

About the Collection

Sir Robert Hart, (1835-1911), 1st Baronet, was the Inspector General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs from 1863 to 1908. This collection includes photographs, correspondence, diaries, writings and personal memorabilia. The collection was donated to Queen's University, Belfast (Hart's alma mater) by his great-grandson the last Sir Robert Hart in 1970. As this is an extensive collection, the catalogue is a work in progress which is updated as more detailed information becomes available.

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MS 15/4	Papers relating to the Boxer disturbances MS
MS 15/5	Periodicals, pamphlets, books and maps MS
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1. MS 15/1 Diaries

(1-77)

These are undoubtedly the most important documents in the collection and comprise 77 volumes covering the years 1854-1908. They were taken out of Hart's Peking office by a well-meaning colleague before it, his house and their contents were destroyed during the Boxer disturbances and are, therefore, the only papers which date from before 1900 [it is interesting to note, however, that Hart subsequently professed to regret its rescue]. The volumes are soft- and hard-covered school notebooks, and the years frequently run on from one volume to the next rather than one volume for each year. They do not run continuously from 1854-1908, gaps being present during the 1850s and 1860s, and occasionally pages have been torn out. Miscellaneous newspaper cuttings, telegrams, letters and Chinese scribbles are often found within individual volumes.

A brief report by E. LeFevour on the Hart Papers at Queen's University [Journal of Asian Studies, 33, 437-9] provides some useful insights into the diary content. He describes it as "a true diary, personal, unstructured, rambling and brief ..." and goes on: "Illnesses and dreams are lovingly recorded. But there are many passages, perhaps several hundred, which begin "Went to the Yamen ..." and then describe conversations with officials of the Tsungli Yamen or with local officials in many parts of the empire" [The Tsungli Yamen was a sub-committee of China's Grand Council which until the mid-1880s included its leading members. It functioned at Peking as an embryonic ministry of foreign affairs. Under its direct command, Hart, as an employee of the Chinese Government, conducted the affairs of the Maritime Customs Service].

LeFevour's consideration of the extent to which the diaries might add to our knowledge of the late Ch'ing China is helpful. He argues that the detail in them is not of a kind which would provoke new interpretations of either internal Chinese developments or of China's external relations since 1854. They do, however, illustrate the role played by Hart (and the Service which he dominated) in China's transition from a traditional to a more modern social system:

"A preliminary reading of the diary shows that Hart's personal qualities – derived partly from early 19th century Ireland, a traditional agricultural society at the fringe of the metropolitan administrations of the West – led him instinctively to fit the Customs Service into patterns established by the decaying Ch'ing administration. He blended the administrative practices of the British Consular Service with the bureaucratic routines of the mandarin, always giving precedence to the former on the level of mere organization and to the latter on the higher level of policy and purpose. He stressed always that the Service was a Chinese Service, that many educated Chinese did not see it that way but that is how he saw it. Therefore he refused to push Chinese officials along paths which they had not chosen for themselves. This allowed him, as the powerful IG, to mediate between China and the Western powers, to face both ways, to cushion the Western impact upon China while simultaneously giving the Western powers much of what they wanted in China. The efficient and honest IMC gave Western diplomats and merchants the sort of framework which the West had had to impose by conquest in India, Southeast Asia and Africa. The diary shows that Hart worked in and with the Ch'ing bureaucracy in a manner which "did well (for Western power) while doing good (always, in Hart's mind, for China)".

Volume number	Years covered
1 - 5	1854-1864
6 – 11	1864-1869
12 -15	1869-1872
16-19	1872-1874
20-23	1874-1876
24-27	1877-1882
28-30	1882-1885
31-34	1885-1889
35-40	1889-1892
41-45	1892-1895
46-49	1895-1897
50-53	1897-1898

54-57
58-62
63-65
66-68
69-71
72-75
76-77

1899-1900
1900-1902
1902-1904
1904-1905
1905-1906
1906-1907
1907-1908

Images from Sir Robert Hart's diaries can be viewed here:
<http://cdm15979.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15979coll3>



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2. MS 15/2 Correspondence

(1-14)

The Sir Robert Hart correspondence collection at Queen's University Belfast contains approximately 7,800 items, mainly the correspondence received by Hart after the Boxer Rebellion up to his death in 1911. The bulk of the correspondence is in excellent condition. Letters have been kept in original order in the string-tied bundles in which they were received, and within each bundle the letters were generally arranged in chronological order with the most recent on top. In this catalogue the approximate number of items has been listed as a rough guide for users; an 'item' is an envelope or letter, including any enclosures. The content is listed as a guideline, not as a definitive list. Loose items in the boxes have been bundled together or individually numbered, as appropriate and as indicated below. Boxes 12-

14 contained a large number of loose items and have been separated into two boxes each; it appears that these boxes were assembled after Hart's death, possibly by his son Bruce Hart.

Hart organised his letters by subject. Reflecting the separate gender spheres of the early twentieth-century, as personal and work-related correspondence were separated into different bundles, so too was correspondence from women and men. The collection is particularly rich in documenting the experience of European women in China. These letters also reveal the deep social bonds created in the small expatriate communities in China, as many of Hart's correspondents in the US and Europe are former residents of China. The correspondence also includes work-related material in the form of correspondence with J. Campbell, some memoranda relating to Customs policies, letters from Customs staff on leave in Europe, and letters of recommendation and requests for employment in the Customs. Like most men of his stature, Hart received frequent requests for information from journalists and for donations from charities and educational organisations. Hart was an avid collector of photographs and many of his correspondents responded to his requests for photographs; these have been indicated in the catalogue. Most of the collection is in English, although there are items in Mandarin Chinese, French, Italian and German.

The letters are bundled and in fourteen boxes, as follows:

- Box 1 Correspondence 1899-1901
- Box 2 Correspondence 1901-1902
- Box 3 Correspondence 1902-1904
- Box 4 Correspondence 1904-1905
- Box 5 Correspondence 1905-1911
- Box 6 Correspondence: J.D. Campbell 1900-1907

- Box 7 Correspondence: Lady Hart 1900-1908
Bruce H 1900-1911
Hart to Bruce H 1907-1908
- Box 8 Correspondence: Daughters, sisters, cousins, other relatives
- Box 9 Correspondence: Relations, wife's family, friends (women), friends (men)
- Box 10 Correspondence: European women in China
- Box 11 Mostly memoranda; a few newspaper clippings and one letter by Hart.

- Box 12 Miscellaneous: Letters, newspaper cuttings, invitations, Programmes
- Box 13 Correspondence: Miscellaneous, in no evident order, both personal and work-related.
- Box 14: Correspondence: Noyer-Morehouse, Hillier.

A. BOX 1

MS 15/2/1/1

Dates covered: August 1900-December 1901

Approx. no. of items: 296

Main correspondents: Main correspondences are in China: Ernest Satow and other staff at The British Legation, K. Tsêng, and Hong Kong Shanghai Bank (about loans made to Chinese government for railways)

Special features Most letters in English, 21 in French and several in Chinese
Mostly business but some personal, including calling cards and invitations.

MS 15/2/1/2

Dates covered: Jan 1900 – Jul 1901

Approx. no. of items: 70

Main correspondents: Female family members in UK, including ten letters from his daughter Mabel, and two from her prospective fiancé, regarding their engagement, some very affectionate letters from Katie (his sister?), letters from his daughter Evy and her young daughter Vera, and several nieces.

Special features 1 21-page manuscript, typed, titled “A voyage to Quito,” by Evelyn A. Beauclerk, n.d., containing 16 small, labelled photographs.

Copies of legal statements of James Maze, Belfast

MS 15/2/1/3

Dates covered: June 1900 – Dec 1900

Approx. no. of items: 68

Main correspondents: Mostly from close female friends in Europe and US (some formerly in China with Hart – Daphne Russell, H. De Bernières), checking on his welfare post-Rebellion.

MS 15/2/1/4

Dates covered: December 1899-October 1900

Approx. no. of items: 66

Main correspondents: Miscellaneous correspondence – mostly European, mostly from men – including staff seeking leave, writers seeking information, discussion of Boxer Rebellion.

Special features: One from A. Huber, describing how Bruce Hart had an accident in Paris

MS 15/2/1/5

Dates covered: Dec 1900 – July 1901

Approx. no. of items: 80

Main correspondents: European women in China, including the Carrall women, 'Lucy' in Tientsin, and Helen Brazier.

Special features: Letter from Frances M Carrall, Chefoo, 18 Jul 1901, referring to 'scandal' surrounding her daughter's 'love affairs' in China, and several from Maude Carrall and Kathleen Carrall, Hart's goddaughter

Letter from Winnie Stewart, Tientsin, 21 June 1901, asking "Are you having any siege celebration ..? They are having a dinner and garden party here."

1 letter in envelope, stamped and postmarked Peking 27 Jan 1901, contains dried flowers.

MS 15/2/1/6

Dates covered: Aug 1900 – Sep 1900

Approx. number of items: 93

Main correspondents: International, men and women, mostly in Europe and North America and some from Customs Houses in China. Includes some former China families (de Bernières, Hippisley, Brazier, Vapereau, Spinney)

Content: About half letters, half telegrams
Mostly letters congratulating Hart for safe escape in rebellion, and enquiring about his safety.

Special features: Copy of Bishop Moule's thanksgiving sermon, Shanghai, 26 Aug 1900.

MS 15/2/1/7

Dates covered: Nov 1900 – Aug 1901
Approx. no. of items: 81

Main correspondents: Personal, mostly women (some ex-China – Mrs Daae, Mme de Bernières, Jeanne Piry, Frieda Kierulff) in Europe.

Special features: Letter from Elfie Ragsdale, California, 20 May 1901, enclosing small photograph.
Several letters from “Dandy Jim,” St Michael’s School, Bognor.
Letter from E. Hughes, Roscrea, 13 March 1901, about imperialism and her views of the Chinese.
Postcard from the Exposition Universelle, 1901, with image of “La Chine.”
Several enclosures – school reports of Carrall girls from Chinese Mission School for girls.

MS 15/2/1/8

Dates covered: 19 Nov [1900?]; 27 Nov 1901
Approx. no. of items: 2 loose items in box

Content: 1 item – dinner invitation from Russian embassy
1 item – letter from T. North, Wesleyan Mission, Wuchang

B. BOX 2

MS 15/2/2/1

Dates covered: May 1901 – Feb. 1902
Approx. no. of times: 86

Main correspondents: Mostly men in Europe, some of them former or current Customs employees who are on leave in Europe.

Content: Mostly letters – some press clippings.
Work-related and personal; for examples, letter of introduction, letters from journalists, letter from the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade.

Special features: Letter from Claude Holwill, Harvard student, on his conditional acceptance into Customs. Notes that “I have not stood high in my studies at Harvard, partly because my mother strongly urged me to enter college life and athletics. Consequently, Mr Drew, who lately said that a Harvard sophomore has a sufficient education to enter the Service, is not pleased.” 25

Nov. 1901

Letter in envelope postmarked Kristiania 6 Dec 1901,

calling for nominations for Nobel Prize for Peace.

Letter from de Bernières, 9 Sep 1901, enclosing two small photographs of Monkstown, Co Cork.

Letter from Rocher, on leave, 18 July 1901, regarding his divorce, which he was “determined to win.”

MS 15/2/2/2

Dates covered: May 1902 – Dec 1902

Approx. no. of items: 170

Main correspondents: Members of the European diplomatic community in Peking.

Content: Some work-related letters, but most are invitations, acceptance/regret letters, and thank you letters for social events in Peking.

MS 15/2/2/3

Dates covered: Jan. 1902 – April 1902

Approx. no. of items: 29

Main correspondents: Men in Britain and Ireland, and a few in France.

Content: Letters from journalists, friends, and former or current Customs employees who are on leave in Europe.

Special features: Letter from C. Brewitt-Taylor, London, 7 Mar 1902, about his wife's hospitalisation for mental illness.

Typed letter calling for subscriptions to a memorial in Belfast for the Late Marquess of Dufferin and Ava.

