

Library of Birmingham Archives & Collections

Sources relating to China and Chinese people

This list is not comprehensive. Records have been listed in approximately chronological order.

Where there is an asterisk after the entry, there is a more detailed list at the end of the source list.

Manuscript sources:

18th Century

From the James Watt Papers

MS 3219/2/26

Notebook of John Watt sr. c. 1725. *[translation]

Includes pages of notes on mathematics, military problems, astronomy, theory of tides, surveying, geometry etc. and a piece of paper printed in Chinese.

MS 3219/4/56

Correspondence from James Lind to James Watt. 1763- 1796.*

Lind mentions that his destination is China. Later letters mention Chinese oil, Chinese bellows and Chinese lead.

MS 3219/4/67/7

Letter. Dr John Roebuck (Bo'ness) to Matthew Boulton (—). 29 Nov. 1776.

[Impatient to hear of the success of the engine. Abram is happy in his office in China.

Ebenezer is going as mate in one of the China ships. He has made some progress in settling his accounts with Mr Garbett. He asks a favour for his nephew Abram Hopkins, who is now in orders].

MS 3219/4/80/9

Letter. Logan Henderson (Newcastle upon Tyne; 16 St. John's Lane) to [James Watt] (—). 20 Nov. 1789.

[Sends James Watt a piece of resin from a tree at Port Jackson, Botany Bay, which the people there employ as a glue for fixing arrow heads. He also sends a sample of Chinese glue].

From the Matthew Boulton Papers:

MS 3782/12/39/10

Letter. James Cobb (East India House, London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 8 Jan. 1794.
About the Chinese Embassy and their interest in sword blades.

MS 3782/12/93/70-87 *

Correspondence concerning Lord Macartney's trade embassy to China, 1792.
Lord Macartney's Embassy set sail from Spithead on 26 September, 1792; it returned to England on 6 September, 1794.
[See *Ritual and Diplomacy: the Macartney Mission to China (1792-1794)*, ed. Robert A. Bickers].

19th Century

From the James Watt Papers:

MS 3219/4/25/49

Letter. Professor John Young (Glasgow College) to James Watt (Soho). 18 Nov. 1814.
'Among many other Oriental Books sent me home lately from India by my Clerical Son is a Large Quarto volume near 1,000 pages of the works of Confucius in the original Chinese with an English Translation, Comentary [sic] & Notes. It is a curious Work. Have you seen it? If not come down & we will read it together. It is accompanied with a long Dissertation in praise of the Language & combating what the Author calls Prejudices respecting the difficulties attending it. The Author is Marshman. The Marks he says are not so numerous as the Words in Johnson's Dictionary.'

[This edition by John Marshman, 1809: see BL catalogue].

From the Boulton & Watt collection:

MS 3147/5/1478 Boulton & Watt.

Drawings of the steamer gunboat *Nemesis*. 1841, and not dated. 4 items.
Includes:

"Sketch by Capt. W. H. Hall of one of the Affairs of his steamer the Nemesis, at Sheepo in China."
17 Sep. 1841.

Sketch of the Nemesis, with caption in Chinese, marked, "Copied from a Chinese sketch".

Translation of the caption by William Huttman of 40 Tonbridge St., New Road.

Display label with a copy of the translation.

Sketch map of the action taken by the *Nemesis* in Sheepo Harbour and sketch of the boat.
Nemesis was a steam gun boat and was supposed to have been powered by Boulton Watt & Co. engines. However, it appears that this was not the case.

From the papers of Thomas Swan:

MS 1675/2/5

Missionary address on China by Rev. Thomas Swan, minister of Cannon Street Baptist Church, 1855.

Business records:**ZZ 66B/602237**

Winfield and Co. (rolling mills). Visitors' Book, 1837. There is a reference to the visit of a Chinese Mission, on 9 June 1866.

MS 99

Metro Cammell drawings of railway rolling stock provided to various Chinese companies, 1882-1936

MS 99/3/2/44 [Vickers – Armstrong (Engineers) Ltd.]

?Exhibition catalogue in Chinese. n.d. c. 1925

MS 99 additional [Acc. 2006/024] Box 117:

Collection of historical material of Alstom and predecessors, including early photographs, news paper cuttings, scrap books, video, c.1900 Patent Shaft catalogue, early catalogues with CD, studies, histories, modern photographs and negatives, **Chinese visit**, tank, plans of Saltley works, publications, 1 box, 19th - 20th C.

Personal papers:**MS 1547/1**

Diary of Mary King. Mentions her attendance at a lecture in Birmingham about opium and China, 1894.

“ Then I went to an Opium Lecture in the Odd Fellows Hall. It struck me very much for it is a dreadful Curse. The principal speaker was a real China man. He was dressed in the dress of the Chinese and wore the pig tail. It was very sad to hear him relate case after case of China men who had died under Opium. It is a curse to the Chinese and a shame on the English government when they can see very well the evil that it is doing. But what do they care as long as they get the Revenue. His name was Rev. Yung ...?...[altered and illegible] Hing.”

20th Century

Business records:

MS 466/Photographs Box 2/97

Cadbury's Ltd. Photographs. This one shows Harold Waite, Hong Kong Export Representative (in bowler hat) in Hong Kong. c. 1900

Personal papers:

MS 908/9,10, and 12

Travel diaries of Helen Caddick. Detailed descriptions, with photographs and other printed materials relating to her visits to China, 1908-1909, and 1913-14 and Chinese students .

