Register to the Papers of
Charles F. Hockett

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National Anthropological Archives
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Biographical Note

Charles Francis Hockett was a linguist best known for his contribution to structural linguistics. Strongly influenced by the work of Leonard Bloomfield, he was “widely considered Bloomfield’s chief disciple, and the most prominent explicator and elaborator of Bloomfield’s works” (Gair 7). While he primarily focused on Algonquian languages, Hockett also studied Chinese, Fijian, and English.

Hockett was born in Columbus, Ohio on January 17, 1916 to Homer and Amy Hockett. He matriculated at Ohio State University in 1932 and graduated in 1936 with a BA and MA in ancient history. He then went on to study at Yale where he received his PhD in 1939. Afterward, he completed two years of postdoctoral study and had the opportunity to work with Leonard Bloomfield directly.

Drafted into the US Army in 1942, Hockett prepared language-training materials, language guides, and dictionaries for military personnel. He was eventually promoted to Captain and left the military in 1946 when he became a professor of linguistics at Cornell University. In 1957 he joined the Department of Anthropology. Hockett stayed at Cornell until 1982 when he retired to emeritus status. He later served as an adjunct professor of linguistics at Rice University.

He died on November 3, 2000.

Sources Consulted

Chronology

1916 Born January 17 in Columbus, Ohio
1932 Entered Ohio State University at 16
1936 Graduated summa cum laude with BA & MA in ancient history
1939 Received PhD in Anthropology from Yale; dissertation based on fieldwork in Potawatomi
1939 Summer of fieldwork in Kickapoo and autumn in Michoacán, Mexico
1940-1941 2 years of postdoctoral study, including two quarters with Leonard Bloomfield at Chicago, followed by a stay at Michigan
1942 Drafted into US Army
1945 Dispatched to Tokyo as a first lieutenant to help train U.S. troops in Japanese
1946 Separated from the army with a terminal leave promotion to captain
1946 Began university teaching career as an assistant professor of linguistics in the Division of Modern Languages at Cornell where he was in charge of Chinese and continued to run the Chinese program for 15 years
1957 Become a member of Cornell’s Department of Anthropology (later named the Goldwin Smith Professor of Linguistics and Anthropology)
1964 President of the Linguistic Society of America
1974 Elected to the National Academy of Sciences
1982 Retired from Cornell to emeritus status
1982 President of the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States
1983 Festschrift written (Agard et al., 1983)
1986 Distinguished lecturer of the American Anthropological Association
1986 Visiting professor, later adjunct professor of linguistics at Rice University
2000 Died on November 3
Selected Bibliography


1997  Approaches to Syntax. Lingua 100: 151-170.
Scope and Content Note

This collection contains the professional papers of linguist Charles F. Hockett. Included are research materials consisting of field notes and notebooks, correspondence, published and unpublished writings, annotated copies of other scholars’ work, a few drawings, photographs, and sound recordings.

The materials in this collection document Hockett’s career as a structural linguist, and provides glimpses into his military service and his passion for music. Hockett’s writings and notes, which comprise the majority of the materials in the collection, demonstrate his contributions to the field of linguistics.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Extent

3.75 linear feet (10 document boxes) plus 1 record storage box of sound recordings

Provenance

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Charles Hockett’s daughter, Rachel Hockett.

Related Collections


For additional Hockett correspondence, see:
C. F. Voegelin Papers, American Philosophical Society.
Processing Note

The papers of Charles F. Hockett were partially organized and inventoried by Tammy L. Goss, a University of Wisconsin-Madison student, before deposited at the archives. Original folder titles were retained. Folder titles assigned by the archivist are indicated by square brackets. Files have been rehoused in acid free folders. The archivist kept existing groupings and organized the collection into nine series.
Series Description and Container List

Series 1. Field Research. 1937-1938, 1940
1 linear inch

This series contains Hockett’s files from field research he conducted among the Potawatomi for his PhD dissertation, and the summer he spent with the Kickapoo after his graduation from Yale. It includes field notes and notebooks. Arranged chronologically.

Box 1

| Potawatomi Texts                              | 1937, 1940       |
| Kickapoo: my text; notes                      | 1938             |
| Kickapoo CFH Field Notes [1 of 2]             | 1938             |
| Kickapoo CFH Field Notes [2 of 2]             | 1938             |
| [Language Cards—Probably Kickapoo]           | Undated          |

Series 2. Writings. 1940-2000
1 linear foot, 11 linear inches

This series contains Hockett’s published articles and books, unpublished writings, and reviews written by Hockett of other scholars’ works. Included are drafts of Rugged Nuggets, a volume of poems, “written” by Casimir Cauchemar, an alter-ego Hockett created for himself. Arranged chronologically.

