 letterbooks (192, 382, 377 & 378 pp.) with indexes, bound in 2 vols.

Letter from Sir Robert Hart to "Sir Ernest". n.d. 4pp.

C. Stanley F. Wright's private correspondence

File of correspondence and papers relating to Wright's book China's Struggle for Tariff Autonomy, 1843-1938, Shanghai 1938.

File of correspondence containing letters to Wright and copies of his replies, about the Chinese Customs Service, Sir Robert Hart, etc. 1939-1944

File of correspondence and other papers mainly concerning Hart and the Chinese Customs: most of the letters contain information about Hart, and some include copies of and extracts from his letters, etc. 1944.

File of correspondence containing letters to Wright and copies of his own letters relating to Hart and the Chinese Customs, etc. 1945-1951

Large envelope containing correspondence of Wright with Queen's University, many of the letters relating to the Chinese Customs, Wright's books, etc. 1932-1944, with one or two earlier papers.

D. Twelve folders of Wright's papers

1. Notes from the Yule edition of Marco Polo's Travels.
2. Notes from the Secretary of State's archives, etc.
3. Rough calculations, etc., with some notes and letters.
4. Newspaper cuttings, 1927-1928, being reviews of Wright's book The Collection and Disposal of the Maritime and Native Customs since the Revolution of 1911, Shanghai, 1927
5. Copy of a memorandum on statistics kept by the Customs, and on tariffs. November 1902.
6. Various papers dealing with Customs figures, etc.
7. Papers and tables on the collection and disposal of Customs revenues, 1912-1924, with a copy of a dispatch from S. H. Li to Sir Richard Dane about the Hong Kong salt tax, September 1917.
8. Various papers, including a memorandum on financial reconstruction, 1920; a memorandum on Chinese finances by F. Aglen; Hart's statement of the extraordinary affairs transacted by him for China, etc; and an account of the origin and growth of the Customs Service.
9. Various papers on the Chinese Customs, trade, etc.
10. Copies of confidential papers, etc. – "Washington Treaty Surtaxes" etc.
11. Draft letters and papers from the inspectorate-General of Customs, Peking, 1928, with some newspaper cuttings, 1928-1937.
12. Copies of various official papers, including "Report on the Organisation and Work of the Chinese Maritime Customs Preventive Fleet." Shanghai, 30 March 1938 (20 pp.); and a statement by Sir Frederick Maze about the seizure of the Manchurian Customs House, 21 July 1932.

E. Official correspondence and papers of S. F. Wright

(in pamphlet box)

1. Copies of two letters to Sir Robert Hart from Jules A. van aalst, about telegraphy. 19 June & 5 August 1901
2. "Native and Alien Post Office's, Chinese Despatch to the Inspector-General from the Post Secretary. 18 July 1901.
3. Reviews of Wright's books The Collection and Disposal of ... Customs Revenue since ... 1911, and Kiangsi Native Trade and its Taxation (1920); with newspaper cuttings and the Edwardes/Maze controversy, 1928-1929.
4. Various official memoranda, papers, and letters. Mainly 1920s and 1930s.
5. "China and the Special Tariff Conference" by Sir Francis Aglen. 10 June 1924. 16 pp.
6. Memorandum on the treatment of Customs men to be compulsorily retired. 23 March 1928
7. "Chinese Maritime Customs (including Marine Department): nature of Chinese Government control explained. Confidential." Incomplete.
8. Letter to Wright, in Belfast, from the Customs, Shanghai, 29 May 1939, with copies of correspondence about the balance of trade Shanghai, July 1939.
9. Correspondence between Carl Neprud, Sir Frederick Maze and Wright. 1943 & 1944.

F. Papers relating to the Chinese Customs. 2 boxes.

1. a. Letters and papers, originals and copies, relating to the work of the Chinese Customs.
b. Memorandum on suggested transportation development loan. 1/5/1937. Typescript.
2. Translations of extracts from Tariff System in China by Takayanagi; with copies of numerous other letters and papers on the same subject.

G. Translations of Chinese petitions , and of part of Tariff Problems by Tang Meng Chen (95 pp.)
In a large envelope.

H. A folder labelled "Financial Secretary" containing letters and papers.

I. A folder containing notes on official correspondence from 1850 onwards; copies of official correspondence and papers, 1894 and 1896; copies of official Customs papers., 1935 and 1938.

