

**English-language Serials in the Pre-communist China:**

**A Project Report**

(Funded by the SCOPA Grant, Yale University Library)

Tao Yang

2004-2005

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# English-language Serials in the Pre-communist China\*

Tao Yang

East Asia Library

Yale University Library

May 16, 2005

\* *ESC is used in the presentation to refer to these serials*

# Local/Practical Issues

## ◆ User needs

- Primary sources for undergrad senior projects
- Supplementary sources for grad or faculty research

## ◆ Strength of the Yale collection

## ◆ Difficulty of finding ESC

- Unknown item search hampered by “ancient” cataloging practice
  - ◆ Subject: no “newspapers” or “periodicals”
  - ◆ Publisher location: non-standard city names and/or no “China”
- Known item search hampered by lack of reference tools

# Project Goals

- ◆ Making these serials more accessible to the Yale users
  - Identifying the ESC titles
  - Identifying other sources that may facilitate access
  - Presenting them on the web
- ◆ Analyzing the publishing trends in social context



# Process:

## Choosing the Database Tool

- ◆ Web-based
- ◆ Fully searchable
- ◆ Linking to the Orbis record
  - No need for me to update location or status
- ◆ Limited to the Yale users

The winner is... [RefWorks](#)

# Process:

## Organizing the Records

- ◆ Change the record type to books and remove the initial article
  - To facilitate SFX links from RefWorks
- ◆ Add current standard place names
  - Beijing (for Peking or Peiping)
  - Guangzhou (for Canton)
  - Hong Kong (for Hongkong)
- ◆ Add other access points
  - Editor or publisher's name

# Demo

[http://www.library.yale.edu/eastasian/tutorials/eng\\_serials\\_cn.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/eastasian/tutorials/eng_serials_cn.html)

# Indications of Success

- ◆ Positive feedback from a faculty member
- ◆ Being used by undergraduate students
- ◆ Linked to from outside of Yale
- ◆ Inquiries from China and Germany

# Future Tasks

- ◆ Maintaining

- ◆ Promoting

- ◆ Expanding?

- to monographs that can be used as primary sources

- ◆ Preservation and digitization?

# ESC in Context

- ◆ Number of titles
  - Newspapers: 120
  - Periodicals: 400-800
- ◆ Time range: 1828-1949
  - some ceased publishing in early 1950s
- ◆ Geographic pattern
  - Qing Dynasty:
    - ◆ In all treaty ports
    - ◆ Canton (Guangzhou) then Shanghai as the center
  - Republican Period
    - ◆ Westerners: Shanghai as the center
    - ◆ Chinese: Nanking (Nanjing) and Peking (Beijing)

# ESC in Context (continued)

## ◆ Social groups involved

### ■ Westerners

- ◆ Missionaries, businessmen, sinologists, professional journalists,

### ■ Chinese

- ◆ Scientists/Scholars, political parties (Nationalists, Communists)

# Questions?



**English-language Serials in Pre-revolution China:**

**A Metadata Analysis**

(Proposal for SCOPA Grant, 2003)

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# **English-language Serials in Pre-revolution China:**

## **A Metadata Analysis**

Tao Yang

### **Background**

A number of English-language newspapers and periodicals were published in China from early 19<sup>th</sup> century till the communist revolution in 1949. Mainly published by the British and Americans living in China prior to 1949, these serials are invaluable primary sources because they provided first-hand accounts of westerners' life and activities in China and also contributed to the western perceptions of China.

At this point, it is difficult to say exactly how many English-language serials were published in pre-revolution China, but *A Research Guide to China-coast Newspapers*, a publication from the East Asian Research Center at Harvard University, lists 57 newspaper titles from 1822 to 1911, so the total number of newspapers and periodicals in the whole pre-revolution era may be in hundreds. Some of these publications have been used by researchers, but many of them may be still unknown to the academic community.

In this project, I will treat the whole range of English-language serials in pre-revolution China as a genre and systematically collect and analyze the information about them. Compared to previous studies related to these publications, this project has a broader scope and a different focus. Previous studies usually only looked into individual

sources or a subset of these publications, while my project attempts to examine the whole range of English-language serials. Most previous researchers were primarily interested in the information contained *in* the publications (i.e. data), but my focus here is the information *about* these publications (i.e. metadata). A sample list of metadata types for these serials is in the attachment.