Box 1 (continued)

| 1942c. Review of M. Haas                     | Circa 1940s      |
| [Breve Esbozo del Verbo Español]            | 1940             |
| Military Commands; “Special Training”       | 1942             |
| [A System of Descriptive Phonology]         | 1942             |
| [Chinese in your Pocket review]             | 1948             |
| [Two Fundamental Problems in Phonemics]     | 1949             |
| [Which Approach in Linguistics is Scientific?] | 1950         |
| [A Formal Statement of Morphemic Analysis]  | 1952             |
| The Analysis of Communication 1953          | 1953             |
| How we Hear Speech? 1953                   | 1953             |
| Talking Machines 1955                       | 1955             |
| Code Noise: the Case of Unequal Probabilities | 1955          |
| [How to Learn Martian]                     | 1955             |
| 1956 Some Useful uses of the Word “Culture” | 1956           |
| Early Newsletters & Journals               | 1956             |

Series 1. Field Research
Series 2. Writings
Beauty and the Beast

Box 2

Case Systems Circa 1950s
[Jokes] 1950
Rugged Nuggets Third ed; Master 1962-1979
Rugged Nuggets 1962-1985
More Rugged Nuggets 1960-2000
1963 Unpublished 1963

English Verb Inflection and A Linguistic Approach to Mathematics
1965 Unpublished 1965

The Quest for the Waters of Lethe (musical composition) and Beginnings of an Application of Category Theory to Algebraic Grammar
Cauchemar 1966 1966

A Brief Calque on Cauchemar
[A Note on Design Features] 1968
1969 Unpublished 1969
Fijian Manuscript about the Fijian language
1972-1975

Box 3

[Man’s Place in Nature] [1 of 2] 1973
[Man’s Place in Nature] [2 of 2] 1973
[The Reconstruction of Proto Fijian-Polynesian] 1974
[If You Slice it Thin Enough it’s not Baloney] 1975
[A New Point D’Appui for Phonology] 1976
[Linguistics and Adjacent Arts and Sciences] 1977
[The Uniqueness Fallacy] 1982
[Notes on Peoria and Miami] 1985

Box 4

[Refurbishing our Foundations] [1 of 2] 1987
[Refurbishing our Foundations] [2 of 2] 1987
Refurbishing corrections 1989
Approaches to Syntax 1989, 1993

Also includes The Phonemic Principle and Gestalt
Perception
Jove’s Brow 1990
   In Search of Jove’s Brow
[Focus and Boundary] 1991
[On Scholarship, Professionalism, & Code Noise/
   Man’s Place in Nature] 1992
Subject: Subject 1992
[The Life and Mind of Oriental Jones review] 1993
[George Leonard Trager] 1994
[Approaches to Syntax] 1996-1997
[Untitled Manuscript] Undated
   Includes chapters The Shape of Speech; Hearing
   Utterances; The Hearer’s Evidence; Hearing
   Words; Sounds, Words, and Redundancy: Why
   Morphemics Won’t Work; From Particle to
   Resonance; How Language Means; The Craft of
   Speaking

Box 5

Outline of English Grammar  Undated
   English Verb Phrases
[A Note on Sound Change & Borrowing]  Undated
[Ojibwe Text Anthology review]  Undated
[Bring, Take, Come, and Go]  Undated
[A Note on Kudo]  Undated
[Voice in Algonquin Verbs]  Undated
Writage 1951  Undated
   Speech and Writing
Science Fiction (and articles) 1954-1955  Undated
   In Disunion there is Strength
Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences 1965  Undated
Leonard Bloomfield biography
Spanish Verb 1970?  Undated
   A Characterization of the Spanish Verb
Dictionary of American Biography 1972  Undated
   Leonard Bloomfield biography
Linguistics Curriculum  Undated
   Man’s Place in Nature table of contents
Course Revision  Undated
My Offprints  Undated
   Focus and Boundary
English  Undated
   An Outline of English Grammar
[Theory and Practice]  Undated
[Lexical Reconstruction review] Undated
[Essay in Chinese?] Undated
Linguistic Typology 1950 Undated
Korean Writing System
   Introduction to the Korean Writing-System Undated
Master’s Thesis 1936 Undated
   A History of the Philosophical use of the Word logos
Linguistic Aspects of Style Undated
[Hockett’s Twenty Questions] Undated

Series 3. Correspondence. 1945-2000
11 linear inches

This series contains Hockett’s correspondence. The bulk of his correspondence relates to his edited collection of mentor Leonard Bloomfield’s writings, A Leonard Bloomfield Anthology. Arranged alphabetically.

