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Checklist to the exhibition 'Picturing China 1870-1950: Photographs from British Collections',
Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 16 October – 15 December 2007



Jiujiang (Kiukiang), 1906. *GW Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw12-061)*

Bristol May 2008

Picturing China 1870-1950

Between the 1840s and 1950s tens of thousands of Britons lived in or visited China, and smaller but significant numbers of Chinese came to live in Britain. As cameras got simpler, cheaper and more portable, photography became the perfect medium for recording the experiences of the traveller or the life of the 'Shanghaiander', the missionary, the Customs officer. Photographs were taken by individuals, commissioned from studios, or were bought loose or in albums. They document private moments and public events, and also record the interests of those taking them. The photographs in this exhibition, found in private collections, or collections only recently deposited in libraries and archives, form just a small part of an immense British archive of pictures of China, its peoples, and their experiences in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. China cannot be encompassed in any single collection, but these images convey the feel of a world in change as witnessed by photographers.



Unknown photographer in the Yangzi Gorges, near Ichang (Yichang), c.1907.
G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw13-069)

Acknowledgements

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

Funding for the *Historical Photographs of China* exhibition and the Chinese Maritime Customs Project has come from an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) research grant. This project has been exploring the history of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service and its world, though work on the recently opened archives of the Customs held at the Second Historical Archives of China in Nanjing. The 55,000 files of the Service contain material stretching from personnel reports to files of 'events and rumours.' The archive, and related archives outside China shed new light on the country's nineteenth and twentieth century history, on China's foreign relations, as well as on the lives of the men and women who worked for the Customs, or lived in the Customs world.

The AHRC funds postgraduate training and research in the arts and humanities, from archaeology and English Literature to design and dance. The quality and range of research supported not only provides social and cultural benefits but also contributes to the economic success of the UK. For further information on the AHRC, please see its website www.ahrc.ac.uk.

Picturing China 1870-1950: Photographs from British Collections

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This is a CHINA NOW event.

Photographs

1) **Commerce and industry**

By the twentieth century industrialisation and commercial development in China's large coastal and riverine ports was progressing at a rapid pace. This selection documents the harbours, wharves, railways, warehouses and bunds on which that development relied. In recording harbours and rivers crowded with sampans and junks as well as large foreign steamships, the photographs also speak of the resilience of native Chinese trade and enterprise in a time when foreign firms were competing determinedly for a slice of the China market. These images were mostly taken by G. Warren Swire, Director of John Swire & Sons Ltd., one of the largest foreign firms operating in China.

Ba05-104	Construction of the Canton-Hankow (Guangzhou-Wuhan) railway line, c.1900. <i>Unknown photographer: Banister collection (ba05-104)</i>
Os05-164	John Charles Oswald in his company tea-tasting room, Foochow (Fuzhou), c.1890. <i>Unknown photographer: Oswald collection, SOAS (os05-164)</i>
Pa01-033	British American Tobacco Company sending up a balloon to advertise <i>Hatamen</i> cigarettes, probably near Ichang (Yichang), c.1925. <i>Unknown photographer: Palmer collection (pa01-33)</i>
Sw02-031	Loading chests of tea onto the China Navigation Company steamship 'Kian' from sampans, at Wuchang (Wuhan), c.1906–07. <i>G. W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw02-031)</i>
Sw02-047	View from the Butterfield & Swire <i>hong</i> of cargo being loaded onto company hulks at Hankow (Wuhan), c.1906–07. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw02-047)</i>
Sw04-019	Interior of a Butterfield & Swire storeroom, North Point Store, Hong Kong, c.1919–20. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw04-019)</i>
Sw04-050	Canton bund from the Butterfield & Swire office, Canton (Guangzhou), c.1919–20. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw04-050)</i>
Sw04-052	Canton (Guangzhou) harbour seen from the Butterfield & Swire office, c.1919–20. <i>G. W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw04-052)</i>
Sw04-090	Wheelbarrows in Rue Colbert in the French Concession, Shanghai, c.1919–20. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw04-090)</i>

Sw05-037	Construction of a Butterfield & Swire building, Hankow (Wuhan), 1920. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw05-037)</i>
Sw07-151	Ship being launched at Butterfield & Swire's Hong Kong Dockyard, c.1911–12. <i>G. W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw07-151)</i>
Sw08-190	Taikoo Sugar Refinery dockside, Hong Kong, 1940. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection (sw08-190)</i>
Sw12-086	Huangpu River, Shanghai, from a China Navigation Company steamship, c.1906–07. <i>G. W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw12-086)</i>
Sw13-112	Passengers on the steamship 'Kanchow', near Newchwang (Yingkou), c.1907. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw13-112)</i>
Sw16-009	Harbin railway station, Manchuria, c.1911–12. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw16-009)</i>
Sw16-066	A Butterfield & Swire office, Shanghai c.1911–12. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw16-066)</i>
Sw18-105	Hong Kong University under construction, c.1912–16. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw18-105)</i>