Photograph album of Rev. Captain J.H.Cooper-Hunt

MS 850/3

Album and scrapbook including photographs of family, army days, Curragh Camp, journey to China (1913), Hong Kong, Shanghai etc., newspaper cuttings about the Great Typhoon of 1896, papers in Chinese, including a travel permit etc.
c. 1896 – 1918

British United Aid to China Fund; Birmingham branch

MS 550

Records of the Birmingham branch of the British United Aid to China Fund, including a minute book, and papers about related organisations. 1939 - 1950.

From the Charles Parker Archive:

MS 4000/1/8/18

Papers concerning Charles Parker's visit to China as part of a Society for Anglo Chinese Understanding education group, 1972.
Includes a paper written by Charles Parker, "*A Critical Analysis of some aspects of Cultural Life and Working Methods in the Arts, in the Peoples' Republic of China. Based on experience and conversations during the 3 week SACU Educationalists' tour, 3 - 25 April, 1972.*"

MS 4000 addnl. (Acc. 2005/172)

Records relating to Charles Parker including an essay, as follows:
"Some criticism of the cultural performance given by students of the May 7th Cadre School of the Peking Western Municipality; given to the

SACU British Educational tour, 7th April, 1972" by Charles Parker, 8th April 1972".

MS 4000/3/11/2

Large number of Chinese pamphlets and booklets, especially political And artistic ones, and ones written by Mao Tse Tung; newspaper cuttings from English newspapers.1965-1975. (3 boxes) *

Sound recordings

MS 4000/5/4/2/26

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of Ewan MacColl talking about the Folk Revival and the theatre, including Chinese theatre. 1965.

MS 4000/5/4/2/168

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of a discussion by Ewan MacColl and members of the Critics Group, with various sketches, including material on China and Vietnam. 1967.

MS 4000/5/2/8/36

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker: short extract of someone talking to a Chinese woman, through an interpreter, about the disappearance of her sister in 1937. n.d. c.1970.

MS 4000/5/3/2/27

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of a BBC radio broadcast, 'Music about ships and sailors', presented by A.L.Lloyd, including a track of a song by women divers for abalone shells, East China sea. 1972.

MS 4000/5/3/2/30

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of a BBC radio broadcast, 'Songs of the people', presented by A.L.Lloyd, including a track of Chinese harp music, 'The Yaishen tragedy'. 1972.

MS 4000/5/3/2/32

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of a BBC radio broadcast, 'Birds, beasts and fishes', presented by A.L.Lloyd, including a track of Chinese music, 'Winter birds sporting over the frozen stream'. 1972.

MS 4000/5/3/2/34

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of a BBC radio broadcast, 'Songs of Revelry', presented by A.L.Lloyd, including a track of Chinese music. 1972.

MS 4000/5/3/2/36

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of a BBC radio broadcast,

'Songs of the people', presented by A.L.Lloyd, including a track of Music played on a Chinese zither. 1972.

MS 4000/5/1/10/10

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of Captain Horton talking about Chinese shipping. 1972.

MS 4000/5/1/20/9

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker interviewing various people about China and the revolution. 1974.

MS 4000/5/3/5/7/8 CD2

CD copy of a tape recording by Charles Parker of George Thomson talking about political theatre and effective speech, differences between the literature of China and Britain. 1975.

MS 2141 **Papers of the Indian Workers Association**

MS 2141/A/7/21

File containing press cuttings and printed material relating to Chinese Politics. 1966-1975. *

MS 2142 **Papers of Avtar Jouhl**

MS 2142/A/3/7

File of writings and printed material on China, Chinese politics and culture, Communist groups, photographs of the Shanghai Industrial Exhibition, etc. _c.1978

MS 2142/D/16/1

Beijing Review, 1980-1984

Incomplete sequence of copies of *Beijing Review: A Chinese Weekly of News and Views, printed in Peoples Republic of China*

MS 310/1684 **Records relating to Birmingham Music Halls**

Set of 25 photographs of 'Chung Ling Soo', a pretend Chinese conjuror. n.d. c. 1930?

MS 1715 **People of Birmingham exhibition:**

Cassette tapes and summaries of interviews carried out by Library staff with a Chinese woman, and Chinese women studying English at Sparkbrook community centre (in Cantonese) and an interview with Billy Ko, mental health worker and Chinese community officer (in English). 1992.

[Please note that listening copies must be made before these can be consulted].

Business records:

MS 1623 Records of the Birmingham Mint

MS 1623 [Alt. ref. no. 2004/090 1.25] Papers relating to the production of a proof medallion to commemorate the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

MS 1623 [Alt. ref. no. 40.5]

File: '1887 on - Chinese Coinage (general)'. *

MS 1623 [Alt. ref. no. 41.1] File: 'Canton 1888', 1887 - 1963

Contains papers relating to the supply of machinery and the erection of the Imperial Mint , Canton, by Ralph Heaton & Sons, 1887-1893.

MS 1623 [Alt. ref. no.42.4]

File: 'Buchheister, Shanghai, 1893-1905'

Includes agreements dated 2 January 1893, 11 June 1902 (notice of renewal of previous agreement) and 22 April 1905 for Messrs. Buchheister & Co. Ltd of Shanghai to act as sole agents for the Birmingham Mint in securing orders of minting machinery from China.

Photographs:

MS 2363 Photographs by Nicci Gott, of the Arcadian Centre and Chinese New Year 2000.

MS 2512 Photographs by Terry Lo, taken for various projects and exhibitions, including 'From Cathay to Pershore Street: The Chinese in Birmingham.' 1990s.

Detailed lists:

* Papers of James Watt.

