

Archives for China: Modern Chinese History in British Records

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1. Introduction

British records to support the study of modern Chinese history are extensive, scattered, and underused. They are held in key public archives, museums and libraries, provincial records offices, universities and learned societies, and many important items are in the possession of private owners: the families of men and women who lived and worked in China, or commercial or other organisations that formerly operated there. The traces of the British encounter with China can also be found in Britain outside the archives, on public memorials for example, or indeed in the Chinatowns in British port-cities, but the textual and visual archive held in private or public hands provides a far fuller indication of the brittle intimacy of Sino-British relations in the modern age.

In this paper I shall outline the main types and locations of records held in Britain, and will draw particular attention to materials not generally known, or in fact still emerging into public view. The focus there will be on visual sources, and the project I have led since 2006 which locates and digitises historical photographs of China held in private hands. The material held in the UK results largely from the reporting to Britain of the agents of the state or commercial or other non-government organisations, such as Christian

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missionary societies, as well in addition the private papers of individuals. It also includes substantial amounts of material repatriated to Britain from China. This includes the spoils of war — the captured archives of the Canton Viceroy for example — as well as significant state and private sector records shipped back in the 1930s in particular, although in fact this is a process which continued throughout the twentieth century.^① A significant part of the archive of British activity in China remains in China itself. Various papers of branches of British firms, for example, are held in state or other archives, as are the records of key institutions in which the British presence was substantial, such as the Maritime Customs Service, or the Shanghai International Settlement.^② Some significant materials are known no longer to exist — most Hong Kong government records destroyed during the 1941–1945 Japanese occupation, for example, British consulates were under instruction to destroy routine files older than 15 years. Other significant materials known to exist are not yet accessible (the consular land records for Shanghai), or only just starting to open (intelligence archives).

An adequate history of the British relationship with China, and the British presence in the country cannot be written without research across these archives, without work in London and Shanghai, for example, or London and Hong Kong (In fact materials relating to the British presence are also held in third country archives, not least in the British dominions, but also in for example the United States).^③ But it is also the case that a richer history of

① The Chinese-language files of the British Legation were not sent back until the 1959, and then amongst them were found the papers of Ye Mingchen's archive, captured in 1857, while the British Supreme Court records were rediscovered in 1981 lodged in the attic of the old Shanghai consulate: David Pong, *A Critical Guide to the Kwangtung Provincial Archives, Deposited at the Public Record Office of London* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 1975).

② Papers of branches of Butterfield & Swire (太古洋行) branches are held in the Tianjin Municipal Archives, and the 中国企业史资料研究中心, at the 上海社会科学院经济研究所. This institute also holds records of branches of Jardine, Matheson & Co (怡和洋行), the Sassoon Group (沙逊洋行), and British American Tobacco (英美烟公司).

③ For example, the papers of the writer and journalist J.O.P. Bland, who was active in lobbying groups, worked for the British & Chinese Corporation, and the Shanghai Municipal Council, are in the University of Toronto, Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library. The diaries and letters of his sometime collaborator, G.E. Morrison, are in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, as are the papers of SMC employee Eleanor Hinder, who was head of the Council's Economic & Social Division.

modern China can be written if British records are used. So extensive was the British presence, so hungry was it for information, so developed were its systems for securing and processing information, that it contains much material that can at the very least add depth and colour to research based on records held in China, and at times it can serve as a substitute, a proxy archive for materials destroyed in war or civil turmoil, or simply never generated.

Material generated by British actors in Chinese history has many limitations, not least of those the different levels of effective engagement with Chinese society of those involved. It was created for a wide range of purposes, and is haphazard, contingent and incomplete. We might conceive of it as an instrumentally fashioned imperial archive, in terms popularised by James Hevia, the outcome of a strategy of knowledge generation and collation to underpin the British “project” in China.^① Information and collaborations with informants certainly underpinned British imperial practice.^② The creation of knowledge about China was a key strand in Robert Hart’s programme within the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, which generated an immense amount of data about Chinese trade, culture and society. But the cohesiveness and comprehensiveness of the records generated by the British can easily be overstated. Just as there was no “grand colonial design” underpinning British policy in China, there was no grand design behind the creation of this vast and variegated corpus of material which can support research into modern Chinese history at a number of levels.^③

2. Britain in China

Sino-British relations operated in two spheres; there was what eventually

^① This is one theme in his *English Lessons: The Pedagogy of Imperialism in Nineteenth-century China* (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2003), developed further in his *The Imperial Security State: British Colonial Knowledge and Empire-Building in Asia* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

^② See C.A. Bayly, *Empire and Information: Intelligence Gathering and Social Communication in India, 1780–1870* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

^③ The quotation comes from Rhoads Murphy, *The Outsiders: The Western Experience in India and China* (Ann Arbor, 1977), pp.12–35.

to become a standard state-to-state relationship, but there was also a significant British presence in China itself. British diplomats managed relations with China, but also managed this British infrastructure in China. For 170 years since the Treaty of Nanjing, the British have had a substantive formal or informal presence in China or in Hong Kong. And for over 50 years before that treaty opened 5 Chinese coastal cities to British trade and residence, and confirmed the establishment of Hong Kong as a Crown Colony, a relative small British presence had steadily grown in south China. The archive generated by this two centuries of activity is vast.

Although nominally co-ordinated, British government activity in or relating to China was multi-faceted, and encompassed most of the great departments of state — the Admiralty and Treasury, the Colonial, Foreign, India and War Offices — as well as other smaller departments and agencies (such the Secret Intelligence Service, the Board of Trade). The British Minister at Peking (upgraded to ambassador status in 1935) was the supreme British authority in China itself, but the British presence was complex and diverse, and flows of responsibility, reporting and information crossed each other, and extended not only out to London, but also to India, and to colonial British Asia. British imperial practice in general was characterised by multipolarity and by the autonomy of discrete imperial agents, such as individual colonial administrations. The Government of India was not a simple subordinate unit of the British central state, for example, and had its own strategic, security and other concerns in China, and in fact its own consulate at Kashgar.

