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China and the Modern World: Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China 1854–1949

Pakhoi Semi-official. 1940-1941. The Sino-Japanese War and its Aftermath, 1931-1949: Chongqing and the Chongqing Inspectorate, 1941-1945 Classmark: 679 (1); Call number: 32556. *The Second Historical Archives of China.*



CHINA AND THE MODERN WORLD: RECORDS OF THE MARITIME CUSTOMS SERVICE OF CHINA 1854–1949

China and the Modern World: Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China 1854–1949 provides an excellent primary source collection, mainly in English, for the study of China and its relations with the West in the late Qing and Republican periods.

Source library

Number of pages

**Second Historical Archives
of China, Nanjing**

270,000

THE MARITIME CUSTOMS SERVICE OF CHINA - A BRIEF HISTORY

CHINA.

IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

IV.—SERVICE SERIES: No. 7.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S
CIRCULARS.

FIRST SERIES: 1861–1875.

PUBLISHED FOR THE USE OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE:
BY ORDER OF

The Inspector General of Customs.

SHANGHAI:
STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE
INSPECTORATE GENERAL.

As explained by Robert Bickers, Professor of History at the University of Bristol, the Maritime Customs Service of China (the Imperial Maritime Customs Service until 1912) was an international, although predominantly British-staffed bureaucracy (at senior levels) under successive Chinese central governments from its founding in 1854 until January 1950. It was one of the most important and powerful institutions in China during most of this period, and its activities were wide ranging.

In addition to assessing duties on Chinese trade, the Service built and maintained China's lighthouses, mapped China's coast and major rivers, and ran a Preventive Service that combated smuggling. It also policed rivers, harbours and railroad lines. At the same time, it compiled and published not just monthly, quarterly and annual Returns of Trade, but also a regular series of Aids to Navigation and less regular reports on meteorological conditions and medical phenomena.

As China became embroiled in foreign wars and conflicts, an increasingly large part of the customs revenue was pledged to pay indemnities and to secure foreign loans. The Service further involved itself in China's diplomacy, organised its representation at nearly 30 world fairs and exhibitions, and ran various educational establishments.

Inspector General's Circulars, Vol. 1, First Series. 1861-1875. Inspector General's Circulars: Official Circulars Classmark: 679 (1); Call number: 26890. The Second Historical Archives of China.

For more information visit www.gale.com/empire

WHY IS THIS ARCHIVE IMPORTANT?

The Maritime Customs service archives are a uniquely valuable source for understanding China and the Chinese economy in this period. The records are indicative of the global economic environment and China's position within it, as well as highlighting the role of foreign employees and their place and influence within Chinese social and political history.

- Includes a wide range of document types, such as circulars, semi-official correspondence, despatches, reports, memoranda, private and confidential letters and photos, offering rare primary sources for researching Chinese economy, politics, and diplomacy
- Covers significant events in Chinese History, such as the Taiping Rebellion (1850–1864), the Boxer Rebellion (1899–1901), the 1911 Revolution, May Thirtieth Movement or Incident (1925), and the Sino-Japanese Wars (1894–1895 and 1937–1945)
- Offers a unique opportunity to explore first-hand accounts, in English, of the Sino-Western interactions and conflicts that gave rise to today's modern China
- Provides excellent teaching, learning, and research value by offering a thematic collection on Chinese trade and economics
- Allows deeper insight into Chinese international relations through records related to the relationships and politics between the Customs officials and consecutive Chinese governments

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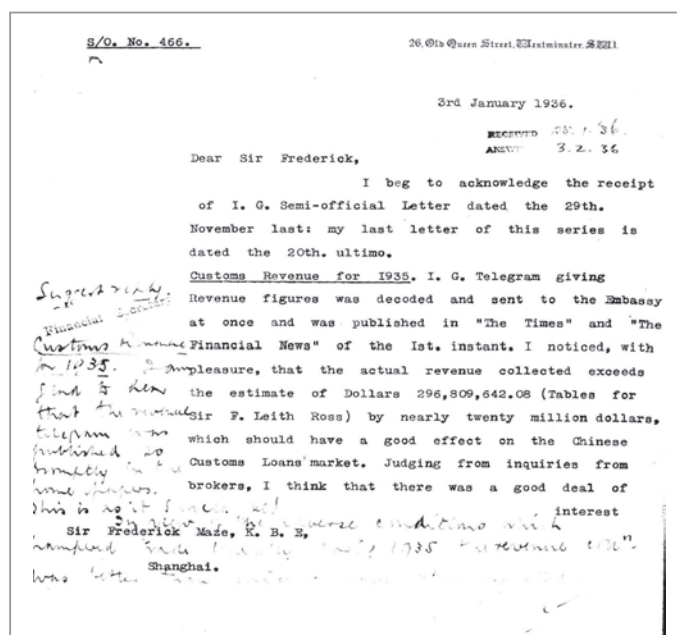
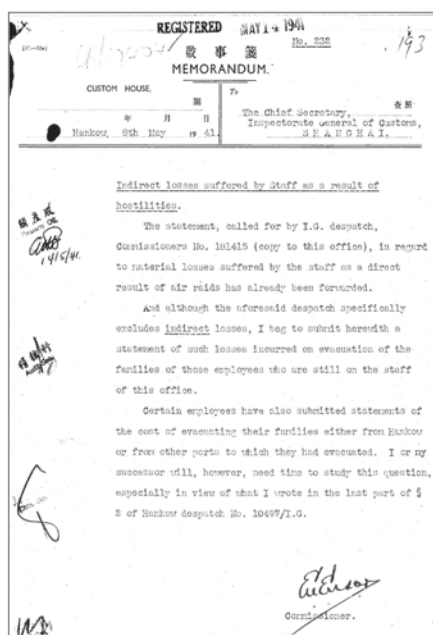
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Left: Sino-Japanese Disputes, 1937 Hankow. 1937-1941. The Sino-Japanese War and its Aftermath, 1931-1949: Outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War Classmark: 679 (1); Call number: 14872. *The Second Historical Archives of China.*