2) Everyday life

Photographers chronicled the ordinary world they encountered. This selection, mostly taken by Western missionaries, merchants, administrators and sojourners travelling in China, offers vignettes of everyday life in pre-1949 China. They highlight a broad range of everyday events and feature people from across Chinese society. In an age when many of the ways of life and sites documented here have been lost or are disappearing, such images form an invaluable visual record of the China of the past. Chinese readily took to this modern invention, photography, and there are also portraits here, of children and adults posing in the studios that were quickly a common feature in Chinese cities.

Ar02-12	Women fishing, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar02-12)</i>
Ar02-68	Studio portrait of boys in military, possibly naval-style, uniforms. The boys are either pupils at a military-linked school, or from a military family, location unknown, c.1910–17. <i>Unknown photographer: Armstrong collection (ar02-68)</i>
Ar02-71	A group of boys, possibly at school in Shanghai, c.1890-1910. <i>Unknown photographer: Armstrong collection</i>

	(ar02-071)
Ar04-019	Acrobatic performance, possibly Taihu region west of Shanghai, early twentieth century. <i>Unknown photographer: Armstrong collection (ar04-019)</i>
Ar04-110	Army nurses, probably near Shanghai, early 1920s. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar04-110)</i>
Ba01-066	Riverboat, Guangxi province, c.1900–10. <i>Unknown photographer: Banister collection (ba01-066)</i>
Ba05-072	Church Missionary Society School, Yungchow (Yongzhou), Hunan province, c.1910–20. <i>Unknown photographer: Banister collection (ba05-072)</i>
Ba05-118	Reverend James Parker of the Church Missionary Society returning home after a visitation, probably Siangtan (Xiangtan), c.1910–20. <i>Unknown photographer: Banister collection (ba05-118)</i>
Co-s072	Harvest Festival Service, Methodist Church, Tungehwan, Yunnan province, 1937. <i>Unknown photographer: Cottrell collection (co-s072)</i>
Co-s075	Lunchtime at the Methodist Missionary School, Chaotung (Zhaotong), Yunnan province, c.1937. <i>Marjorie Cottrell: Cottrell collection (co-s075)</i>
Co-s093	An open-air theatre, Tongchinan, Yunnan province, c.1935–39. <i>Unknown photographer: Cottrell collection (co-s093)</i>
Co-s110	Transplanting rice near Chaotung (Zhaotong), Yunnan province, 1939. <i>Unknown photographer: Cottrell collection (co-s110)</i>
Fu02-020	Julia and Charles, Hong Kong, 1941. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu02-020)</i>
He01-008	Colonel Chen and his regiment at Hoihow (Haikou), Hainan Island, 1898. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-008)</i>
No01-07	Children in a photographer's studio, Shanghai. <i>Unknown photographer (from Shanghai, published by Max Nössler, c.1907) (no01-07)</i>
Os-s085	Exercises, Church Missionary Society Girls' School, Foochow (Fuzhou), c.1900. <i>Unknown photographer: Oswald collection, SOAS (os-s085)</i>
Sw13-135	Bridge of Ten Thousand Ages and sampans, Foochow (Fuzhou), c.1907. <i>G. W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw13-135)</i>
Sw19-066	Scene in Chungking (Chongqing), c.1920. <i>G.W. Swire: Swire collection, SOAS (sw19-066)</i>
Wi01-06	Mountain porters, location unknown, early twentieth century. <i>Unknown photographer: Wilkinson collection (wi01-06)</i>

Wi02-03	Rural scene, location unknown, early twentieth century. <i>Unknown photographer: Wilkinson collection (wi02-03)</i>
Wi02-04	Washing laundry, location unknown, early twentieth century. <i>Unknown photographer: Wilkinson collection (wi02-04)</i>
Wi02-29	Landscape, location unknown, early twentieth century. <i>Unknown photographer: Wilkinson collection (wi02-29)</i>

3) Women

This was a time of increasing professional and social freedom for women in urban China. Nationalist statesman Fu Bingchang's portraits of his female acquaintances reflect this swiftly changing social climate. These portraits are presented here alongside Shanghai detective William Armstrong's affectionate pictures of women in the Taihu region west of Shanghai. The men were political enemies who would never have encountered each other. The women they portrayed were equally unlikely to have met. The images provide a stark visual reminder of the sharp divide in China between rich and poor, urban and rural.