MS 15/2/2/4

Dates covered: Aug. 1901 – July 1902

Approx. no. of items: 30

Main correspondents: Europeans in China

Content: Personal and work-related correspondence

Special features: Letter from A. Wylseham Augers, 31 Jan 1902, about the death of his daughter, Mrs Brazier, from blood poisoning after the birth of her daughter.

Letter from William Blaynay, Tientsin, 19 Feb 1902, asking Hart to be president of the St Patrick's Day Society.

Letter from S. Lavington Hart, Tientstin, 5 Feb 1902, enclosing photograph and prospectus of Anglo-Chinese College.

Invitation to a ball from the Masonic Society of Tientsin.

MS 15/2/2/5

Dates covered: Oct 1901 – Feb 1902

Approx. no. of items: 36

Main correspondents: Europeans in China, mostly women, especially the Carrall women and the Möllendorff family.

Content: Personal

Special features: Letters from the Carrall women, discussing their love of photography and detailed explanation of wedding preparations. Letter from Kathleen Carroll, 21 Oct 1901, describing her sister Emily's wedding in Chefoo: "The Bride cut the cake in true naval fashion with the sword!"

Letter from Hart's goddaughter Esme, 24 Oct 1901, enclosing 3 photographs.

Letter from Helen Merrill (a child), 4 Nov 1901, enclosing 3 photographs, 2 of her posing with pets, toys and a Chinese nanny.

MS 15/2/2/6

Dates covered: Dec 1901 – Feb 1902

Approx. no. of items: 36

Main correspondents: Most from European women in Asia, including Helen Merrill, the Detring family, and the Carralls

Content: Personal; most letters sending Christmas, New Year or birthday wishes. (Hart's birthday was the 20th Feb.).

Special features: Letter from Kathleen Carrall in Chefoo, 9 Feb 1902: "Emily and I have German and French lessons every week with the Consuls' wives, this is a very cosmopolitan place, one hears all languages spoken, which is an advantage to us girls."

Letter from Dora von Möllendorff, 13 Jan 1902, thanking Hart for the cheque to allow her to continue her music studies.

Piece of light blue yarn enclosed in bundle.

MS 15/2/2/7

Dates covered: Mar 1902 – Apr 1902

Approx. no. of items: 15

Main correspondents: Most from European women in China

Content: Personal; a few requests for appointment or transfer of Customs staff, from female relatives.

MS 15/2/2/8

Dates covered: Mar 1902 – May 1902
Approx. no. of items: 11

Main correspondents: European men in China

Content: Several requests for employment; two wedding invitations.

MS 15/2/2/9

Dates covered: July 1901 – May 1902
Approx. no. of items: 75

Main correspondents: Mostly European and American women friends, many formerly of China (H. de Bernieres, Martha Denby, Jeanne Piry, Helen Brazier, Grace Lowry Hooper).

Special features Letter from [Katie?] de Luca, 2 Aug 1901, encloses two photographs of Rome.



Letter from a Mrs McQuaid, Southsea, 28 June [1901?], praising Hart's writing on China and regretting that most English think the Chinese are part "baboon."

Letter from Clara Willits, Ann Arbor, 20 June 1901, referring to Hart's garden parties as a child, and her college life at the University of Michigan.

Letter from Elsa [Detring?], Maine, USA, 13 Aug 1901, enclosing photograph [of her parents?] on the Maine coast.

MS 15/2/2/10

Dates covered: May 1902 – Dec 1902
Approx. number of items: 116

Main correspondents: European women in China

Content: Mostly letters exchanging family news, acknowledging birthdays, organising visits to Peking, and thanking Hart for gifts received.

Special features: Letter from Mrs Andersen, 22 Aug 1902, asking Hart's advice about a Customs staff member, Mr Howard, who had broken an engagement to a Miss King.

MS 15/2/2/11

Dates covered: Jan 1901 – June 1901
Approx. no. of items: 115

Main correspondents: European men, most writing from Europe

Content: Mix of work-related and personal; correspondence from Customs staff on leave and their families, enquiries from journalists, requests for donations from charitable groups and Queen's College Belfast.

Special features: Enclosure, broadsheet of coloured cartoons, "What caused the Boxer Uprising," from New York Journal, 2 Sep 1900.

Letter from W. S. Key, Massachusetts, 1 Feb 1901, asking if Hart could officially ask the Chinese government for information about Professor Hubert James, presumed killed in the Boxer Rebellion.

Copy of April 1901 Wesley College, Dublin newsletter.

C. BOX 3

MS 15/2/3/1

Dates covered Sept 1901 – Aug 1903
 Approx. number of items 174

Main correspondents Mostly European men outside China

Content Mix of work-related and personal; correspondence from Customs staff on leave, enquiries from journalists, requests for donations from charitable groups (in China and Belfast, and from Dr Barnardo), requests for positions in the Customs

Special features Letter from Stanley Wright, Belfast, 12 Sept 1901, asking about vacancies in Customs service.

Letter from Rev. Bridie, 29 May 1903, enclosing two photographs of Wesleyan-Methodist Garrison Church parade in Hong Kong.

Letters from World's Fair Publishing Co., St Louis, March 1903.

Letter from J.W.Eldridge Armstrong, Belfast, 12 March 1903, requesting a position in the Customs and enclosing a photograph of himself.

MS 15/2/3/2

Dates covered: Mar 1903 – June 1904
 Approx. no. of items: 104

Main correspondents: European women in China (Eveline Detring, the von Möllendorff women, Nora Carruthers)

Content: Personal and social; family news, New Years wishes, making social plans.

Special features: Postcard from Elfie Ragsdale, postmarked 19 Mar 1903, shows photograph of Russian scene with horses.

Card from Elfie Ragsdale, postmarked 12 Aug 1903, unfolds for panoramic photograph of a Russian city

MS 15/2/3/3

Dates covered: Jan 1903 – Dec 1903

Approx. no. of items: 223

Content: Work-related and personal. Some correspondence from European friends in Peking (invitations, family news, etc), some work related correspondence from European legations in Peking.

MS 15/2/3/4

Dates covered: Feb. 1904 – June 1904

Approx. no. of items: 63

Main correspondents: Europeans in Peking

Content: Mostly accepting, declining or extending social invitations.

Special features: Letter from Rose C. Krumacher, 19 Mar 1904, writing about books she has promised to give Hart: "Was there ever a bigger fool than a Chinese? I told the idiotic coolie to go with my husband to the Library....Honestly one could kill the servants over here!"

MS 15/2/3/5

Dates covered: Feb. 1903 – March 1904

Approx. no. of items: 231

Main correspondents: European men

Content: Mostly work-related, including many letters of introduction and letters of references. Several requests for employment and for donations from charitable organisations.

MS 15/2/3/6

Dates covered: Jan. 1903 – April 1904

Approx. no. of items: 193

Main correspondents: Mostly European women in Europe, some ex-China (Daphne Russell, Nina Pym, Florence Walsham, Elfie Ragsdale).

Content: Mostly personal, updating Hart on family news.

MS 15/2/4/1

Dates covered: Nov 1904 – May 1905
Approx. no. of items: 102

Main correspondents: European women outside of China, some ex-China (Elfie Ragsdale, the Carralls, the Braziers)

Content: Personal

Special features: Letter from Jean Ridgeway, 3 June 1904, Broadstairs, enclosing Photograph of newborn Charles Campbell Ridgeway.

MS 15/2/4/2

Dates covered: July 1904 – July 1905
Approx. no. of items: 166

Main correspondents: Non-Chinese diplomatic staff in Peking, mostly European.

Content: Work-related. Many letters accepting, declining or extending work-Related invitations; some discussing work and Customs staff.

Special features: Letter from Douglas Gray, 12 Jan 1905, enclosing three Photographs of drawings for London Mission School and hospital.

MS 15/2/4/3

Dates covered: June 1904 – July 1905
Approx. no. of items: 201

Main correspondents: European women in China.

Content: Mostly letters exchanging family news, organizing visits to Peking, and thanking Hart for gifts received.

MS 15/2/4/3

Dates covered: June 1904 – July 1905
Approx. number of items: 201

Main correspondents: European women in China.

Content: Mostly letters exchanging family news, organising visits to Peking, and thanking Hart for gifts received.

MS 15/2/4/4 (check is this a new sub-sub section or not)

Dates covered: April 1904 – August 1905
Approx. no. of items: 151

Main correspondents: Societies and organisations (European, some China-based); European male friends and colleagues, including Charles Denby (regarding railways).

Content: Personal and work-related; correspondence and documents relating to societies and organisations (YMCA, Royal Asiatic Society, l'Institut de Droit International, etc).

Special features: There are 2 smaller bundles in middle of this bundle of letters; to maintain original order these have not been separated out and each of these smaller bundles has been counted as one item.

Copy of "Revue de la Paix," magazine of the Société française pour l'arbitrage entre nations, March 1905.

Copy of "Law Kang Po," a journal, in Chinese, [April 1904?].

E. [BOX 5](#)

MS 15/2/5/1

Dates covered: March 1906 – June 1906

Approx. no. of items: 211

Main correspondents: Mostly European men in Europe; some correspondence and miscellanea related to events and organisations in China (boat launches, social events, Tientsin University events).

Content: Work-related, personal. Many letters of recommendation and introduction for potential Customs staff.

Special features: Photograph of young Chinese man, name illegible, in card frame, dated 17 March 1906.

Letter from the Willetts family, Michigan, 19 March 1906, enclosing four photographs in card frames and a musical programme.

Two photographs enclosed with letter, April 1906, of Chinese Imperial Commission leaving Kristiania, and a group scene in front of factory in Kristiania.

MS 15/2/5/2

Dates covered: Nov 1906 – Aug 1907

Approx. no. of items: 70

Main correspondents: European men, mostly in Europe; Chamber of Mines.

Content: Work-related correspondence – charities, organisations, and some Colleagues in China.

MS 15/2/5/3

Dates covered: Dec 1901 – Aug 1903

Approx. number of items: 107

Main correspondents: European men and women in China; many from Ernest Satow.

Content: Work-related – invitations to social events at Legations.

Special features: 1 envelope, n.d., contains letters in Chinese on bright pink and red paper.

Several invitations for St Patrick's Day events; one, from the St Patrick's Society in 1902, lists Mr R.E. Bredon as president.

MS 15/2/5/4

Dates covered: July 1906 – March 1907

Approx. number of items: 26

Main correspondents: Mix of European men and women.

Content: Some work-related; mostly personal.

Special features: Letter dated 26 Aug 1906 from Ella Ritchie encloses photograph of woman seated at a piano.

MS 15/2/5/5

Dates covered: Nov 1902 – Feb 1908

Approx. no. of items: 43

Main correspondents: Mix of European men and women, both in and out of China

Content: Work-related and personal, including correspondence from missions, charities, journalists and publishers

Special features: 3 letters from Campbell, Nov 1902 – Z/1348-50.

Prospectus for *The Pacific Era*, Detroit-based magazine run by Edwin Denby, 1907

MS 15/2/5/6

Dates covered: 4 Aug 1896

Approx. no. of items: 1

Main correspondents: A. M. Monagle, Bangor

Content: One letter, thanking Hart for promoting a relative.

MS 15/2/5/7

Dates covered: Nov. 1908 – July 1909

Approx. no. of items: 21

Main correspondents: Mix of both men and women; many education-related.

Special features: Printed copy of a speech written by Hart for prize ceremony at Hyde Park New College, Christmas 1908.

Draft proposal, "A University for China," Feb 1909.

MS 15/2/5/8

Dates covered: Aug 1901; May-July 1906

Approx. no. of items: 46

Main correspondents: European women in Asia, particularly Frances Carrall and 'Lucy.'

Content: Mainly personal

MS 15/2/5/9

Dates covered: Sept 1906 – Feb 1907

Approx. no. of items: 91

Main correspondents: European men, mostly in Europe; many from A. de Bernières

Content: Work-related and personal; correspondence from friends, former colleagues, journalists and publishers, and Church groups in Ireland.

MS 15/2/5/10

Dates covered: April – May 1908

Approx. number of items: 31

Main correspondents: European men and women, in China and in Europe.

