

**Arthur W. Hummel Sr. Correspondence Series, Library of Congress  
Archives**

**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2019**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/lca.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2019086324>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadlca.lc019003>

Prepared by Cheryl Fox

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019  
Revised 2021 July

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Arthur W. Hummel Sr. correspondence series, Library of Congress Archives

**Inclusive Dates:** 1928-1942

**ID No.:** MSS86324

**Creator:** Hummel, Arthur W. (Arthur William), Sr., 1884-1975.

**Extent:** 300 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** 0.8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2019086324>

**Summary:** American missionary to China and sinologist. Chiefly correspondence documenting Hummel's work as chief of the Library of Congress Orientalia Division.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Hagerty, Michael J. (Michael Joseph), -1951--Correspondence.

Hummel, Arthur W. (Arthur William), Sr., 1884-1975.

Koo, T. K.--Correspondence.

Swingle, Walter T. (Walter Tennyson), 1871-1952--Correspondence.

Yuan, Tongli, 1895-1965--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Library of Congress. Library of Congress archives.

Library of Congress. Orientalia Division.

### Subjects

Orientalia libraries--United States.

### Places

China--Research.

China--Study and teaching.

### Titles

*Arthur W. Hummel Sr. papers*

*Library of Congress archives, Arthur W. Hummel Sr. correspondence series*

### Occupations

Missionaries.

Sinologists.

## Provenance

The Arthur W. Hummel Sr. Correspondence Series was transferred to the Library of Congress Archives from the Central Services Division in 1971.

## Processing History

This series was arranged and described in 1991 by John D. Knowlton and the finding aid revised in 2019.

## Additional Description

A finding aid for the Library of Congress Archives is available at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadlca.lc017001>.

## Related Material

The Library of Congress Archives Central File Series includes files on Arthur W. Hummel, 1927-1942, and the Orientalia Division, 1920-1942. Materials acquired by Hummel are documented in the Exchange and Gift Division, 1893-1961, and the Order Division, 1901-1995.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished records of the Library of Congress is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The Arthur W. Hummel Sr. Correspondence Series of the Library of Congress Archives is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Arthur W. Hummel Sr. Correspondence Series, Library of Congress Archives, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Arthur Hummel Sr. and his spouse, Ruth Bookwalter Hummel, lived as missionaries in the remote rural area of Fenzhou, Shanxi China where they taught English and Arthur developed his deep interest in every aspect of Chinese civilization. In 1924, William Bacon Pettus invited Arthur Hummel, Sr. to Peking to teach Chinese customs and culture to westerners at the Yenching School of Chinese Studies. In 1927, the Hummel family were forced out of China by the Great Expedition attempts to unify northern and southern China. They returned to the United States where Arthur Sr. was invited to lecture at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. While there, he was offered a position at the Library of Congress as the first Chief of the Orientalia Division. The Hummel family moved to Washington, D.C. in 1928. Hummel's career spanned 27 years, during which he assembled the largest and most comprehensive Asian studies collection in the world.

## Scope and Content Note

The Arthur W. Hummel Sr. Correspondence Series consists chiefly of correspondence documenting Hummel's work as Chief of the Library's Orientalia Division from 1928-1942, and his role as a sinologist. Correspondents include Michael J. Hagerty, T. K. Koo, Walter T. Swingle, and Tongli Yuan. Miscellaneous material is included.

## Organization of the Papers

The files are alphabetically arranged by type of material.

## Container List

Container	Contents
	Correspondence
BOX 1	Hagerty, Michael J., 1928-1942
BOX 1	Koo, T. K., 1934-1941 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Swingle, Walter T., 1927-1941
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1930-1942