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Guide to the Edward A. Kracke, Jr. Papers 1927-1976



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.KRACKEEA
Title	Kracke, Edward A., Jr. Papers
Date	1927-1976
Size	8.5 linear feet (17 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Edward A. Kracke Jr. (1908-1976) was a professor of East Asian studies at the University of Chicago, and an expert on early Chinese political institutions during the Sung dynasty (906-1279 A. D.). After briefly working for the Office of Strategic Services and the State Department as an expert on political developments in the Far East during the Second World War, he joined the University of Chicago in 1947, where he was instrumental in developing its program in Far Eastern studies. The collection comprises Kracke's correspondence with other noted scholars in Asian history; drafts of and notes related to his writing, presentations and research, mostly on the subject of the Sung dynasty; Kracke's teaching materials and students' work; and correspondence and other materials related to his work in various professional and Asian studies organizations.

Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Kracke, Edward A., Jr. Papers [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Edward A. Kracke Jr. was a professor of East Asian studies at the University of Chicago, and an expert on early Chinese political institutions during the Sung dynasty (906-1279 A. D.). After joining the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago, he was instrumental in developing its program in Far Eastern studies; when he retired in 1973, they had been brought together as the Department of Far Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Edward A. Kracke Jr. was born in New York City on 22 January, 1908. He received his A. B. cum laude in Fine Arts in 1932 and a Master's degree in History in 1935, both from Harvard University. That same year, he married Joan Hocking, the daughter of the Harvard idealist philosopher William E. Hocking. They had two children together: Waud Hocking and Ernesta Henrietta. Also in 1935, Kracke travelled to Paris to study early Chinese and Central Asian History with Étienne Balazs, a leading sinologist, at l'École nationale des langues orientales vivantes, now known as the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales. Afterward, he went to Peiping (Beijing) to study Chinese language and history, receiving assistance and advice from the reputed Chinese historian William Hung. He then returned to Harvard, where he worked with the prominent scholars Edwin O. Reischauer, John K. Fairbank and Serge Elisséeff and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Japanese language.

In 1942, Kracke joined the staff of the Far East Division, Research and Analysis Branch of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in Washington, D.C. He headed the Japanese Political Section, producing reports on political conditions in Japan, Formosa (Taiwan), and Korea, January 1944 to October 1945. When OSS was abolished in 1946, Kracke was reassigned to the Department of State's Division of Far East Intelligence. However, he stayed in the position for less than half a year, resigning in order to devote himself to turning his dissertation into a book. In 1946, he came to the University of Chicago, initially as a visiting professor. He would remain there for the next 27 years, becoming a full Professor in 1970.

Kracke did not publish prolifically, producing only one monograph, *Civil Service in Early Sung China*, which was based on his dissertation and was published in 1953. Most of his publishing was in the form of articles in academic journals. His work examined the organization and functioning of the Chinese government in the first century of the Sung dynasty, and what Kracke called "controlled sponsorship" in its system of promotion.

Kracke taught a number of courses in Chinese history and culture at the University of Chicago. He was intensely involved in the development of Far Eastern studies at the University of Chicago and in North America, in general. At the University of Chicago, he served as Chairman of the Committee on Far Eastern Civilizations 1957-1963 and Chairman of the Committee on Far Eastern Studies 1970-1971. He also served as the Director of the Center for Far Eastern Studies 1961-1964 and again in 1971-1972. Outside of the university, Kracke was actively involved in many scholarly and Asian studies organizations, namely the American Council of Learned Societies (1933-1972), the American Oriental Society (1962-1974, serving as president 1972-1973), the Harvard Visiting Committee on Far Eastern Studies (1960-1965) and the Chicago Literary Club (1956-1976).

Kracke retired from the University of Chicago in 1973, becoming Professor Emeritus. After a long illness, he died 8 July 1976 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Scope Note

This collection comprises the years 1927-1976, ranging from Kracke's time as a student at Harvard through his work for the Office of Strategic Services, and his 27 years as a professor of East Asian studies at the University of Chicago.

Series I, Academic Correspondence, 1936-1976, comprises Edward A. Kracke's academic correspondence with colleagues and graduate students at the University of Chicago, and with scholars working in the field of Asian studies in other American universities, Asia and Europe. The correspondence with graduate students mostly relates to their dissertations and comprises several people who went on to become experts on China, in their own right, while the correspondence with other scholars relates mostly to the theme of the Sung dynasty and Far Eastern studies, more broadly. Notably, this series includes Kracke's correspondence with several leading sinologists during the McCarthy investigations – including the Harvard professor John K. Fairbank, whom Senator McCarthy branded pro-communist. This series is organized alphabetically by correspondent's last name.