Content: Most wishing Hart a safe journey home from China.

Special features: Typed draft copy of an interview Hart gave to the South China Morning Post, 5 May 1908

MS 15/2/5/11

Dates covered: April 1908 – January 1911
Approx. number of items: 12

Main correspondents: Europeans in China and Europe.

Content: Miscellaneous – friends in Britain; bills in China; copy of Report of Madras Railway Company, 30 June 1908.

MS 15/2/5/12

Dates covered: May 1909 – July 1909
Approx. number of items: 4

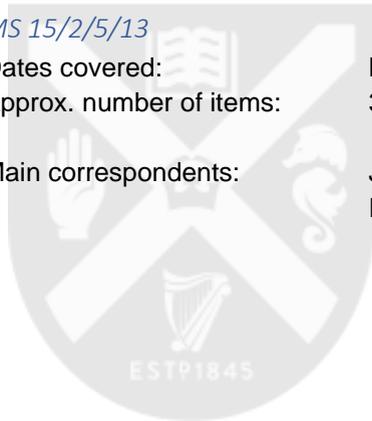
Main correspondents: Men in Britain and Ireland

Content: Letters from 3 men who have admired Hart's work, and one from an old friend, John Doran, County Louth.

MS 15/2/5/13

Dates covered: May 1911 – 1911
Approx. number of items: 3

Main correspondents: J. Aglen (two letters one enclosing memo on postal matters), Robert Bredon (regarding Hart's resignation).



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F. BOX 6

Box 6 covers Campbell's correspondence to Hart. Campbell and Hart had their own system for numbering letters by series and these have been listed below. Hart notes in his diaries and published letters to Campbell the series number for letters sent and received. See Fairbanks et al., *The I.G. in Peking*.

The other side of this correspondence, Hart's letters to Campbell, have been published in: J.K. Fairbank, K.F. Bruner and E. MacLeod Matheson, 1975: "*The I.G. in Peking. Letters of Robert Hart, Chinese Maritime Customs, 1868-1907*". 2 volumes, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

MS 15/2/6/1

Dates covered: 4 May – 3 Nov 1900
Approx. number of items: 28
Main correspondents: J. Campbell
Content: Series Z/1217 - 1243 plus two extra-serial letters.

MS 15/2/6/2

Dates covered: 23 Nov 1900 - 8 Nov 1901
Approx. number of items: 58
Main correspondents: J. Campbell
Content: Z/ - 1244 – [1296] plus several extra-serial letters.
Special features: 1845 Campbell seems to have made a series numbering error, misreading his own '8' for a '5', and continuing from 1289 to 1260 instead of 1290.
Z/1285 and Z/1286 contain architectural drawings of Customs land and building.

MS 15/2/6/3

Dates covered: 22 Nov 1901 - 20 Dec 1901; 24 Jan 1902 – n.d. [March 1902?]; 23 May 1902.
Approx. number of items: 9
Main correspondents: J. Campbell
Content: Z/1297 – 1301; Z/1307-1309; Z/1324

MS 15/2/6/4

Dates covered: 14 Feb 1902 – 16 May 1902
Approx. number of items: 18
Main correspondents: J. Campbell

Content: Z/1310-1317 ; 1319-1323.
Special features: Enclosure – handwriting samples from Customs staff.

MS 15/2/6/5

Dates covered: 30 May 1902 – 6 Nov. 1903
Approx. number of items: 75

Main correspondents: J. Campbell

Content: Z/1325 – 1347; A/396; Z/1351 – 1399

Special features: Campbell has misnumbered – there are two 1351.

MS 15/2/6/6

Dates covered: 13 Nov 1903 - 24 April 1905
Approx. number of items: 81

Main correspondents: J. Campbell

Content: Z/1400 - 1475

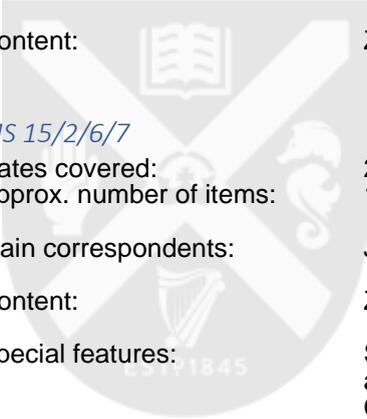
MS 15/2/6/7

Dates covered: 28 April 1905 - 20 May 1907
Approx. number of items: 105

Main correspondents: J. Campbell

Content: Z/1476 – 1573

Special features: Several letters from Ella Campbell, J. Campbell's wife, acknowledging Hart's letters and passing on news during Campbell's ill health.



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G. BOX 7

MS 15/2/7/1

Dates covered: Feb 1902 – May 1908
Approx. number of items: 97

Main correspondents: Lady Hart (Hessie)

Content: Letters: Family news; news from London; discussion of events in China; concerns for Hart's health. Letters mostly written in Cadogan Place, London.

MS 15/2/7/2

Dates covered: Oct 1903 – May 1908
Approx. number of items: 69

Main correspondents: Lady Hart (Hessie)

Content: Letters: Family news; news from London; discussion of events in China; concerns for Hart's health.

Special features: Some letters written in India. Letter 12 Nov 1902, "This is to mention that we are starting for India tomorrow, and by the time you get this letter I shall have become a participant in the Empire."

MS 15/2/7/3

Dates covered: May 1900 – Oct 1900
Approx. number of items: 15

Main correspondents: Lady Hart (Hessie)

Content: Letters: Family news, including discussion of death of her brother Matt Bredon; discussion of events in China.

Special features: 1 item is a paper label, probably in Hart's hand, on which is written 'Wife'

MS 15/2/7/4

Dates covered: Nov 1900 – June 1901
Approx. number of items: 32

Main correspondents: Lady Hart (Hessie)

Content: Letters and telegrams: Family news; news from London; discussion of events in China.

Special features: Some written from a holiday in Italy. Some telegrams are written in code.

MS 15/2/7/5

Dates covered: Jan 1902
Approx. number of items: 17

Main correspondents: Lady Hart (Hessie)

Content: Letters: family news, including discussion of Bruce's illness; news from London; discussion of events in China.

Special features: Forwarded letter to Hessie from A. Sloan, Portadown, seeking an appointment for a relative.

MS 15/2/7/6

Dates covered: Aug 1900 – Jan 1904
Approx. number of items: 6

Main correspondents: Bruce Hart

Content: Mostly personal. Letters: family news, including problems with Evey's engagement; Campbell's doings in London; events in China; visiting Hart's land in Ireland.

Special features: These letter had been in a loose pile in the box and have been tied together by archivist.

Letter of 1 Aug 1902: "Of all the countries I've been in I think Ireland is the most miserable, and dirty and poverty stricken: the place is terribly gloomy and depressing and makes one feel that everything is going backwards instead of forward and deteriorating generally."

MS 15/2/7/7

Dates covered: Nov 1906 – June 1911

Approx. number of items: 73

Main correspondents: Bruce Hart

Content: Mostly work-related and relating to Hart's personal finances and Campbell's failing health and death. After Hart's return to England, letters relaying news from China to Hart (received by Bruce in London office)

MS 15/2/7/8

Dates covered: Sept 1907 – Dec 1908

Approx. number of items: 1 (bound book of letters)

Main correspondents: Robert Hart

Content: Harts correspondence to Bruce Hart – 35 letters, and some copies made by Bruce. Personal and work related.

Special features Letters are difficult to read due to book binding.

H. BOX 8

MS 15/2/8/1

Dates covered Jan 1901 - Apr 1911

Approx. number of items 79

Main correspondents Relatives including A. Osborne (sister), Willoughby (nephew), Eva Price (niece), Katie (sister?), Margretta, E. Bertram Osborne, C.T. Osborne, Wynnie (niece), Sara Robb, Lola Haughton, Marion (niece).

Special features Label by Hart, "Sisters etc."



Many letters from Eva are illustrated with coloured pencil drawings and watercolours. Letter from Eva, 2 April 1903, contains pressed flower.

Postcard, unknown sender, postmarks Dec 1902, "Greetings from Maoriland", with photos and drawings of "The Maori at Home".

MS 15/2/8/2

Dates covered 4 Feb 1905

Approx. number of items 1

Main correspondents Mr and Mrs Henry Edgar

Content Decorative Christmas card with ribbon and metallic bells.

MS 15/2/8/3

Dates covered Jan 1901 – Dec 1901

Approx. number of items 68

Main correspondents Relatives in Britain and Ireland, including James Maze, Bruce Hart, Katie, Smyth Osborne, Margretta, Eva Price, Evy Hart, Mabel Hart; niece Juliet in Shanghai.

Content Personal

MS 15/2/8/4

Dates covered	June 1904 – Feb 1905
Approx. number of items	25
Main correspondents	Mostly relatives in Britain and Ireland, including Katie, Eva Price, Emma Dautie (cousin), H.M. Maze, R. Hart Maze (nephew).
Special features	A typed essay entitled, “Japanese mist pictures: the inland sea on a grey day”, dated 10 Aug 1904 and inscribed, ‘With love – from the author’.

MS 15/2/8/5

Dates covered	June 1902 – Feb 1904
Approx. number of items	70
Main correspondence	Mostly extended family members in Britain and Ireland: Eva Price, Vera and Hilda (granddaughters), Robert Hart Maze, cousins named Earl.
Special features	5 postcards from Italy, 1904, [from Eva Price?], showing Italian scenes and a photograph of the Pope. 1 postcard from Hawaii, from Francis Earl, postmarked March 1904. Letter from Florence Greer, Tandragee, 14 Nov 1903: “Having heard that you put an advertisement in the paper for any of your kind to apply to you if in need, I beg to apply on behalf of my family.”

MS 15/2/8/6

Dates covered	Sep 1903 – May 1905
Approx. number of items	29
Main correspondents	Eva Price, Robert Hart Maze, Katie, Mary (Hart’s sister), Carrie Hart, Henry Hart Osborne (nephew), Evelyn Beauclerk (Evey).
Content	Personal.

MS 15/2/8/7

Dates covered	Aug 1900 – April 1904
Approx. number of items	13
Main correspondents	Mabel (Nolly) Hart
Special features	Letters of 23 Aug 1900, begging Hart to allow her to marry Jack Perry.

MS 15/2/8/8

Dates covered	[1901?] – April 1904
Approx. number of items	33
Main correspondents	Evey (Hart's daughter), a few from Hilda and Vera (Evey's daughters).
Special features	Several letters addressed to Hessie. Postcard, dated 27 Oct 1901, from Montreal. Postcard, postmarked 1902, from Moscow, of the Kremlin.

MS 13/2/8/9

Dates covered	May 1900 – Jan 1901
Approx. number of items	59
Main correspondents	Mostly relatives in Britain and Ireland, including Margretta, Mary, Carrie, Willoughby, Mabel, Lola Haughton.
Content	Personal.

MS 15/2/8/10

Dates covered	Feb 1903 – Oct 1903
Approx. number of items	6
Main correspondents	Minnie Edgar, Henry, Teresa
Special features	Labelled "Cousins" by Hart.

MS 15/2/8/11

Dates covered	June 1907 – Feb 1908
Approx. number of items	38
Main correspondents	Mostly relatives, including Teresa, Robert Hart Maze, Lola Haughton, Katie, Eva Price, Margretta, Sara Robb.
Special features	Labelled by scrap of paper marked "Relatives", not in Hart's hand.

MS 15/2/8/12

Dates covered	Feb 1908 – May 1909
Approx. number of items	63
Main correspondents	Mostly relatives, including Evey, Hessie, Eva Price, Katie, members of Maze family. Some distant relatives asking for money.
Special features	Labelled "Relation 8/2/09" by Hart.

One smaller bundle of letters within this bundle (counted as 1 item), contains 33 documents relating to Hart's departure from Peking, 1908, work-related, from colleagues in China.

I. BOX 9

MS 15/2/9/1

Dates covered Dec 1902 – June 1903

Approx. number of items 45

Main correspondents Personal letters from female friends, in Europe and China, including Ella Campbell.

Content Some letters from women asking Hart for favours (i.e. promotions and appointments for male relatives).

