

**Charles William Le Gendre Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2024**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78029850>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009095>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009  
Revised 2024 May

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Charles William Le Gendre Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1866-1893

**Bulk Dates:** 1866-1875 and 1891-1892

**ID No.:** MSS29850

**Creator:** Le Gendre, Charles William, 1830-1899

**Extent:** 1,800 items

**Extent:** 14 containers plus 4 oversize

**Extent:** 6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English, French, with Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian languages

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78029850>

**Summary:** Army officer and diplomat. Correspondence, memoranda, dispatches, reports, Chinese and Japanese documents, and other papers relating chiefly to Le Gendre's service as American consul at Amoy, China, 1866-1872; as advisor in the Japanese government and in a diplomatic post representing Japan in Taiwan, 1872-1875; and as advisor in the Korean government, 1890-1899. Includes Le Gendre's journal, with drawings and photographs, in which he recounts his travels among aborigines in Taiwan.

**Online Content:** Part of the papers of Charles William Le Gendre is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000126>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.*

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Le Gendre, Charles William, 1830-1899.

### Subjects

Civilization, Oriental.

Consuls--China--Xiamen Shi.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--China.

Diplomatic and consular service, Japanese--Taiwan.

Diplomatic and consular service, Japanese.

Ethnology.

Taiwan aborigines.

World history.

### Places

Asia--History.

East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.

Japan--Foreign relations--1868-1912.

Japan--Foreign relations--Taiwan.

Korea--Commerce.

Taiwan--Description and travel.

Taiwan--Foreign relations--Japan.

Taiwan--Foreign relations.

United States--Foreign relations--1865-1898.

United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.

### Titles

*Charles William Le Gendre Papers at the Library of Congress.*

### Occupations

Army officers.  
Diplomats.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Charles William Le Gendre, army officer and diplomat, were given to the Library of Congress in 1933 by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. William Le Gendre.

## Processing History

The papers of Charles William Le Gendre were processed in 1969 by Frank Tusa. The finding aid was revised in 2003 by Patrick Kerwin with the assistance of Joseph D. Jackson and in 2024 by Maria Farmer.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles William Le Gendre is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles William Le Gendre are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Online Content

Part of the papers of Charles William Le Gendre is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000126>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.*

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles William Le Gendre Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1830, Aug. 26	Born, Oullins, France
1854	Married Clara Victoria Mulock
1855	Emigrated to the United States
1861-1864	Served in United States Army
1866-1872	American consul, Amoy, China
1872-1875	Japanese counselor to China and foreign advisor to Japan
1890-1899	Vice president, Korean Home Office and advisor, Household Department of the King Gojong of Korea
1899, Sept. 1	Died, Seoul, Korea

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles William Le Gendre (1830-1899) span the years 1866-1893 but are concentrated in two periods, 1866-1875 and 1891-1892. The collection contains a limited amount of material on Le Gendre's personal life and focuses chiefly on his diplomatic career in the American foreign service and in the Japanese and Korean governments. It is composed primarily of correspondence, memoranda, dispatches, reports, Chinese and Japanese documents, a travel journal, and a draft of a multivolume book by an unknown author.

Le Gendre's career as United States consul at Amoy, China, and advisor in the Japanese foreign service is the central theme of the general correspondence for the years 1866-1875. His efforts to promote American interests in the Far East as well as his observations on Asian civilizations are recurring topics in his correspondence with American superiors, memoranda, reports, and dispatches. Le Gendre was particularly interested in establishing peaceful relations with Taiwan, formerly known as Formosa, and his experience with the Taiwanese prompted Japanese authorities to tender him a diplomatic position in 1872. Le Gendre's activities on behalf of the Japanese government, particularly his conflict with American officials in China, is reflected in the correspondence for the years 1873-1875.

Correspondence for the years 1891-1892 is devoted to Le Gendre's service in Korea and consists primarily of dispatches, memoranda, and reports. Much of the material deals with issues concerning Korean trade relations.

The collection contains Le Gendre's description of his travel among the aborigines of Formosa in 1874 and a multivolume work by an unknown author entitled *Les Courants Humains, ou la Circulation du Sang de l'homme et de la Civilisation a la Surface de la Terre*. The book is an extensive study of the development of various civilizations, the spread of races, and Asian history.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Asian language documents, undated
BOX 1	1 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	2 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	3 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	4 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	5 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	6 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	7 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	Chronological file
BOX 1	1866-1867 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	1868 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	1869 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1870 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1871, Jan.-July <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1871, Aug. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1871, Sept. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1871, Oct.-[1871] <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1872, Jan.-June <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1872, July-Sept. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1872, Oct.-[1872] <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1873, Jan.-Mar. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1873, Apr.-June <a href="#">Digital content available</a>

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	1873, July-Aug. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1873, Sept.-Dec. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	[1873] <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1874, Jan.-Mar. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1874, Apr. 1-14 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	1874, Apr. 15-30 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1874, May <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1874, June <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1874, July-Aug. 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1874, Aug. 8-Sept. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1874, Oct. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1874, Nov.-[1874] <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1875, Jan.-Feb. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1875, Mar.-May <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1875, June-Aug. 8 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1875, Aug. 9-[1875] <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1875, 1 of 2 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1875, 2 of 2 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	1877, 1883, 1888 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	1891, Feb.-Dec. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	1891 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	1892, Jan.-Apr. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	1892, May-July <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	1892, Aug.-Nov. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	1892 Dec.-[1892] <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	1892 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	1893 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Fragments, undated
BOX 4	1 of 2 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	2 of 2 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Fragments, undated
BOX 5	1 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	2 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	3 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	4 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	5 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	6 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	7 of 7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	<i>Les Courants Humains, ou la Circulation du sang de l'homme et de la civilisation a la surface de la terre</i> , by an unknown author; in French and English (2 vols.)
BOX 6	(4 vols.)
BOX 7	(1 vol.)
BOX 8	(4 vols.)
BOX 9	(3 vols.)
BOX 10	(4 vols.)
BOX 11	(8 vols.)
BOX 12	(3 vols.)
BOX 13	(4 vols.)
BOX 14	(2 vols.)
	"Notes of Travel in Formosa," undated
BOX OV 1	Vol. 1, undated
BOX OV 2	Vol. 2, undated
BOX OV 3	Vol. 3, undated
BOX OV 4	Vol. 4, undated