Right: Letters to and from Inspector General, Semi-official. 1936-1937. London Office Files: Semi-Official Correspondence Classmark: 679 (1); Call number: 31848. *The Second Historical Archives of China.*

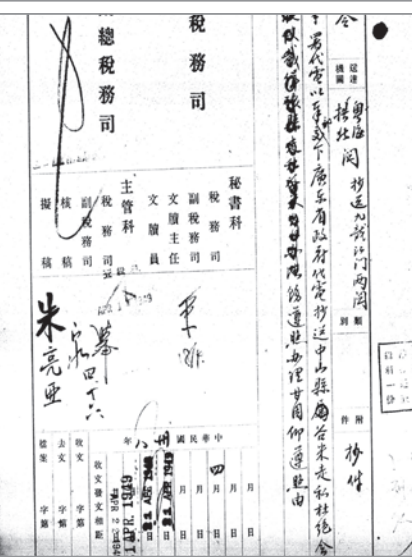
CUSTOM HOUSE,
HANKOW, 12th January 1905

Robert Hart,
Exhibition: I understand from
me of the 23rd ult. that the
the Customs of Louis exhibits
be arranged for by the Inspector
with the Shanghai. Does
its mean only the collection
the Customs or will it include
government exhibits? Or does
me under 'private or personal'
would be a pity if the
exhibits did not go on to
my rate a part of it, i.e. 2nd
ancient carved jade ornaments,
25 two bamboo carved ornaments
& ivory screen, 2nd 727 an ancient
brace, 2nd 728 @ 750 ancient
earthquake - these constitute
able and unique collection, & I
many belong to Governor Yuan
e all for sale to those who
the high prices asked. Also

VALUABLE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

The Chinese Maritime Customs Service records consist of a range of different document types that provide invaluable and often unique evidence of Chinese life, diplomacy, trade and politics

- **Inspector General's Circulars:** confidential documents that formed a working set of instructions covering all aspects of customs work
- **Files of the London Office:** the office acted as an agency of the Chinese Empire in Britain, responsible for liaising with British government offices and banks and recruiting staff
- **Semi-official Correspondence with four selected ports (Shanghai, Hankow, Harbin, and Swatow):** presenting a richly-detailed and often much more personal view of national and local events than the formal despatches
- **Files on trade policing:** consisting of communications between Superintendents and Customs Commissioners as well as the Shanghai River Police's efforts to regulate waterways and combat opium smuggling.
- **Records of the Customs Service during the Sino-Japanese War and beyond:** covering the two parallel Customs Services active during the period, the collection of Wartime Consumption Tax



INSPECTORS GENERAL

- **Horatio Nelson Lay (1832–1898)** A British diplomat who participated in the founding of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service in 1853 and became the first Inspector General of the Service from 1845 to 1863.
- **Sir Robert Hart (1835–1911)** Hart was Inspector General of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service from 1863 until 1908, a period of 45 years. He was known as an able leader and the most powerful Westerner in China.
- **Sir Francis Arthur Aglen (1869–1932)** Head of the service between 1911 to 1927, Aglen maintained the reputation and importance of the Customs Service throughout the First World War, an action that saw him recognised with a Knighthood in January 1918.
- **Sir Frederick Maze (1871–1959)** Maze was Sir Robert Hart's nephew and the head of the Service between 1929–1943, a period of political, economic and diplomatic turmoil.
- **Lester Knox Little (1892–1981)** An American who served as Inspector General for seven years from 1943. During World War II he was placed under house arrest by the Japanese in Canton and was repatriated to the United States. He returned to his post in China in 1943 and continued until the Communist takeover in 1949.