Special features Labelled by Hart "Various ladies"

MS 15/2/9/2

Dates covered 6 May 1903, 21 Aug [190?].

Approx. number of items 3

Main correspondents J.W.R Brazier, A S Aglen.

Special features Labelled by Hart "Special friends: men"

MS 15/2/9/3

Dates covered 31 May June 1906 – 5 August 1906

Approx. number of items 48

Main correspondents European men, mostly in China.

Content Work-related and personal; some correspondence relating to Customs staff; some correspondence from friends, individuals seeking information about Hart, and charities.

Special features Labelled by Hart "Men's letters July 1906."

MS 15/2/9/4

Dates covered	Feb 1901 – April 1901
Approx. number of items	18
Main correspondents	Mostly European women in Europe and China.
Content	Personal, including birthday cards and wedding invitations.
Special features	Labelled by Hart “Women’s letters July 1906”. Most letters are in envelopes and are difficult to remove. Several highly decorative cards showing Chinese scenes, including a Customs station and a portrait of Li Hung Chang

MS 15/2/9/5

Dates covered	March 1902 – May 1903
Approx. number of items	44
Main correspondents	Hart’s niece Juliet Bredon (travelling in Asia), his cousin [Stuart?] Carl at US Legation in Peking; Mary and Francis Carl, Chefoo.
Content	Personal.
Special features	Labelled “Wife’s family” by Hart.

MS 15/2/9/6

Dates covered	June 1905 – June 1907
Approx. number of items	169
Main correspondents	Hessie (Lady Hart), Evey, Margretta, hilda, Mabel, Carrie, Lola Haughton, Eva Price, Katie, Mary, Winnie.
Content	Personal, mostly sharing family news.

MS 15/2/9/7

Dates covered	Feb 1902 Oct 1903
Approx. number of items	201
Main correspondents	European women, in China and Europe, including May Little, Mollie Parr (in Tibet), Bridie Brewett Taylor, Thea (Macao), the von Möllendorffs, Eveline Detring, Carralls.
Special features	Labelled by Hart: “Special friend: ladies”

J. BOX 10

MS 15/2/10/1

Dates covered	1908-1910
Approx. number of items	36
Main correspondents	Male professional colleagues, including Robert Bredon, H.B. Morse, Li Ching Fong, C.H. Brewitt-Taylor.
Content	Work related.
Special features	Contained in blue folder, marked on front "From bundle marked 'Important letters' 1908-1910". Contains two bundles of letters, tied together, and some loose letters. 4 Nov 1909, letter from F.O., asking Hart if he is going to return to China or should he be replaced as I.G. Loose papers include letter from C.H.Brewitt-Taylor, of Customs College, Peking, 18 July 1909, enclosing exam questions for first-year students.

MS 15/2/10/2

Dates covered	April 1905 – May 1907
Approx. number of items	55
Main correspondents	Mostly European women, in Europe, including E.W. Hughes, Frida Kierulf, Nora Carruthers, Carrall women.
Content	Personal
Special features	Labelled by Hart "Private letters". A few letters in middle of bundle are tied together. Letter, writer unknown, 2 Oct 1905, Roscrea, encloses two photos, one of house and one women, described as "Auntie Doe, Auntie Harriet, Aunt Karie from Limerick, Auntie Annie...myself and Kathleen".

MS 15/2/10/3

Dates covered	November 1900 – July 1904
Approx. number of items	59
Main correspondents	European men in China, mainly Ernest Satow and E.H. Conger.
Content	Work-related; some related to staff promotions and hiring, some discussing Customs business.
Special features	Letter from Ernest Satow, 23 Nov 1900, encloses several items

written in Chinese

MS 15/2/10/4

Dates covered	Jan 1907 – Mar 1910
Approx. number of items	108
Main correspondents	Mostly European men and women in China, including Robert Bredon.
Content	Mix of work-related and personal, and some referring to social engagements in Peking.
Special features	Letter from Robert Bredon, n.d., describes men accepted into Customs service, May 1908.

MS 15/2/10/5

Dates covered	July 1909 – Sept 1909
Approx. number of items	8
Main correspondents	Male and female friends and family members in Europe

MS 15/2/10/6

Dates covered	May 1905 – Nov 1906
Approx. number of items	201
Main correspondents and	European women in China, including Eveline Detring, Elfie Ragsdale, the von Möllendorffs, Jeanne Piry, Marion Carnegie Birdie Brewitt-Taylor.
Content	Mostly personal, exchanging family news and arranging social meetings in China; some from women asking about promotions for male relatives; birth announcements.
Special features	Labelled by Hart "Private letters".

MS 15/2/10/7

Dates covered	Dec 1903 – June 1907
Approx. number of items	260
Main correspondents	Mostly (male) diplomatic staff in China; many from Japanese Legation staff.
Content	Mostly work-related; some related to social events of European community in China.
Special features	Labelled by Hart "Private letters".

MS 15/2/10/8

Dates covered	Dec 1909 – Mar 1910
Approx. number of items	4
Content	2 work-related, 2 personal
Special features	These items were loose in Box 10.

K. BOX 11

MS 15/2/11/1

Dates covered	July 1901 – May 1905
Approx. number of items	16
Main correspondents	Mostly memoranda; a few newspapers clippings and one letters by Hart.
Content	Work-related. Memoranda (some copies, some drafts) on the following subjects: “Balance of trade” “Indian Opium” “Concerning improvement of waterways and Port-approaches” “Concerning Chinese Marts in Honan and collection of duty there” “Ought China to join the Russo-Japanese peace conference at Washington” “Supervision for likin collectorates hypothecated for foreign loans” “New currency china” “New monetary system for China”
Special features	Printed map, “Supplement to the <i>North-China Herald</i> and <i>North-China Daily News</i> ”, July 15 1904, of Lioatung Peninsula and Port Arthur.

MS 15/2/11/2

Dates covered	Jan 1901 – July 1910
Approx. number of items	14
Content	Drafts of articles and letters written by Hart, and some copies in a different handwriting. Titles include: “China and reconstruction: September, 1900” “China and her foreign trade” “The Boxers: 1900” “China and the West” [partly crossed out and rewritten

“China and Non-China”
“China, reform and the powers”
“La Chine, ses réformes, et les puissances” [French version
of above]
“Preface to second issue”

Special features These items were in a loose pile in the box and have been bundled together.

MS 15/2/11/3

Dates covered July 1885 – June 1909
Approx. number of items 1 folder containing photocopies of 40 letters

Main correspondents Letters from Hart to Mr Morse

Content “Bunker gift”
Work-related, dealing with Customs affairs.

MS 15/2/11/4

Dates covered 1908?
Approx. number of items 6

Main correspondents Labelled by Hart “5 letters to be numbered and copied and originals to be returned to I.G.

Content Letters and envelopes in Chinese

MS 15/2/11/5

Dates covered Feb 1906 – April [1908?]
Approx. number of items 10

Content Large envelopes, block printed, in Chinese and containing Chinese letters; some red paper with Chinese writing; one draft speech by Hart.

Special features One envelope contains photograph of Jui Liang, April 1908

MS 15/2/11/6

Dates covered Jan 1895 – June 1913
Approx. number of items 26

Main correspondents J. Aglen, Ernest Satow, Robert Bredon.

Content Miscellaneous work-related documents, including letters, notes, and newspaper clippings

Special features These items were in a loose pile in the box and have been bundled together.

One poem, in Hart’s handwriting, entitled “Tired Mothers,” 1905

Clipping from Pall Mall Budget, 3 Jan 1895, with pictures of Hart and Detring.

Document regarding transfer of Customs property from Hart to Aglen after Hart's death, 1913.

Bill from Hart's pharmacy in China, 1908.

Letter conferring Grand Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog on Hart, 1908.

MS 15/2/11/7

Dates covered April 1906 – Nov 1909

Approx. number of items 14

Main correspondents Several letters from Robert Bredon.

Content Work-related and personal letters and newspaper cuttings.

Special features bundled These items were in a loose pile in the box and have been together.

Letter from A. Wiltzer, Lappa, Nov 1908, enclosing 'maps' of import and export application processes in CustoMS.

Letter from Ella Campbell, n.d., thanking Hart for the cheque to supplement her income.

MS 15/2/11/8

Dates covered Feb 1908

Approx. number of items 5, including an envelope enclosing letters and press clippings.

Content Work-related and personal

Special features Letter from Ting I-hsien, Jan 1908, thanking Hart for the promotion

MS 15/2/11/9

Dates covered 10 Jan 1902

Approx. number of items 1

Main correspondents J. Campbell

Content Letter updating Hart on health of 'Jim', with news from Phöche; Jim evidently was recovering from an alcohol problem.

Special features 1 letter, loose in box.

MS 15/2/11/10

Dates covered Sept 1901 – Dec 1901

Approx. number of items 12

Main correspondents J. Campbell

Content Work-related and personal letters from Campbell, many relating to Bruce Hart's health and treatment by Dr Mackenzie.

MS 15/2/11/11

Dates covered Feb 1901, May 1911, April 1928
Approx. number of items 21

Content Miscellaneous letters (many wishing Hart recovery from illness), bills, receipts and newspaper clippings.

Special features These items were in a loose pile in the box and have been bundled together.

Photograph of Robert Randall Parr, 10 months old, 1903.

Letter from a porcelain collector, April 1928, enquiring about a Japanese vase owned by Hart, after Lady Hart's death.

MS 15/2/11/12

Dates covered April 1903 – Feb 1908
Approx. number of items 17

Main correspondents Copies of letters written by Hart to Sir Edward Grey, Walter Townley, Lancelot Carnegie

Content Labelled by Hart "Succession letters 1906-7"; many letters refer to whether Hart is returning to China, and Hart's desire that Robert Bredon be his successor.

MS 15/2/11/13

Dates covered [sent 1905?]
Approx. number of items 71

Main correspondents A relative [Robert Hart Maze?]

Content Collection of small envelopes, most enclosing photographs, with a description written on the envelopes. Most photographs are of Belfast relatives.

Special features Several bundles of envelopes tied together, Hart has labelled one small bundle, "Sent to me by R.H. Maze (43 Wellington Park, Belfast) and kept as old landmarks! 1905."

One photograph, presumably of a young Hart, in a broken glass frame, packed in cotton wool.

Picture of Evey taken 6 June 1870, held by two Chinese nannies.

L. BOXES 12a and 12b

Most of the letters in Box 12 have not been sorted into bundles by Hart. Some piles of letters have been labelled by ballpoint pen on scraps of paper, although these are not in Hart's handwriting; evidently someone other than Hart has been through the letters and probably disrupted the original order. In a few cases, piles of letters from the same person have been bundled together by the archivist, and this is noted below. The remaining unbundled letters have been labelled "miscellaneous" and put into Box 12a; the sorted letters have been put in a Box 12b.

a.

Box 12a

MS 15/2/12a/Misc.

Dates covered 1870 – 1948 (most 19011-1910)

Approx. number of items 186

Main correspondents Miscellaneous.

Content



Letters, newspaper cutting, invitations, programmes. These items were loose on top of the box and have been bundled together by the archivist, in the order in which they were placed in the box.

Halfway through the pile is a note in Hart's hand: "Curious letters – keep separate".

Includes letters from Stanley Wright, seeking employment, 1902.

b.

Box 12b

MS 15/2/12b/1

Date covered June 1877 – Oct 1880

Approx. number of items 35

Main correspondents H.J. Hart (Lady Hart – Hessie) to J.D. Campbell

Special features This bundle has been tied together by the archivist, based on a label found in the box.

MS 15/2/12b/2

Dates covered 8 Aug 1902

Approx. number of items 5

Main correspondents J.D. Campbell

Content Campbell's A/395 to Hart with four enclosures:

1. Correspondence with Sir Chentung Liang Cheng
2. Sir Chentung Liang Cheng's draft telegram.
3. Sir E. Morse to Prince Chen – with copy of telegram.
4. Correspondence between F.O. and Chinese Legation.