This project has two purposes. The main purpose is to demonstrate the full range of these serials and their availability at Yale libraries to the academic community, which ultimately may help increase their usage by researchers. In addition, I want to experiment with analyzing the metadata from the perspective of print culture; hopefully we can uncover the correlation between this particular genre of publication and the social contexts in early modern China. The expected outcome of this project is a publishable paper, in which I will provide a bibliography of these serials with their availability at Yale being noted and summarize the results from the metadata analysis. The bibliography may also be put on the web site of the East Asia Library.

### **Methodology**

This study will examine the English-language non-missionary serials published in pre-revolution China. The missionary publications in pre-revolution China are different from non-religious publications in many aspects and they have been more adequately studied, so they are excluded from this project. I intend to implement this project in the following three phases. The first two phases will involve a student assistant, who will conduct data collection and analysis under my direction.

### *Phase 1: Collecting the metadata*

#### 1a. Search union catalogs and import records into EndNote

Union catalogs, RLIN/Eureka and OCLC/WorldCat, contain some essential metadata about these serials, but there is no straightforward way to locate these serial records. We will start by searching subjects “China” and “newspapers” (or “periodicals”) with the limitation on language (English) and date (pre-1949) in OCLC and RLIN. After the searches, it may be necessary to examine the records manually and exclude the duplicates or odd balls. Searches like this may not be exhaustive, so we then double check with an authoritative English-Chinese dictionary of proper names in early modern China to see if additional serial titles are listed there. If an additional serial title is found in the dictionary, we then manually search this title in RLIN and WorldCat to retrieve its record. This process will be tedious, but after going through it, we will be more confident about the completeness of our coverage. We then import the records retrieved from RLIN and OCLC into EndNote (a reference management program) and create two separate EndNote files.

#### 1b. Compare RLIN and OCLC records in EndNote

We can then compare the RLIN and OCLC records in EndNote and try to resolve any inconsistency by looking into the original record and/or physically examining the source material. This way, we will have a consistent and reliable metadata record for each serial title in EndNote format.

#### 1c. Verify Yale holdings for each title

Because all these serials have been discontinued, verifying their holding at Yale will involve searching both Orbis and the card catalog. The Yale holding information can then be noted in the EndNote file.

1d. Find information about publishers from other sources

The information about the publishers (their name, country of origin, and occupation) may not be available in union catalogs. For serials that are in Yale collections, we can look into the material to find such information. For materials not owned by Yale, it is necessary to examine other sources. These sources include biographies of westerners who lived in China, dictionaries, books on the history of journalism and publication in China, knowledgeable librarians and faculty members, and the web. We can then add such information into the EndNote file.

1e. Produce an annotated bibliography of these serials and upload it to the East Asia Library web site

When all the relevant information is in the EndNote file, we can generate an annotated bibliography of these publications from the EndNote file. This bibliography will include all the metadata for each serial title as well as the Yale holding information. At this stage, we can put the bibliography on the East Asia Library web site.

*Phase 2. Analyzing the metadata*

We can then input the metadata into an Excel spreadsheet and analyze the metadata from there. More specifically, the questions I seek to answer from data analysis will include but not limit to the following:

How were these English-language serials distributed geographically? Why?

What was the general trend of this type of publication in terms of their total number? Did the total number go up all the time since early 19<sup>th</sup> century and then fall at 1949 or else?

Did the percentage of American-owned serials increase over time, as the increase of American influence might predict?

Did the percentage of Chinese-owned serials increase over time, as the increase of Chinese nationalism might predict?

Answers to these questions will place these publications in their historical contexts and demonstrate the full potential of these publications as primary sources.