The Minister at Peking oversaw the China Consular service, and this intersected with the British Supreme Court for China, which oversaw the British legal system from Shanghai. In 1927 the formal British presence in China thus overseen by the agents of the Foreign and Colonial offices encompassed: the Crown Colony at Hong Kong, two leased territories (Weihaiwei, the Kowloon New Territories), two British-dominated international settlements (Xiamen, Shanghai), six British concessions (Hankou, Jiujiang, Niuzhuang, Tianjin, Xiamen, and Zhenjiang), and also a tangible presence in cities and towns stretching from Manchuria to the borders

with Burma. For because they held extraterritorial status and were under the jurisdiction of their consuls, wherever there were British subjects, the formal British presence stretched. This included British-protected subjects such as Indians, or Southeast Asian colonial subjects amongst others. It included the formally recognised, and extraterritorialised, Diplomatic Quarter at Peking, and such informally developed initiatives as the Kuling Municipal Council, which administered a privately-purchased area of Lushan, the Chefoo International Committee (Yantai), and a Committee of Public Works at Ningbo and others. Some other areas of concentrated British residence notably lacked any concession zone, such as Fuzhou. British interests penetrated deep into the interior of the country through shipping lines and railways and through commercial and missionary networks. Overlaying these networks were those of the Royal Navy, with its China Station fleet headquartered at Hong Kong, which was also the base of the Army's China Command (with North China and South China sub-commands).^① The records of individual Britons — letters, diaries, working papers, quotidian ephemera — are also voluminous. Tens of thousands of Britons lived or visited China, spending short sojourns or entire careers in government employment, the private sector, or in Chinese employ. Almost 5,500 British men served in the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, for example. Some 3,000 served in the Shanghai Municipal Police. Individual papers of diplomats and consuls, soldiers and sailors, businessmen, journalists, missionaries and others complement many of the institutional collections that survive. Such records should not be neglected. They often contain candid and insightful analysis and reporting of events and personalities. They also give a great deal of the flavour of foreign life in China and the mentality and assumptions of foreign residents and actors in Chinese history.

^① I have surveyed this infrastructure in *Britain in China: Community, Culture and Colonialism* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1999), and looked in greater detail at British concession administrations and practice in “British Concessions and Chinese Cities, 1860s–1930s” in Billy So and Harriet Zürndorfer, H. (eds.), *The Order of Space in the Republican Chinese City* (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2013).

3. British state archives

The core records of British state activity in China are held in the National Archives. This includes (but is not restricted to):

PREM: Prime Ministerial files

CAB: Cabinet records

FO (FCO): Foreign Office records; Foreign Office Far East Department; Peking Legation; Consulates; Supreme Court records.

CO: Colonial Office (Hong Kong, Weihaiwei)

ADM: Admiralty records; China station; Naval intelligence, ship's log books

HS: Special Operations Executive (covert warfare organisation during the Pacific War)

HW: Signals Intelligence

KV: MI5 (Security Services)

T: Treasury

WO: War Office; China Command, military intelligence, war crimes, unit war diaries (eg Shanghai Defence Force)

Within these files are many maps and plans, photographs and other visual materials. The range of this material is enormous. As well as the reports and letters that one would expect, there are documents and books sent back to London, and I have found handbills picked up from the street, or anti-imperialist propaganda posters stripped from the walls of Chinese provincial cities and sent to the British Legation by angry consuls as evidence of "anti-foreignism". There is the great volume of correspondence flowing to and from China, reporting, seeking guidance, recording, remonstrating and complaining. The official British presence in China operated under tight budgetary restraints. Consulates were routinely understaffed, and the files are rich in discussions about expenditure. To an extent this means that many records survived which should have been destroyed as a matter of good records management practice, because consuls did not have staff time to assess them

for discussion. But it also means that consuls and diplomats were also happy to receive copies of information and reports from other agencies, such as British businesses. The British official archive is very full of documents generated by British businesses, missions and others, as well as those composed by consuls and diplomats.

There are substantial gaps. Routine “weeding” of inessential correspondence to save space, and to make the process of archive generation manageable, means that the registers that survive are actually sometimes now the only record of discussions on specific topics. Many routine records of individual consulates no longer survive, or are very incomplete. The records of the British Legation in China are complete up to the end of 1930, but are then very patchy, with only individual subject files remaining, and not too many of those. Not all material that has survived has been made accessible. Consular land records relating to Shanghai, for example, were “rediscovered” in 2010 – 2011, but for the moment remain in the hands of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. There is also likely to be material repatriated from Hong Kong ahead of the handover in 1997, which may not be accessible for some time. Records of British intelligence operations in China are not accessible.^①

The largest and least well-explored central state archive is that of the India Office, held at the British Library. In many ways the British enterprise in China was in origin, and character, a British Indian presence. The British Indian Army three times fought major wars in China, and was the key base of operations for British activities in China during the Pacific War. Indian Military and civil intelligence agencies (the Department of Central Intelligence) also operated in China, not least due to the Sikh presence in China, and Indian nationalist ties with Chinese nationalism. Relations between the Guomindang and the Indian National Congress are an under-explored area, but British concerns about such formal and informal links were very strong.

Other important state records are also held elsewhere. The Bank of

^① Some material about MI6 is in series HD, but for a survey of activities in China see Keith Jeffery, *MI6: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909 – 1949* (London: Bloomsbury, 2010). This is the official history of the service.

England Archives are held by the Bank itself, and contain a great deal about the history of loans, and of British financial assistance to China (such as the Leith-Ross mission).^① The Admiralty Hydrographic Office Archives are in Taunton, and contain maps, charts and surveying material, including important records relating to South China sea issues.^② Important Prime Ministerial papers are held at Churchill College Cambridge University (Winston Churchill; Margaret Thatcher). The first of these contains many state papers, rather than private records.^③

Exploring nearly any subject in the history of modern China should involve working across a range of central state, non-government, and individual records. Policy makers kept diaries, interacted with lobby groups, or exchanged letters with colleagues. Examining British financial assistance to China in the 1930s would involve work on Foreign Office and Treasury files, the archives of the Bank of England, and probably the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, as well as the private papers of such officials as British ambassador.

4. Non-governmental archives

Extensive collections relating to three of the biggest of the British China companies survive.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank records were transferred to Britain in the 1990s, and are now housed in the HSBC Group Archives Centre.^④ Some 700 crates of the records of Jardine, Matheson & Co were shipped to England from Hong Kong in 1936, and are in Cambridge University Library.^⑤ John Swire & Sons, based in London, exercised a tight control over its Butterfield & Swire China operations, and the quality and volume of information

① See: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/about/Pages/history/archive/default.aspx>.

② <http://www.ukho.gov.uk/ABOUTUS/Pages/UKHO-Archive.aspx>.

③ See <http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/archives/> and <http://www.churchillarchive.com/index>.

④ <http://www.hsbc.com/1/2/about/history/hsbc-s-archives>.