[MS 15/2/12b/3](#)

Dates covered	Jan 1878 – Sept 1880
Approx. number of items	10
Main correspondents	Oriental Bank Corporation to J.D. Campbell
Content	Correspondence to Campbell about the Harts' bank accounts.
Special features	This bundle has been tied together by the archivist, based on a label found in the box.

[MS 15/2/12b/4](#)

Dates covered	May 1909 – Sept 1908
Approx. number of items	7
Main correspondents	Edward Unwin, T. Fisher Arnold
Content	Letters from publishers, proposing that Hart publish reminiscences on his time in China
Special features	This bundle has been tied together by the archivist, based on a label found in the box.

[MS 15/2/12b/5](#)

Dates covered	April 1910 – March 1911
Approx. number of items	7
Main correspondents	J. Aglen
Content	Work-related (Aglen replaced Hart as I.G.)
Special features	This bundle has been tied together by the archivist since the letters seem to form a discrete pile in the box.

[MS 15/2/12b/6](#)

Dates covered	May 1901 – July 1901
Approx. number of items	6
Main correspondents	Society for the Suppression of Opium Trade
Content	Correspondence from, and documents relating to the parliamentary campaign to end opium trade.

[MS 15/2/12b/7](#)

Dates covered	July 1910 – October 1911
Approx. number of items	14
Main correspondents	J. Aglen
Content	Work-related.
Special features	This bundle has stied together by the archivist, since the letters seemed to form a discrete pile in the box. Includes one memorial in Chinese.

[MS 15/2/12b/8](#)

Dates covered	1903 – May 1906
Approx. number of items	19
Main correspondents	Union Postale Universelle, Rome
Content	Letters and programmes in French and Italian from international postal congress.

[MS 15/2/12b/9](#)

Dates covered	Feb 1909 – June 1909
Approx. number of items	21
Main correspondents	Mostly charitable organisations in Britain and Ireland, including London Missionary Society

[MS 15/2/12b/10](#)

Dates covered	Nov 1901 – Feb 1905
Approx. number of items	26
Main correspondents	Mostly European female friends and relatives in Europe, including E.W. Hughes, Frances Carrall, Cristiana Hope, Daisy Brazier.
Content	Personal letters, newspaper clippings, and invitations.

[MS 15/2/12b/11](#)

Dates covered	Nov 1900 – Oct 1903
Approx. number of items	14
Main correspondents	Hong Kong Shanghai Bank
Content	Letters, receipts, a cheque; items in Chinese.
Special features	Bundled by Hart with label: "Documents recovered (from Despatch box stolen by coolie and thrown into well) after fortnight's [?]: 1905. The Chinese refer to edicts granting title of Guardian [?] to His [?], [?], and Imperial Gifts". Most items discoloured. Postcard [in Dutch?] shows white women and children being

beaten by black men, with subtitle “Kriegführung [?] Frauen und Kinder en Südafrika.”

[MS 15/2/12b/12](#)

Dates covered	Aug 1904 – June 1907
Approx. number of items	81
Main correspondents	A. Sloan of Carleton, Aktinson and Sloan, Solicitors, Portadown and London
Content	Correspondent relating to rents and sale of Hart’s land in Antrim.

M. [BOXES 13a and 13b](#)

Miscellaneous unsorted items from Box 13 have been put in Box 13a; sorted letters have been separated into Box 13b.

[Box 13a](#)

[MS 15/2/13a/Misc.](#)

Dates covered	1885 – 1917
Approx. number of items	175
Content	Miscellaneous correspondence, in no evident order, both personal and work-related. Includes a number of letters from the Foreign Office, regarding Hart’s successor; letters from Mr and Mrs Maze, Belfast; letters from family members (Katie, Margretta); letters from friends. Some letters relating to Hart’s estate after his death.
Special features	Hart’s Bank of England bank book, 1890-7. One large envelope, labelled: “re:imposter”

[Box 13b](#)

[MS 15/2/13b/1](#)

Dates covered	Jan 1904 – Feb 1906
Approx. number of items	20
Main correspondents	
Content	Tightly-bound collection of receipts for items purchased by Hart from British suppliers, including silver, music, and his baronet’s ring, and handwritten personal expenditure accounts.
Special features	Bundled by Hart

[MS 15/2/13b/2](#)

Dates covered	Oct 1911 – March 1914
Approx. number of items	38
Main correspondents	Murray, Hutchins, Stirling and Co (a London legal practice).
Content	Letters and documents related to Hart's estate after his death; most letters are addressed to Bruce Hart.
Special features	This bundle has been tied together by the archivist since the letters seemed to form a discrete pile in the box.

[MS 15/2/13b/3](#)

Dates covered	Nov 1908 – July 1910
Approx. number of items	19
Main correspondents	Mostly letters from the World Missionary Commission, regarding their Conference in Edinburgh, 1910; some letters to Hart from Murray, Hutchins, Stirling and Co (a London legal practice) regarding his estate and property.

[MS 15/2/13b/4](#)

Dates covered	Feb 1902 – Apr 1903
Approx. number of items	7
Main correspondents	Carleton, Atkinson and Sloan, Solicitors, Portadown (to Lady Hart, regarding Hart's Kilmoriarty estate rents); Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, regarding Hart's personal bank accounts.
Special features	Bundled by Hart with a label, "re: property and private a/Cs"

[MS 15/2/13b/5](#)

Dates covered	May 1908 – Dec 1911
Approx. number items	13
Main correspondents	Chinese Legation, London; Home Office
Content	In envelope labelled (by Bruce Hart?): "Correspondent relating to Double Dragon Order". Bruce Hart was seeking permission to wear the Order that had been awarded to Hart.

[MS 15/2/13b/6](#)

Dates covered	1901 – 1907
Approx. number of items	7
Main correspondents	
Content	Cardboard, yellow-trimmed calendars with one year presented on one page, noting Customs holidays.

Special features This bundle has been tied together by the archivist, since the letters seemed to form a discrete pile in the box.

[MS 15/2/13b/7](#)

Date covered Jan 1891 – July 1908 (most 1891 and 1900)
Approx. number of items 42

Main correspondents Hart to Hessie (Lady Hart)

Content Personal letters: a few enclose letters to Evey.

[MS 15/2/13b/8](#)

Dates covered Aug 1895 – Oct 1905
Approx. number of items 21

Main correspondents Letters from Hart to Mrs Bruce Hart (Carrie), Hart's daughter-in-law, and to Robin Hart, Hart's grandson.

[MS 15/2/13b/9](#)

Dates covered March 1910
Approx. number of items 6

Content Letters in Chinese, presumably to Hart, in large block-printed packets, and two bilingual Customs circulars.

N. BOX 14

A collection of 17th century documents from Box 14 have been removed to Box 14b.

Box 14a

[MS 15/2/14a/1](#)

Dates covered April 1900 – Feb 1905
Approx. number of items 4

Main correspondents Noyer-Morehouse, Hillier.

Content Work-related.

[MS 15/2/14a/2](#)

Dates covered May 1900 – July 1900
Approx. number of items 15

Main correspondents Hessie (Lady Hart), Carrie Hart, Bruce Hart, other Hart relatives.

Content	Personal
MS 15/2/14a/3	
Dates covered	March 1905 – March 1906
Approx. number of items	4
Main correspondents	Dr J.E. Kuhne, Tungkun Medical Missionary Hospital.
Content	Requesting, then acknowledging, Hart's support for hospital.
MS 15/2/14a/4	
Dates covered	June 1906 – Aug 1906
Approx. number of items	24
Main correspondents	European women, in Europe and China, including Ella Campbell, Frances Carrall, Hilda, Lady Walsham
Content	Personal
MS 15/2/14a/5	
Dates covered	June 1902 – Dec 1907
Approx. number of items	135
Content	Musical programmes and dinner party seating plans.
MS 15/2/14a/6	
Dates covered	June 1908 – Aug 1910
Approx. number of items	19
Main correspondents	Personal and work-related; letters from European men, some former Customs colleagues, including J. Aglen and E. Drew.
MS 15/2/14a/7	
Dates covered	Dec 1901 – Jan 1902
Approx. number of items	2
Main correspondents	Request for donation to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London; one private letter, name illegible.
MS 15/2/14a/8	
Dates covered	Apr 1904 – Dec 1907
Approx. number of items	69
Main correspondents	Friends and family.
Content	Personal: postcards from all over the world.



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[MS 15/2/14a/9](#)

Dates covered	Feb 1908 – June 1911
Approx. number of items	24
Main correspondents	European men in China, many Customs employees or former employees, including E. Ohlmer, Piry and Aglen.
Special features	These were loose letters in box that have been bundled together in the order they were found. Includes typed (copies of?) letters between Piry and Aglen, June 1911, regarding Piry's retirement package.

[MS 15/2/14a/10](#)

Dates covered	Jan 1900 – June 1901
Approx. number of items	22
Main correspondents	European men in China

Content	Personal and work-related; requests from charitable organisations and newspapers; discussion of finding a house in Chefoo for a visitor.
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[MS 15/2/14a/11](#)

Dates covered	Aug 1900
Approx. number of items	30
Main correspondents	European men in China.

Content	Mostly congratulating Hart on his safe escape from the Boxers.
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[MS 15/2/14a/12](#)

Dates covered	Aug 1901 – Jan 1905
Approx. number of items	18
Main correspondents	Mixture of family (Carrie Hart) and charities, newspapers.
Special features	Contains note from Hart in the bundle, "To be answered 26/2/05".

[MS 15/2/14a/13](#)

Dates covered	Nov 1908 – April 1909
Approx. number of items	5
Main correspondents	Murray, Hutchins, Stirling and Co (legal practice, London).
Content	Regarding replacing Mr Thurgood as trustee of Campbell's estate

[MS 15/2/14a/14](#)

Dates covered June 1894 – May 1905
Approx. number of items 7

Main correspondents European men.

Content Letters from old school friends.

[MS 15/2/14a/15](#)

Dates covered May 1911 – July 1911
Approx. number of items 8

Main correspondents Murray, Hutchins and Stirling (legal practice, London).

Content Regarding the rightful ownership of the “Z” series of letters between Campbell and Hart, following Campbell’s death.

[MS 15/2/14a/16](#)

Dates covered Nov 1908 – Sept 1909
Approx. number of items 18

Main correspondents Robert Bredon.

Content Work-related.

Special features Also contains two letters in Chinese.

[MS 15/2/14a/17](#)

Dates covered n.d.
Approx. number of items 3

Content 3 envelopes containing “Duplex” and “Simplex” code cipher used in his official correspondence

[MS 15/2/14a/18](#)

Dates covered Mar 1885 – Nov 1938
Approx. number of items 1 folder containing 57 items

Content Large (original) folder containing Bruce Hart’s documents, labelled “1922-1926”. Some notes of Robert Hart’s, ephemera (theatre tickets, invitation to coronation of George V), legal documents relating to Hart’s estate, and letters referring to Bruce Hart’s health problems.

MS 15/2/14a/19

Dates covered 1897 – 1906
Approx. number of items 1 folder containing 6 items and a selection of unused stationery
Content Documents from the Union Postale Universelle, 6th Congress, Rome, and previous postal congresses, in large decorative folder.

MS 15/2/14a/20

Dates covered Aug 1866 – Sept 1914
Approx. number of items 19
Main correspondents Miscellaneous documents loose in the box.
Content Includes Hart's will and probate, his marriage settlement; numerous letters, event programmes and articles, both personal and work-related.
Special features These documents were all loose in the box and have been bundled together by the archivist, in the original folder. One small envelope, dated 1885, contains dried flowers and a note from Hart, "Taken from the grave of our poor little boy (1867)".

Box 14b

MS 15/2/14b/1-7

Dates covered June 1615
Approx. number of items 7
Content Box 14b contains 7 folders, each containing a vellum document dated June 1615. These documents are called "indentures" (a legal document where one individual is legally contracted to another). It appears that individuals have been contracted to a landowner as tenants and given certain farming and grazing rights.

Preparation of the catalogue of correspondence by Jennifer M. Regan, PhD, Queen's University Belfast, December 2007 was made possible by small grant awarded by the British Academy.

