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Helen E. Wessells papers4078370

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Wessells, Helen E (Helen Elizabeth), 1903-
Title:	Helen E. Wessells papers
ID:	4078370
ID:	MS#1319
Date [inclusive]:	1921-1978
Physical Description:	4.59 linear feet 11 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Helen E. Wessells papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Biographical Note

Librarian (Columbia School of Library Service, 1926); Librarian at NYPL Port Richmond branch, 1929-1941; information consultant and cultural officer in Australia for the U.S. Office of War Information during World War II, 1943-1947; and a director of Asian libraries for the U.S. Information Service, 1948-1951. Wessells was one of a number of librarians whose mission was to foster domestic understanding for America's war effort in allied and neutral nations. She contributed to library development in Australia and later was a planner and spokesperson for the American model of library service in Asia.

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Summary

Correspondence, manuscripts, documents, subject files, photographs and memorabilia. There is correspondence with Australian librarians, government officials, and U.S. information services officers; manuscripts of her articles, addresses, reports and procedural manuals; Australian library publications and other printed materials. In addition there are some general correspondence files and a few files relating to Wessells' career in the United States, including the New York Public Library, the Victory Book Campaign (1943), the American Library Association and its International Relations Round Table. The cataloged correspondence consists of one letter each from Louis Adamic, Pearl S. Buck, Henry Seidel Canby, Marion Ponsoyby Gause Canby, and Daniel A. Poling.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 4 series: Series I: Correspondence; Series II: Subject Files; Series III: Printed Materials; Series IV: Photographs.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF replaced with full finding aid (JR) 2020-04-10

Restrictions on Access

The following boxes are located offsite: 2-11. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least three business in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Wessells, Helen. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1984.

Alternate Form Available

Pearl S. Buck letter is on: microfilm.

Processing Information

Papers Processed BRC/RL 08/--/85.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Libraries -- Australia
- Libraries -- Asia
- Photographic prints
- Librarians
- United States. Office of War Information
- United States Information Service

- American Library Association

Other Finding Aids

[Legacy finding aid](#)

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Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Adamic, Louis	box 1
Buck, Pearl S.	box 1
Canby, Henry S.	box 1
Canby, Marion Ponsonby Gause	box 1
Poling, Daniel A.	box 1

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Series II: Subject Files

Title/Description	Instances
American Library Association	
A.L.A. Bulletin, 1959	box 1
Awards Board and Committee	box 1
International Relations Round Table <u>Physical Description</u> : 5 folders	box 1
Miscellaneous	box 2
Public Relation Section	box 2
Australian Libraries-Office of War Information	
Correspondence	
undated	box 2
1943	

	box 2
1944	box 2
1945	box 2
1946	box 2
1947	box 2
Manuscripts by Wessells	box 2
Personal Correspondence and Documents	box 2
Reports, 1943-1947	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	
Riverina Report, 1947	box 3
Australian Libraries-Prison Libraries, 1963	box 3
Council of National Library Association-Visiting Foreign Librarians	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	
Columbia University-School of Library Service-Alumni Advisory Committee	box 3
Connecticut Survey	box 3
Correspondence	
undated, 1921-1946	box 4
1947-1949	box 4
1950-1959	box 4
1960-1978	box 4
International Library Information Center	box 4
International Library Information Center-Visiting Foreign Librarians	box 4
Library Journal Editorship-Correspondence	box 4
Libraries-Overseas	box 4
Manuscripts by Wessells-Librarianship-Aspect	box 4
Manuscripts by Wessells-Milam's Idea	box 4
Memorabilia	box 5
New Books Preview, 1967-1969	box 5
New York Public Library-Port Richmond Branch-Workbook, 1941	box 5

Scope and Contents

(Wessells served as Librarian for this branch of the NYPL from 1929 to 1941.)

United States Information Service	
Correspondence, 1948, 1950-1951	box 5
Libraries	
Afghanistan, Kabul	box 5
Belgium, Brussels	box 5
Burma, Rangoon	box 5
Ceylon, Colombo	box 6
England, London	box 6
France, Paris	box 6
Hong Kong	box 6
India, Bombay	box 6
India, Calcutta	box 6
India, Madras	box 6
India, New Delhi	box 6
Indochina, Saigon	box 6
Indonesia, Djakarta	box 6
Iraq, Baghdad	box 6
Lebanon, Beirut	box 6
Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur	box 6
Pakistan, Karachi	box 6
Pakistan, Lahore	box 6
Singapore	box 6
Syria, Damascus	box 6
Thailand, Bangkok	box 6
Turkey, Ankara	box 6
Turkey, Istanbul	box 6
Manual of Operations, 1950	box 6
Manuscript, 1947	box 6
Manuscript by Wessells, 1950	box 6

Manuscript by Wessells - An Introduction to American the Viewpoint, 1951	box 6
Memoranda	box 6
Reports <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 7
25th Planning	box 7
Victory Books Campaign, 1943	box 7
Wessells, Helen E.-Biographical Materials	box 7

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Series III: Printed Materials

Title/Description	Instances
Australian Libraries Printed Materials	
Articles About Wessells <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 8
Articles By Wessells <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 8
Australia and Libraries	box 9
Government Documents	box 9
Office of War Information	box 9
Lead Magazine	
Scope and Contents	
(Leads: A Fact Sheet, the quarterly publication of the Round Table on Library Service Abroad, edited by Wessells from 1957 to 1972)	
Bound Volumes 1-11	box 10
Bound Volumes 12-18	box 10
Bound Volumes 19-25	box 10
Library About Wessells	box 10
Library By Wessells	box 10

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Series IV: Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Burma, Rangoon Libraries	box 11
United States Information Library	box 11
Williamstown	box 11

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