⑤ <http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/db/node.xsp?id=EAD/GBR/0012/MS%20JM>.

despatched back to Britain is substantial. Despite being damaged by bombing during the Second World War, much of this material survives in SOAS Archives and Special Collections.^① Records of other companies survive, but not to the same extent and comprehensiveness. The records of such companies as The Asiatic Petroleum Company, British American Tobacco, and Imperial Chemical Industries, are much more incomplete. Some history BAT material is available online having been scanned as part of the Legacy Tobacco Documents Library.^② A little more remains in company hands.

Whilst the archives of the “big three” contain a wealth of important information, they were none of them representative of the full range of British commercial activity in China. Papers relating to individual firms and manufacturing operations survive in a scattered fashion, and many of these reflect the difficulties of operations in China during the Nanjing decade and during and in the aftermath of the Sino-Japanese War. See, for example, the papers relating to the Shanghai operations of the China Printing & Finishing Company, held in the Calico Printers Association archive at Manchester.^③

There is much more to these records than business history, although that is certainly there. The evolving nature of Chinese markets, and of Chinese consumers and competitors is refracted through such archives. But the context in which British business worked in China was always intensely political. The archives contain a steady stream of intelligence and gossip about Chinese political affairs, and diplomacy, as well as material feeding into the lobbying process. There are reports on interaction with consuls and diplomats in China, and with Foreign Office staff in London. There is also material about such formal lobbying groups as the China Association, whose records, though patchy, survive.^④

Missionary societies were complex and bureaucratic organisations, and a

① <http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/archives/>.

② British American Tobacco Documents Archive <http://bat.library.ucsf.edu/>.

③ For example, on Lever Brothers, Frans-Paul van der Putten, “Corporate Behaviour and Political Risk: Dutch Companies in China, 1903 – 1941” (Research School of Asian, African and Amerindian Studies, Leiden University, 2001).

④ At SOAS library Special Collections.

great deal of material survives from most British societies. They were also characterised by a need to sustain flows of information to support fund-raising operations in Britain, and missionaries were by nature reflective and introspective. This combination of factors means that there is a great deal of material captured in the records of missions, as well as inter-denominational organisations. Mission archives are still sometimes viewed with suspicion as “tainted” by the very nature of their evangelical ambitions, but their records contain a great deal of data, from all over China, of social, cultural and political events and trends. Mission work was not only evangelical, but also encompassed medical, social and educational activity, and this is reflected in the archive. The main British archives containing missionary materials are SOAS Special Collections and Archives (London Missionary Society, Methodist Missionary Society, China Inland Mission etc), and the University of Birmingham Cadbury Research Library, which holds the records of the Church Missionary Society.^① Other records are held in Friends’ House, London (Quaker activities), Regent’s Park College, Oxford (Baptist Missionary Society), and other successor organisations. These collections hold the papers of many individual missionaries as well. Missionaries were targets of, as well as observers of Chinese nationalist movements and foreign invasion in the twentieth century, as well as observers of social and cultural change. Their records are often neglected, but have much to tell us about local society and national currents of development.

Important collections of the private papers of individuals are held at SOAS Library Special Collections, notably Maritime Customs Inspectors-General Sir Robert Hart, Sir Francis Aglen, and Sir Frederick Maze. These contain many service documents, as well as personal papers, especially the Maze papers. Materials from lower ranking staff are also here, and again these often contain service records (Commissioners of customs seem often to have kept copies of their semi-official as well as other records).

^① An outline guide to SOAS holdings is at <http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/archives/specialist-guides/subject/file76133.pdf>.

5. Practical problems

The most significant issue facing those wishing to use British records is the lack of any comprehensive overview of location or contents. The only published guide dates back to 1977, and although it was quite comprehensive, it is now very out of date.^① The collecting policies of museums and archives, and the opening of state archives, mean that the amount of material now available is far, far greater than it was in 1977. The UK National Archives website offers various search tools, notably the National Register of Archives (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/>) which enables searches for individuals, families, or companies. The main page search engine on the National Archives website covers a range of archives, but is not a precise tool. The National Archives recently withdrew its Research Guide relating to China (see Appendix) as this was considered out of date, whilst it was intended that its new catalogue “Discovery”, would have precise Geo-referencing functionality.^②

Catalogue records for archives at over 100 institutions in London are can be searched through AIM 25 (<http://www.aim25.ac.uk/>) but this, for example, does not include the Imperial War Museum or National Army Museum holdings (although it does include the National Maritime Museum). All of these have substantial China-related collections.^③ “Access to Archives” (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/>) does provide a wider range of search functionality across UK archives catalogues. A search for “Shanghai”, for example, brings results from 18 institutions across the UK, but is clearly not complete. This problem suggests that some future co-ordinated effort, perhaps a Wiki project, to bring together knowledge about British archives relating to China, could be of benefit to researchers.

① Correspondence with Emma Jay, Head, Editorial Team, Advice & Records Knowledge, National Archives, 10, 16 May 2012.

② Correspondence with Emma Jay, Head, Editorial Team, Advice & Records Knowledge, National Archives, 10, 16 May 2012.

③ For example, search for “China” on the Imperial War Museum website: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/search>.

6. Visual records

Lurking in many of these collections are photographic prints, and sometimes negatives. Their volume often still defeats archivists and librarians, but some programmes have now begun to digitise them.^① In September 2012 the National Archives placed on its online Flickr stream digital images of albums from the former Colonial Office and Foreign Office libraries. Many modern collections of photographs are subject to copyright difficulties. However, substantial collections are now in the public domain on library sites, such as the photographs of Hedda Morrison, at Havard, of Sydney Gamble at Duke, the Internet Mission Photography Archive, or the “Virtual Shanghai” initiative at Lyon.

In this section I will introduce a different type of project, “Historical Photographs of China”, which I direct. This project locates, digitises and disseminates online, historic photographs of China held by private individuals. Most of the photographs were taken, bought or otherwise acquired by British families formerly connected with China. In origin the project lay in my development of contacts with descendants of British members of the Shanghai Municipal Police. The original aim was to locate documents and information about the men, by placing online basic career and biographical details about them, but in fact families which got in touch provided a great deal of additional photographic material. When we began work on the Chinese Maritime Customs History project, I created a website deliberately aimed to locate descendants of Customs staff, and to find out if they had photographs. The project then started to borrow and digitise this material, and in 2006 – 2007 expanded greatly as a result of offers of significant amounts of photographs taken by Guomindang politician and diplomat Fu Bingchang, and the former

^① The Needham Research Institute; Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford; Queen’s University Belfast, Library Special Collections; Royal Geographical Society.