MS 3219/2/26

[Chinese characters and translation kindly provided by Haifeng Li].

居敬撞见 二妇下棋

为义父与寺中诸僧为师兄弟，由是一意镁玉，月心探寺书，夜不息，隔三年，自免文章与京城才子相并，遂出赴考，果选取；入场本科郎中。高第时弘治庚子年也，僧率页亦自喜作成有功，先时居敬虽在寺三年，牢得去闲游，既中后，诸师兄弟多有相请者，乃得遍游各房。一日，信步行到僧悟空房去，微闻棋声在上侯暗处，寻见楼梯遂直上楼去，见二妇人在下棋，两相怪讶。一妇人问：谁人同你到此屋？居敬曰，我信步行到此。你是甚妇人乃在此问？妇人曰：我渔翁安慈之女名美珠，被长老脱娶在此。居敬曰：原来是我恩人之女。美珠曰：官人是谁？

我父与你有甚恩？居敬曰：我是此寺中举人前来京，堕水时，蒙令尊救援。厚恩人未报，今不意得会娘子也。美珠曰：报恩且慢，你快下去 ...

English translation:

Jujing saw two women playing chess by chance

My foster father and the monks in the temple were followers of the same teacher. He concentrated on his studies and did not rest even at night. Three years later, he thought his own essays were as good as the talented scholar in the capital city, so he went to take the imperial civil examination. He was chosen as a successful candidate as expected, and was later appointed a government official in emperor Hongzhi's reign. The monk Shuaiye was also happy; he thought he had helped with his success. Although Jujing had stayed in the temple for three years before hand, he hardly had any spare time to explore it. After he was accepted as a successful candidate, lots of his fellow students invited him around, and only after that did he get a chance to visit all the rooms in the temple. One day, he wandered into the monk Wukong's room, and faintly heard the sound of someone playing chess upstairs in the shadows. He found the stairs and then he walked up to find two women playing chess. Both of them looked surprised to see him. One of the women asked, "Who have you come to this room with?" Jujing replied, "I wandered here by myself, who are you? Why are you here asking me questions?" The woman answered, "I am the fisherman Anci's daughter; my name

is Meizhu (means “beautiful pearl” in Chinese) . We were told to stay here by the teacher”. Jujing said, “So you are the daughter of my benefactor really.” Meizhu asked, “Who are you, Sir? What favour did my father do to you?” Jujing answered, “I am a candidate for the imperial civil examination, I used to live in this temple, and then I went to take the exam, but fell into the river. Thanks to your reverend father, my life was saved. I haven’t returned the favour yet. It is so beyond my expectation that I can meet you here today, Miss.” Meizhu said, “There is no hurry to return the favour, but you have to go downstairs quickly...”

Note: The text highlighted in grey in the Chinese script is blurry. The text highlighted in grey in the English text is affected by the blur in the original text

MS 3219/4/56/

1. Letter. James Lind (——) to James Watt (Glasgow). n.d. [docket reads 1763 or 4?]. On the outer page Lind has written a postscript:

J. Lind. description Electric Machine. Madras and China is my destination. perhaps I might sell some machines (perspective) for you at London — perhaps some may wish to carry some to Bengall. Please procure for me one of Dr Wilson’s Thermometers (for boiling water if possible).

Includes a labelled pencil drawing of the machine. The letter is headed ‘Siri Siri Ram’.

Electric machine. [Intends one of the machines for Dr Franklin. he will take some of the Drawing instruments to India. Wants some alarms].

FRAGILE.

MS 3219/4/56/]

4. Letter. James Lind (London) to James Watt (Glasgow). 9 Dec. 1765.

[He has been working to get letters to admit him to China. Cumming will soon publish his Longitude principles of clock and watch work and will take some drawing machines for sale. ‘I am turned Longitude mad’. Describes his sextant by Ramsden, and Dollond’s improvements to his glasses — he has seen Jupiter’s satellites. Attempt to correct the variation of the needle. Farewell; he will write from India].

MS 3219/4/56/

5. Letter. James Lind (Edinburgh) to James Watt (——). 19 Jan. 1768.

[He wants a small thermometer of Dr Wilson’s and a drawing machine. He has a jar of Chinese oil for James Watt and much to show him].

MS 3219/4/56/

6. Letter. James Lind (Edinburgh) to James Watt (Glasgow). 29 Oct. 1768. [Part of letter is missing].

[He is not sure the electric machine will survive the carriage. He is having a parallaxic stand made for one of Dollond’s telescopes. The canal. He has made a cylindric Chinese bellows with a forge*

and a 'pocket kitchen', 'containing a pan, brandy flask and cup, butter dish, salt, pepper, soy, mustard, and a furnace, it is capable in a few minutes to ?stew a dish of stakes, make a hash or dress a fowl and the whole is only 7 inches long 5 broad and 2¹/₂ thick. It carries above an English pint of spirits, ¹/₄ lb of butter, the pan is near the size ofwhich is the furnace. In short it is worthypatent'. He will send a copy of his thesis, now he is an M.D.]

* from parallax = apparent displacement of object caused by actual change of point of observation.

MS 3219/4/56/

25. Letter. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Lind (Windsor). 10 Aug. 1796.

[The pneumatic apparatus. Use of bottles instead of airholder. Administration of air to patients and medical uses. Chinese lead].

*** Matthew Boulton Papers**

MS 3782/12/93/70-87

China Trade — Lord Macartney's Embassy, 1792.

