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## Guide to the Chao-hao Wu letters 4079507

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
History .....	4
Summary .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	6
Related Materials .....	7
Controlled Access Headings .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	7

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Wu, Zhaohao
<b>Creator:</b>	Petrashevskaya, Irene
<b>Creator:</b>	Liang, Qichao
<b>Creator:</b>	Zhang, Chunming
<b>Title:</b>	Zhaohao Wu letters
<b>ID:</b>	4079507
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1397
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1923-1929
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.25 Linear Feet 1 manuscript box (28 folders)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Chinese , English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Zhaohao Wu letters mainly consist of twenty-eight handwritten letters from Zhaohao Wu and others in Germany and in Moscow to his younger brother Zhaofa Wu in the U.S. between 1923 and 1929. Zhaohao Wu wrote extensively to his brother about his understanding and enthusiasm in the socialist movement, his opinions on Chinese politics, and his life abroad as an international student. One additional letter from Liang Qichao to his son-in-law, Chou Kuo Hsien about the establishment of the Songpo Library in 1918 was later added to the collection.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Zhao-hao Wu letters; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## History

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Zhaohao Wu (pinyin: Wu, Zhaohao, Wu, Zhaogao; Wade Giles: Wu, Chao-hao; traditional Chinese: 武兆鎬; simplified Chinese: 武兆镐; also known as D. H. Wu, Peter Petrashevskaya; Wu, Chan-han, Wu, Juexian, 吳覺先, 吴觉先; and Wu, Jianxi, 武劍西, 武剑西) was born in Gongyi, Henan province, 1899. He attended Henan Overseas Preparatory School (later known as Henan University) in 1913, with a concentration in German. In 1918, he studied civil engineering at the Shanghai Tongji Medical and Engineering College (later known as Tongji University). With sponsorship from the Henan Department of Education, he began studying mathematics and philosophy in Germany at the University of Göttingen in 1923. During his time in Germany, he was exposed to European literature and Marxism and later became zealous in the worldwide Communist movement. In 1925, he departed for Moscow and studied at the Sun Yat-sen University. He later worked for the Comintern in Moscow and he was also a member of the Sixth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party held in Moscow, 1928.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## History

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Zhaohao Wu met Irene Petrashevskaya (1908-?) in 1924 while he was studying abroad in Germany. Irene was a member of the Red Women and Girls' League in Weimar Germany. While he was in Moscow, he introduced Irene Petrashevskaya as his companion in his letters to his younger brother, Zhaofa Wu, who was at the time studying biology in the U.S. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1927, Irene began her study at Moscow Sun Yat-Sen University with Zhaohao and later also worked for the Comintern. Zhaohao Wu returned to China in 1929 and began working at the Comintern's newly established Far East Division in Shanghai the very next year. In 1935, he mobilized a mass student protest against Japanese aggression in Beijing, which was known as the December 9th Movement. After 1940, he became a professor at the Northeastern University in China, Wuhan University, and later the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Higher Education, the Editor-in-Chief of the Commercial Press, the High Education Press, and the first President and the Editor-in-Chief of the People's Education Press. He was also the first to translate many socialist philosophical works from German into Chinese.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## History

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Zhaohao Wu's younger brother, Zhaofa Wu (pinyin: Wu, Zhaofa; Wade Giles: Wu, Chao-fa, Wu, C.F.; traditional Chinese: 武兆發; simplified Chinese: 武兆发; courtesy name: Jixu, 季許), is the recipient of the letters in this collection. Zhaofa was born in 1904. He attended Henan Overseas Preparatory School in 1917, with a concentration in English. Like his brother, he received sponsorship from the Henan Department of Education and studied biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1923 and received his doctoral degree in 1929. After he returned to China, he was a biology Professor at various universities in China. He was also the Editor-in-Chief of the Chinese Journal of Biology. During the Anti-Rightist Campaign in 1957, he was falsely classified as a "rightist" and was publicly persecuted and humiliated to the point of committing suicide.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Summary

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The Zhaohao Wu letters contain twenty-eight handwritten letters sent between 1923 and 1929 from Zhaohao Wu, Irene Petrashevskaya, Jay Lovestone, Zhijun Xing (邢之楨), and Chunming Zhang (張純明), to Zhaofa Wu, who was at the time studying biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The letters from Zhaohao Wu were written during his studies in Germany at the University of Göttingen from 1923 to 1925 and in Moscow at the Sun Yat-Sen University from 1925 to 1929. The letters reflected the life of a Chinese international student during the socialist revolutionary fervor in Germany and in the Soviet Union. Zhaohao Wu also wrote extensively about his perspective of socialism, anti-imperialism, Chinese student movements, Chinese politics, the Comintern, and his relation to other early overseas Communist party members. One additional letter from Liang Qichao (梁啟超), a Chinese scholar to his son-in-law, Chou Kuo Hsien (周國賢), to solicit contribution from overseas Chinese for the establishment of the Songpo Library in 1918, is also included in the letters.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Arranged alphabetically by last names and then in chronological order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

File created. EAD finding aid 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--Chang, C. M. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1977.  
Accession number--M-77.

### Processing Information

Catalogued by Christina Hilton Fenn in September 1989. Collection name was changed from "Chan-han Wu letters" to "Zhao-hao Wu letters" and processed in 2018 by Yingwen Huang.

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## Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Wu Zhaofa Historical Files, Beijing Normal University Archive.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Communism
- Moscow (Russia) -- Social life and customs
- Soviet Union -- Politics and government -- 1917-1936
- Germany -- Description and travel
- Zhaofa Wu
- Zhongguo gong chan dang
- Communist International

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Zhaohao Wu letters, 1923-1929 <u>Physical Description:</u> 27 folders	box 1
Liang, Qichao to Chou Kuo Hsien, 1918-12-16	box 1

## Scope and Contents

Accompanying a letter from Martin C. Wilbur and C. M. Chang (張純明) regarding the context of the handwritten letter by Liang Qichao (梁啟超).

"The letter was written on the 16th of December 1918 on the eve of Liang's departure for Europe as an unofficial observer at the Paris Peace Conference. He was accompanied by a group of scholars who were to help to gather materials in relation to the conditions in post-war Europe.

The letter was addressed to Mr. Chou Kuo Hsien (周國賢), his son-in-law who was then China's Counsul General at Rangoon, Burma. Hsi Che ( ) was Chou's friendly name. Liang addressed his son-in-law as Younger Brother. This was the traditional way of addressing one's juniors in old China, a tradition no longer followed and indeed a few people now know such a tradition ever existed. Ling Hsien was Liang's eldest daughter and Chou's wife.

In this letter Liang asked his son-in-law to solicit contributions from overseas Chinese for the library which he had established in Shanghai in honor of Ts'ai O, also known as Ts'ai Sung-po (蔡松坡), who was one of the leading generals responsible for the downfall of Yuan Shi-k'ai.

Also see Chinese article and translation by Guo Shuanglin (郭双林) about the letter: [https://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/html/2010-10/12/nw.D110000gmr\\_20101012\\_1-12.htm](https://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/html/2010-10/12/nw.D110000gmr_20101012_1-12.htm)