Chairman of John Swire & Sons, G. Warren Swire.^① Both of these men were talented amateur photographers, and their photographs both covered long periods of time.

The project publishes its digital images to the “Historical Photographs of China” (<http://hpc.vcea.net>) website, and since 2011 has a further portal “Visualising China” (<http://visualisingchina.net>), which allows searching across this collection, and digital collections at Queen’s University Belfast and the Needham Research Institute.^② In total now we have digitised 80 different collections, containing some 22,000 individual photographs. Nearly 8,000 are now available online. There are practical issues — provenance and dating can be obscure or irretrievable. Many images lack any captions, and few clues as to location or subject. But the benefits outweigh the difficulties they present. This informal or virtual archive is also of course a product of the British enterprise in China. Sometimes the photographs were taken as a tool, for example a tool for management by Swires of their assets in China, and sometimes as evidence, as records of processes, or as advertising and marketing tools. There is no shortage of family and holiday snapshots, but most images that we have can also be explored as evidence of the British experience or and reaction to China, of social and cultural life, and as records of Chinese rural and urban life.

Photographs have often not been regarded seriously by historians, or treated with the same respect as textual or even material sources. They illustrate, and have often simply been seen as illustrative material, and they document, directly and inadvertently, but they do much more than this. They can provide a powerful stimulus to the historical imagination. They have an important history in and of themselves as material objects, and the collection, presentation and display of photographs deserves the social and cultural history that has begun to be developed about them. But they can also prompt us as historians to ask new questions, and can help us explore new ways of writing and reflecting on processes of change in modern China.

^① For information see: http://hpc/vcea.net/Collection/Fu_Bingchang for information on Fu (known as Foo Ping Sheung in English) and on Swire see: http://hpc/vcea.net/Collection/Warren_Swire.

^② Sir Robert Hart Collection, and Joseph Needham photographs.

Conclusion

Records held in Britain, generated by the state or non-state actors, by organisations or by individuals, contain a great deal of unused or under-used material about modern Chinese history. Yet more remains which has yet to enter the public domain. Visual and textual documents of all sorts lie in British archives, often neglected by researchers. Understandings of where this material is, or what it contains, are hampered by the lack of any up to date or co-ordinated guide. It would not in fact be a difficult project to create an online guide, but it would need to be a collaborative and evolving document. Most existing scholarship relies on the UK National Archives, but these form only a part of a wider patchwork of records that have survived. Whilst this material was created to serve the specific purposes of government organs, businesses or mission societies, for example, it contains to greater or lesser extents significant amounts of qualitative and quantitative data about a wide range of facets of modern Chinese politics, culture and society. Overseas archives are no substitute for archives preserved in China, although war and the depredations of political change in the twentieth century have greatly inhibited the survival of historical records there. Joined together with related materials in China itself, and with cognate and related archives in north America or the British dominions, this material can provide fresh data and new understandings of and perspectives about modern China.

Appendix

Records relating to China in The National Archives

Overseas Records Information 38

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1. Introduction

The records in The National Archives are arranged according to the government departments and other organisations that created them. The largest and most important collections relating to China are the records of the Foreign Office (FO), and its successor the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Records of the service departments, that is the Admiralty (ADM), the War Office (WO), the Air Ministry (AIR), and the Ministry of Defence (DEFE), relating to China are less extensive; some however are of considerable importance. The records of these departments are not in general arranged as conveniently as those of the Foreign Office for the purpose of identifying material relating to China. The records of the Cabinet Office (CAB) and the Prime Minister's Office (PREM) both contain material of great importance, though limited volume. Treasury records (T) are essential to understanding financial, commercial and economic conditions, and the records of the Board of Trade (BT), especially those of the Commercial Department, may be used to complement this picture.

Some material may be found in the records of other departments, and a keyword search of the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue), should provide some references. However, apart from the Colonial Office records for Hong Kong and Wei Hai Wei (see below), they are unlikely to add much more of significance.

This brief guide is restricted almost entirely to matters relating specifically to China, Hong Kong and Wei Hai Wei, rather than to Chinese interests elsewhere

in the world. Material relating to Chinese interests in the Far East and South-East Asia, and to the migration of Chinese to other regions, may be found in record series relating to those territories. Home Office records include papers relating to the naturalisation of Chinese migrants to the UK. Details of individuals known to have served in British military units or in the merchant navy may be found in the general series of service records — explanatory leaflets are available at Kew or through The National Archives' website (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/).

The following sections identify the more important series relating to China. Most of the Foreign Office series included relate wholly to China. In the case of other government departments, most of the record series listed are of a more general nature with only scattered references to China.

This Research Guide is concerned primarily with the period from the late 18th century until the 1970s.

2. Foreign Office

The Foreign Office was established as a separate department of state in 1782. Records relating to the conduct of foreign affairs from the reign of Henry VIII to 1781 are held among records formerly in the State Paper Office, and are known from 1547 as State Papers Foreign (SP). For details see Louise Atherton, *“Never Complain, Never Explain”: records of the Foreign Office and State Paper Office 1500 – c. 1960* (London, 1994).

The records comprising the Foreign Office department code (FO) fall into three major categories:

- Records of the Foreign Office itself (despatches from British representatives abroad, and drafts of replies; communications from foreign diplomats in London, and from other British Government departments; minutes; memoranda; treaty papers and so on)
- Records of British embassies and consulates abroad, returned periodically to London
- Private papers of diplomats, officials and ministers

For further information see: Michael Roper, *The records of the Foreign Office 1782 – 1968* (Public Record Office Handbooks, XIII, 2002).

2.1 Foreign Office Records

The records of the Foreign Office itself can be divided into two chronological collections: before 1906, and 1906 to 1966. Until 1906, there is a series for each country with which the UK had diplomatic relations. For China it is FO 17 covering the period from 1815 to 1905. The original means of reference to this record series are Registers of General Correspondence, FO 566, indexed by FO 738, and Registers and Indexes to General Correspondence, FO 605, which are available on microfilm.