70. China Trade, Nos. 1 to 6 and Nos. 10 to 14.
The following papers were formerly in one bundle:

No. 1. Copy letter. — ("at sea") to — (—). 9 Apr.
(Transcript in ? Samuel Garbett's hand.)

No. 2. Copy letter. — (—) to — (—).
(Transcript in ? Samuel Garbett's hand.)

No. 3. Copy letter. — (—) to — (—).
(Transcript in ? Samuel Garbett's hand.)

No. 4. "Considerations upon the Export Trade from Great Britain to India, with a plan and proposals for the encrease thereof."
(Memorandum in an unidentified hand.)

No. 5. "Remarks upon Mr. Scott's Considerations upon the Export Trade to India, by A."
(Memorandum in Zaccheus Walker's hand.)

No. 6. Memorandum on foreign trade.
(Memorandum in an unidentified hand.)

No. 10. Copy letter. — (—) to — (—). 12 Jun. 1792.
(Transcript in an unidentified hand.)

No. 10.

12th June 1792.

¹Sir,

I had the honor to receive your letter and the accompanying papers. The paper No. 5, with the letters from **A** to **G**, of which you are so good as to say you will send me the key in confidence, I will not wish to have at present, nor will I every ask it of you, unless it can serve some better purpose than curiosity, but as it stands, will you have any objection to my shewing it to Lord Hawksbury in any future conversations we may have on the subject.

I hope Lord Macartney has been desired to endeavour to obtain some station as a depot and place of trade to which Asiatics as well as Europeans may have *free* access. The immense coasting trade of China leaves no room to doubt, that our commodities wou'd spread thro' the whole of that great Empire, cou'd they be brought fairly to market, but while the[y] continue to pass through two monopolies, that of the E. I. Company and the Hong merchants, they must naturally remain very limited, goods of small price not being able to bear such exactions. No one asks at Canton where the numerous vessels which are daily passing on that fine river, are going, where they came from, or what they carry, and the only information I cou'd get was from my own seamen, who I sent for information, such as it was. My time was too short, and the means too scanty to learn as much of the nature of their commerce as I cou'd wish, but the general result is, that there can be no doubt, a people like the Chinese, greatly given to commerce, the transport of which is facilitated thro' the interior of the Empire by great magnificent canals and rivers in a climate which is very cold in the winter wou'd willingly receive most articles of our woollen manufactures, cou'd they be adopted to the general convenience of the inhabitants.

You are well aware, sir, of all the hindrances that prevent the encouragement which ought to be given to the exportation of our manufactures, amongst which number is the profit the Company gain on the exportation of silver, which has been often purchased here at 4/3d. per dollar and sold in China at 5½, with all the preference which ready money gives in the market, of which you are the best judge. Whilst that profit, or any thing near it, continues, we may in vain expect exportation of coarse stockings, flannels, or indeed any other articles to be carried out in preference to dollars.

The object of Lord Macartney's mission hitherto remains secret, altho' it may be partly guessed at. Several causes which must occur to you, who probably knew the parties, tend to involve it in a mystery, which perhaps is not altogether necessary, altho' it cannot be expected that the whole plan will be exposed. The whole success will depend on management, and much prudence, caution, and temper will be required. The times are favourable. The expiration of the Company's Charter, the decline of the Dutch Company, and the total inability of France and other foreigners to interfere with us, are circumstances that hold out a prospect of success. At the same time the spirit of enterprise and investigation which prevails every where, if checked in their proper and legitimate course, will be diverted to other channels, and this danger ought to have weight with the Minister.

I understand as soon as restitution is made of Nootka and its *dependancies* some regulations will be proposed for the commerce from thence to China on a more liberal plan than formerly. If the session had permitted, it was intended, after the return of the messenger from Spain, who was not arrived when I left town, to have called on the Minister to explain the state of that negociation, which wou'd probably have tended to have thrown some light on the subject. As I know Mr. Meares, I shall learn from him how that business proceeds.

¹ This document contains several obvious errors, apparently made during transcription; see the footnotes below.

Captain Colnitz, who you may remember was one of Mr. Meares' colleagues, is lately arrived from China. He brought furs from the remains of his Nootka adventure to Macao², and being there too early to come home, Mr. Beale, one of the merchant adventurers in China, sent him into the Northern Seas to try the sale of his furs. He touched both at Japan and Corea³, did nothing there, but entered a port in China (Chusan) where he sold his furs to a great advantage.

It would not be fair to scan too closely the management of this expedition; it is sufficient to say that Mr. Beale means to follow it up by another attempt the ensuing season; so that you will observe, should a trade be encouraged from Nootka, or even sanctioned, it will broaden its bottom. The Americans have likewise touched at Japan and, being in distress for water and provisions, have been guilty of some excesses, which may have a disagreeable tendency to our future introduction, the Asiatics not being able to discriminate very exactly the difference amongst what have a disagreeable tendency to our future introduction, the Asiatics not being able to discriminate very exactly the difference amongst what they⁴ include under the name of Europeans.

I think it can easily be proved to Ministers that, if we do not admit of a more free commerce to the East, it will soon force itself in a manner less beneficial perhaps to the Government. Russia will assist to form a new establishment and will possibly prevail on Denmark to admit them at Tranquibar, if our merchants are forced to join these foreign Companies, much of their capital will be expended out of the country.

It would, I conceive, be no difficult matter to introduce our manufactures of every kind into Japan, Corea⁵, the Lin Thin Islands, and the northern ports of China, but as tea would probably be a principal return, the sale of it in England cannot take place while the present Acts remain in force, and I should doubt if the Company could be prevailed on, either at Canton or at home, to become the purchasers. I do not suppose it has escaped you that China is not included in the Company's Charter. A clause introduced in the Act establishing the Board of Control⁶ first gave them authority to send home all such subjects as were found in China without the sanction of the Company, and probably this clause passed without being noticed.