Series II: Publishing, Presentations and Research, contains published works of Edward A. Kracke, as well as correspondence and notes related to his monograph *Civil Service in Early Sung China* (1953) and his articles published in scholarly journals. It also contains papers and talks delivered within and outside the University of Chicago, book reviews written by Kracke, and correspondence and notes related to publications Kracke consulted on or contributed to – mostly on the subject of the Sung dynasty. Finally, it includes research papers and administrative matters related to academic conferences Kracke participated in both as a presenter and organizer, lectures given by Kracke, and his personal notes and research materials on various topics in Chinese and Japanese history.

Series III, Teaching and Organizational, documents courses taught by Edward A. Kracke at the University of Chicago and papers, proposals and drafts written by his students, as well as correspondence and administrative matter from the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures (later reorganized as the Department of Far Eastern Languages and Civilizations). This series also comprises Kracke's involvement with the University of Chicago's Committee on Far Eastern Studies, and several professional, East Asian and other organizations.

Series IV: Personal, includes curricula vitae, correspondence related to his work for the Office of Strategic Services and the State Department during and immediately after the war, Kracke's personal notes and lists, and materials related to his retirement and passing away.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

Subject Headings

- Kracke, E.A. (Edward A.)
- United States. Department of State
- United States. Office of Strategic Services
- University of Chicago. Committee on Far Eastern Studies
- University of Chicago. Department of Far Eastern Languages and Civilizations
- University of Chicago. Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures
- Academic freedom -- United States
- China -- History
- China -- Study and teaching

INVENTORY

Series I: Academic Correspondence, 1936-1976

This series comprises Edward A. Kracke's academic correspondence with colleagues and graduate students at the University of Chicago, and with scholars working in the field of Asian studies in other American universities, Asia and Europe. The correspondence with graduate students mostly relates to their dissertations and comprises several people who went on to become experts on China, in their own right, while the correspondence with other scholars relates mostly to the theme of the Sung dynasty and Far Eastern studies, more broadly. Notably, this series includes Kracke's correspondence with several leading sinologists during the McCarthy investigations – including the Harvard professor John K. Fairbank, whom Senator Joseph McCarthy branded pro-communist. This series is organized alphabetically by correspondent's last name.

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The works of Edward A. Kracke, as well as correspondence and notes related to his monograph *Civil Service in Early Sung China* (1953) and his articles published in scholarly journals. It also contains papers and talks delivered within and outside the University of Chicago, book reviews written by Kracke, and correspondence and notes related to publications Kracke consulted on or contributed to – mostly on the subject of the Sung dynasty. Finally, it includes research papers and administrative matters related to academic conferences Kracke participated in both as a presenter and organizer, lectures given by Kracke, and his personal notes and research materials on various topics in Chinese and Japanese history.

This series is organized into six subseries:

Subseries 1: Published Works, contains correspondence and notes related to his monograph *Civil Service in Early Sung China* (1953) and his articles published in scholarly journals. Files are organized chronologically.

Subseries 2: Papers and Talks, contains typescripts of various papers and talks given by Kracke, 1940-1973. Files are organized chronologically.

Subseries 3: Book Reviews, contains correspondence regarding, requests for, and notes related to book reviews written by Kracke for scholarly publications, 1942-1972. Files are organized alphabetically.

Subseries 4: Collaborations and Consulting, contains correspondence and notes related to publications Kracke collaborated or consulted on. Files are organized alphabetically.

Subseries 5: Academic Conferences and Lectures, contains correspondence regarding conferences and lectures Kracke participated in as an organizer and speaker, as well as drafts of papers presented by Kracke, 1959-1972. Files are organized alphabetically.

Subseries 6: Notes and Research Materials, contains Kracke's personal notes and research on various subjects in Chinese and Japanese history. Files are organized alphabetically.

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Series III: Teaching and Organizational

Courses taught by Edward A. Kracke at the University of Chicago and papers, proposals and drafts written by his students, as well as correspondence and administrative matter from the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures (later reorganized as the Department of Far Eastern Languages and Civilizations). This series also comprises Kracke's involvement with the University of Chicago's Committee on Far Eastern Studies, and several professional, East Asian and other organizations.

This series is organized into five subseries:

Subseries 1: Courses on Chinese History and Culture, contains syllabi, bibliographies and other reference material related to courses taught by Kracke at the University of Chicago. Files are organized numerically by course code.

Subseries 2: Students' Work, contains papers, assignments and drafts of work by Kracke's undergraduate and graduate students. Files are organized alphabetically by student's last name.

Subseries 3: Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures/Far Eastern Languages and Civilizations, contains administrative materials and correspondence within the department, circa 1958-1971. Files are organized alphabetically.

Subseries 4: Committee on Far Eastern Studies, contains administrative materials and correspondence of the committee, circa 1958-1971. Files are organized alphabetically.

Subseries 5: Organizations, contains correspondence and informational materials related to professional, Asian studies and non-academic organizations Kracke was a member of, 1933-1972. Files are organized alphabetically.

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