From 1906 until 1966 the Foreign Office records are arranged into subject series — political, commercial, consular, and so on. Of these the most important are the political general papers in FO 371, which contains several thousand files relating to China. For the period from 1906 to 1919 there is a card index to Foreign Office correspondence in most of the subject series, which serves as a means of reference to the surviving files. From 1920 until 1951 it is necessary to use the Indexes to Foreign Office General Correspondence, 1920 to 1951, which are available in the Open Reading Room at The National Archives. These indexes have been reprinted by Kraus International Publications, and may be available through academic or other reference libraries. In addition, there are photocopied index volumes in a similar format for 1952, 1953 and 1959. When using both the card index and the printed index it is important to be aware that the indexes were created at the time the records were current, and that by no means all the items indexed have been selected for permanent preservation.

Many of the more important papers from FO 17 and FO 371 were printed for circulation within the Foreign Office, to Cabinet Ministers, and to diplomats. Those concerning China are FO 405 (Confidential Print, China 1848 to 1957), and FO 436 (Confidential Print, Far Eastern Affairs 1937 to 1957). Further copies of prints for the period to 1914 are in FO 881. FO 415 is Foreign Office: Confidential Print Opium, 1910 – 1941.

There is also material relating to China in FO 83 (Correspondence before 1906, Great Britain and General); FO 95 (Political and Other Departments: Miscellanea, Series I); FO 96 (Political and Other Departments: Miscellanea, Series II); and FO 97 (Political and Other Departments: Supplements to General Correspondence before 1906).

2.2 Embassy and Consular Archives

As well as correspondence with the Foreign Office, the Embassy and Consular Archives contain correspondence with the Chinese authorities and others in China, some registers of births, marriages and deaths of British nationals in China, deeds and registers of property, records relating to extra-territorial jurisdiction, and such other records as consulates were required to keep. Communication with the Chinese authorities was in Chinese, and though such communications were always translated into English before being attended to, many of the originals and copies of British replies in Chinese have survived.

The survival rate of the embassy records is high, that of the consulates much less so.

Peking (Beijing) Legation and Embassy Archives — Record Series	Description
FO 228	1834 – 1930; Consulates and Legation, China; General Correspondence, Series I
FO 229	1836 – 1853; Consulates and Legation, China; General Correspondence, Duplicates
FO 230	1834 – 1917; Consulates and Legation, China; Letter Books
FO 231	1836 – 1945; Consulates and Legation, China; Registers of Correspondence
FO 232	1843 – 1937; Consulates and Legation, China; Indexes to Correspondence
FO 233	1727 – 1951; Consulates and Legation, China; Miscellaneous Papers and Reports
FO 676	1875 – 1972; Foreign Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Various Embassies and Legations, China; General Correspondence, Series II
FO 677	1759 – 1874; Foreign Office; Superintendent of Trade, Legation, Peking, China; General Correspondence and Diaries
FO 682	1861 – 1939; Foreign Office; Chinese Secretary's Office, Various Embassies and Consulates, China; General Correspondence

continued

Peking (Beijing) Legation and Embassy Archives — Record Series	Description
FO 932	1840 – 1938; Foreign Office; Chinese Secretary's Office, Peking [Beijing] and predecessors; Chinese Registers of Correspondence
FO 1080	1833 – 1951; Foreign Office; Chinese Secretary's Office, Embassy and Legation, Peking [Beijing], China; Miscellanea

Consul	Record Series	Description
Amoy	FO 663	1834 – 1951; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; General Correspondence
Canton	FO 694	1844 – 1851; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; Miscellanea
Chefoo	FO 735	1860 – 1941; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; Inventories
Chengtu	FO 664	1902 – 1945; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; Various Registers
Chinkiang	FO 385	1871 – 1925; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; General Correspondence
Foochow	FO 665	1846 – 1946; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; General Correspondence and Various Registers
Hankow and Hangchow	FO 666	1865 – 1951; Foreign Office; Consulates, China; General Correspondence and Various Registers
Ichang	FO 667	1879 – 1941; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; General Correspondence and Various Registers
Kunming	FO 668	1945 – 1951; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; Various Registers and Lease Agreement
Newchwang	FO 669	1865 – 1868; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; General Correspondence
Ningpo	FO 670	1843 – 1933; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; General Correspondence and Various Registers
Peking (Beijing)	FO 562	1902 – 1950; Foreign Office; Consulate and Legation, China; General Correspondence
	FO 692	1901 – 1947; Foreign Office; Consulate and Legation, China; Registers of Correspondence
	FO 563	1905 – 1931; Foreign Office; Legation, China; Miscellanea
	FO 564	1874 – 1926; Foreign Office; Legation, China; Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages

continued

Consul	Record Series	Description
Shanghai	FO 565	1862 – 1939; Foreign Office; Supreme Court, China; General Correspondence
	FO 671	1845 – 1955; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; General Correspondence
	FO 672	1836 – 1864; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; Miscellanea
	FO 914	1914 – 1949; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; Register of Companies
	FO 917	1857 – 1941; Foreign Office; Supreme Court, China; Probate Records
	FO 1092	1865 – 1941; Foreign Office; Shanghai Court, China; Judges' and Magistrates' Notebooks
Tientsin	FO 674	1860 – 1952; Foreign Office; Consulate, China; Various Registers and Supreme Court Records
Various Consulates	FO 678	1837 – 1959; Foreign Office, China; Deeds
	FO 679	1853 – 1953; Foreign Office; China; Registers of Deeds
	FO 680	1854 – 1942; Foreign Office; China; Land Registers
	FO 681	1861 – 1951; Foreign Office; China; Registers of Births

2.3 Treaties

For the modern period original treaties are in two main record series.

Record Series	Description
FO 93	1695 – 2000; Protocols of Treaties
FO 94	1782 – 2000; Ratifications of Treaties

See also the Research Guide on Treaties.

2.4 Private Papers

A collection of papers of ministers and officials is in the series FO 800 (Private Offices; Various Ministers' and Officials' Papers, 1824 – 1968), which is available on microfilm. There are many other individual series of private papers. The following have some relevance to China.