I have omitted to speak of Cochin China, which I consider more as a collateral branch of trade, tending to facilitate the more extensive one to China by furnishing articles of Chinese consumption of which we might avail ourselves as carriers, by the way.

One of our whale fishers put into a port of Peru, where, after some little demurs, he was well received and furnished with what he wanted, he paying for it in such articles as best suited both parties. Should our messenger return with amicable adjustments from Madrid, Lord St. Hellens will be instructed to ask an island or port on the coast of South America, south of the line, as a place of refreshment for our whale fishers, in order to procure them the provision they may want in prosecution of their long voyages. I cannot bring myself to believe the Spaniards will yield to our request, but I have such positive assurance it will be asked for that I cannot but suppose there must be reason to expect their concurrence.

² MS. *Macas*.

³ MS. *Cored*.

⁴ MS. *the*.

⁵ MS. *Cored*.

⁶ MS. *Contracts*.

I have written this, as you will find, from the country, without any papers to refer to. I will endeavour on my return to town to learn further on these subjects.

[*Edited transcript.*]

No. 11. Copy letter. — (—) to Samuel Garbett [Birmingham]. 21 Jun. 1792.
(*Transcript in an unidentified hand.*)

No. 11.

21st June 1792.

Sir,

If the present administration continue, I should doubt their undertaking any material alteration in the Company's Charter, unless they find themselves very much pressed. They will rather avail themselves of that procrastination allowed them, by giving further time to the Company to make their arrangements. The Commutation Act in a great measure binds Government to protect the exclusive sale of tea. The territorial acquisitions and its revenue is so combined with other political arrangements, that it will be difficult to separate them, and there are other objects of consideration to a Minister, when the government of a monopoly is in his own hands, that it is too flattering to be given up easily. I have some reason to think that for some time past Lord Hawkesbury has not had his share of influence in the Cabinet, and if it is so, you know on whose hands it must fall. It may be therefore good policy to undermine the present system of monopoly, which may be done in various ways. I have laid it down as a maxim, that although a monopoly may continue, and even flourish, while it can be held in positive exclusion, it must be ruined whenever it is forced to admit of participation. Should an application be made for leave to trade to such parts of the East as the Company do not trade to, the resisting such an application, if made publicly and well supported, would be a measure of unpopularity the Minister would not wish to take upon himself, and it would strike the public more strongly, as they would be better able to see the manifest injustice of such refusal, than the doing away an injurious monopoly, to the exercise of which they have been long familiarized.

I doubt if the public mind is open to a liberal system of commerce. The question the other day relative to the price of freights, although agitated in the first commercial city in the world, made little impression, and was carried for the monopoly. The petition of the West India merchants presented to both Houses are claims to continue their monopoly, and was not noticed as such; and, in short, the dread of innovation, so much supported lately, has misled the public judgment in several cases. I therefore think much might be done this summer by writing against monopolies in general, and shewing their evil tendency to prevent an extension of the commerce of the country.

Formerly the Company traded to the Red Sea, Gulf of Persia, Siam, Vegu, and many other places; but, by competition of other nations, the price of India goods became so much lessened in Europe that the profits on this trade were not equal to that on others, and it fell, of course. To the two first, the export was in coarse woollens and cotton cloths, and I have no doubt that arms of all sorts and coarse cutlery of most kinds would find a very good sale. It was with a view to this trade that I proposed Madagascar as a settlement for our convicts before I knew that it was determin'd to establish them at Botany Bay, a settlement there which would have been independent of the Company a very convenient commercial station for all the trade of Hither India. The island itself is populous, and rich in such productions as would afford many articles of commerce, and by its situation calculated to introduce our manufactures, not only to the two Gulfs I spoke of, but to the

Portuguese settlements of Mosambique, Melinda, and Quito, and all along the coast from Surat to the Cape of Good Hope.

I mentioned in my former letter the idea of admitting a trade to be carried on from Nootka on a liberal principle; I hope it will succeed. I understand that some time ago the Empress of Russia gave leave to some English to establish a trade to Kamtschatka, in consequence of which Mr. Billing's late expedition was undertaken. If you will look at the map, you will find a long range of islands by the name of Kurile Islands, which extend themselves from Kamtschatzka towards Japan. To these islands both Japanese and Russians trade. The purchase of furs made by the Russians in the northernmost of these islands is by the exchange of coarse cloth, coarse cutlery, brandy, and tobacco. These skins and furs make a principal article in the caravan trade from Russia to China, in return for tea and other articles. This caravan trade was estimated by the Russians at four millions of rubles, previous to the late disputes. Thus you see we have found one vent for China produce; to what length it may be extended I can not pretend to determine, but this I can say: the mode of purchasing these furs would suit us well. You are to include in this branch of commerce the introduction of our goods, either direct or circuitously, to Corea, Japan, Lin Kin, and all the other islands in their vicinity, most of which I can prove are already very commercial. The difficulty of disposing of the returns is the point in question.

If it could be settled that traders bringing tea to Macao, or the river of Canton, and depositing it there to be paid for at the market price by the Company, I should conclude the great difficulty of a commerce to the eastern parts of the world would be greatly done away; and, although I am aware of some objections that might be made, they are not of such magnitude as to preclude an object of that importance altogether; but this I leave to your consideration, as better able to judge than I am.