3. MS 15/3 Personal notebooks

A. Microfilm – 1 roll. Hart Journal 09/05/1863-04/11/1864

B. Notebook – House Accounts, Peking Aug. 1900- - Dec. 1905

Household account book, 1900-5, noting mainly wages of servants and cooks employed in Hart's residence at Peking, but also incidental expenses (flowers, stamps, foodstuff, etc.).

C. Notebooks

(1-5)

There are five volumes of small notebooks recording Hart's correspondence (letters written to whom and when) for the periods 1900-1, 1902-6, 1906-8, 1909-10 and 1911. Some contain non-alphabetical indexes giving various persons' addresses

1. 1900/02
2. 1902/06
3. 1906/08
4. 1909/10
5. 1911

D. Visitors

(1-5)

Five notebooks listing names of persons who visited Hart, their occupations and dates of visits for the periods 1901-2, 1903-4, 1904-7, 1907-8 and 1909-11

1. 1901-1902
2. 1903-1904
3. 1904-1907
4. 1907-1908
5. 1909-1911

E. Diary (?) – Chinese script, Siege, July 31st 1902

F. Engagements – 1908-1910

Notebook, endorsed "Engagements", 1908-10, noting dates and places of Hart's official engagements in Ireland and England. Included are some scribbled notes for speeches

G. Drafts/Notes

(1-7)

Seven notebooks, 1908-11, containing notes for, and drafts of speeches to be given at various functions attended after his return home from China in such places as Belfast,

London, Leeds and Taunton. They relate to Hart's own personal experiences in China, his views on the Chinese people, her role in world politics, etc. One notebook contains a manuscript entitled "China and her future" which consider China's economic, political, social and religious systems

H. Small scrapbook, 1908

Scrapbook containing numerous newspaper cuttings about the death of Li Hung Chang. [Governor-General of Chihli, Grand Secretary and Superintendent of Trade for China's northern ports; he figured constantly in Hart's affairs up to his death in 1901]. Many provide biographical details and personal reminiscences of him. Also included are several photographs.

I. "Shakespeare-ian titbits 1901-1904-1905"

J. "Odds & Ends – 1900"

K. Notes – religious/philosophical nature, 1901-1907, Peitaiho, Japan

L. Notes – 9 June 1901 – 10 August 1907

M. "Titbits written as from memory", Peking, April 1905

N. Scrapbook of signatures and letters to Lady Hart

O. Diary – March 31st 1872

One volume containing a diary kept by Hart's wife [Hester Jane, nee Bredon] which includes notes made on a journey from Peking to Shanghai and a detailed commentary on Peking, its environs and its people (their dress, form of recreation, hobbies, etc).

P. Notes - labour

4. MS 15/4 Papers relating to the Boxer disturbances

(A-F)

Six bundles of documents and two volumes [notebooks] dealing in general with the Boxer disturbances, their causes, implications, etc., and particularly with the siege of the British Legation at Peking.

- A. Bundle of c.25 letters, written in Chinese, to Hart at the British Legation in Peking, June-September 1900. One, dated 19 June, notifies the Legation to quit Peking within 24 hours whilst others concern arrangements for negotiations between the Chinese and members of the Legation.

1. June 19, 1900 – 5pm & 20 June, 1900 – 9am
2. July 21, 1900
3. July 21, 1900
4. July 25, 1900
5. July 27, 1900
6. July 30, 1900
7. Aug 07, 1900
8. Aug 10, 1900
9. Aug 13, 1900
10. Aug 16, 1900
11. Aug 16, 1900 – summary translation available
12. Aug 17, 1900 – summary translation available
13. Aug 18, 1900
14. Aug 18, 1900 [?]
15. Aug 19, 1900
16. Aug 20, 1900
17. Aug 21, 1900 – summary translation available
18. Aug 25, 1900 – summary translation available
19. Aug 27, 1900 – summary translation available
20. Aug 27, 1900
21. Aug 28, 1900 – summary translation available
22. Aug 28, 1900 – 4pm
23. Aug 31, 1900
24. Sep 01, 1900 – a draft of the Peking Peace Treaty*
25. Sep 02, 1900

* Peking Peace Treaty made by Sir Robert Hart on behalf of Qing Qin Wang. He returned to Peking with the help of Sir Robert.

- B. Bundle of c. 25 letters to Hart from Claude Mac Donald commenting on the tense situation in China and warning Hart to be on his guard against treachery.

1. May 28, 1900
2. May 29, 1900
3. May 29, 1900
4. June 01, 1900
5. June 04, 1900
6. June 06, 1900
7. June 06, 1900 - evening
8. June 07, 1900
9. June 07, 1900

10. June 07, 1900
11. June 08, 1900
12. June 08, 1900 - midnight
13. June 09, 1900
14. June 09, 1900 - 5pm
15. ? date

16. June 11, 1900 - note on scrap paper
17. ? date, - note on scrap paper
18. June 12, 1900 - 1pm
19. June 12, 1900 - 6pm
20. June 15, 1900
21. June 16, 1900 - 7pm
22. June 17, 1900
23. June 19, 1900
24. June 20, 1900
25. June 20, 1900

- C. Small notebook endorsed "Peking, August 1900. A siege relic". Many of the pages have been cut out but there are some complete entries which record events and reflect emotions during the siege.
- D. Small notebook containing background information about the Boxer disturbances and detailed descriptions, with an accurate chronology, of events in Peking. Entries end on 19 Aug 1900.
- E. Folder containing some loose papers, including an extended essay by Hart entitled "Were the Boxers patriots?" 5 April 1901.

Essay: Were the Boxers patriots? (draft, by Hart)

Essay: China 1904 (draft, by Hart)

Selection of notes, verse, prayers and philosophical musings by Hart, 1903-1907

2 letters (personal) from Sir Nicholas O'Connor to Hart (November 1905, August 1907)

Newspaper clippings commenting on the death of Sir Nicholas O'Connor, March 1908

Letter from Henry Thomson of Scarva, County Down, June 1907

Souvenir tape (reply from Admiral off the Taku bar), inauguration of Marconi station at the Italian Legation, 18 October 1903

Letter from J.A. Keble, 10 September 1907, asking for a loan to enable him to return to England

Note to Hart, (8 February 1904), concerned with the breaking off of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan on 7th February 1904

- F. Three bundles of loose papers comprising two sets of memoranda about the siege and drafts [in Hart's hand] of same, May-Dec 1900.

There are 19 memos in all but none of the sets is complete. The earlier memos are about negotiations with Chinese officials [Kim Chung-Tang and Yu-Yeh, Controller and President, respectively, of the Li-Fan-Yuan (Colonial Office) and A-Ko-Tan, Vice-President of the Board of War] and negotiations and a meeting with Prince Ch'ing. Subsequent memos concern negotiations with the British and other governments involved [Germany, for example]. Included in one of the bundles are English, French, German and Chinese versions of a declaration by the Chinese Government about steps it was to take following the Boxer rebellion.

1. Envelope containing notes to Sir Robert Hart from various factions written on scraps of paper during the siege. (Front of envelope: 1900 Siege documents)

2. Letter from E.B. Drew, 14 June, 1900, 4.30 p.m., warning Hart that "the Empress is believed to have sanctioned foul play of the worst kind at Peking" on June 20th.

3. Passes for Sir Robert Hart during the Boxer Rebellion

4. Mock menu from July 1900 – Horse tails & lice!

5. Range of notes in Chinese script

6. Memoranda (3 sets)*

**Set 1*

Includes "Translation of Chinese text of Proclamation" and "Memo. Provision Passes", 8 October 1900

Memorandum	1	21 st	August 1900
	2	25 th	" "
	3	6 th	September 1900
	4	1 st	" "
	5	8 th	" "
	6	13 th	September 1900
	8	15 th	" "
	9	15 th	" "
	10	4 th	October 1900
	11	5 th	" "
	12	No date	
	13	8 th	October 1900
	14	9 th	" "
	15	13 th	" "
	16	14 th	" "
	17	18 th	" "

**Set 2*

Includes "Translation of Chinese text of Proclamation"

Memorandum	1	21 st	August 1900
	2	25 th	" "

3	6 th	September 1900
4	1 st	“ “
5	8 th	“ “
6	13 th	“ “
7	9 th	“ “
8	15 th	“ “
9	15 th	“ “
10	4 th	October 1900
11	5 th	October “
12	No date	
13	8 th	October 1900
14	9 th	“ “
15	13 th	“ “
16	14 th	“ “
17	18 th	“ “

Set 3

Includes “Translation of Chinese text of Proclamation”

Memorandum	2	25 th	August 1900
	3	4 th	September 1900
	5	8 th	“ “
	6	9 th	“ “
	6	13 th	“ “
	7	15 th	“ “
	8	15 th	“ “
	10	4 th	October 1900
	11	5 th	“ “
	12	1 st	September 1900
	13	8 th	October 1900
	14	9 th	“ “
	15	13 th	“ “
	16	14 th	“ “
	17	18 th	“ “
	18	19 th	“ “
	19	29 th	December 1900

7. English, French, German versions of a declaration by the Chinese Government about steps it was to take following the Boxer rebellion, 9 October 1900, 22 December 1900

8. Extracts from the Peking Gazette (June, July 1900?)

G. Telegram – July 25, 1900 – wired by Aglen (Commissioner Officiating, Shanghai), expresses fear for Hart’s life during Boxer Rebellion. Hart’s draft reply in on reverse.

H. Telegram – July 30, 1900 – translation??

I. Telegram – Sir Robert Hart’s draft of telegram to be translated and delivered to King Chien, June 1900.

- J. Letter – to Sir Robert Hart dated 12 June, 1900, concerned with in the early days of the Boxer Rebellion.
- K. Account book - comprising Hart's account with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 1889-1900.
- L. Bank statement – Statement of I.G. Bank Balances, 20 June, 1900
- M. Cheque book stubs – issued by the Bank of England to Sir Robert Hart in 1899 and 1903
- N. Cheque for Sir Robert Hart from M. George Lynch in 1903
- O. Receipt – for Sir Robert Hart from Kelly & Walsh, Limited, Shanghai, 1908 (Booksellers ...)



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5. MS 15/5 Periodicals, pamphlets, books and maps

Books

China – Imperial Maritime Customs – Special catalogue of the Chinese Collection of Exhibits for the International Fisheries Exhibition, London 1883 (organised by Hart) 40i

The Story of China with a description of the events relating to the present struggle 1900 by Neville D Edwards Illustrated 70i

In Many Wars experiences of war correspondents 1904 110i

Letters from a Chinese Official – being an Eastern view of Western civilisation 1903 40i

Letters to a Chinese Official being a reply to Letters from a Chinese Official by William Jennings Byron 50i

Periodicals

Most seem to have been presented to Hart because they include articles on China

The Bystander Jan 1904 c100pp

Social Shanghai & other Parts of China Sep/Oct 1907 30i and Oct 1906 -30i
Lots of photos/ social news re English and Chinese people

The Missionary Herald June 1901 30i

Deutsche Revue March 1901 40i

The Monthly Review Nov 1900 100i

The Imperial & Asiatic Quarterly Review July 1903 130i

La Revue d'Asie Nov and Dec 1901 40i

The North American Review Oct 1900 and Sept 1901 150i each

The Westminster Review Nov 1900 150i

The Independent New York Nov 1900 50i

The Empire Review Sept 1901 130i

Macmillan's Magazine Dec 1900 100i

The Contemporary Review Oct 1900 and Jan 1901 100i each

La Chine Nouvelle Le siege de Peking 1900 25i

Booklets

China's Mercantile Marine 20i

The Public Service as a Career by George F Seward 1901 (formerly US Minister at Peking) 10i

How to avoid War 1900 by George F Seward 10i

Recollections of a Chinese Official 1903 by Shen Tun-ho (re the Boxer Rebellion with photos) 15i

Yamatodamashi in North China 1900 (the Japanese experience of the Boxer Rebellion) 35i

The fighting in North China by G Gipps, Midshipman HMS Orlando 1901 with illustrations and maps 40i