Record Series	Description
FO 350	1901 – 1919: Jordan Papers. Incomplete set of correspondence (mainly with the Foreign Office) of Sir John Newall Jordan as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Peking (Beijing) 1906 – 1920
FO 391	c. 1858 – 1880: Hammond Papers. Correspondence of Rt. Hon. Edmund (afterwards Lord) Hammond, permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, with Sir Rutherford Alcock, Sir Daniel Brooke Robertson, Sir Harry Smith Parkes and Sir Thomas Francis Wade
FO 705	c. 1841 – 1845: Pottinger Papers. Private and semi-official correspondence of Sir Henry Pottinger, envoy, plenipotentiary and superintendent of British trade in China
PRO 30/33	c. 1900 – 1906: Satow Papers. Private and semi-official correspondence, diaries, papers etc of Sir Ernest Mason Satow, envoy to China 1900 – 1906

2.5 Kwangtung (Guangdong) Provincial Archives

The large collection of documents in Chinese that was returned from the British Embassy in Peking to London in 1959 and placed in the then Public Record Office were originally allocated a single record series, Documents in the Chinese Language, with the reference FO 682. On closer examination, it became clear that although the bulk of the collection consisted of documents that were the authentic archives of successive British missions in China. Part of the collection, some 2000 documents, were records of the Chinese authorities captured by the British in Canton in 1858, which had become mixed with the missions' archives in the Chinese Secretary's Office, where they had been stored for convenience.

These documents were subsequently extracted from the collection, allocated to the record series Kwangtung Provincial Archives (FO 931) and catalogued by David Pong in *A critical guide to the Kwangtung Provincial Archives deposited at the Public Record Office of London* (London, 1967), the introduction to which discusses their provenance and nature. All of these records have been microfilmed.

3. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Office merged with the Commonwealth Office in October 1968, but the two departments ran a joint registry system from January 1967. From that date the main series for correspondence concerning China is FCO 21,

Records of the Far Eastern Department.

References to China will also be found among the records of other geographical and subject departments, and can be identified using the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue). A breakdown of the responsibilities of departments within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can be found in the annual *Diplomatic Service List*.

4. Admiralty

4.1 Station records

These are records of local squadron or fleet commanders. Until 1864 China came within the East Indies Station. In that year a separate China Station was established. The records now in the China Station series go back to 1828 however, and there is little about China in the East India Station records.

Record Series	Description
ADM 125	1828 – 1946; Admiralty. China Station Correspondence
ADM 126	1856 – 1914; Admiralty. China Station Indexes to correspondence

4.2 Admiralty Secretariat Records

Records of the Board of Admiralty, covering all aspects of naval administration. Information about China is scattered throughout the following series and can be extensive for some subjects. A search of the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue) for the “Yangtse incident” using the search term “Yangtse OR Amethyst”, for example, will produce a large number of references.

Record Series	Description
ADM 1	1660 – 1976; Admiralty, and Ministry of Defence, Navy Department; Correspondence and Papers. Indexes and digests, which provide an essential means of reference, are in ADM 12
ADM 7	1563 – 1953; Admiralty; Miscellanea
ADM 116	1852 – 1963; Admiralty Record Office; Cases
ADM 137	1860 – 1937; Admiralty; Historical Section; Records used for the Official History of the First World War

Further material scattered among other series can be identified through the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue) by the use of appropriate search terms.

5. Air Ministry

The following is not a comprehensive list, but provides an indication of the type of material relating to China which may be found. Further material may be identified through the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue).

5.1 AIR 8 – Chief of Staff Papers

Record Series	Description
AIR 8/747	1945 – 1946; China; airfields
AIR 8/940 – 941	1941 – 1946; Air Assistance and co-operation
AIR 8/1274	1944 – 1945; Transfer of forces from Burma to China

5.2 AIR 9 – Director of Plans

Record Series	Description
AIR 9/52	1925 – 1937; China
AIR 9/405 – 409	1942 – 1945; Supplies and assistance

5.3 AIR 23 – Overseas Commands

Record Series	Description
AIR 23/1916	1941; China Station; Anglo-Dutch American conversations
AIR 23/3233	1941; China Station; plans in event of war with Japan
AIR 23/7756 – 7760	1927; RAF Shanghai Defence Force

5.4 AIR 29 – Operations Record Books: Miscellaneous Units

Record Series	Description
AIR 29/709, AIR 29/1139, AIR 29/1192	1936 – 1944; Chinese Air Force; training, organizations, operations, losses etc.

5.5 AIR 40 – Director of Intelligence

Record Series	Description
AIR 40/339 – 344	1943 – 1946; Chinese Training Units; Lahore, Walton, Chengtu
AIR 40/1353 – 1373	1930 – 1941; Chinese Air Force; training, organizations, operations, losses etc.
AIR 40/1444 – 1450, AIR 40/1454	1942 – 1946; Chinese Air Force; training, organizations, 1454 operations, losses etc.
AIR 40/2124 – 2125	1942 – 1944; Aircraft production
AIR 40/2181	1939 – 1944; Japanese air operations in China, Burma and East Indies
AIR 40/2381	1946; Chinese Air Force; report
AIR 40/2384	1947; Chinese Communist Air Force; notes

6. War Office

The following is not a comprehensive list, but provides an indication of the type of material relating to China which may be found. Further material may be identified through the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue).

6.1 WO 1 – Secretary at War, Secretary of State for War, and Commander in Chief: inletters and miscellaneous papers

Record Series	Description
WO 1/461 – 480	Relates to China (Hong Kong) and covers the period 1842 – 1852

6.2 WO 28 – Headquarters' Records

Record Series	Description
WO 28/272	1843 – 1857; General Orders; China
WO 28/300	1840 – 1844; China expedition; orders, proceedings, courts martial etc
WO 28/302	1900; Boxer Rebellion; reports and photographs

6.3 WO 32 – War Office Registered Files

These records cover the administration of the British Army throughout the

world, and include reports about campaigns in which it was involved. The series is arranged by subject codes. The following are particularly relevant; O/J China, O/AT Far East, 46 Narratives of operations. O/AT includes some files about Hong Kong and Kowloon during the Second World War.

O/J includes about 160 files relating to Chinese affairs from 1857 – 1950, and covering such varied matters as the capture of Canton 1857, the China Expedition 1900, the operation of brothels in the International Settlement in Shanghai 1927 – 1935, and reports of Semenoff's White Russia Movement c.1928.

Code 46 contains extensive reports on the Tsingtao Expedition 1914 – 1915.

6.4 WO 95 – First World War and Army of Occupation War Diaries

WO 95 contains a number of relevant First World War war diaries (search the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue) using “China OR Chinese”).

6.5 WO 100 – Campaign Medal and Award Rolls

WO 100 includes medal entitlements for British military operations in China in 1900, including awards to Chinese regiments, volunteers and interpreters.

6.6 WO 106 – Directorate of Military Operations and Intelligence: papers

About 340 volumes and files that relate to China, from 1883 to the end of the Second World War. They include papers on French operations in Annam and China 1883 – 1886, Revolutions and Civil War 1902 – 1912, China in the First World War, Sino Japanese hostilities 1935 – 1939, the Second World War, and notes on some seventy Chinese and foreign personalities from 1920 – 1940, including Sun Yat Sen. Dr Wellington Koo, “General” Sutton and Dr Ritter van Kreittner.