Ar03-009	A rural woman, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar03-009)</i>
Ar03-016	A rural woman, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar03-016)</i>
Ar03-049	A rural woman with a child, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar03-049)</i>
Ar03-080	A rural woman with a baby, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar03-080)</i>
Ar03-p55	A page from one of William Armstrong's albums, women and girls, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar03-p55)</i>
Ar03-p57	A page from one of William Armstrong's albums, women and girls, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar03-p57)</i>
Ar03-p60	A page from one of William Armstrong's albums, women and girls, Taihu region west of Shanghai, c.1923–25. <i>W. Armstrong: Armstrong collection (ar03-p60)</i>
Fu01-007	Fanny Cheung and Dora Tsang, 1936. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu01-007)</i>
Fu02-023	Portrait of Hu Zhi, 1935. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu02-023)</i>
Fu02-026	Jiang Fangling, 1940. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu02-026)</i>

Fu02-050	Studio portrait of the actress Liang Caizhu, 1936. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu02-050)</i>
Fu-n029	Portrait of an unknown woman, c.1920s. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n029)</i>
Fu04-005	Min Chin posing with a camera, at Northern Hot Springs in Sichuan province, 1940. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu04-005)</i>
Fu-n283	Jiang Fangling, 1940. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n283)</i>
Fu-n602	An unknown woman, c.1930s. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n602)</i>
Fu-n670	Hu Zipang, war correspondent and attaché to Fu Bingchang in Moscow, c.1945. Hu was also Fu's lover, and a Communist agent, who was spying on him. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n670)</i>

4) Politics and protest

War and revolution made the 1920s-1940s one of the most politically tumultuous in China's history. The photographs of Fu Bingchang showcased here form a rare visual archive of political life in the early republic, and China's foreign relations in the 1940s. He was closely involved in both of these worlds. There are also little-seen informal portraits of leading figures in the Nationalist government. Popular nationalism and anti-imperialism ran parallel to political transformations at a state level, and the images of mass protest and celebrations also shown here capture a sense of this growing political consciousness in the 1920s.

Ar04-168	Crowds welcoming Nationalist forces, Shanghai, c.22 March 1927. <i>Unknown photographer: Armstrong collection (ar04-168)</i>
Ar04-171	Aftermath of the storming of the North Chekiang (Zhejiang) Road barrier, Shanghai, by deserting White Russian mercenaries seeking asylum in the International Settlement as the National Revolutionary Army takes the city, c.22 March 1927. <i>Unknown photographer: Armstrong collection (ar04-171)</i>
Fu05-073	Quo Taichi, Chinese Ambassador to the UN, at the Paris Peace Conference, France, 1946. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu05-073)</i>
Fu-n004	Portrait of Wu Zhihui, veteran revolutionary and right-wing Nationalist leader, c.1930s. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n004)</i>
Fu-n082	Unidentified men discussing a map, possibly of Canton's (Guangzhou's) Dashatou district, c.1920. The central figure may be Wu Tingfang (1842-1922), politician and diplomat. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-</i>

	n082)
Fu-n086	Nationalist leaders at the Second National Congress of the Guomindang, Canton (Guangzhou), January 1926. At the front, Wang Jingwei (second left); Chiang Kai-shek (fourth left); Mikhail Borodin (fifth left); Song Ziwen (sixth left); Eugene Chen (Chen Youren) (third right); He Xiangning (second right); Song Qingling (Madame Sun Yat-sen) (first right). <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n086)</i>
Fu-n090	Hu Hanmin, right-wing Nationalist leader, Tangshan Hot Springs, Nanking (Nanjing), 1929. Some authorities date this photograph to April 1927 and the establishment of the Nationalist Government at Nanking by the Guomindang. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n090)</i>
Fu-n097	The Guomindang Political Council, Canton (Guangzhou), July 1925: Zhu Peide (first left); Wang Jingwei (third left), Chairman, left-wing Nationalist leader; Wu Chaoshu (front centre); Hu Hanmin (third right), right-wing Nationalist leader; Liao Zhongkai (second right), San Francisco-born left-wing leader, Minister of Finance; Eugene Chen (Chen Youren), Foreign Minister (first right). Mayor of Canton, Sun Ke, stands behind Liao and Chen. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n097)</i>
Fu-n124	Chiang Kai-shek, military leader of the Nationalists, Tangshan Hot Springs, Nanking (Nanjing), 1929. Some authorities date this photograph to April 1927 and the establishment of the Nationalist Government at Nanking by the Guomindang. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n124)</i>
Fu-n127	Wang Jingwei, left-wing Nationalist leader, at the Second National Congress of the Guomindang, Canton (Guangzhou), January 1926. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n127)</i>
Fu-n128	Fu Bingchang (left) and Sun Ke (right), Sun Yat-sen's son and future premier (1948–49), early 1920s. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n128)</i>
Fu-n145	Inauguration of the Military Council of the Nationalist Government and troop inspection in Canton (Guangzhou), 6 July 1925. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n145)</i>
Fu-n147	Eugene Chen (left) and Song Ziwen (right), c.1920–25. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n147)</i>
Fu-n538	Jiang Jingguo, son of Chiang Kai-shek and future President of the Republic of China in Taiwan, relaxing in Moscow, Christmas 1945. <i>Fu Bingchang: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n538)</i>
Fu-n559	Vyacheslav Molotov (Soviet Foreign Minister) signing the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance, Moscow, 14 August 1945. Song Ziwen (sixth right), President of the Executive Yuan; Stalin (fourth right); Wang Shijie (third right), Chinese Foreign Minister; Fu Bingchang (second right), Chinese Ambassador to USSR. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n559)</i>