England must be considered as the first market for tea; with proper regulation, it would become the only one—not on the principle of monopoly, but being able to sell it cheaper than others, which would evidently be the case if a decent and proper oeconomy was used in the trade; but, if the importation is to continue exclusive, the next measure is to seek to supply the monopolists with the articles they hold in exclusion.

A matter of much importance is the settling a place of deposit in this part of the East, in which all the inhabitants of China, Japan, Corea, and the islands could come freely, which I should prefer to a port in China, which would always be subject to the interference of that jealous Government, if not under their absolute controul. It was for this reason that I proposed to Lord Lansdown, when Minister, a mission in which a visit to China should be held only as eventual, for fear of risking the good that might arise by a more gradual introduction, by alarming the suspicions and jealousy of the Court of Pekin, by what they may consider as a direct attack on their old prejudices.

The introduction of a new commerce must not be taken up too lightly; if Government ever ought to interfere at all, it should be to protect its infancy. This may easily be done by previous investigation in the nature of a tryal, and not to leave it to private adventurers to risk their capitals and character in an unprotected voyage, subject to all the chicane and injustice of interested people.

Every effort would be made to counteract any spirit of enterprize that might interfere with the profits or interests of any of the India Companies. Foreigners who view our eastern commerce thro' a false medium are already jealous of the ascendancy we have taken, and they would readily assist the undertakings of such individuals in the forming of any plans that might check the country in the further extent of their consequence eastward, and divert the trade to different channels. Of this, administration can not be too often nor

too publickly reminded: commerce, if stopped in one channel, will break out in another. The legislator should be careful not to give it impediment, and encouragement it does not want, unless the removing the difficulties that a false administration has occasioned is to be construed encouragement.

I am sorry to say that our merchants have been forced to uphold the American trade to China, as I think it a losing speculation unless it is carried on in a manner not altogether becoming the commercial character. The original want of capital in the first American traders to China has thrown them into great discredit; the actions of some individuals has risked their future reception.

This Embassy will have its effect either by opening the ports of China to us, or by a more strict regulation that may force us to seek other marketts. Time must shew us the event, for all speculation on the subject is too trivial for notice.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most . . .

[*Edited transcript.*]

No. 12. Copy letter. Samuel Garbett (Birmingham) to — (—). 5 Jul. 1792.
(*Transcript by Zaccheus Walker.*)

No. 12.

Birmingham, July 5th, 1792, Thursday.

Sir,

I wrote to you the 14th ultimo. On Monday last Lord Macartney called of me, and said he expected in a few posts I should receive a letter from the Lords of Council relative to his Embassy to China. His Lordship tells me it is intended *that* this and other manufacturing establishments shall have liberty to send with him sets of patterns (samples) of our wares, and also some specimens to be given as presents, the latter of which we shall be paid for. And *that* with them we may send a person capable of making judicious observations upon *metals*, rough materials, and modes of working, who will be in his Lordship's train, and consequently live without expence, and that the person will be allowed a salary of £160 a year.

These particulars Lord Macartney mentioned as outlines, but nothing more as being determined. I could not forbear intimating my fears that the design was to continue a monopoly to the East India Company, as from report it appeared they were to be at the expence of the Embassy. He said, tho' they were to be at expence, the Embassy was from Government, and that, probably, nothing would be finally determined respecting their Charter until Lord Cornwallis returned, to which I could not say any more than briefly shew my fears, and let that part of the subject drop. I told his Lordship that, in my apprehension, the primary and principal object was to obtain a good port in an island where all Asiatics might have free access; that there should be fortifications for the security of our merchandize, and a military government occasionally to support a police; to these ideas he perfectly concurred, and said the station should be to the north, and intimated the procuring one from the Portuguese. I urged as a matter of great consequence that some persons (from this and other places) who were well acquainted with our manufacturers and modes of working might have permission to travel into the different wealthy provinces of China in order to shew their patterns to merchants and shopkeepers, not only to promote an extensive sale of our *present* wares by gaining commissions to send *certain* quantities on *certain* terms, but, by intercourse with such people, to devise means of adopting our modes of working to other fabricks or toys that would be more agreeable to Chinese

fashions and taste, or adopting parts of our wares to ornament their fabricks and wares, as is now practised in Europe. Lord Macartney spoke of it as an object of consequence to have a man from this place who has skill in metalurgy, which I do not think material, as he will have Doctor Gillan⁷, an eminent chymist in his retinue, and the essential points certainly are to obtain the best means possible of firmly establishing proper modes of introducing the manufactures we at *present* make and of adopting our present knowledge to the fashions of China, &c., &c.

The acquiring knowledge of their metals and of their methods of manufacturing will be the inevitable consequence of the intercourse I have suggested, and therefore should not be attempted in any way that could give offence to their Government, or to the true friends of their country. The native merchants and shop keepers will probably encourage foreign manufactures in preference to their own, and we should rely on that certain mode of obtaining knowledge of their arts and cautiously avoid every appearance of pilfering.

I very emphatically expressed to Lord Macartney the monstrous folly of allowing the India Company a monopoly of the sale of our manufactures to the most wealthy part of the world, as the exportation of *them* are the only means Brittain hath of obtaining bullion to pay interest of the debt owing to foreigners.

Lord Macartney staid only about three hours with me, but I hope to see him on his return from Ireland. He said he must sail the first week in August. I am desirous you should thus know what passed, for the chance of your having an opportunity of promoting the common interest of our country; and that if any thing occurs to you for that purpose, either by your conversing with Lord Hawkesbury, or that you wish me to say to Lord Macartney, I may be favoured with your sentiments.