6.7 WO 191 – War Diaries and Headquarters Records, Peacetime Operations

Record Series	Description
WO 1/461 – 480	Relates to China (Hong Kong) and covers the period 1842 – 1852

6.8 WO 203 – Military Headquarters Papers, Far East, Second World War

About 200 files relating to China are scattered through this series, forexample:

Record Series	Description
WO 203/314	1944; Build up of US and Chinese Forces 1944
WO 203/4377	1943 – 1946; Chinese Liaison Mission, correspondence

continued

Record Series	Description
WO 203/4390 – 4391	1944 – 1945: 204 Military Mission to Chungking, correspondence 1944 – 1945
WO 203/5623	1944 – 1945: British Embassy, Chungking, demi-official correspondence and political dispatches

6.9 WO 208 – Director of Military Intelligence

About 200 pieces, mainly within WO 208/177 – 499 and WO 208/2862 – 2894, that relate to China, and primarily to the Second World War period. Includes notes on personalities 1924 – 1944, for example Chiang Kai-Shek and Yang Sen.

6.10 WO 273 – Narrative of British Operations in China, 1840 – 1842 by Major J S Rothwell

This Intelligence Branch record series contains two files.

7. Ministry of Defence

The following is not a comprehensive list, but provides an indication of the type of material relating to China which may be found. Further material may be identified through the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue) or through the expanded catalogues to DEFE 4 (Ministry of Defence: Chiefs of Staff Committee: Minutes, 1947 – 1973), DEFE 5 (Ministry of Defence: Chiefs of Staff Committee: Memoranda, 1947 – 1973), and DEFE 6 (Chiefs of Staff Committee: Reports of the Joint Planning Staff and successors, 1947 – 1968), which are on open shelves in the Open Reading Room at The National Archives.

Record Series	Description
DEFE 7/599 – 600	1948 – 1960: Chinese request for jurisdiction of Walled City of Kowloon
DEFE 7/886	1957 – 1964: Export of goods on the Atomic Energy List to China
DEFE 7/1805	1954 – 1955: Publicity for Chinese and North Korean Communist treatment of British prisoners of war in Korea
DEFE 44/24	1958: Science in China
DEFE 64/27	1969: Airfields in China

8. Prime Minister's Office

The records of the Prime Minister's Office include a considerable amount of material about British relations with China and other matters. The documents listed below are examples only; additional material may be identified by using the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue).

8.1 PREM 1 – Correspondence and Papers to 1940

Record Series	Description
PREM 1/303	1939; Loans to China
PREM 1/314	1937 – 1939; Japanese aggression in China
PREM 1/316	1939; Tientsin incident

8.2 PREM 3 – Operational Papers, Second World War

Record Series	Description
PREM 3/90/1 – 5B	1940 – 1945; Operations, supplies, lend lease etc.
PREM 3/143/1	1942 June; Report on situation in China
PREM 3/143/6	1943 January; Messages exchanged with Chiang Kai-Shek
PREM 3/148/6	1943 – 1944; Use of Yunnan force
PREM 3/158/5	1943; Special Military Representatives with Chiang Kai-Shek

8.3 PREM 4 – Confidential Papers, Second World War

Record Series	Description
PREM 4/28/4 – 9	Various; including Parliamentary delegation to China 1942 – 1943 and messages exchanged with Chiang Kai-Shek 1940 – 1945

8.4 PREM 8 – Correspondence and Papers 1945 – 1951

Record Series	Description
PREM 8/943 – 945	1947; Nationalist blockade of Shanghai; HMS <i>Amethyst</i> ; Shanghai situation

8.5 PREM 11 – Correspondence and Papers 1951 – 1964

Record Series	Description
PREM 11/2237	1958: Chou En-Lai's interviews with Colonel Cantlie, British businessman, and Dr Dutt, retiring Indian Ambassador to China, on UK-China relations
PREM 11/3204	1961: Correspondence between Prime Minister and Mr Menzies on world affairs with particular reference to admission of China to the UN 1961
PREM 11/4673	1953 – 1964: Discussion on Chinese membership of UN
PREM 11/5157	1964: East-West trade; sale of aircraft to China; financial guarantees

8.6 PREM 13 – Correspondence and Papers 1951 – 1964

Record Series	Description
PREM 11/1965	1964, 1968: Chinese nuclear weapon development
PREM 11/3533	1964 – 1970: Admission of China to UN: UK position

8.7 PREM 15 – Correspondence and Papers 1970 – 1974

Record Series	Description
PREM 15/712	1964, 1968: Chinese nuclear weapon development

9. Cabinet Office (CAB)

The CAB series contain the records of the Cabinet since 1916, of its many committees, of the First and Second World War Cabinets, of the Committee of Imperial Defence and its predecessors since 1895, as well as the working files of the Cabinet Office staff. Indexes to the volumes of Cabinet minutes and memoranda (CAB 23/CAB 24, 1915 – 1939; CAB 65/CAB 66, 1939 – 1945; CAB 128/CAB 129, 1945 –) are available on open access in the Open Reading Room at the National Archives. The following references give examples of other material readily identifiable through the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue).

9.1 CAB 21 – Registered Files

Record Series	Description
CAB 21/286	1925; China; disturbances; reinforcements for the Far East
CAB 21/569 – 570	1939; Situation in Tientsin; Anglo-Japanese relations (microfilmed)
CAB 21/848	1943; Allied three power conference, North Africa, Churchill, Roosevelt, Chiang Kai-Shek
CAB 21/1011 – 1017	1938 – 1944; Communications between Burma and China; provision of civil and military supplies
CAB 21/1946 – 1949	1939 – 1951; Co-operation against Japan; post-war military and political situation; HMS <i>Amethyst</i> Incident, strategic exports to China

9.2 CAB 27 – Cabinet Committees to 1939

Record Series	Description
CAB 27/288	1925; Situation in China
CAB 27/337	1926 – 1927; Situation in China
CAB 27/343	1927; China; military
CAB 27/412	1930; Situation
CAB 27/482	1932; Far East

9.3 CAB 37 – Photographic copies of cabinet papers, c1880 – 1916

Record Series	Description
CAB 37/40/59	Schemes of railway extension into China
CAB 37/47/37	Transfer of territory at Wei-hai-wei by China to Great Britain
CAB 27/343	1927; China; military

