

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 75 M 36

Location 27-i-2/4 (L)

Title Post Wheeler. Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1909-1946

Date of receipt August 5, 1975

Received from Mrs. Harold G. Henderson

Volume on arrival Unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 17 AB; 4 ½AB - 8.25 l.f.

Condition Good

Restrictions None

Description

(See Attached Sheets)

Special Formats ☐ Photographs ☐ Maps ☐ Audio Tapes ☐ Films ☐ Graphics
☐ Artifacts ☐ Machine-readable records
☐ Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

(See Attached Sheet)

Accessioned by JT

Date 8/22/88

POST WHEELER PAPERS

Biographical Note

Post Wheeler was a journalist, a writer, and a diplomat. Born in Oswega, New York, in 1869, he graduated from Princeton in 1891 and then went on to receive degrees in the United States, Paris, and India. In 1906 he married Hallie Erminie Rives, a novelist. After a career as a poet, newspaper publisher, journalist, and foreign correspondent in Paris and Morrocco, in 1906 Wheeler passed the first examinations ever given for the United States Foreign Service. He went to Japan as the second secretary of the United States Legation, 1906-1909. Having served in the American Embassy in Saint Petersburg 1909-1911 and in Rome 1912-1913, Wheeler returned to Tokyo as Charge d'Affairs 1914-1916 and later as counselor at the embassy. He was also part of the American Legation in Stockholm 1917-1920, in London 1921-1924, and in Rio de Janeiro 1929, and he was EE and MP (envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary) to Paraguay 1929-1933, and to Albania 1933-1934. In 1952 Wheeler and his wife published Dome of Many-Coloured Glass, reminiscences of the Foreign Service.

In addition to early works of poetry and humor, Wheeler published books of Russian, Albanian, and Hawaiian folklore; he also translated and edited a work of Japanese mythology. While serving at the American Embassy in Tokyo, Wheeler became interested in the ancient custom of public story-telling. At the time of his first post in Japan, story-tellers still played a prominent role as public entertainers and informants, but this function had greatly declined by the time of his return. Wheeler took upon himself the task of collecting and preseving some of these tales. He was interested in the work of the hanashika, the public story-tellers, and not the Kodanshi, the more dignified story-tellers.

Some of the tales Wheeler was interested in were part of Japan's literary tradition, but others had not been put into print. Some had been published in Japan, but were not readily accessible. Over a period of nearly 30 years Wheeler gathered tales, had them translated, and consulted with many Japanese scholars.

Wheeler's finished work, the "Ho-Dan-Zo" (literal translation-Japanese Treasure Tale Storehouse) was completed and under contract to be published in ten volumes in 1938. The publication was delayed due to complications about illustrations. Before these complications were resolved, the United States was at war with Japan and the contract was cancelled. At the time the manuscript was being prepared for intended publication in Japan, a project which also was revoked. The typescript in this collection is evidently the only complete existing manuscript of this work. Harold G. Henderson, whose wife gave the collection to the New York Public Library, published a one-volume collection of tales from the Ho-Dan-Zo titled Tales From the Japanese Story-tellers in 1964. Wheeler died in Neptune, New Jersey in 1956.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of Correspondence (1909-1946), the Typescript of the "Ho-Dan-Zo", Various Notes re the "Ho-Dan-Zo", and Notes on Japanese Customs and Folklore. The Correspondence consists of letters between Wheeler and Japanese scholars and translators. There is also a folder of letters in Japanese, which may be the originals of other letters in the series, and a folder of material found with the correspondence which includes notes and memoranda and two pamphlets in Japanese. The Typescript of the "Ho-Dan Zo", divided into ten sections which correspond to the ten projected volumes, includes Wheeler's emendations. Various Notes re the "Ho-Dan-Zo" consist of research material, unsorted notes relating to the "Ho-Dan-Zo", translations of Japanese stories not used by Wheeler, and some Chinese and Korean tales. The Notes on Japanese Folklore and Customs contain Wheeler's own notes and other material, particularly clippings.

POST WHEELER PAPERS

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	<u>Correspondence 1909-1946</u> <u>The "Ho-Dan-Zo"</u>
2	volumes 1-3
3	" 3-5
4	" 5-7
5	" 7-10
6	volume 10
7-16	<u>Various Notes Re the "Ho-Dan-Zo"</u> <u>Notes on Japanese Customs</u>
17	"Acupuncture" - "Eyebrow"
18	"Fairy Tale" - "Jade"
19	"Lacquer" - "Pornography"
20	"Post Road" - "Tea"
21	"Ten Views" - "Z"