*Phase 3: Write up the findings*

### **Timeline**

I plan to complete this project by the end of year 2004. I plan to have a student assistant working with me for 6 hours a week during phase 1 and phase 2. The timeline is as follows:

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Phase 1: Data collection	Mid-January through March (10 weeks)
Phase 2: Data analysis	April through Mid-May (6 weeks)
Phase 3: Writing up	Through December (7 months)

### **Expenses**

The following expenses are necessary, but some of them may be covered by the East Asia Library. The total amount I am requesting from SCOPA is \$1221.60.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Requesting from SCOPA</b>	<b>Notes</b>
EndNote version 7	\$180	List price at CDW
Student Assistant hours	\$1041.60	1 Assistant at Level 4 (\$10.85 per hour) X 6 hours/week X 16 weeks
Other office supplies (paper, pen, toner, etc.)	\$0	Departmental
Total	\$1221.60	

### **Benefits**

This project has both immediate and future benefits to Yale University Library. The immediate benefit is that we at the East Asia Library will be able to better serve our patrons with an increased knowledge of these primary sources and their availability at Yale. This project also has the potential to expand into a larger project in the future, through which we may bring outside funding into the library to index and digitize these publications.

This project can also bring direct and indirect benefits to the East Asian collections beyond Yale. My preliminary literature search indicates that there is no up-to-date reference work for these English-language serials, so the paper I intend to publish may well become an essential reference for all East Asian collections in North America. Furthermore, this project explores a generally under-served area: English-language materials published in East Asia. Librarians at the East Asian collections in North America tend to concentrate on materials in East Asian languages (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean), while the materials published in English in East Asia may be neglected. But the reality is there are fair amount of English publications all over East Asia, both

historical and contemporary. This project, with its expected outcome, may raise the awareness about the English-language publications in East Asia, so they can be better collected, preserved and utilized.

**Attachment: A Sample List of Metadata Types**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Source</b>
Name of the Publication	Union Catalogs
Name of the Publisher	Reference Materials, etc.
Publisher's Country of Origin (Britain, U.S. or China)	Reference Materials, etc.
Publisher's Occupation	Reference Materials, etc.
Year of Beginning	Union Catalogs
Year of Ceasing Publishing	Union Catalogs
City of Publishing	Union Catalogs

# English-language Serials in Pre-Revolution China

## Final Report

(Submitted to SCOPA, Yale University Library)

Tao Yang

February 10, 2005

### Overview

This project aims at investigating a unique type of publication: English-language serials from pre-revolution China. From early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the communist revolution in 1949, many English-language newspapers and periodicals were published in China. These serials recorded and symbolized the intercultural experiences of two groups of people: one group being the Europeans and Americans who went to China and lived there and the other being the Chinese who were exposed to Western religion, science, and education. Therefore, these publications are valuable historical sources. However, due to many sociological reasons, these publications are largely forgotten in the libraries around the world.

With the support of the SCOPA Grant, I hired a student assistant who helped me collect information on this type of publications. The expenses cover primarily student wages, plus the cost of the EndNote 7 program, which I use to store the bibliographic information of these publications.

Two goals were set for this project in my proposal. The primary goal is to investigate the holdings of these newspapers and periodicals in the Yale collection and present the findings to the Yale community. The secondary goal is to identify the trends and patterns in the history of these publications and correlate the trends and patterns with the social-historical environment. In the following, I will describe the progress I made toward these two goals and my future plan after this project concludes.

## Primary Goal

My primary goal is to investigate the holdings of these newspapers and periodicals in the Yale collection and present the findings to the Yale community. I have achieved the following:

Identified a total of 474 periodical titles and 111 newspaper titles through searching union catalog. This represents the holdings of these serials in the North American libraries.

Identified a total of 165 periodical titles and 14 newspaper titles in the Yale collection.

Identified around 14 periodicals in the Yale collection that are rare. Plan for preservation is underway.

Made one public presentations based on the findings in last September. Another presentation is scheduled in the late March.

Posted the list of periodicals and newspapers in the Yale collection with an introduction on the East Asia Library web site:  
[http://www.library.yale.edu/eastasian/tutorials/eng\\_serials\\_cn.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/eastasian/tutorials/eng_serials_cn.html). There is anecdotic evidence that this list is being used: I suppressed the link temporarily in January 2005 and later was asked by a student.

## Secondary Goal

This has been achieved in an unexpected way. During the course of the project, I came across a reference book published in early 1970s from which I traced down a M.A. thesis titled: *Western Periodical Publication in China: 1828-1949*. Because the author of this thesis left the field of Asian studies after his graduation, his thesis is largely forgotten. After I obtained the

microfilm of this thesis, I realized it did exactly what I tried to accomplish in my secondary goal. It analyzes the historical trends and spatial patterns of these Western periodicals, in a similar way as I outlined in my grant proposal. Therefore, I realized repeating similar analysis is not very meaningful.