Box 5 (continued)

Anthro Books and Appraisal 1990-1996
Bender, Byron 1992
Ojibwa: Mary Black’s notes 1968
[Bloomfield, Leonard] 1945

Box 6

Bloomfield Anthology [1 of 2] 1965-1989
[Correspondence about A Leonard Bloomfield Anthology] 1987
[Correspondence with Journals about A Leonard Bloomfield Anthology] 1967-1968
Chicago, Univ of, Press 1984-1989
Changing Context—notes 1982-1986
Correspondence 1992-1993
   Correspondents include: M. Lionel Bender, Penny Lee, and Presses Universitaires de France

Box 7

[Correspondence] [1 of 2] 1990-1996, 2000
   Correspondents include: Penny Lee, John Baker, Frank Siebert, Edith Johnson, J. Marvin Brown,

Series 2. Writings
Series 3. Correspondence
Series 3. Correspondence

Kenneth Hale, Aya Katz, Elisabeth Beniers, David Moser, Ralph Vanderslice, Mrs. William G. Moulton, and Jane

[Correspondence] [2 of 2] 1987, 1992-1993

Correspondents include: John Nichols, Barbara Ruppert, Chester Doby Jr., Detering Book Gallery, and Margaret Hivnor

Costa, Miami-Peoria 1990-1991

Goddard, Ives 1969-1995


MPIN reprinting 1992-1993

Ojibwa-Cree (Rogers, Round Lake) 1989


Rice Corresp 1989-1990

Correspondents include: Chris and Jim, Phil, the Wallaces, George Fowler, Barry Alpher, Victor, Frederica de Laguna

Rice Correspondence etc. 1988-1993

Correspondents include: Douglas Mitchell, James Copeland, George Rupp, George Marcus, Kelly Keith, Allen Matusow

[Ross, Alan] 1981

Unfiled Correspondence 1994-1997

Correspondents include: James Blevins, John Nichols, Bill, Mark Aronoff, John Baker, Edwin Battistella, Douglas Mitchell, Ives Goddard, Jula Falk, Paul Proulx, Alexis Ramer,


1.5 linear inches

This series scratches the surface of Hockett’s involvement in professional organizations, his lectures, and conference attendance. Document types include lecture notes and meeting notes. Arranged chronologically.

Box 8

1950 Unpublished from Army Language School Lectures

[Linguistic Society of America 40th Annual Meeting] Undated

[Linguistic Society of America 41st Annual Meeting] 1965

Fraud 1973—Morphophonemics Circa 1970s

The Great Agglutinative Fraud, lectures


Talk delivered at the Yale Dept. of Anthropology
Series 5. Teaching Files. 1993
0.5 linear inches

This series includes lectures notes and a list of Hockett’s students from Cornell and their areas of research.

Box 8 (continued)

Rice Lectures 1993 1993
Students Undated

1.5 linear inches

This series contains Hockett’s army records, personal papers such as his birth certificate and passports, and a bibliography of his writings. Arranged chronologically.

Box 8 (continued)

Also includes official copy of birth certificate, veteran records, wife’s passports
Army 1944-1957
[Article about CFH’s work in Fiji] 1961
Curriculum Vitae 1984, 1988
Bibliography of publications and list of students and their work
[CFH’s statements for sister Francesca Hockett Matuszak’s memorial] 1999

2.5 linear inches

This series contains Hockett’s notes on various linguistic topics, particularly Fijian language work, and several sketches he completed. Arranged chronologically.
Box 8 (continued)

  *A Reanalysis of Fijian Transitive Sentences,*
  *Accent in Two Oceanic Languages, and A*
  *Probable Proto-Polynesian Glottal Stop Reflex*

Fijian 1970
[Fijian Language Studies] 1978

Box 9

Origins of Terms 1979
Cat of Linguists 1983
Fijian (and Polynesian) 1987-1988
Old English to New English Undated
Impossible Figures Undated
  *Sketches of optical illusions*

1 linear inch

This series includes prints and negatives of Hockett and his family and friends.

