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### W12-1393. Ver Meulen, John W. Papers, 1924-1925. 2.00 linear ft.

Western Theological Seminary

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**W12-1393.** Ver Meulen, John W.  
Papers, 1924-1925. 2.00 linear ft.



### Abstract

John W. Ver Meulen was born in 1903 in Fremont, Michigan. He was a member of the Hope College class of 1924, where he transferred after spending the first two years of his college career at Ripon College in Wisconsin. During his time at Hope, he completed a science course while being involved with the Knickerbocker Fraternity, the Athletic Association, and the *Anchor*. In September 1924, Ver Meulen began a period of teaching in the capacity of principal of the department of science at the Tung Wen Institute in Amoy, China, where he remained until 1925. He returned to the U.S. in the fall of 1925 to continue his education. He married Geneva Swietoniowski in 1929 and lived with her for a time in East Grand Rapids. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in law in 1935. He then moved to Wisconsin and became a lawyer in 1937. Ver Meulen died in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1990. The collection includes papers and objects relating to the life and travels of John W. Ver Meulen, during the time in which he held a faculty position from 1924-1925 at the Tung Weng Institute in Amoy, China. Most of the papers in the collection are correspondence written by Ver Meulen to his family and others between 1924 and 1925. Also included are photographs belonging to Ver Meulen from his time in China and his travels abroad, as well as various objects and artifacts from that time.

Accession No: W12-1393  
Provenance: John. W. Ver Meulen  
Donor: Felix and Gretchen Ver Meulen  
Photographs: 46 images (Box 1)  
Processed by: Kirstin Anderson, March 2017

### Biography

John W. Ver Meulen was born in 1903 in Fremont, Michigan. He was a member of the Hope College class of 1924, where he transferred after spending the first two years of his college career at Ripon College in Wisconsin. During his time at Hope, he completed a science course while being involved with the Knickerbocker Fraternity, the Athletic Association, and the *Anchor*. In September 1924, Ver Meulen began a period of teaching in the capacity of principal of the department of science at the Tung Wen Institute in Amoy, China, where he remained until 1925. He returned to the U.S. in the fall of 1925 to continue his education. He married Geneva Swietoniowski in 1929 and lived with her for a time in East Grand Rapids. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in law in 1935. He then moved to Wisconsin and became a lawyer in 1937. John W. Ver Meulen died in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1990.

### Scope and Content

The majority of the collection consists of Ver Meulen's correspondence, primarily written while he was teaching abroad at the Tung Wen Institute in Amoy, China. Other parts of

the collection include scrapbook pages containing photographs of Ver Meulen's travels, his passport and checkbook, and other various papers related to his time in China. Also included are a variety of objects, such as vases and figurines, which Ver Meulen brought home with him from China.

Container List

Box 1

Checkbook, 1925  
China Trip Scrapbook Pages, 1924-1925 (43 images)  
Correspondence, n.d., 1924-1925 (2 folders)  
Gradebook for Chinese Students, n.d.  
Passport, 1924-1925 (1 image)  
Photographs  
    Chinese School Class, n.d. (1 image)  
    John W. Ver Meulen, n.d. (1 image)  
Ticket to Philippine Chinese Girls' School Graduation Exercises, 1925

Box 2

Tablecloth runner  
Green vases, 2 items  
Chinese woman figurine  
Gold dragon bell  
Man riding ox figurines, 2 items  
Sleeping man figurine