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESOURCE

This digitized, full-text searchable collection supports multi-disciplinary research:

- Asian Studies
- Economics: International Economics, Taxation, and Trade
- International Relations
- Geography
- History: British imperial history, history of modern globalisation, economic history, and social history



Top: Hankow Semi-Official Correspondence, 1905-1907. Semi-Official Correspondence from Selected Ports. *The Second Historical Archives of China*.

Centre: General Considerations Concerning Smuggling and Preventive Work at Canton, 1948-1949. The Policing of Trade. *The Second Historical Archives of China*.

Bottom: "Photograph Album [3]." Part Two: London Office Files, 1903-1933. *China from Empire to Republic*.

THE GALE PRIMARY SOURCES PROGRAMME

China and the Modern World: Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China 1854–1949 is one of many resources available in the Gale Primary Sources programme which offers a ground-breaking research environment that, to date, integrates over 30 of the programme's collections, allowing researchers to conduct one search and instantly pull related results from approximately 170 million pages of historical content. The combination of uniquely rich, full-text primary source content, dependable metadata, and intuitive subject indexing, is further enriched by innovative workflow and analytical tools.

TERM FREQUENCY

The term frequency tool aids researchers in tracking central themes and ideas. Researchers can now see the frequency of their search term within a content set to begin assessing how individuals, events, and ideas interacted and developed over time.

TERM CLUSTERS

The term cluster assists students in thoroughly developing their research topic. By identifying and organising frequently occurring themes, this tool reveals hidden relationships between search terms - helping users shape their research and integrate diverse content with relevant information.

TEXT & DATA MINING

At request, Gale will deliver data and metadata associated with the collection for use in data mining and textual analysis, supporting the digital humanities as a growing area of scholarly research.



OTHER TOOLS & FEATURES

- Basic and Advanced search options, as well as the ability to search within an individual work
- Persistent URLs for every item of the collection facilitate inclusion in course packs and bookmarking
- Subject Indexing to make content accessible and expose key data elements
- Zotero Compatibility to optimise, collect, cite, and organise sources
- User Accounts to enable users to create and edit user-generated tags, which can be saved between sessions
- Image Viewer to zoom, highlight, adjust brightness/contrast, and view pages in full-screen mode
- Downloadable OCR to enable a new level of access to and analysis of search results
- 'Keywords in Context' option on the results list previews the first keyword in the document
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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND THE ACT OF LEARNING IS EMPOWERING.

Whether you are working on your essay for an undergraduate module, writing your dissertation, thesis, or next article for an academic journal, Gale Primary Sources provides a new and unique way to discover information.

In any field of study, the best work comes from finding the right sources of information, and using them to elevate work beyond the ordinary. Research is the most important bridge to getting the results you want, and to make you and your effort stand out from the crowd. Primary sources are an invaluable part of this, and with our archives, you can start at the source, building your own contribution to your field.

At Gale, our aim is to empower you. Empower you to find new and richer information, push your work to new levels, and get the results your effort deserves. Aligned with modern tools and workflows, our progressive learning resources and primary source collections help to connect you with the knowledge essential to achieving your goals.



EMPOWER™ DISCOVERY by enabling students and researchers to:

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- Draw your own conclusions, using primary source material to discover relevant content
- Develop new and original ideas, and explore previously hidden avenues

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- Provide access to valuable primary sources, whenever and wherever researchers need it
- Foster a culture of research excellence, delivering an environment for discovery
- Help students develop lifelong skills that go beyond university and into their careers

If *China and the Modern World: Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China 1854–1949* is a valuable resource to you, you will be interested in other Gale archives, especially:

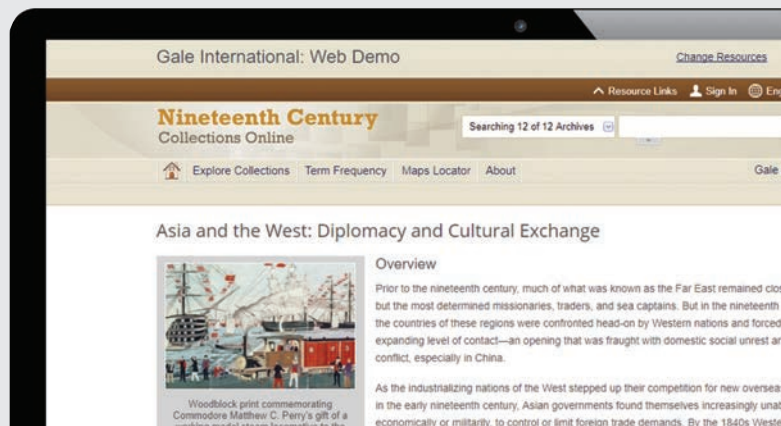
CHINA AND THE MODERN WORLD: MISSIONARY, SINOLOGY, AND LITERARY PERIODICALS (1817-1949)

China and the Modern World: Missionary, Sinology and Literary periodicals 1817-1949 documents the thoughts of Chinese intellectuals and Western missionaries and diplomats about China, and their efforts to understand Chinese culture and transform the nation in the years before 1949. The collection contains 17 English-language missionary, academic, and literary periodicals published in or about China during a period of over 130 years.