Box 10

[Leonard Bloomfield] 1944
  *Including his wife Shirley and their children*

[Portraits of CFH] Undated
[CFH receiving award] Undated
  *Including his wife Shirley and David Hays*

[Kickapoo Language Consultant?] Undated

45 Sound Recordings

This series contains sound recordings made during Hockett’s field research, concert performances of musical groups Hockett was a member of, and what appear to be materials for classroom use from Hockett’s teaching career. The recordings were made on vinyl records, magnetic tapes, and cassette tapes. The contents have not been confirmed. Sound recording numbers in brackets were added by the archivist.
Box 11

Records:
[Sound Recording 1] 12-inch LP
IV Wa-se-to Chant
V Red headed woodpecker

[Sound Recording 2] 12-inch LP
I Robert tells “Call of the Wild”
II Black Cloud ditto

[Sound Recording 3] 12-inch LP
Wa-se-to
IIIa. Turkey Buzzard story
IIIb. Turkey Buzzard (continued)
c. Winnebago
d—?

[Sound Recording 4] 12-inch LP
Wa-se-to
VI Red Headed woodpecker (finjo [?])
VII Moccasin songs

[Sound Recording 5] 10-inch? LP
Blmflld Papago
1. Speech by San Angelo on Papago songs
2a. Speech (continued)
2b. Announcement of Social Dance at Crowhang outside in (CFH)

[Sound Recording 6] 12-inch LP
Wa-se-to
I Two step—warrior dance
IIa Buffalo Head Dance
IIb Peyote (ceremonial)
what language?
CFH

[Sound Recording 7] 12-inch LP
A-
(English CFH)
1. Jefferson gives some scout rules (English)
2. Same in Sac-Fox
(Fox)
3. Robert tells about the movie “Call of the Wild”
B. Black Cloud
Jefferson coaxes B.C. to talk. Neither knew the record was being made. After Jeffersons says, “Are you ready to record now,” Black Cloud repeats the story of “Call of the Wild”

[Sound Recording 8] 10-inch? LP
Hidatsa A Siouan Language
Water Buster Account
Recorded and transcribed by C.F. Voegelin and Z.S. Harris
From Hidatsa Texts
By R.H. Lowie
Z.S. Harris, C.F. Voegelin
Indiana Historical Society

Magnetic tapes: (7 inch reel)

[Sound Recording 9]  845
Moap Lesson #4 Student Tape 3 3/4 ips

[Sound Recording 10]  30’ First Visit: Tape I 8/20/56 “High Level” Full Track 7.5
California

[Sound Recording 11]  30’ First Visit: Tape III 8/21/56 Full Track “High Level” 7.5

[Sound Recording 12]  Reel no. 340
Side 1: Tswana language of Bechuana-land Protectorate +
adjacent areas in Union of South Africa
Side 2: Examples of click sounds from Zulu + Xhosa, and
Bushman + Hottentot
Recorded by Desmond T. Cole

[Sound Recording 13]  1180
Moap Lesson #10 3 3/4 ips
Student tape for listening

0000 Misa Criolla Ariel Ramires
1160 Navidad Nuestra Dan Felix Lune
Philips Connoisseur Collection [illegible] PCC 619
Los [illegible]: Choir of the Basilica del Sicerro

More Side 1 Track 1-4
1950 Berg Violin Concerto
Angel 36171: Christian Ferras, [illegible] de la Societe des
Concerts dn Conservatoire
3050 Berg Chamber Concerto

More Side 1 Track 2-3
1950 Villo-Lobos 2nd cello concerto
28 50 Bartok 2nd violin concerto

[all of this may not even be on the tape… scribbled over
with a green pencil]

[Sound Recording 15]  1177
Moap Lesson 2 Phonetics listening

[Sound Recording 16]  [something illegible, looks like “Scheff…” on side]
Music

7.5 [crossed out]
P.T.
[Sound Recording 18] 1181
Moap Lesson #8 Student tape 3 3/4ips

[Sound Recording 19] 1179
Moap Lesson 6 3 3/4ips ½ track
Student tape for listening

[Sound Recording 20] 339
Xitsonga (Portuguese East Africa)

[Sound Recording 21] 18001
Seminar
Side 1-Kennedy Small Groups 10/20/54
[this and more is crossed out on back, hard to read the rest]

[Sound Recording 22] 30' Second Visit: Tape III 8/22/56 Full Track “High Level”
7.5
P.T. (music)

[Sound Recording 23] P.J.