Fu-s160	Portrait of Lin Sen, Chairman of the National Government of the Republic of China (1932–43), c.1942–43. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-s160)</i>
He03-156	Burning Japanese goods in Nanning, Guangxi province, during an anti-Japanese boycott, 1919. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-156)</i>

5) Foreigners in China

From the 1840s until the 1950s the foreign presence made itself felt across China, in the British colony of Hong Kong, in bustling and cosmopolitan treaty ports such as Shanghai, as well as in small inland towns and villages. The photographs in this section capture aspects of that world, its work and family life, its sport and recreation. They also portray the social and professional diversity of the foreign communities in China, which included diplomats and merchants, missionaries and policemen. Many of these photographs provide a telling glimpse of the intimacy of Sino-British relations during the century of China's treaty ports and, of course, the inequalities embedded in this relationship.

Ar03-026	A Shanghai Municipal Police ambulance attending a crime scene, mid-1920s. <i>Unknown photographer: Armstrong collection (ar03-026)</i>
Ar04-144	Portrait of William Armstrong (1867-1931), c.1920s. <i>Unknown photographer: Armstrong collection (ar04-144)</i>
Ba01-108	Teatime for missionaries of the Church Missionary Society, probably in Kweilin (Guilin) or Yungchow (Yongzhou), c.1900–15. <i>Unknown photographer: Banister collection (ba01-108)</i>
Ba01-149	Anglican church, probably in Kweilin (Guilin), c.1900–15. <i>Unknown photographer: Banister collection (ba01-149)</i>
Ca01-023	James W. Carrall (Maritime Customs Service), with his wife Frances and children, in Canton (Guangzhou), 1896. <i>Unknown photographer: Carrall collection, Queen's University Belfast (ca01-023)</i>
Ca01-095	Lieutenants C. Mackenzie (left) and J. A. Moreton (right) on board the Chinese naval vessel 'Hailong', which they had seized during the assault on Chinese defences at Taku (Dagu) on 17 June 1900. <i>Unknown photographer: Carrall collection, Queen's University Belfast (ca01-095)</i>
Co-s051	Margaret and Helen Cottrell, children of British missionaries, with a Chinese woman, Yunnan province, 1930. <i>Unknown photographer: Cottrell collection (co-s51)</i>
Cr01-007	Sikh police column in funeral procession in Shanghai, for Sub-Inspector John Crowley, Shanghai Municipal

	Police, 19 March 1927. <i>Unknown photographer: Crowley collection (cr01-007)</i>
He03-011	Three, possibly Eurasian, women, Hong Kong, c.1909. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-011)</i>
He03-012	Four, possibly Eurasian, women, Hong Kong, c.1909. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-012)</i>
He03-200	The makeshift 'club house' at Nanning golf links, Guangxi province, c.1919. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-200)</i>
Ph01-024	Ann Phipps and Vi Newall, probably Peking (Beijing), c.1932–33. <i>Unknown photographer: Phipps collection (ph01-024)</i>
Ph01-081	Ming Tombs, near Peking (Beijing), c.1932–33. <i>Unknown photographer: Phipps collection (ph01-081)</i>
Ph01-182	Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister in China (seated) and excursion party at the Summer Palace near Peking (Beijing), c.1932–33. <i>Unknown photographer: Phipps collection (ph01-182)</i>
Os01-121	'Aladdin', probably at Foochow (Fuzhou), c.1900. <i>Unknown photographer: Oswald collection, SOAS (os01-121)</i>
Os01-134	Happy Valley Racecourse, Hong Kong, c.1900. <i>Unknown photographer: Oswald collection, SOAS (os01-134)</i>
Os03-090	A group of foreigners, including John Oswald, with Chinese chair-bearers, outside the 'Teen Chiang', a tea company's <i>hong</i> , Foochow (Fuzhou), late nineteenth century. <i>Unknown photographer: Oswald collection, SOAS (os03-090)</i>
Os-s118	A Chinese crewman with a foreign child, location unknown, c.1900–10. <i>Unknown photographer: Oswald collection, SOAS (os-s118)</i>
Pe01-010	An unknown man larking about with panniers, probably near Shanghai, c.1920. <i>Unknown photographer: Peck collection (pe01-010)</i>
Pe01-085	Portrait of Harold Evans Peck, Shanghai Municipal Police, c.1910s. <i>Unknown photographer: Peck collection (pe01-085)</i>