9.4 CAB 47 – Advisory Committee on Trading and Blockade in War

Record Series	Description
CAB 47/7 (part)	1926; Conference on blockade of Canton

9.5 CAB 58 – Economic Advisory Council

Record Series	Description
CAB 58/155	1930: China: situation

9.6 CAB 134 – Cabinet Committees from 1945

Record Series	Description
CAB 134/277 – 291	1945 – 1951: Far East (Official) Committees
CAB 134/292	1951: Working Party on Economic Sanctions against China
CAB 134/669 – 670	1949 – 1950: China and South East Asia Committee

10. Treasury

The more important records of the Treasury consist of three cycles: Treasury papers (T 1) up to 1920; Treasury Finance (T 160) and Supply (T 161) files from 1921 to c. 1948; and Treasury Division files from c. 1948. (Many files starting before 1948 were re-registered in the new system of division files commenced that year). Of the division files, those of the Overseas Finance Division (T 236) are the most important for China, but material may also be found in other series such as Imperial and Foreign (T 220) and Home and Overseas Planning Staff (T 234).

10.1 T 1 – Treasury Papers to 1920

Only part only of this large and valuable series (over 12,000 boxes) has been catalogued. The various printed series of Calendars of Treasury Books and Papers describe in detail most of the contents of T 1 until 1745. For the remainder of the series, access is by means of alphabetical and numerical registers (T 2) which are used in conjunction with skeleton registers in T 3. Subject registers (T 108) exist for the years 1852 – 1920 only, and are on open access in the Open Reading Room in The National Archives. For the year 1909 there are 12 files directly relating to Chinese affairs; it can be assumed that this is fairly typical. Subject matter is comparable to that for earlier and later periods: banking, currency, investments, loans, administrative costs, and so on.

10.2 T 160 – Finance Files

Relevant material may be found mainly under the headings: “Countries/China”; “Finance/Currency/Countries/China”; “Finance/Loans/Countries/China”, but the availability of the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue) has made the identification of documents much simpler. Under “Missions” are two important files covering Sir F Leith Ross’ mission 1935 – 1936 (T 160/619 F14233/1 – 2), and the Economic Mission to China of 1941 – 1942 (T 160/1099 F16829).

10.3 T 161 – Supply Files

Under the heading Countries/China there are six files. Most deal with property matters but T 161/252 S27311/1 – 3 deals with the general situation in China from 1925 – 1930, Again, the use of the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue) will enable the researcher readily to identify additional material in this series.

10.4 T 236 – Overseas Finance Division (Code 23 – China)

Examples of the material in this series are:

Record Series	Description
T 236/43 – 50	1943 – 1946: Credits, lend-lease, transport, claims etc.
T 236/661 – 684	1930 – 1947: 1913 loan, currency, investment, Hong Kong
T 236/1810 – 1813	1946 – 1949: Currency, investments, policy towards a communist administration
T 236/4278	1928 – 1957: Amendment of Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank ordinances

11. Colonial Office

The Colonial Office was responsible for the administration of Hong Kong and Wei-Hai-Wei during the period when those territories were leased to the UK. The most important record series are as follows:

11.1 Hong Kong

Record Series	Description
CO 129	Hong Kong: Original correspondence 1841 – 1951
CO 349	Hong Kong: Register of correspondence 1849 – 1952

continued

Record Series	Description
CO 489	Hong Kong: Register of out-letters 1872 – 1926
CO 403	Hong Kong: Entry Books 1843 – 1872
CO 130	Hong Kong: Acts 1844 – 1965
CO 129	Hong Kong: Original correspondence 1841 – 1951
CO 131	Hong Kong: Sessional papers 1844 – 1966
CO 132	Hong Kong: Government gazettes 1846 – 1990
CO 133	Hong Kong: Miscellanca 1844 – 1940
CO 1023	Hong Kong and Pacific Department: Original Correspondence 1946 – 1955
CO 1030	Far Eastern Department 1941 – 1967

11.2 Wei-Hai-Wei

Record Series	Description
CO 521	Wei-Hai-Wei: Original correspondence 1898 – 1933
CO 770	Wei-Hai-Wei: Register of correspondence 1898 – 1931
CO 771	Wei-Hai-Wei: Register of out-letters 1901 – 1926
CO 841	Wei-Hai-Wei: Acts 1903 – 1930
CO 744	Wei-Hai-Wei: Government gazettes 1908 – 1930
CO 873	Wei-Hai-Wei: Commissioner's Files 1899 – 1930

The original correspondence series are not catalogued in full before 1926 and no detail of their content can be found in the Catalogue (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue).

Reference is by the registers of correspondence (for Hong Kong before 1849, the general registers in CO 326). For Hong Kong only there are also indexed summaries of incoming correspondence in CO 714. Additional material about these territories will be found among the records of the Colonial Office subject departments, and can be identified through the Catalogue.

For further information about the records of the Colonial Office see Anne Thurston, *Sources for Colonial Studies in the Public Record Office: records of the*

Colonial Office, Dominions Office, Commonwealth Relations Office and Commonwealth office (London, 1995), I.

12. Maps

Maps and plans of China (including Hong Kong and Wei-Hai-Wei) can be found among the map collections in FO 925, CO 700, CO 1047, CO 1054, and WO 78 and also in the map extract series MPD, MPI, MPG, MPH, MPK, MPKK and MFQ. Records of the successive Works Departments (WORK record series) include maps, plans and related files for buildings (primarily diplomatic and other British official properties) in China and Hong Kong. Many other maps and plans remain within volumes and files of correspondence and papers.

13. The National Archives' Library Bibliography

The following recommended publications are available in the The National Archives' Library (www.library.nationalarchives.gov.uk/library). Where indicated a publication is also available to buy at The National Archives' Bookshop (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/bookshop).

- Louise Atherton, *'Never Complain, Never Explain': records of the Foreign Office and State Paper Office 1500 – c. 1960* (London, 1994)
- David Pong, *A critical guide to the Kwangtung Provincial Archives deposited at the Public Record Office of London* (London, 1967)
- Michael Roper, *The records of the Foreign Office 1782 – 1968* (Public Record Office Handbooks, XIII, 2002) – Available to buy
- Anne Thurston, *Sources for Colonial Studies in the Public Record Office: records of the Colonial Office, Dominions Office, Commonwealth Relations Office and Commonwealth office* (London, 1995), I