### Future Directions

With the experiences and knowledge gained through this SCOPA project, I have formulated several directions I can pursue in the future. This includes:

Enhance the list of Yale titles posted on the web through providing annotations and secondary sources that made use of these periodicals. This will increase the value of this list as a tool for library instruction.

Create a more accurate list of serials available in the North American libraries. Because of the re-discovery of aforementioned M.A. thesis, I may be able to get a more accurate account of serials available in the North American libraries through comparing the titles mentioned in the thesis and the titles I found in the union catalogs.

Expand the scope to include monographs. During this project, I realized many of the English periodical publishers also published monographs in English. Through constructing a list of English-language presses in China, we may be able to identify most English-language books published in pre-revolution China. Because there is no union list of English books published in pre-revolution China, this work is helpful in identifying and preserving the sources that are forgotten.

### Expenses

Student Wages	\$798.76
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Software	\$171.24
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Photocopying      \$ 40.00

Total Expenses   \$1,010.00

## English-language Newspapers and Periodicals from the Pre-communist China in the Yale Collection

### Introduction

A number of English-language newspapers and periodicals were published in the pre-communist China. These serials can be used as primary sources in the study of various aspects of the late Qing and the Republican China.

Yale University Library has a small collection of English newspapers from China, in various formats and at different locations. Beinecke Rare Book Library has the original editions of two of the earliest English newspapers in China, Canton Register (later Hong Kong Register) and the Canton Press, both of which started publication prior to the Opium War (1842-1844). The American Oriental Society collection in SML appears to have the original editions of some newspapers, though its holdings are unclear at this moment.

English newspapers published in later periods are generally available in microfilm format, stored and to be used in the Microtext Reading Room at Sterling Memorial Library. Among them are the North China Herald, a very influential newspaper started in 1850 in Shanghai, and its various successors till 1940s. Some newspapers from Shanghai or Peking of the Republican Period (1912-1949) are also available in microfilm.

For the English newspapers of the late Qing, *A Research Guide to China Coast Newspapers, 1822-1911*, provides a fair account of their background, personnel, and editorial policy. Unfortunately, there is no equivalent work on the English newspapers in the Republican Period.

The Yale Divinity Library has one of the largest collections of China-related missionary records, which include the periodicals as well. The other periodicals may scatter in the stacks of the Sterling Memorial Library or the Mudd Library.

Outside of Yale, the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago has a bigger collection of English-language newspapers from China. Because Yale University Library is a member of the Center for Research Libraries, Yale students and faculty can request CRL materials be delivered to Yale through interlibrary loan services. To see a complete list of English newspapers in the CRL collection, go to the [CRL foreign newspapers](#), select China in country list and choose English as language.

### List of Newspapers in the Yale Collection

Canton Register ([Orbis record](#)) and Hong Kong Register ([Orbis record](#))

The Canton Press ([Orbis record](#))

North China Herald family (Shanghai)

North China Herald ([Orbis record](#))

North China Herald and Market Report ([Orbis record](#))

North-China herald and Supreme Court and Consular gazette ([Orbis record](#))

Shanghai Times ([Orbis record](#))

Peking Daily News ([Orbis record](#))

The China Press (Shanghai) ([Orbis record](#))

Peking Gazette ([Search newspaper on microfilm database](#))

The Peking Leader family

The Peking Leader ([Orbis record](#))

The Leader (Peking) ([Orbis record](#))

Peking Chronicle ([Orbis record](#))

The Shanghai Gazette ([Orbis record](#))

### **List of Periodicals in the Yale Collection**

Please note the list only includes the publishers and institutions whose publications are in Yale collection. Search the publisher's name in Orbis to find its publications.

#### **Academic, Scientific, Medical**

Association of Chinese and American Engineers

Catholic University of Peking: S.V.D. Research Institute: Monumenta

Serica Institute

China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture

China Society of Science and Arts

China. National Institute of Zoology and Botany.