6) The Chinese Maritime Customs Service

The Chinese Maritime Customs Service was a foreign-run agency of the Chinese government. Staffed by men and women of over twenty-five different nationalities, the Customs was a truly international bureaucracy. By the twentieth century its responsibilities were far-reaching, including harbour maintenance, control of China's post office, and the lighting of the China coast. By 1930 Customs offices had been opened in almost fifty ports across China. The photograph albums of British employee R.F.C. Hedgeland, document his entire Customs career, and provide us with an insight into the everyday working and social world of this important institution.

He01-012	The Native Customs House at Hoihow (Haikou), Hainan Island, c.1898–99. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-012)</i>
He01-030	Officers of the Customs revenue cruiser, 'Kaipan', at Hoihow (Haikou), Hainan Island, 1898. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-030)</i>
He01-070	Customs gig, flying the Imperial Maritime Customs Service flag, Nanking (Nanjing), c.1899–1903. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-070)</i>
He01-077	Programme for a musical evening, Nanking (Nanjing). Customs Assistants clockwise from top left: J. Devéria, Willard Straight, K. J. Andés, J. Gory, and Bertram Lenox-Simpson ('Putnam Weale'), 1902. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-077)</i>
He01-082	The Nanking (Nanjing) Customs staff and students, c.1899–1903. R.F.C. Hedgeland is sitting at the front on the right. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-082)</i>
He01-085	Customs Fourth Assistants R. F. C. Hedgeland (left) and P. P. P. M. Krèmer (right) in Nanking (Nanjing), c.1899–1903. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-085)</i>
He01-122	The Tientsin (Tianjin) Customs House, c.1903–06. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-122)</i>
He01-158	Chinese staff at the Customs House, Tianjin (Tientsin), 1905. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-158)</i>
He01-178	A Customs clerk, Tientsin (Tianjin), c.1903–06. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-178)</i>
He01-209	The drawing room of the senior Customs Assistant's quarters, Lappa, Macao, c.1906–09. <i>Unknown</i>

	<i>photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-209)</i>
He01-222	Foreign Customs staff with Chinese and Sikh guards on trip to Lappa Customs Station, near Macao, c.1906–09. Hedgeland is sitting front left. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-222)</i>
He01-260	Customs staff outside the Customs House, Nanning, Guangxi province, c.1920. Hedgeland is sitting front centre. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he01-260)</i>
He02-016	Hedgeland with Customs staff and Royal Navy personnel in the examination shed during the 1925 anti-British boycott, Swatow (Shantou). <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he02-016)</i>
He03-018	Hedgeland and Mrs. Wilzer dining in Commissioner A. H. Wilzer's house, Lappa, Macao, c.1906–09. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-018)</i>
He03-025	The floating examination shed and Custom House pontoon at Nanning, Guangxi province, c.1910-13. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-025)</i>
He03-033	The Customs examination shed, on dry land after having been swept to the top of the bund during the record floods of 1913, Nanning, Guangxi province. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-033)</i>
He03-035	Hedgeland (right) and Commissioner Andés (left) assessing damage during the record floods of summer 1913, Nanning, Guangxi province. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-035)</i>
He03-073	Public burning of seized opium attended by Customs employees and Chinese officials, Nanning, Guangxi province, 1919. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-073)</i>
He-s08	The Nanking (Nanjing) Customs boatmen, 1900. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he-s08)</i>
He03-205	Seized opium with Customs boatmen and Chinese officials at Nanning, Guangxi province, c.1919. <i>Unknown photographer: Hedgeland collection, SOAS (he03-205)</i>

Fu Bingchang

Fu-n084	Portrait of Fu, c.1919. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n084)</i>
Fu-n116	Portrait of Fu, possibly in Japan, c.1920s. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n116)</i>
Fu-n169	Fu, probably on his way to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n169)</i>
Fu-n192	Fu at his official residence at the Legislative Yuan, Chungking (Chongqing), January 1940. <i>Unknown</i>