The Model Settlement – Views of Shanghai with photos 25i

The expansion of trade in China 1901 by T H Whitehead 35i

China and Christianity 1902 by Alexander Michie 55i

Letters from John Chinaman 1901 15i

International Trade and Exchange – a Lecture by Emil S Fischer 1901 151i

Missionaries in China by Alexander Michie 1893 40i

Pamphlets

Proposal to develop trade & Improve Commercial Relations English version of a memo in Chinese 8i

Push him out! Or a book of Chinese prophecy 1895 10i

Report on a discussion on urgent British problems..... 1904 8i

Tientsin Siege Anniversary Commemoration – Report of the Banquet 1901 5i

Opening of the New Buildings (Queen's Uni) 1907

The Shanghai Society of Engineers and Architects – a Paper on 'The Holograph' 1901 10i

The Emperor Kuang Hsu's Reform Decrees, 1898 1900 30i

The Political Obstacles to Missionary Success in China – A Lecture by Alexander Michie 1901 18i

Memorandum on Christian Missions addressed by the Chinese Government to the Treaty Powers 1871 8i

The Expansion of Trade with China by T H Whitehead 1901 10i

Affairs in China – a House of Commons Session – Speech by Mr Joseph Walton MP Dec 7 1900 5i

The International Institute of China (the history of the Institute) 4i

Causes of the Unpopularity of the Foreigner in China by His Excellency Wu Ting-Fang Chinese Embassy Washington Published in USA Nov 1900 10i

Tourist information

Tourists guide to Peking 1907 35i

Guide to Peking by Mrs Archibald Little 1904 50i

Maps

Map of the Hill Country North and West of Peking 2i

Map of the Waterways near Shanghai, 1899-1900

I Northern Section and II Southern Section 4i

Miscellaneous Religious Items

Miracles & the Miraculous by R A Jamieson 1885 15i

Bible belonging to Hart's on Bruce Hart

Sermons by Rev C P Scott, China 1888

Leaves of Healing – issue for June 1905 a Jewish paper

Plus five other religious pamphlets

Miscellaneous

Views of Taunton, Booklet on the Nobel Prize, Press Opinions of the Misses Bush

Calendrier-Annuaire 1908, two bound vols on how to speak Chinese c50i each

6. MS 15/6 Photographs and slides

(1- 23)

These comprise c.700 individual black and white photographs in various sizes, 20 albums of photographs, some probably kept by Hart himself but most presented to him, three books comprising mostly photographs, and 170 glass slides (tinted and black & white). Most date from 1900 because most of Hart's earlier photographs were destroyed during the Boxer disturbances. Many have the names of persons or places and, sometimes, other comments inked on the back in Hart's hand. A substantial number are of family, garden parties, Customs officials, etc Hart apparently liked his activities to be recorded by a professional photographer, but there are also many of note with regard to China.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 1

Box contains photographs mostly of Hart in Peking, London and Belfast, c.1860-1911. Also included is a 1913 photograph of his statue [later destroyed by the Japanese] on the Shanghai Bund.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 2

2 boxes contains photographs mostly of relations (children and grandchildren) and friends in China, c.1890-1900.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 3

Photographs 1903-14, mostly of Chinese officials [although some appear to be Japanese, possibly diplomats]. Also included is one of Prince Ch'ing at the age of 71, presented to Hart by Ch'ing himself, 15 April 1908.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 4

Photographs c.1900-5, including various views of a monument erected in memory of Baron von Ketteler who was killed during the Boxer disturbances and photographs of British and Chinese delegates at the "Peace Protocol, Peking 1901" and the Shanghai Treaty negotiations, 1902.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 5

Photographs c.1900-5, showing various Customs buildings (Commissioner's Houses, lighthouses, etc.) at Swatow, Nanking, Yochow, Tengyueh and [Peitaiho?].

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 6

Photographs 1900-8, of Customs staff, some including Hart, at, for example, Chinkiang, Shanghai and Peking. Probably of more note are photographs of "Legation Street" in Peking showing the demolished French Legation building, the Austrian Legation which was ransacked, etc., and a photograph of Hart flanked by Customs Officers at Shanghai on his final departure from China, 20 Feb 1908.

MS 15/6 [Hart Photograph Collection, part 7](#)

Photographs c. 1900, mostly Chinese agricultural scenes [rice husking, Tibetan muleteers at Sze-mao, hunters of the Yao tribe, Chinese Shan States, etc.].

MS 15/6 [Hart Photograph Collection, part 8](#)

Photographs c.1900-5, mostly of family and friends but including one of a group of International Postal Officials meeting in Tientsin, 1901.

MS 15/6 [Hart Photograph Collection, part 9](#)

Photographs c.1874-1907, mostly of garden parties, Customs Officials and their families, but including also some relatively early photographs of Customs Staff in Peking.

MS 15/6 [Hart Photograph Collection, part 10](#)

Photographs c.1890-1910, mostly of relations, friends and Customs officials, but including a caricature of "The Envoy of China", Peking, 1892.

MS 15/6 [Hart Photograph Collection, part 11](#)

Box containing five small and three large albums in four of which are photographs depicting a range of Chinese scenes, c.1900-5. One shows views of Peking after the Boxer disturbances (buildings destroyed, barricades manned by Customs volunteers, etc.). In contrast are albums containing views of Sze-mao, c.1900, tribes of south-west Yunnan, 1903, Lanchou, Ching Wang Tao, Shan Kai Kwan and the Great Wall of China, 1904, and views of Peking and its environs [panorama from Chien Men Gate, the Temple of Heaven and the Yellow Temple in Wa ta Ssu, the Five Pagoda Temple, various tombs and temples near Peking, etc.]. Two other albums show customs buildings, vessels, lighthouses, etc., and views of the interior of Hart's residence in Peking.

- (a) small green album, given to Sir Robert Hart by Effie M. Ragsdall, in memory of October 1902. It includes views of various Legation buildings, Peking Races and some Customs staff
- (b) small brown album, showing customs buildings, vessels, lighthouses
- (c) laquered (black) album, containing views of Sze-mao, c.1900
- (d) small black album, showing views of Peking after the Boxer disturbances (buildings destroyed, barricades manned by Customs volunteers, etc)
- (e) laquered (green) in box, railway scenes, vessels, the Great Wall of China, temples, Tangku
- (f) large green album, showing tribes of south-west Yunnan, 1903
- (g) large purple album, showing views of Peking and its environs (panorama from Chien Men Gate, the Temple of Heaven and the Yellow Temple in Wa ta Ssu, the Five Pagoda Temple, various tombs and temples near Peking. Includes a letter and index

- (h) large black album, showing vessels, lighthouses, customs staff and the interior of Sir Robert Hart's residence in Peking

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 12

Box containing seven small albums, a loosely bound set of photographs and a portfolio containing c.60 photographs, c.1873-1906. Relevant material includes views of Sze-mao, its people and environs, c.1900, various scenes in Tibet, 1903-4, and Mokanshan and Shanghai, c.1904. The earlier photographs show Hart's house in Peking and the Commissioner's House at Tientsin, 1870s.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 13

Large album, c.1905, comprising views, accompanied by detailed descriptions, of Shanghai, Chefoo, Tientsin, Peking [the observatory, Wan Shou-Shan Palace, etc.], Pi-Yuen-Tszu Temple, Ming tombs near Nanking, etc.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 14

Large album, "Views of Peking, Foochow, Canton and Hong Kong" containing captioned photographs of buildings in, and the environs of, these cities, c. 1905.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 15

Large album containing photographs of Chinese landscapes, particularly the "tea districts" around Amoy, c.1905.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 16

Large album of photographs of various agricultural scenes, [peasants, markets, rice cultivation, etc.] in the area around Meng-tsz, 1908.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 17

Large album, "Tibet", with photographs showing the magnificent landscape of the Himalayas and views of Lhasa, the Khamba Jong fortress and monasteries at Debung, Nachung and Sera, c.1903 or earlier.

MS 15/6 [Hart Photograph Collection](#), part 18

"Views of the North China Affair, 1900", a collection of photographs published by S. Yamamoto, Tokyo, 1901. It contains general views of the destruction in Peking [the Chou-Yan gate riddled with bullets, the Japanese Legation in ruins, etc.]. Others are of American, French, German, Japanese and Russian army officers and troops in Peking.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 19

“China of Today or The Yellow Peril, illustrating the principal places, incidents and persons connected with the crisis in China”, edited by C.N. Robinson, London, c.1901. This book consists mostly of photographs relating to events during the Boxer disturbances.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 20

“Meinen Mitarbeitern in Peking zur freundlichen Erinnerung an ihren Chef” by Alfons von Mumm, 1902, presented to Hart by the author in 1904. This comprises views mostly of Peking soon after the Boxer disturbances, but also of Macao and Shanghai.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 21 (A-C)

120 black and white views of Peking, Chinese life and character, and British settlement in China. This collection of glass slides in three boxes (A, B, C) is part of the Iron's gift associated with the Sir Robert Hart Collections.

Box A consists of 50 tinted slides (4" x 3"), many of which were produced by the Lantern Slide Bureau, Methodist Episcopal Church in China. The slides illustrate daily life in China, the Summer Palace, scenes around Peking and a festival event. This collection seems to have been collected by Mrs Kathleen Newton, Sir Robert Hart's god-daughter.

Box B comprises 42 black and white slides (3 1/4" x 3 1/4"). The slides illustrate various aspects of daily life in China – farming, transport and a range of sailing vessels – warships, tugs and junks.

Box C consists of 66 black and white slides illustrating various Chinese scenes

Images from the Sir Robert Hart glass slide collection can be viewed here:
<http://cdm15979.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15979coll1>

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 22

Large embossed black volume, 'Tengyueh'. 'The Irrawaddi, Mandalay to Bhamo', Albert Pichon, Tengyueh, February 1909.

MS 15/6 Hart Photograph Collection, part 23

Landscape Khamba Jong, 20 September 1903; panorama and 7 loose photos 15/6/23i-vii. In black file. See also MS 15/6/17. Pictures are identified on reverse.

Images from the Sir Robert Hart photograph collection can be viewed here:
<http://cdm15979.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15979coll2>

7. MS 15/7 Miscellaneous

(1-3)

1. "Memorandum concerning the working and expansion of the Customs Inspectorate", c.1906. This comprises a 30 page manuscript, drafts of individual sections of the script and appended notes. Included are a table providing staffing levels [Foreign, Chinese and Total] for the years 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905 and a list of Customs Houses and their opening dates.
2. Thin portfolio containing some accounts presumably relating to the Customs Inspectorate. There are details of financial transactions with the Governments of China, New Zealand, India, Germany and Transvaal, and with London County Council, c.1905.
3. *Folder containing various loose papers and newspaper cuttings about China, 1900-7. Included is a hand-drawn map endorsed "Oiesen's forecast of the probable outcome of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904", 10 March 1904 which predicted that Manchuria would be restored to Chinese sovereignty and that China would closely ally herself with Japan.