I fancy the India Company had authority to seize and send to England any British subjects that were found in China without their permission by the following Acts of Parliament, viz.

The 9th and 10th of William 3d. Ch. 44. } authorized to seize	The India Company are	} any
British subjects in the East Indies or	6th of Anna. Ch. 17.	} any other place
beyond the Cape of Good	5th of George 1st. Ch. 21.	} Hope and send
them to England.	7th of George 1st. Ch. 21.	}

PS. Lord Macartney told me that the clauses in the above laws had been evaded, by British subjects obtaining appointments from other European states to act for them in a public character.

[*Edited transcript.*]

No. 13. Copy letter. — (—) to Samuel Garbett [Birmingham]. 8 Jul. 1792.
 (*Transcript in an unidentified hand.*)

No. 13.

8th July 1792.

Sir,

⁷ MS. *Gillum*. The reference is to Dr. Hugh Gillan. The mistake was probably made in transcription.

I wrote to you lately throu' Lord — submitting to your judgment part of a plan for the future extension of commerce to the East, shou'd the Company's monopoly be still continued to them. It likewise was meant to shew that the disposal of convicts in proper places wou'd assist such a plan. I intended, after receiving your opinion on that first part, to have proposed two other deposits for the connecting other branches of commerce in more distant parts. It is with great pleasure, perhaps mixed with some vanity, that I find by your letter of the 5th that you agree with me in regard to China, and I shall be glad that the Council will write to you on the subject. I have my fears and little hopes that the present ministry will wish to get rid of that extensive patronage they now hold, and which must be encreasing every day, by abolishing the monopoly of the Company.

You will therefore naturally state in strong terms that it is impossible to prevent a trade to China; that if we restrain it, it must find its course throu' some other channels less beneficial and perhaps prejudicial to our general interest. The answer, or at least the idea of Government⁸, is that, England being the only vent for tea (considering that as the chief return from China), all foreign trade must be very trifling and temporary only. The argument of the Company is, that previous to the Commutation Act there was paid to foreigners, and smuggled, tea to the amount of £1,700,000 annually, which was chiefly bought with bullion, as the smugler cou'd not risk goods to make his purchases; whereas since that Act we have sold tea to foreigners and have received the value for it from many places in bullion; that all nations must purchase with more bullion than the English in China, &c., &c. These are the arguments I have heard used, and which you are no doubt aware of. You cannot do better than urge to Lord Macartney, or the Council, an island rather than a port on the coast of China, to which there may be free access for all Asiatics and Europeans to trade. This is the grand desideratum; but when his Lordship talks of procuring one to the north from the Portuguese, he must have forgotten that the Portuguese have no other possession in China but a precarious one at Macao, which they are by no means authorized to dispose of, there being on that island a Mandarin governor, who considers himself as paramount, and that the Portuguese remain there only *durante bene placito*.

Amongst the advantages I pointed out in different letters, I mentioned those that might arise from an investigation of the arts and sciences of the Chinese, and the simplicity with which I had learned they carried on several branches of manufacture; but you very rightly judge that this is more the research of the philosopher than the mode of introducing the articles of our commerce, and you very justly urge the liberty to get footing to pass your people into the interior with such novelties as may please them, rather than that inquisitive prying into their modes of manufacture, as if you came to steal and not to impart knowledge.

No doubt you will learn what presents are most likely to be well received, but I will take the liberty to add, I hope those will not be forgot that are strikingly and evidently useful and of small price; such will naturally be knives of all sorts, small buttons which are worn on their dress and at their sleeves, and perhaps small light padlocks suited for their boxes, and other cheap locks of different sizes.

If Lord Macartney can get leave to introduce the people you send with samples, I must own I shall consider the matter as in a fair way; the farther introduction will work itself. If he cannot, the next best way is to endeavour the dispersion of cheap and useful articles, as far as the nature of the case will admit. I fear that too often fine things only

⁸ Sic.

have been thought essential, to give splendor to our manufactures, but as those things must always be confined amongst a few, the intention defeats itself. Things adapted to general use, that are within the reach of the many, is the thing sought for; the rest is the sop in the pan, as necessary every where.

You, sir, seem so perfectly master of the subject that it is more from obedience to your commands that I write on these matters, than from any supposition that I can give you information. Our knowledge of China is so imperfect that it will be difficult to point out the most necessary articles to send thither. The women are kept so confined that we know nothing of them but from pictures, which I believe are faithful representations of their dress. It must be from those we can suit the taste of the Chinese fair sex, who, I conclude, study their own elegance and finery as well as those of other countries; rings and perhaps laces for their linnen might be presents for them.

The India Company have undoubtedly a right by Charter to seize on all ships trading without licence to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, and authority to send home British subjects from India, as you will see stated on the grand question of monopolies in the State trials, but I believe no mention of China, and of course no restriction on commerce there, provided an English subject cou'd find himself in China, was admitted previous to the Act establishing the Board of Controul; I speak from memory only, but still think China is not included in the Company's Charter. It was to little purpose at the time. The East India Company had a right to a restrictive commerce to the to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, and the South Sea Company the right of exclusive commerce to all west of Cape Horn.

We laugh at the pope's line of demarcation between the Spaniards and Portuguese, and still think it wise to suffer the monopoly of the commerce of the richest half of the globe to remain, like the dog in the manger, in the hands of a Company who do not exercise the privileges granted them.