	<i>photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n192)</i>
Fu-n137	Fu wearing a <i>changpao</i> in a Ming dynasty garden near Hangchow (Hangzhou), early 1930s. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n137)</i>
Fu-s207	Portrait of Fu, c.1935–40. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-s207)</i>
Fu-n636	Ambassador Fu, probably in Moscow, c.1943–49. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-n636)</i>
Fu-s604	Portrait of Fu, Taiwan, 1963. <i>Unknown photographer: Fu Bingchang collection (fu-s604)</i>

Landscapes and rural scenes

Western photographers travelling in China could not fail to be captivated by the country's natural beauty. This series of photographs, selected from a variety of collections, gives a taste of some aspects of China's diverse landscape, from the jagged limestone peaks of Guangxi province and the dramatic mountains of the south-west to tranquil pastoral scenes. Also pictured here are some examples of Chinese architecture, ranging from panoramas of famous sights, such as the Great Wall, to picturesque rural bridges and scenic pagodas.

Urban scenes

Urban life in China is the theme of this series of photographs selected from several collections digitised by the Historical Photographs of China project. The images range from cityscapes of large urban centres, such as Peking and Guilin, to snapshots of everyday life in small, rural towns. The busy street, market and festival scenes pictured here reveal a China teeming with human activity. These images also capture a sense of China's varied urban environments, from picturesque cobbled streets and crowded rooftops to the colonial pretensions of the Shanghai bund and Tianjin's British Concession.

A river journey

This series of panoramic photographs was taken by G. Warren Swire, partner in the London firm John Swire & Sons Ltd., which operated in China through Butterfield & Swire. Although a few images of northern ports – including Tianjin and Dalian – are included here, most of these photographs form a record of a single journey up the Yangzi River from Shanghai to Hankou (Wuhan), made in 1906 on one of Butterfield & Swire's China Navigation Company steamships. Warren Swire's camera first takes in the crowded French bund at the point of embarkation in Shanghai, and then follows the wharves, warehouses and bunds at ports along the way, including Zhenjiang, Nanjing, Jiujiang. At the heart of all these photographs is the bustling activity on the great Yangzi River itself.

Objects and documents

The world of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service

Over the course of its existence, between 1854 and 1949, the Customs Service employed over 22,000 men and women of over twenty-two different nationalities. Documents relating to the Customs staff, including the Customs' celebrated nineteenth-century Inspector General Sir Robert Hart, are displayed here.

SOAS, PP MS 82- Box 2	<i>Customs Service, Officers in Charge 1859–1921</i> . Inspectorate-General of Customs Statistical Department, Shanghai, 1926. <i>Hedgeland papers, SOAS</i>
SOAS, PP MS 69- Box 4	Imperial decree conferring the Civil Rank of Third Class, First Grade 'Baoxing' (Precious Star) on Cecil Bowra, Customs Commissioner, 1901. <i>Bowra papers, SOAS</i>
SOAS, PP MS 69- Box 4	Inspector General's circular letter notifying Commissioners of Sir Robert Hart's death, 26 September 1911. <i>Bowra papers, SOAS</i>
SOAS, PP MS 69- Box 4	Programme of the memorial service for Sir Robert Hart at the Church of Our Saviour, Peking (Beijing), 25 September 1911. <i>Bowra papers, SOAS</i>

R.F.C. Hedgeland: A Customs Career

Reginald Follett Codrington Hedgeland was a British officer in the Chinese Maritime Customs whose career in China spanned three decades, from 1898 to 1930. The documents displayed here relate to different stages of Hedgeland's progress in the Service, from his appointment as a junior Assistant to his attainment of the prime post of Canton Commissioner.

SOAS, PP MS 82- Box 1	Letter appointing R.F.C. Hedgeland to the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, 1897. <i>Hedgeland papers, SOAS</i>
SOAS, PP MS 82- Box 1	Hedgeland's Customs 'Memo of Service'. <i>Hedgeland papers, SOAS</i>

SOAS, PP MS 82- Box 1	Hedgeland's Chinese examination papers, Kowloon, 1911. <i>Hedgeland papers, SOAS</i>
SOAS, PP MS 82- Box 2	Drafts of Hedgeland's despatches to the Inspector General whilst Canton (Guangzhou) Commissioner, 1927. <i>Hedgeland papers, SOAS</i>
SOAS, PP MS 82- Box 2	Hedgeland's memorandum for his successor as Canton (Guangzhou) Commissioner, December 1927. <i>Hedgeland papers, SOAS</i>

Chinese Maritime Customs Service publications

Always much more than a revenue-collecting service, the Customs Service's statistical department produced reports and publications – researched and authored by members of the Customs staff – on countless China-related topics, from trade reports to texts on Chinese music. This programme was designed as a resource for understanding China, and remains important today for our understanding of modern Chinese history.

