

THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	

QUICK FACTS

Source: The National Archives, United Kingdom

Size: Approximately 370,000 pages

Content Types: General correspondence, letter books, registers, insurance records, ordinances, dispatches, reports, notebooks, maps and plans, and photographs

Date Range: 1836–1955

Available: November 2023

Newly Digitized Materials: 100%

Disciplines Supported: History of modern China, treaty ports and informal empires, transnational colonialism, globalization, urban studies

Complementary Gale Archives:

- *China and the Modern World*: all collections, but especially *Imperial China and the West Part I, 1815–1881* and *Imperial China and the West Part II, 1865–1905*
- *Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Asia and the West*
- *Archives Unbound* (see “Value of the Archive”)

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 forthcoming 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 a complement to searching, browse content in the file order in which it was arranged by the source library

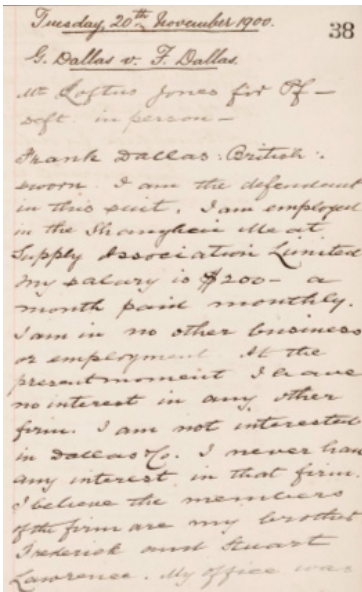
CHINA AND THE MODERN WORLD: RECORDS OF SHANGHAI AND THE INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT, 1836–1955



Shanghai’s waterfront, circa 1930, where colonial structures mixed with traditional architecture.

DELIVER GREATER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The eighth collection in the *China and the Modern World* series, *Records of Shanghai and the International Settlement, 1836–1955*, provides a primary source collection vital to understanding and researching the social, political, and economic history of not just the British-dominated yet highly globalized International Settlement in Shanghai but the history of modern China. Comprised of nine series of British Foreign Office files from The National Archives in the United Kingdom that are directly related to the history of Shanghai and the International Settlement, plus a small number of files selected from the records of the British Ministry of Labour, Treasury, and War Office, this collection deciphers and illuminates the International Settlement as the seat of formative events that shaped the history of modern China as it transitioned from an imperial dynasty to a globally engaged republic.



Handwritten letter from 1900 discussing the writer's employment in Shanghai, mentioning a monthly salary of \$200. FO 1092/40; Crown Copyright images reproduced courtesy of The National Archives, UK.

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

This collection covers the century-long history of Shanghai and the Shanghai International Settlement from multiple political, commercial, military, cultural, and legal perspectives. It offers unprecedented insight into China's most-developed "semicolonial" territory, which was governed by a Westerner-dominated Municipal Council; put in place modern infrastructural mainstays such as electricity and tramways; and saw cataclysmic events that pushed the country toward the eventual establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The topics covered encompass politics, industry, trade, crime, cultural affairs, entertainment, and everyday life, and some of the included materials are exclusive to these files.

VALUE OF THE ARCHIVE

- The accounts illustrate a century of political and cultural life in a "semicolonial" and global city in what is now one of the world's superpowers.
- These files provide a diverse set of valuable English-language archives for researching one of the most dynamic and globalized cities in modern Asia, making it accessible to a Western/Anglophone audience in an area of increasing academic curiosity.
- Given that the Shanghai Municipal Council, which governed the International Settlement, was populated mostly by Anglophone Westerners, and that the Settlement itself was integral to the political, economic, and cultural makeup of the city, researching it is valuable not only for students of Chinese history but also for those researching colonialism, imperialism, urban history, and global cities.
- The material has no overlap with any other searchable collection.
- The collection enhances the following *Archives Unbound* collections:
 - *China: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1940–1944*
 - *Chinese Maritime Customs Service: The Customs' Gazette, 1869–1913*
 - *The Minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council*
 - *Papers of American Missionaries to Asia: Jay C. and Lucile C. Oliver and YMCA China*
 - *Papers of British Consulates and Legation in China (1727–1951)*
 - *Papers of Old Shanghai: Business, Banking, and Insurance, 1874–1949*
 - *Papers of Old Shanghai: Miscellanies, 1853–1945*
 - *Papers of Old Shanghai: Press, Education, Healthcare, and Charity, 1863–1948*
 - *Papers of Old Shanghai: Social Shanghai, 1906–1912*
 - *Papers of Old Shanghai: Societies and Clubs, 1890–1942*
 - *The Papers of Sir Ernest Mason Satow*
 - *Policing the Shanghai International Settlement, 1894–1945*
 - *Political Relations and Conflict between Republican China and Imperial Japan, 1930–1939: Records of the U.S. State Department*
 - *Service Lists and Reports of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service and Whangpoo Conservancy Board*
 - *Shanghai International Settlement: Shanghai Municipal Council Reports, Minutes of Ratepayers Meetings, and Shanghai Volunteer Corps*
 - *Shanghai International Settlement: Urban Planning and Development, 1845–1948*
 - *Shanghai Municipal Council: The Municipal Gazette, 1908–1940*



The Shanghai Mixed Court, which heard cases between 1864 and 1927 in the Shanghai International Settlement.

TOPICS COVERED

- Shanghai Municipal Council
- Shanghai Volunteers Corps
- Extraterritoriality and the Mixed Court
- Shanghai riots (1905)
- World War I in Asia
- May Thirtieth Movement (1925)
- Shanghai incident (January 28, 1932)
- Second Sino-Japanese War
- Opium traffic and ban
- Rise of nationalism and communism in China
- Construction of railways and tramways
- British expatriate community in Shanghai

COLLECTIONS INCLUDED

Content Creator	Series Included	Date Range
Foreign Office	FO 93, 371, 656, 671, 672, 881, 914, 925, and 1092	1836–1955
Ministry of Labour	LAB 2	1941
Treasury	T 160	1939–1943
War Office	WO 32	1927–1935
Public Record Office Maps and Plans	MR 1	1924

GALE DIGITAL SCHOLAR LAB

With the help of feedback from librarians, faculty, and students, Gale continuously refreshes its award-winning, data-mining research environment. Open even more valuable research pathways with *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*, the intuitive, cloud-based analysis platform that helps tell impactful visual stories with historical data—and helps students build valuable new skills for the workforce.

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Now researchers can:

Work in Groups: Using *Gale Digital Scholar Lab: Groups*, students and faculty can collaborate in real time with others in the institution, directly within the platform.

Acquire New Digital Skills for the Workforce: The comprehensive Learning Center is continually updated with sample projects and learning content to promote digital literacy in the classroom and in the workforce.

LEARNING CENTERS FOR GALE PRIMARY SOURCES

Gale now offers instructional support on nearly 40 *Gale Primary Sources* archives, and counting, to make them as accessible as possible—at no additional cost to the library. Built with the student researcher in mind, Learning Centers pursue an urgent goal: to help connect the library's interdisciplinary content to student success.

Learning Centers promote usage and amplify data 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



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