MS 15/7/3/1	Letter (in Chinese script) Hart sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Qing Government in 1908, seeking permission for one year's break. Letter summarises his career of fifty years in China
MS 15/7/3/2	Draft version of Hart's education and career in China
MS 15/7/3/3	Hart's career detailed on 1 sheet (multiple copies) in brown paper parcel, includes awards and honours
MS 15/7/3/4	List of topics for discussion, 25 May, 1905. Concerned with Japan, the war and policy in the Far East
MS 15/7/3/5	Newspaper clipping showing Hart in traditional Chinese dress
MS 15/7/3/6	Provisionary list of customs employees made by Hart for Na Chung Tong, 15/18 April 1908, includes photograph of Na Chung Tong (also in Chinese script)
MS 15/7/3/7	Address by Hart on the occasion of the prize giving of the Hyde Park New College, 19 December, 1908
MS 15/7/3/8	Newspaper clipping, Seattle, Washington, August 1905, concerned with Hart's unique position as a white man in China
MS 15/7/3/9	Drafts of 2 letters (in Hart's hand) to Sir Edward Grey, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London and the Danish Minister concerning the award of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog by the King of Denmark, September 1908
MS 15/7/3/10	Calendar from Soochow University, 1908
MS 15/7/3/11	Letter to Hart (19 December 1901) requesting his permission to include him in "Who's Who"
MS 15/7/3/12	Death notice of Li Hongzhang (one of the most important Qing officials, he played a key role in Chinese modern politics), sent to Hart in 1902, Beijing

- MS 15/7/3/13 Music scripts for various instruments (in Hart's hand?)
- MS 15/3/7/14 Letter (in Chinese script) from Qing Government, asking Hart to negotiate the terms of a treaty, on their behalf with the foreign Legations (undated)
- MS 15/7/3/15 Letter (in Chinese script) from the Chinese Foreign Office detailing the award of an honour to James Hart (Sir Robert Hart's brother) from the Chinese Emperor for his work and his involvement in the negotiations with Tibet (1893, James Hart spent 3 years in Tibet securing trade regulations) (undated)
- MS 15/7/3/16 Letter (in Chinese script) concerning joint venture, of railways in 3 provinces in NE China, between China and Russia (undated)
- MS 15/7/3/17 Invitation to wedding of Baron Guido Vitale, of the Italian Legation in China, to Mademoiselle Marie Louise Ouang, 15 September 1907
- MS 15/7/3/18 Advertisement for "The Sacred Tenth" by Henry Lansdell (signed by the author)
- MS 15/7/3/19 Leaflet entitled "A dialogue", by W.W.P.
- MS 15/7/3/20 Hart's official invitation to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, 1903, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the acquisition of the Louisiana territory
- MS 15/7/3/21 Letter to Hart from David Francis (President of the Exposition) enclosing five photographs taken by their official photographer during the formal dedication of the Imperial Chinese Pavilion site, 5 September 1903
- MS 15/7/3/22 Illustrated booklet "China at the Universal Exposition Saint Louis 1904", with pages from the History of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (35 x 27cm)
- MS 15/7/3/23 Newspaper clippings (Manchester Guardian), 17 December 1904. Discussing the decline of Hart's influence amongst the higher ranks of Chinese officialdom.
- MS 15/7/3/24 Newspaper clipping (The China Gazette), 18 February 1903. Concerned with "The Future of the customs"
- MS 15/7/3/25 Newspaper clipping (St James's Gazette), 21 February 1905. Hart is described as "a whole Tsung-li-Yamen in himself".
- MS 15/7/3/26 Text of a speech given by Qing officials on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday (on Chinese script)
- MS 15/7/3/27 Newspaper clipping "Zao bao" (Chinese script), 19 August, 1907. Before the revolution Qing officials were scared and nervous
- MS 15/7/3/28 Envelope with stamp issued by Qing Imperial Postal Service. Envelope has Chinese scene painted on it
- MS 15/7/3/29 Programme of music by Hart's private band on the occasion of the "Fourteenth Commencement Exercises of Peking University", 10

February, 1904 in Asbury M. E. Church, Peking

- MS 15/7/3/30 Hand-drawn map (by J.F. Oiesen, 10 March 1904) showing probable results of Russo-Jap War of 1904
- MS 15/7/3/31 Newspaper clipping, "The Times", 4 October, 1902, concerned with six young ladies visiting Hart and an audience they had with the Empress Dowager (Elsa and Lucy Drew, Esme Simpson, Gertie McLeish, Winnie Stewart, Effie Ragsdale)
- MS 15/7/3/32 Empress Dowager's titles, 1905 (in Chinese script)
- MS 15/7/3/33 Text of a speech given by J. F. Oiesen on behalf of Custom's staff, congratulating Hart on his seventieth birthday
- MS 15/7/3/34 A series of orders given by the Chinese Imperial Court concerned with instituting reforms in China, including reform of the Chinese education system, strengthening Chinese military forces and banning certain harsh forms of criminal punishment and legal deterrents, 1905 (in Chinese script)
- MS 15/7/3/35 Newspaper clipping, "Morning Post", 14 March 1908, the article makes reference to Hart's essays after the Boxer rebellion, on the Chinese question



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8. MS 15/8 Personalia

- A A collection of Chinese scrolls, some decorative or expressing greetings but mainly being the official documents of Hart's various Chinese appointments and honours.
- A/1 Hart was received in Audience by the Emperor and the Empress Dowager on 23 February 1902. This scroll is one of the gifts he received the following day to mark the occasion. It means Happiness.
- B The patents of Hart's British honours: KCMG, GCMG, Baronetcy. His grant of arMS
- C Awards and correspondence relating to various "orders conferred", often includes Hart's replies and associated newspaper clippings.
1. Grand Cross of the Order of Orange, Nassau, Holland, 1897
 2. First Class of the Order of the Rising Sun, Japan, 1904
 3. Grand Cross of the Dragon Annam, France, 1907
 4. Grand Cross of the Order of St. Olav, Norway, 1907
 5. Order of the Crown, First Class, Prussia, 1900
 6. Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown of Italy, Italy, 1906
 7. Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold, Belgium, 1906
 8. Grand Cross of the Order of Ste. Anne, Russia, 1907
 9. Grand Cross of the Order of Christ, Portugal, 1888
- D Licences granted to Sir Robert Hart by Edward VII to accept and wear
1. Insignia of the First Class of the Royal Prussian Order of the Crown
 2. Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold, Belgium
 3. Grand Cordon of the Order of St. Anne, Russia
 4. Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau, Netherlands
 5. Grand Cross of the Order of the "Dragon of Annam", France
 6. Insignia of the First Class of the Order of the Rising Sun, Japan
 7. Insignia of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Crown of Italy
 8. Includes letter from Foreign Office indicating that permission cannot be granted for Hart to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of Christ, conferred upon him by the King of Portugal in 1888.
 9. Regulations respecting Foreign Orders and Medals, F.O. August 1885
 10. Newspaper clipping, Times 6 April 1907
 11. Envelope, addressed to Sir Robert Hart from the Foreign Office, date of receipt 11 August 1907
- E
1. Licence granted to Edgar Bruce Hart by Edward VII (1908) to accept and wear the Insignia of the First Class of the Third Division of the Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon
 2. Licence granted to Sir Edgar Bruce Hart, Baronet, by George V (1911), to accept and wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Second Grade of the Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon.
 3. Newspaper clipping detailing the award of the Order of the Double Dragon to Edgar Bruce Hart (The Morning Post, Saturday, August 1, 1908).
 4. Envelope with seal (Hart)

F

1. Notes by Hart concerning the various awards conferred (1906). Includes mention of the loss of "Double Dragon" and "The Peacock's Feather" (China, 1885) during the siege, 1900.
2. Letter (27 Sept. 1904) from Chancery of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, concerning Hart's intention to provide a Banner with his arms for the chapel of the Order.
3. Letter (04 May 1906) concerning the inauguration of the chapel of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.
4. Letter (21 Feb. 1908) from Chancery of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, concerning Hart's attendance at the annual service in the Chapel of the Order.
5. Letter (15 May 1906) concerning G.C.M.G. Mantle from Robemakers Ede, Son & Ravenscroft.
6. Letter (23 May 1906) from Chancery of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, concerning Hart's attendance at the opening of the Chapel of the Order in St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, 12 June, 1906.
7. Draft letters by Hart concerning various Orders
8. Note of congratulation from S. D. B. (Cambridge), with newspaper clipping (The Standard) 6 April 1907 – granting of licence, by the King, to accept and wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of St. Anne, conferred on Hart by the Emperor of Russia.
9. Note from the Norwegian Legation informing Hart that on his death the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav should be returned to Norway, dated 10 February 1908
10. Statutory declarations (2) by Sir Robert Hart as to marriage and family
11. Investments portfolio
12. Correspondence: 4 packets, unsorted/uncatalogued
13. Envelope with Chinese Imperial Post stamp (10 cents), dated 23 July 1902, containing seeds, coins, letter (size 3 x 2.5 inches approx.)
14. Scrolls (laquered), photographs
15. Letters patent for baronetcy
16. Boxed scrolls and seals (3)

- H.
1. Coats of arms (2) in frames
 2. Coats of arms (2) in frames

J. Box containing an address to Sir Robert Hart

“Address to Sir Robert Hart is on album form consisting of a massive cover only in the side pages of which are two vellums counter sunk and surrounded by elaborately tooled calf mounted margins. The outer pages of Levant Morocco are hand tooled in handsome but simple arrangement of ornaments monogram and crests for which brass dies were engraved an attractive appearance is given to the cover by the yapped edges and the addition of a board of Chinese yellow silk.

On the vellum appears the address proper. The style of the illumination and the lettering are in the Gothic of the Middle Ages and through the diapers which are behind the illuminating are true Chinese forms the two styles harmonise perfectly. In not departing from pure illuminating colours there has been excellent judgment shown and discretion used to produce good contrast between this portion of the work and that of the binder so that the combined effect is pleasing and rich.

The work has been executed by McCaw, Stevenson & Orr, Ltd., Belfast and London.”

I. Photograph in frame of “Chinese” Gordon – General Gordon

G. Decorative Address to Sir Robert Hart on the occasion of his 70th birthday (20th February 1905), Peking

Text of Address

Sir Robert Hart, Baronet, Letters., Junior Guardian of the heir apparent of China, Inspector-General of Chinese Imperial Customs and Posts, etc., etc., etc.

Dear Sir Robert,

We deem it a great privilege, on such an occasion as the present, to be the spokesmen of our colleagues in the sister Services – Customs and Postal; and in that spirit of filial piety which forms the essence of the moral code of the country for which you have laboured so long, we desire to offer you our cordial and loyal greetings on the occasion of your seventieth birthday. We feel sure that it will be gratifying to you to know that on this day the thoughts of the whole Service are turned towards you with affectionate regard, as those of a family towards their revered Chief.

This is not the time to recount the history of the structure whose every brick has been laid under your direction; but the occasion is one on which we feel that it is opportune to refer to two other recent anniversaries in connection with your life in the East: the completion, in the month of November, 1903 of your forty years leadership as Inspector General of Customs, and, in the month of May, 1904 of your fifty years residence in China. What you have accomplished in that time for China, and for all nations having dealings with China, can only be rightly appreciated by the historian of the future; what you have done for the members of the Service which you have created and which, planted like a seedling little more than half a century ago, has, under your fostering care, grown into a sturdy tree, whose branches, spreading year by year, are reaching farther and farther over this vast Empire, is known to all who have had the privilege of serving under you, and will be handed down as an honoured tradition to those who come after.

We cannot conclude without a reference to the terrible time of anxiety through which we passed some four years ago, when you and many of your colleagues – of whom some are present here today – were undergoing dangers and privations, the nature of which it was beyond our power

to realize until they had passed into history; and we do so, not for the purpose of recalling to mind that which cannot but be painful to remember, but because we feel that your happy escape from the dangers which beset you, and the fact that you emerged from them with health and strength unimpaired, afford us still greater cause for congratulating you today.

It is usual on such occasions as this to express the wish, "Many happy returns of the day!" and, trite though it may be, we know no better way of expressing the sentiments of which we would be the exponents. We therefore ask you to accept, on behalf of close upon ten thousand men of all ranks and nationalities, their most sincere and heartfelt wish that you may be spared for many years of health and happiness, not alone to those who know you only as a Chief, but also to those – and they are many – who have reason to regard you as a personal friend.

Appended hereto are telegrams from our colleagues throughout China, testifying their desire to be with us in spirit today.

We are,
Dear Sir Robert,
faithfully and cordially yours,

Peking, 20th February, 1905

Iron's Gift (2 boxes)

Box A Iron's Gift: Papers belonging to Kathleen Newton nee Carrall. Sir Robert Hart was her godfather. Her father was the Commissioner of the Chinese Imperial Customs under Sir Robert Hart.

Diaries, including description of Pageant of 5 decades

- 1908-1918
- 1918-1928
- 1928-1938
- 1938-1948
- 1948-1958

Photographs – 137 Chinese scenes

Letters from Hart to his god-daughter, 1900-1909

Photograph album

Map

Chinese books

Account of "Events in the North of China 17th June 1900 to September 3rd 1900 as received and recorded by Commissioner at Chefoo, North China" James W. Carrall (Chinese Imperial Customs)