J. Copies of despatches, etc. from 1876 onwards.
In a large envelope.

K. Various loose papers

1. Draft statement, in J.D. Campbell's hand, detailing his recollections of the events surrounding the proposed appointment of Johannes Von Gumpach to a post in China as Professor of Mathematics.
Dated Monday, 30th July 1866
17 pp.
2. Memorandum concerning British commercial relations with China and the establishment of the Inspectorate General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, compiled chiefly from papers presented to Parliament. 17 pp.
Annotated.

Contents:

1. Chronological Note
 2. System before Treaties
 3. System after British Treaties 1842-3
 4. Establishment of Foreign Inspectorate of Customs at Shanghai
 5. Treaty of Tientsin 1858-60 and establishment of Inspectorate General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs
- Note: Personnel of the Chinese Customs Service

3. Letters from the Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai [to the League of Nations representatives] about the Japanese attack on China. 18 May 1932. Typescript. 5pp.

4. Report on the Whangpoo Conservancy Board: Navigability of Whangpoo not yet appreciably affected by cessation of dredging operations.
Shanghai, July 1938
3 pp

5. Miscellaneous papers in envelope.

- a. Correspondence with the Chamber of Commerce at Shanghai, respecting the Revision of the Treaty of Tien-tsin (Shanghai, February 1, 1869). 9pp.
- b. Letter to J.D. Campbell (Peking, 29 January, 1907), from Robert E. ?. Personal letter describing his family's Christmas, includes comments about Sir Robert Hart (his health and position in China), the state of China in general. 1 pp.
- c. Pages from a publication dealing with the Treaty of Tien-tsin (pages 71-76, 81-82, 89). Annotated
- d. Memo of plan for ? opium ? . Rough draft in Sir Robert Hart's hand. 1 pp.
- e. Draft statement, in J.D. Campbell's hand, of his career, from his appointment in 1856 by the Duke of Argyll. (no date)

L. **Hong Kong and the Chinese Customs**, by Stanley F. Wright, Commissioner of Customs, Personal Secretary of the Inspector-General, Shanghai 1930. Confidential. Author's copy with manuscript notes and with loose copies of correspondence, etc., at the back.

(see also MS1/121: Wright, Stanley Fowler. Kiangsi native trade and its taxation. Shanghai, 1919. Typescript. 32cm.)

1. MS16/N

Provenance Information relating to Wright Collection
Folder of letters dating from 15th June 1945 to 18th Feb
1964

2. MS 16/L/ii
 1. Draft of Hong Kong – China Trade and Customs Agreement. Hong Kong Nov.1930 with annotations.
 2. (a) Aide-Memoire: Offer of Chinese Government to sign “The Hong Kong China Trade and Customs Agreement” dated 30th June 1931
(b) Copies of telegrams dated 30th June 1931, 2nd July 1931
(c) Copy of letter from Peel to Maze dated 2nd July 1931
 3. (a) Copy of letter from Sir William Peel, Governor of Hong Kong, regarding Aide-Memoire to Maze, dated 25th June 1931
(b) Copy of letter to Sir William Peel dated 25th June 1931
(c) Copy of letter to Dr. Soong referring to letter to letter to Peel, dated 25th June 1931
(d) Draft of letter to Peel dated 30th June 1931 from Dr. Soong
(e) Two copies of a covering letter to Peel dated 30th June 1931
 4. Instructions for issue of a second edition of “Hong Kong and the Chinese Customs” dated 13th January 1932
 5. (a) Draft of letter to Mr. Ensor with corrections and changes in red pen (date stamped 24th January 1934)
(b) Letter to Mr. Ensor dated 24th January 1934
(Copy for Mr. Wright)
(c) Newspaper cutting dated April 1934 “Chinese Customs in Hong Kong”
(d) Newspaper cutting from South China Morning Post on Hongkong and Tariffs dated 25th September 1934
(e) Newspaper cutting from South China Morning Post entitled Smugglers Work, dated 29th September 1934
(f) Letter from G.N.Gawler, Office of Chinese Maritime Customs dated 16th July 1947.

- M. **The Collection and Disposal of the Maritime and Native Customs revenue since the Revolution of 1911**, by Stanley F. Wright, Commissioner of Customs and Personal secretary to the Inspector General. Shanghai, 1925. Confidential. Author's copy with manuscript notes.