[Sound Recording 24] Lecture 11/9/54 [crossed out]
P.T.

[Sound Recording 25] #6 Dubbed 7 ½” per sec Single Track
1. TeKas-cont. Pako’s 2nd story
2. Ruatoki chant
-translated by Rev. Rangi
3. Rundings at Ruatahuma
4. [illegible] “when you look at me”

[Sound Recording 26] Department of Modern Languages
Property of Asher Hockett
“3.75 level” Stereo or one track
4/4/60

[Sound Recording 27] Beginnings
2 ½ min 17 July 61 Dr Robinson[?]
2 min 20 July 61
2 min 27 July 61
2 min 31 July 61
2 min 3 Aug
2 min 7 Aug
2 min 9 Aug
2 min 7 Sept
2 min 11 Sept
2 min 14 Sept
2 min 18 Sept
2 min ea 21 Sept
25 Sept
28 Sept
2 Oct

[Sound Recording 28] 7-199
Melba Leong—Paralinguistic Study
Heartbreak Hotel by Elvis Presley

Jane Allman Bro Band Anthology
The six worthy syllables
[note taped on says “can be erased”]

Wheeler
First 5 min of Aug 14 clinic

Track 1 Speed 7 ½ Ithaca Composers Club Concert May 6, 1955 Telluride House
Archibald, Eight piano pieces for children
Hannahs, Two Christian songs
French, Trio for two flutes and piano in D minor
Weeks, [illegible] for violin and piano
Track 2 Stahl, Two pieces for piano
Rosser [?], one cycle for solo voices: The Seven [illegible] Kinds of Christ
Hockett, Sonata for cello and piano in one movement

Oboe sonata

[Sound Recording 33] 311
Composers Club Spring Concert, May 17, 1957
First half recorded at 7.5ips
Archibald sonata towards end of side two

[Sound Recording 34] 310
Composers Club Spring Concert, May 17, 1957
Second half recorded at 7.5ips

[Sound Recording 35] Oboe sonata 7 ½ stereo side one
First three measures erased by mistake
9 May 1976

[Sound Recording 36] 1200'
Side left: The Shadow
Right Channel: Caro nome (Lily Pons)
[i illegible] (Moffo)
Ingenisco (Bergorgi)
Recordare (Nilsson, Chookasian)
Si Pas (Warren)
272-7296

[Sound Recording 37] [box unlabeled, but inside, sticker on tape reel]
Ithaca 5/23
50 part invent
Copy
Tail end

Magnetic tapes: (5 inch reel)
[Sound Recording 38] Track 1
Date II/8/54
Subject Fijian Interview + Song
[Sound Recording 39] Bush Kru (Kwa, Niger-Congo)
Liberia, West Africa
Augustus B.
Marwieh/mawie
Vowel contrasts
Accentual contrasts
Paradigms
Drumbeats
J Grimes
(most of the analysis was done by Marwieh)

[Sound Recording 40] [label on reel:]
Cree—Min. 0-7
Sweet Grass text
7-12 verbs in [illegible]
[on box:]
Date Aug 29/52
Speed 7 ½ ft per second
Cree
Informant-Peter Wuttunee
Mrs. Ross
Recorded Canadian Summer Institute of Linguistics
Side 1-first 7 minutes
Stories of Sweet Grass Cree by Bloomfield
Page 8 (first page of first text)
Minute 7-12 Mrs. Ross-verbs
In frames for contrastive vowel length and stress
Side 2- (going back on to same reel)
10 minutes of verb paradigms-with special reference to stress

[Sound Recording 41] Tape recorded at 3 ¾
Talk given by Warren Benson at the Performing Arts Bldg
At Ithaca College Apr 11, 1970,
As part of the Ithaca High School Band Festival

Magnetic tapes: (3 inch reel)
[Sound Recording 42] [tape and box not labeled]
[Sound Recording 43] Stories in Elson’s thesis

Cassette Tapes
[Sound Recording 44] Side 1: Jemesa Rubaribalevu
Fijian passages from summer 1973
Side 2: Niko Bula: reading chs 1-6 of Na Sera Sera; 17 April 1975

[Sound Recording 45] Carey and student Lullaby (CFH)
Other practice things