

THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	

QUICK FACTS

Source: The National Archives, UK

Size: Approximately 390,000 pages

Content Types: Correspondence, deeds, registers, reports, and photographs

Date Range: 1759–1972

Available: December 2024

Newly Digitized Materials: 100% new scanning

Disciplines Supported: History of modern China, Anglo-Chinese relations, British Empire in Asia, treaty ports and informal empires, genealogical studies

Complementary Gale Archives:

- *China and the Modern World:* all collections, but especially *Imperial China and the West, Part I: 1815–1881* and *Part II: 1865–1905*
- *Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Asia and the West*

Usage Highlights:

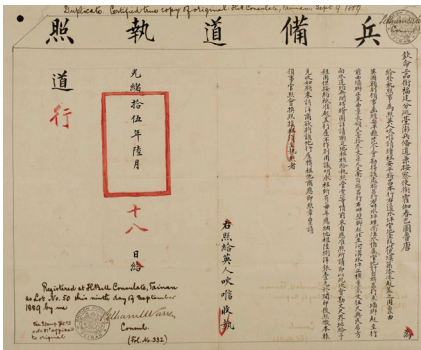
- Discover text that includes handwriting at all search levels (basic, advanced, and document level) with Gale’s handwritten text recognition (HTR) technology
- Mine this content within *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*
- Enhance student instruction with the series’ Learning Center
- Cross-search content from other *Gale Primary Sources* archives
- Find related resources in the *Gale eBooks* collection using the “Related Resources” feature
- As an alternative to searching, browse content at the collection level in the file order in which it was arranged

CHINA AND THE MODERN WORLD: REGIONAL CHINA AND THE WEST, 1759–1972



DELIVER GREATER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

A compilation of 39 series of mostly British Foreign Office (FO) files, this collection includes general correspondence and registers composed by the British legation in Beijing as well as British consulates based in more than 20 Chinese coastal and inland treaty ports. Also included are the private and semiofficial correspondence of Sir Henry Pottinger, Sir John N. Jordan, and Lord Edmund Hammond as well as the records and photographs of the British concession in Tianjin. *China and the Modern World: Regional China and the West, 1759–1972* provides a significant compendium of historical documents and forms an ideal complement to *Imperial China and the West, Part I and II*. Researchers will find valuable insight into Chinese-Western relations, ranging from diplomacy to trade, economy, law, and politics.



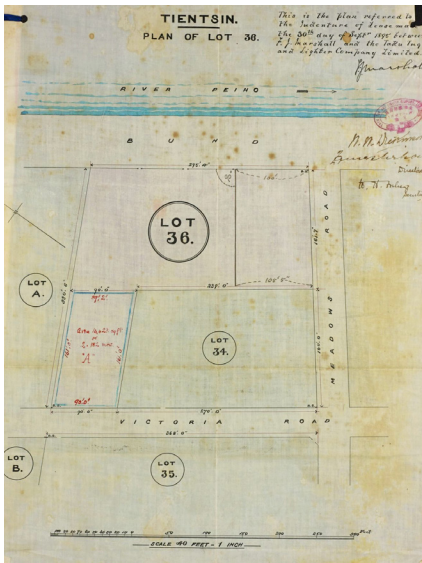
Deed between Taotai of Taiwan and R. J. Hastings of HM Consulate, Taiwan on renewing the lease of land registered as Lot No.50 at Anping. Sept 9, 1889 (FO 678/3016).

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

This new collection presents an assemblage of general correspondence attributed to the British legation and British consulates in China as well as many communications with Chinese central and local governments, British colonial governments (in India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Burma, etc.), fleets, and the Supreme Court. These documents are a must-have primary source for scholars studying Chinese social, political, and economic history not just in the Chinese capital but also at the regional level in numerous treaty ports that dotted the map of China, including Canton, Chengtu, Chinkiang, Foochow, Hankow, Kunming, Macao, Taiwan, Tientsin, and Tsingtao.

VALUE OF THE COLLECTION

- **Global Scholarly Appeal:** Essential reference material appeals to students and researchers around the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, Britain, Europe, and North America.
- **Topical Coverage:** Detail into the activities of the British in China during this 200-year period provides insights into the international and transnational processes and networks of the period.
- **Greater Perspective and Representation:** These documents chronicle largely British consulates in more than 20 treaty ports and their interactions with the Beijing legation, the Foreign Office in London, as well as key actors both within and outside of China.
- **Unfiltered View of Daily Tensions:** Unlike formal diplomatic documents exchanged between the Qing court and British officials, the correspondence between the Beijing legation, British consulates, and the Consular Department in treaty ports offers an unfiltered view of daily interactions and tensions. From trade disputes and opium smuggling to missionary activities and local governance, these correspondence reveal the challenges of navigating the complex bilateral relationship.
- **Handwritten Text Recognition:** All relevant documents benefit from HTR technology—fully searchable handwritten text along with optical character recognition (OCR) output, allowing users to search for handwritten as well as printed text within documents.



Plan of Lot 36, Tientsin [FO 678/1134:
Tientsin: Lot No.36 Taku Tug and Lighter Co.].

COLLECTIONS INCLUDED

Researchers will find 39 series from the British Foreign Office files, including the following:

- FO 230 – Foreign Office: Consulates and Legation, China: Letter Books
- FO 369 – Foreign Office: Consular Department: General correspondence from 1906
- FO 535 – Foreign Office: Confidential Print Tibet and Mongolia
- FO 562 – Foreign Office: Consulate and Legation, Peking, China: General Correspondence
- FO 666 – Foreign Office: Consulates, Hankow and Hangchow, China: General Correspondence and Various Registers
- FO 670 – Foreign Office: Consulate, Ningpo, China: General Correspondence and Various Registers
- FO 674 – Foreign Office: Consulate, Tientsin, China: General Correspondence, Various Registers and Supreme Court Records
- FO 678 – Foreign Office: Various Consulates, China: Deeds

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Learning Centers promote usage and amplify information literacy by:

- Orienting new users with the content available in a digital archive
- Providing guidance and best practices for searching, browsing, citing, and reusing primary sources
- Kindling inspiration for new research topics

 Learn more at gale.com/china