SOAS, PP MS 81- Box 4	<i>Trade reports and returns, Chungking, Wanhsien, Shanghai, Kiukiang and Swatow, 1921–28</i> , published by the Inspectorate-General of Customs Statistical Department, Shanghai. <i>Lowder papers, SOAS</i>
SOAS library, EC88.31/25475.	J.A. van Aalst, <i>Chinese Music</i> , published by the Inspectorate-General of Customs Statistical Department, Shanghai, 1939 (first edition 1884). <i>SOAS Library</i>
SOAS library, L CC387.5/265536	Roger T. Banister, <i>The Coastwise Lights of China: An illustrated account of the Chinese Maritime Customs lights service</i> , published by the Inspectorate-General of Customs Statistical Department, Shanghai, 1932. <i>SOAS Library</i>
SOAS library, L CC386.855/252782	Lighthouses on the coast of Fukien (Fujian) province, in <i>List of the lighthouses, buoys, and beacons on the coast and rivers of China for 1906</i> , published by the Inspectorate-General of Customs Statistical Department, Shanghai. <i>SOAS Library</i>

Foreign life in Shanghai

The British-dominated International Settlement was the heart of the British world in China. Institutions and services such as the Shanghai Municipal Council, the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, and the Shanghai Municipal Police formed the public face of the British presence. Shanghai was also famous for its social life, which, for foreigners, revolved around the racecourse, Masonic lodges and the city's numerous clubs and cabarets.

Foreign life in China

The British experience in China was not confined to Shanghai and Hong Kong, but extended to the smaller coastal treaty ports and inland towns. The objects displayed here, collected by a Shanghai policeman, a Customs official, the niece of a senior British diplomat, and a missionary, hint at the variety of social and professional experiences of Britons in China.

SOAS, PP MS 81- Box 6	Shanghai almanac, <i>Persiflage</i> , 1889. <i>Lowder papers</i> , SOAS
SOAS, PP MS 82- Box 3	R.F.C. Hedgeland's photograph album, 1898–1921. <i>Hedgeland papers</i> , SOAS
SOAS library	<i>North-China Herald</i> , the main British newspaper in China, published in Shanghai from 1850–1941, and as the <i>North China Daily News</i> from 1865–1951. <i>SOAS Library</i>
CCLA/180049	Shanghai Municipal Council <i>Annual Report</i> , 1905. <i>SOAS Library</i>
SOAS	Passport of Herbert and Hannah Mason, British missionaries in Canton (Guangzhou), issued 1920. <i>Mason collection</i> , SOAS
Private collection	<i>Souvenir of the Shanghai Defence Forces</i> , c.1927. <i>Privately owned</i>
Private collection	<i>Eighty Five Years of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps</i> , compiled by I.I. Kounin, published in Shanghai, 1938. <i>Privately owned</i>
Private collection	Meeting notification, St. George's Lodge, Shanghai, 20 October 1932. <i>Privately owned</i>
Private collection	Shanghai policeman Barney Wall's Hunting Pass, 1942. <i>Privately owned</i>
Private collection	Shanghai residents hunting duck by the Yangzi, 1917. Left to right: Captain W.E. Kent, a Shanghai pilot, and his brothers-in-law C.A. Skinner, and A.E. Algar, architect and surveyor. <i>Privately owned</i>

Phipps collection	Souvenirs from Peking (Beijing), 1926-29, in a photograph album and scrapbook compiled by Ann Phipps. <i>Phipps collection</i>
Private collection	Shanghai Race Club membership badge, 1921. <i>Privately owned</i>
Private collection	A card, probably sent from Weihaiwei (Weihai) to Britain, Christmas 1904. <i>Privately owned</i>

Trade and Navigation on the Yangzi

The Yangzi River has for centuries been an important conduit for goods and people travelling in inland China. In the late nineteenth century, as foreign maritime trade with China grew, the Yangzi River also became essential to foreign trading ambitions in China. Displayed here are three examples of Chinese and foreign studies of boats and navigational conditions on the river, including work by the Customs which developed aids and manuals for those navigating the river.

