



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

SENATE HOUSE LIBRARY

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference:	MS420
Title:	Herbert Chatley papers
Dates:	c1895-c1949
Level:	fonds
Extent and Medium:	3 boxes
Name of Creator:	Chatley, Herbert (1885-1955) engineer

CONTEXT

Biographical/Administrative History: Herbert Chatley was an authority on dredging and dredging plant, of which he had long practical experience. He was a prolific author on that topic, but his interests were varied and he also wrote on the theory of flight and on rocket propulsion.

Chatley was born on May 17, 1885, and educated at Cambridge House Grammar School, North London, and the Northern Polytechnic of London University. Chatley was awarded an external B.Sc. degree in 1906. His early professional experience included a pupillage under Arthur Tighe, a job working with the borough engineer of Fulham, and a position as Lecturer in Civil Engineering at the Municipal College, Portsmouth.

In 1909 Chatley became Professor of Civil Engineering of the Chinese Government Engineering College at Longshan, in Northern China, where he was to spend a large part of his professional career. He was awarded a D.Sc. degree at the University of London in 1914 for his work on rolling friction and convex contact.

Chatley returned to practical engineering in 1915 as an engineering assistant on the Nanking-Hunan railway.

In 1916, he joined the engineering staff of the Whangpoo (or Huangpu) Conservancy Board, the body responsible for maintaining the Whangpoo River at the port of Shanghai, and the mouth of the Yangtze River. He remained with them for many years, and became chief engineer of the Board. It was during this period of his career - for which he was honoured by the Chinese Government - that Chatley became an expert on dredging. A considerable amount of dredging - valued at £100,000 and involving 3,000,000 cubic yards annually in 1928 - was carried out under his supervision.

His work included the supervision of the construction of locally built dredging plant. This experience resulted in a series of papers such as "Silt," published

in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers of 1920-21. Various papers by Chatley were submitted to the Engineering Society of China. During the Second World War he was involved in the development of mulberry harbours.

Herbert Chatley became a full member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1928. He was also a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland, an associate fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and an associate of the Institute of Physics. He was an active member of the Junior Institution of Engineers, which he chaired in 1939-40. Chatley was elected to the Royal Astronomical Society in March 1950. His interest in Chinese and Egyptian astronomy resulted in articles which he contributed to scholarly journals.

CONTENT

Scope and Content: Includes notebooks and papers on science and technology, with special reference to China. Subjects of notebooks include Chinese and Egyptian astronomy, and Chinese occultism. Also papers on Nanking-Hunan railway.

ACCESS AND USE

Language of Scripts: English, Chinese.

Conditions of Access: Open for research although at least 24 hours notice should be given.

Conditions of Reproduction: Copies may be made, subject to the condition of the original. Copying must be undertaken by the Special Collections Reading Room staff, who will need a minimum of 24 hours to process requests.

MS420/1/1 Papers, reports, drafts c1916-1938

Includes typescript drafts. Titles include The Harbour of Chefoo, The Yangtse Estuary (undated); Hydraulics of Large Rivers (c1932). Lectures include The Yellow River as a factor in the development of China (1938); abstract of paper on dredging the Whagoo Estuary (for World Engineering Congress, 1929); report on the orography of the Yang Tze Watershed (c1915); reports on Yangtse Estuary Model, c1916.

1 file

MS420/1/2 Reports, drafts, papers, lectures c1916-1945

Includes The development of mechanisms in Ancient China (paper read at Royal Asiatic Society, 1942); Discussion on dredging machinery (undated); undated BBC script on Inland Water Transport in Britain; Britain and irrigation (1944); comments by D. W. Lobnitz on Chatley's paper on dredging machinery, 1945; proofs of article on viscosity of vapour (1926); mathematics and aeronautics; portland cement; the occlusion of gases by metals (1916); a handbook of colloid-chemistry; the lateral stability of aeroplanes; cohesion; the law of attraction for molecular force; the electrical basis of cohesion (1917); molecular force.

1 file

MS420/1/3 Reports, drafts, papers, lectures c1915-1938

Includes the relation of cohesion to gravitation and chemical affinity, molecular attraction, the port of Danzig, the port of Tientsin, Lacey theory of river stability, relation between engineering and the depression (1934), port development in the Far East, stability of consolidated silt, tidal propagation, papers on Nanking-Hunan railway line (eg lists of grades and openings), molecular forces in living matter, maintenance of depths alongside wharves by dredging, breaking of waves against sea walls (c1938).

1 file

MS420/2/1	Drafts on Egyptian astronomy	undated, c1949
	Typescript drafts. Also includes notebooks in English and Chinese.	
	1 file	
MS420/3/1	Notebooks on Chinese astronomy, literature	Undated
	Includes note books on Chinese occultism (3 volumes); general notes on occultism, electromagnetic waves; Chinese language and literature; Chinese astronomy.	
	1 file	
MS420/3/2	Notebooks on Chinese and Egyptian astronomy	c1935- c1940
	Handwritten notebooks. Also includes notes on the history of astronomy.	
	35 notebooks	
MS420/3/3	Notebooks	c1913- c1937
	Subjects include history of the calendar, mechanics of rotation, solar system, Rosicrucian Society of England, astronomy (including monthly notices of Royal Astronomical Society, 1913); calculus and other mathematics.	
	6 notebooks	
MS420/3/4	Notebooks	c1895- c1949
	Subjects include ancient science and technology, clay and cohesion, electrical engineering, Buddhism, cosmic harmony. Also includes correspondence with James Bain about Galilean and Newtonian mechanics, 1949; sketchbook, 1895.	
	1 file	
MS420/3/5	Notebooks	c1911- c1947

Subjects include aeronautics, solar system,
Buddhism, electrical engineering, nuclear dynamics
(1947), column research (1911).

6 notebooks