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## Guide to the William Henry Donald letters 4078704

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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](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Donald, William Henry, 1875-1946
<b>Title:</b>	William Henry Donald letters
<b>ID:</b>	4078704
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0353
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1924-1948
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1924-1946
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.25 Linear Feet 1 manuscript box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The William Henry Donald letters primarily consist of correspondence between William Henry Donald (1875- 1946) and his friend, Harold K. Hochschild (1892-1981) where he described about his work in China, his involvement in the Xi'an Incident, and his life later in the Pacific Islands and return to China. Other materials in the collection include biographical information, a sketch of Donald, and news clippings about Donald.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William Henry Donald letters; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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William Henry Donald (also known as Duan'na, 端纳) was born in Lithgow, Australia, 1875. Mr. Donald went to Hong Kong in 1903 as a journalist for the Hong Kong Daily and China Mail (德臣報). He soon became the Managing Editor of China Mail and covered mainly events in China. He later also became an editor at the Far Eastern Review based in Shanghai where he reportedly exposed Japan's Twenty-One Demands on China to the western presses. In 1920,

he resigned from the Far Eastern Review and began working at the new Bureau of Economic Information in Beijing. He associated closely with Sun Yat-sen and the Soong family. He was the adviser to the Young Marshal, Zhang, Xueliang. During the Xi'an Incident in 1936, Madame Chiang sent Donald as a mediator to negotiate for Chiang Kai-shek's release. Donald successfully convinced the Young Marshal to release Chiang. He later became an advisor to Chiang Kai-shek and Madame Chiang. Donald left China in 1940 and toured the Pacific Islands. Subsequent to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he was arrested in Manila by the Japanese army and held at the internment camp in 1941. He was release three years later along with over 2,000 POWs and civilian prisoners during the U.S. Raid on Los Banos. He briefly visited New York City in 1945 after his release. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1946. He returned to Shanghai where he was treated at the Country Hospital (華東醫院) and died on November 9th, 1946.

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## Summary

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The William Henry Donald letters consist of correspondence primarily between William Henry Donald (1875- 1946) and Harold K. Hochschild (1892-1981), Donald's long-time friend with personal and business interest in China who was also the Executive of the American Metal Company in New York, dating from 1924 to 1946. Other correspondent also include Li, Kuo Ching (K. C. Lee 李國欽), a Chinese businessman in New York City, Gertrude Sergievsky, and Herbert Berridge Elliston. The correspondence in the collection focuses on Donald's experience and his knowledge of Chinese politics as well as his personal relations to prominent Chinese Republican officials during his life in China. The highlight of Donald's letters is the one which he wrote on January 17th, 1937, where he described his role as a mediator during the Xi'an Incident (西安事變). The papers also include a drawing of Donald and other biographical materials and news clippings about Donald's death as well as his role in Chinese politics during the Chinese Republican era.

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## Arrangement

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Arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Revision Description

File created. EAD finding aid was updated. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-06-26 2018-09-14 2019-05-20

### Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

### Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Hochschild, Harold K. Estate via East Asian Institute. Accession number--M-82.

### Alternate Form Available

The entire collection is on microfilm.

### Ownership and Custodial History

Estate of Harold K. Hochschild via East Asian Institute, 1982.

### Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/1989. Finding aid revised in July 2018 by Yingwen Huang.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

Lewis, Winston George. (1872). Winston George Lewis - Papers, 1887-1996, concerning W. H. Donald, Together with Papers of the Donald Family, Ca. 1872-1978. MLMSS 7594. Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales. [Finding aid](#)

### Related Material

William Henry Donald papers, 1945-1946. Forms part of: Miscellaneous Manuscripts collection. Library of Congress Manuscript Division. [Finding aid](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Journalism -- China
- World War, 1939-1945
- China -- Description and travel
- China -- History, Military
- Shanghai (China) -- Description and travel
- Manila (Philippines) -- Description and travel
- China -- History -- Xi'an Incident, 1936
- Journalists
- China -- Politics and government -- 1912-1949
- China -- Politics and government -- 20th century
- China -- History -- 1928-1937
- Prisoners of war -- Japan
- Manchuria (China) -- Description and travel
- Zhili Sheng (China)
- China -- Foreign relations

- China -- History -- Warlord period, 1916-1928
- Letters (correspondence)
- Drawings (visual works)
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Obituaries
- Photographs
- Hochschild, Harold K., 1892-1981
- Li, Guoqing, 1916-
- Zhang, Xueliang, 1901-2001
- Chiang, Kai-shek, 1887-1975
- American Metal Company
- Selle, Earl Albert
- Zhang, Zuolin, 1875-1928
- Chiang, May-ling Soong, 1897-2003

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## Collection Inventory

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### William Henry Donald letters, 1924-1948

Title/Description	Instances
Donald, William Henry to Harold K. Hochschild and K. C. Li, Shanghai, 1937 January 17-April 26 <u>Physical Description:</u> 10 items <b>Scope and Contents</b> Include letters about Xi'an Incident	box 1
Donald, William Henry to Harold K. Hochschild, Peking, 1924-1926 <u>Physical Description:</u> 6 items	box 1
Donald, William Henry to Harold K. Hochschild, Peking, 1927 February 14-August 29 <u>Physical Description:</u> 5 items	box 1
Donald, William Henry to Harold K. Hochschild, Peking and Shanghai, 1928 June 14-October 19 <u>Physical Description:</u> 4 items	box 1
Donald, William Henry to Harold K. Hochschild, Peking and Hankou, 1932-1934 <u>Physical Description:</u> 4 items	box 1
Donald, William Henry to Harold K. Hochschild, various places, 1941-1945 <u>Physical Description:</u> 16 items	box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Include letters about experience at the internment camp

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Donald, William Henry to Gertrude [Li] Sergievsky, Shanghai, 1946 May 08 box 1

Physical Description: 1 items

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Donald, William Henry to Harold K. Hochschild, Shanghai and Honolulu, 1946 February 25-August 30 box 1

Physical Description: 16 items

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Elliston, Herbert Berridge to Harold K. Hochschild, 1937-1938 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Include outgoing letter from Hochschild to Donald

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Elliston, Herbert Berridge to Harold K. Hochschild, Wellesley Hills, Mass., circa 1937 November 17 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Related to his article in the Saturday Evening Post, 19 March 1938, China's No.1 White Boy, on W.H. Donald.

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Correspondence, Donald's illness and death, 1946-1947 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Mostly incoming correspondence from K. C. Li. Also include a photo of Donald 's grave at the Song Qingling Cemetery in Shanghai.

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Shipment of Canoe from Tahiti to Harold K. Hochschild, for his son, 1946 box 1

Physical Description: 7 items

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Correspondence, Selle, Earl Albert, Donald of China, 1946-1948 box 1

Physical Description: 20 items

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Biographical box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Include portrait, obituary, etc.

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