SOAS, CWML MSS 502	Part of a sixty-panel panorama of the Yangzi River from Chungking (Chongqing) to Ichang (Yichang) showing navigational conditions, commissioned by the East Szechuan (Sichuan) Military Command, 1892. <i>Council for World Mission Library, SOAS</i>
SOAS library, L CC386.3/373480	G.R.G. Worcester, <i>Junks and Sampans of the Upper Yangtze</i> , published by the Inspectorate-General of Customs Statistical Department, Shanghai, 1940. <i>SOAS Library</i>
SOAS library, LCC 386.3/119542	(Captain) S.C. Plant, <i>Handbook for the guidance of shipmasters on the Ichang-Chungking section of the Yangtze river</i> , revised edition (Inspectorate-General of Customs Statistical Department: Shanghai, 1932). <i>SOAS Library</i>

Maps

SOAS, CWM Map D87:50 Canton (2)	Street plan of Canton (Guangzhou), 1946. <i>Council for World Mission Library, SOAS</i>
SOAS, PP MS 81- Box 6	Street plan of central Shanghai, c.1902. <i>Lowder papers, SOAS</i>

British trade in China

After the Opium War (1838-42) forcibly removed some of the restrictions on foreign trade with China, British merchants seeking a slice of the China market set up businesses in treaty ports such as Shanghai, Amoy (Xiamen) and Canton (Guangzhou), soon establishing small but thriving British commercial communities. Many of the objects displayed here relate to J.C. Oswald, a British tea-broker in China from the 1880s until 1929, and his business, Bathgate & Co., based in Foochow (Fuzhou).

SOAS, MS 380876	Book of watercolours illustrating the tea-making process, commissioned by J.C. Oswald, c.1900. <i>Oswald collection, SOAS</i>
SOAS, MS 380876	Tin tea caddy containing tea produced for Bathgate & Co., Foochow (Fuzhou), c.1900. <i>Oswald collection, SOAS</i>
SOAS, Ms 380876	Menu for a British Chamber of Commerce dinner, Foochow (Fuzhou), 11 February 1928. <i>Oswald collection, SOAS</i>
SOAS Library, Per 65L 249365	<i>British Chamber of Commerce Journal</i> , Shanghai, 1925. <i>SOAS Library</i>
SOAS Library, CE951/105840	A. Wright, <i>Twentieth-Century Impressions of Hong Kong, Shanghai, and other treaty ports of China</i> (1908). <i>SOAS Library</i>
SOAS, CC050/407651	<i>China hong list: a business and residential directory of all foreigners and the leading Chinese in the principal ports and cities of China</i> , Shanghai, 1940. <i>SOAS Library</i>

Souvenirs of China

Many Britons who lived and worked in China returned home accompanied by objects – often furniture, paintings, books or curiosities – which served as reminders of lives lived in China. The books of paintings displayed here were collected by nineteenth-century British missionaries working in China.

SOAS, CWML MSS 501	Book of watercolour illustrations of Chinese shop signs, late nineteenth century. From left to right: shoes; socks; pipes; pipe tubes; felt caps. <i>Council for World Mission Library, SOAS</i>
SOAS, CWML MSS 503	Book of watercolour illustrations of Chinese furniture, late nineteenth century. <i>Council for World Mission</i>

	<i>Library, SOAS</i>
SOAS, CWML MSS 504	Book of watercolour illustrations of Chinese dress, late nineteenth century. <i>Council for World Mission Library, SOAS</i>

Fu Bingchang as a photographer

Photography was a life-long passion for Nationalist statesman Fu Bingchang. Displayed here are two of his photograph albums and some of his photographic equipment, as well as autographed portraits presented to Fu by leading figures in the Guomindang (the Nationalist Party).

Fu family	Fu's diary whilst Chinese Ambassador to Moscow, 1947. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Fu's Leica camera (1947), tripod, and filters. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Fu's photograph album, 1932–40. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Fu's photograph album, 1934–41. <i>Privately owned</i>

Fu Bingchang as Ambassador

Between 1943 and 1949 Fu Bingchang was Chinese Ambassador to Moscow, a post which brought him to the Soviet Union and Europe. Displayed here are various objects, including Fu's ambassadorial regalia and an invitation to Buckingham Palace, collected during this phase of his career.

Fu family	Fu's ambassadorial regalia, 1943–49. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Fu's luggage tags whilst Chinese Ambassador to Moscow, 1943–49. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Document appointing Fu as Chinese Ambassador to Moscow, 15 January 1943. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Fu's invitation to a United Nations reception, London, 30 January 1946. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Fu's invitation to a party at Buckingham Palace, 9 February 1946. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Autographed portrait of Chiang Kai-shek, 4 February 1943. <i>Privately owned</i>
Fu family	Autographed portrait of Song Ziwen, Moscow, 13 August 1945. <i>Privately owned</i>