Chinese Chemical Society (Zhongguo hua xue hui)

Journal of the Chinese Chemical Society

Chinese Geophysical Society (Zhongguo ke xue yuan. ; Zhongguo di qiu wu li xue hui)

Chinese Medical Association (Zhonghua yi xue hui)

Chinese National Association for the Advancement of Education.

Chinese National Committee on Intellectual Co-operation

Chinese Physiological Society (Zhongguo sheng li xue hui)

College of Agriculture, Canton Christian College.

Collegian Stock Company

Fan Memorial Institute of Biology

Geological Survey of China

Liang Guang dizhi diaochasuo

Lingnan University

Lingnan University: College Student Union

Medical Missionary Association of China = Bo yi hui

Nankai University: Nankai Institute of Economics

National Medical Association of China

National Tsing Hua University

Peking Union Medical College: Student Body of Yenching School of

Chinese Studies

Royal Asiatic Society Society of Great Britain and Ireland. North China Branch (ed.)

Royal Observatory  
Ryojun College of Engineering  
Science Society of China  
Shanghai Science Institute.  
St. John's University.  
St. John's University: Department of Biology  
Sun Yat-sen University: College of Agriculture, Botanical Institute  
University of Nanking.  
University of Nanking: College of Agriculture and Forestry: Dept. of  
Agricultural Economics  
Yenching University

**Business, Economic, Financial**

American Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai  
Central Bank of China  
China inspectorate General of Customs: Statistical Dept.  
China Ministry of Communications: Yu cheng ch'u chin hui yeh chü  
China Ministry of Foreign Trade: Bureau of Foreign Trade  
China Ministry of Industry: Bureau of Foreign Trade  
China. National Tariff Commission  
Chinese Government Bureau of Economic Information  
East India Company  
Foreign Trade Association of China.  
Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce  
South Manchuria Railway Co.  
U.S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce  
Zhongguo nong min yin hang. Jing ji yan jiu chu (ed.)

**General**

A Companion to the Anglochinese kalendar (title)  
Asiana (title)  
China Critic Pub. Co.  
China Digest Association  
China Editorial Board [etc.]  
China Forum Pub. Co.  
China Outlook Pub. Co. China Quarterly Co.  
China Truth Pub. Co.  
China United Press  
Chinese Nation Pub. Co.

Commercial Press Ltd.  
East Asia Pub. Co.  
Eastern Pub. Co.  
Extrême Orient. A monthly review in English and French of Foreign  
Interests in China. Revue des intérêts français et étrangers en Chine  
Far Eastern mirror  
Hong Kong Daily Press Office  
Hong Kong Kuosin Agency  
Kelly and Walsh.  
Manchuria daily news  
Millard Pub. Co.  
Millard Pub. House

Millard's Pub. House  
New China Pub. Co.  
New China Review Office  
North-China Herald Office.  
Notes and queries on China and Japan  
Office of the Chinese Repository  
Oriental affairs  
Peking Leader Inc.  
South China Morning Post.  
The Far East

**Political and International Relations**

China Institute of Pacific Relations  
China International relations committee  
Chinese League of Nations Union  
Diplomatic Association  
International Relations Committee. Information Committee  
[Municipal Council](#)  
National Academy of Peiping  
National Academy of Peiping: Institute of Chemistry  
National Academy of Peiping; Institute of Botany  
National Central Library  
Nationalist Party of China (Chung-kuo kuo min tang)  
J.R. Lee Govt. Printer.  
U.S. Embassy in China  
U.S. Information Service

**Religious**

Arthington Press  
Bible Union of China  
Catholic Central Bureau  
China Christian Educational Association.  
Christian Literature Society for China  
East China Christian Educational Association (E.C.C.E.A)  
Methodist Pub. House in China  
Multigraphed at the Catholic mission  
National Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations of China  
Presbyterian Mission Press  
Press of S. Wells Williams  
Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese's Office  
Society of Friends of the Moslems in China  
The Missionary recorder  
West China Missions Advisory Board  
World's Chinese Students' Federation  
Yale-in-China Association

**Miscellaneous**

Hong Kong. Botanical and Forestry Department  
National Opium Suppression Committee  
Radio Station XGGW

The Asia stamp journal  
Tsingtao Development Association