NINETEENTH CENTURY COLLECTIONS ONLINE: ASIA AND THE WEST

Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Asia and the West features a range of primary source collections related to international relations between Asian countries and the West during the nineteenth century. These invaluable documents, many never available before, include government reports, diplomatic correspondence, periodicals, newspapers, treaties, trade agreements, NGO papers, and more, offering a look at the inner workings of international relations.



ARCHIVES UNBOUND: THE CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS: CUSTOMS' GAZETTE

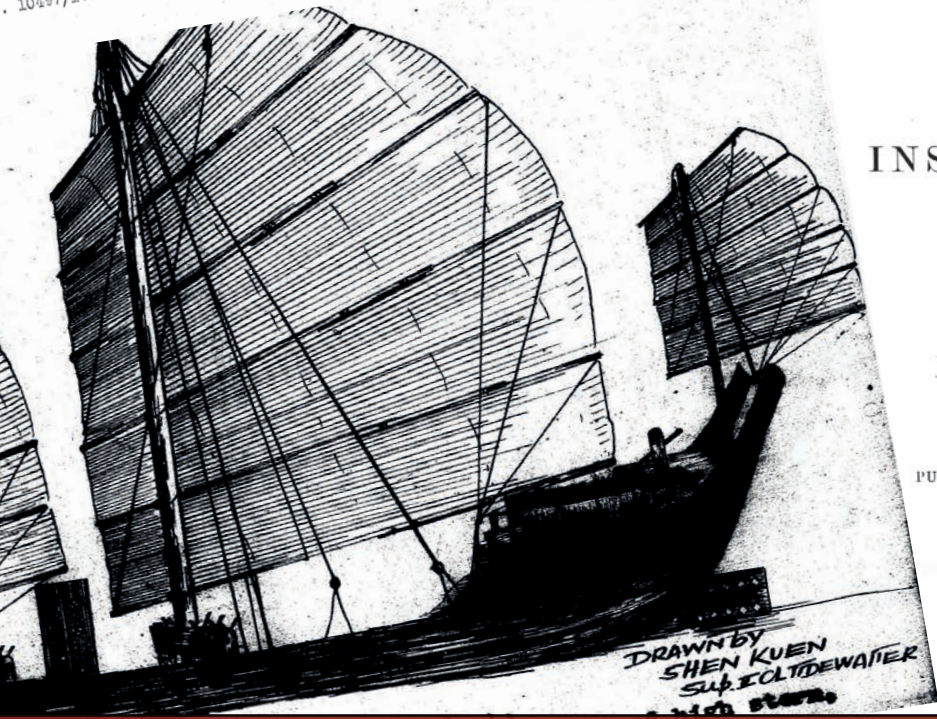
The Customs Gazette was published by order of the Inspector General of Customs of China in Shanghai, from 1869 to 1913. The Gazette publishes quarterly reports on trade prepared and submitted by the custom houses based across China. Each report covers figures of vehicles, imports, exports, re-exports, internal transit, passenger traffic, revenue, etc. Other sections in the Gazette include dues and duties, précis of fines and confiscations, notifications, movement in the service, and appendixes.



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January 1936.
 I beg to acknowledge the receipt
 dated the 20th. ultimo.
 Customs Revenue for 1935. I. G. Telegram giving
 Revenue figures was decoded and sent to the Embass.
 at once and was published in "The Times" and "The
 Financial News" of the 1st. instant. I noticed, with
 assurance, that the actual revenue collected, with
 estimate of Dollars 296,809,642.08 (Tab
 P. Leith Ross) by nearly twenty ex-
 should have a good effect
 Loans' market. Judging r
 think that ther-

總稅務
 副總
 會
 送達
 機關



CHINA.

IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

IV.—SERVICE SERIES: No. 7.

INSPECTOR GENERAL
 CIRCULARS.

FIRST SERIES: 1861

PUBLISHED FOR THE USE OF THE CUSTOMS
 BY ORDER OF
 The Inspector General of

SHANGHAI:
 STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT
 OF THE
 INSPECTORATE GENERAL

CUSTOM HOUSE
 Hankow, 8th May

關產底
 PROPERTY OFF
 14/5/44.

Indirect losses
 hostilities.
 The statement
 Commissioners No.
 to material losses
 result of air raids
 And although the
 excludes indirect loss
 statement of

Various Sources. Primary Source Media. China and the Modern World: Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China 1854-1949

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