It is not that the East can furnish only those articles we at present import from thence; many drugs for dying, for medicine, and for colours, might be procured from thence, as well as sugar in any quantity, and the best sugar candy in the world from Cochin China, which would increase the vent of our manufactures by encreasing their wants and the means of supplying them.

I have had a letter from Mr. Mears. Spain offers a specific sum infinitely below what they consider their legal demand. In case of refusal the matter to be referred to arbitration in Holland. He proposes a trade from Nootka to the North of China and Japan, to be carried on round Cape Horn.

The clauses that Lord Macartney adverts to as being evaded by British subjects obtaining appointments from other European states is precisely the case with this Nootka Company, established under Cox and Beale at Canton, (soi disant) factors or consuls for Prussia, whose flag they hoist, and who, with assistance of English property, are pushing that trade to the northward, of which I wrote you in one of my last letters.

Shou'd your correspondence with the Council induce you to come to town, if you will let me know it, I will join you there. It is now some time since I saw Lord —, who is not much in town. I understand he has not the management of this business, but of which I will be soon better informed. I will examine the Acts you note as soon as I go to town, and in the mean time have the honour to remain, sir, your most obedient servant,

[Edited transcript.]

No. 14. Copy letter. Samuel Garbett (Birmingham) to — (—). 13 Jul. 1792.
(*Transcript in an unidentified hand.*)

No. 14.
(*Copy.*)

Birmingham, July 13th, 1792.

Sir,

I duly received your esteemed favour of the 8th, and adopt every sentiment therein. On the 11th Lord — came to this place and did not leave it until yesterday evening, or I shou'd sooner have acknowledged the plans you sent to his Lordship, as your ideas for founding commerce to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope. You will not wonder at my partiality to that part which gives our merchants the privilege of travelling in the country with samples of our wares, and with the view of devising others more to the taste of the natives, and that I have great diffidence of all establishments upon the territory of other Government.

I have not heard from the Lords of Council as intimated by Lord Macartney; probably after what has passed I shall find myself more at liberty than if I had been favoured with an account of any measures not decisively, or not *unanimously* determined on by them. If I had been requested to attend in London I shou'd certainly have acquainted you therewith instantly, that as far as in my power I might have availed our country of your very distinct and very rational ideas on the subject. Lord Macartney's departure is now so near, that it is impossible for manufacturing establishments to prepare patterns and proper persons, in order to make the best use possible of the Embassy.

I have [*been*] for some days, and am now, much hurried, but cou'd not deny myself the satisfaction of saying thus much, tho' I have only time to add that I have the honour to be, with very great esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,
(Signed) Saml. Garbett

[*Edited transcript.*]

Original wrapper, marked, "China Trade, No. 1 a 6 & No. 10 a 14, in consequence of Lord Macartney's Embassy, 1792."

71. China Trade, Nos. 1 to 6 and Nos. 10 to 14. (28 pcs.)
(*Press-copies of the documents described above, likewise formerly in one bundle, with a similar wrapper.*)

72. Letter. Lord Macartney (London) to Matthew Boulton (Birmingham). 9 Mar. 1792.

London, March 9, 1792.

Sir,

Having been confined by a severe fit of the rheumatism since I had the pleasure of seeing you here, I was prevented till very lately from visiting the steam engines pointed out to me by Mr. Watt. I now take the earliest occasion of informing you that, after having conversed with several intelligent persons who have been in China, and having considered the size of the machine, the difficulty of stowing it, and the other circumstances attending it, the idea of carrying one abroad with us is now given up, and some other articles are to be substituted in its place.

There was another point which I mentioned to you, in which you said you would endeavor to give your assistance. I mean the selection of a proper person, an operative tradesman, skilled in metallurgy, who by being in the train of an Ambassador might have opportunities of inspecting the Chinese manufactories, founderies, &c., &c., and of making such observations as would tend to improve our own, and to discover the taste of the people, in order that we might know how best to adapt to it the different articles in your branch, for future exportation to China. As it is meant to put him on the establishment of the Embassy, he would be at no other expense than that of his cloaths and mere personal necessities. As the departure of the Embassy is delay'd for three or four months, I propose making a tour into your part of the world and having the pleasure of calling upon you in Birmingham.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,
Macartney

[*Edited transcript.*]

73. Letter. Lord Macartney (London) to Matthew Boulton [London]. 17 Apr. 1792.
Will call on him, or receive him at Curzon Street, whenever convenient. (Dated at Curzon Street.)
74. Copy letter. Stephen Cottrell (Westminster) to Matthew Boulton and Samuel Garbett (Soho). 19 Jul. 1792.
(Transcript by Zaccheus Walker Jr. of an original dated at the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, Whitehall. This copy was transmitted to Matthew Boulton at Soho. Notes on the outside record that the original was received by Samuel Garbett on the 20th and was still in his possession.)

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade, Whitehall.
19th July 1792.

⁹Gentlemen,

The King having been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable Lord Macartney to be his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of China, and the Court of Directors of the East India Company having thought that it would contribute to extend the trade in British manufactures to China if his Lordship were to carry out with him a collection of patterns and specimens of the various manufactures of this country, in order to shew the variety, extent, and perfection of them in all their different branches: I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations to desire that you would take the trouble of having a collection made of the patterns of the principals manufacture carried on in your town and neighbourhood, specifying opposite to each article the prices at which the same can be sold, if you should see not objection.

As soon as such collection is made, you are desired to transmit the same to the Secretary of the East India Company at the East India House in London.

The East India Company will readily defray any expence which you, or those whom you may employ, may incur in making this collection.

⁹ The words *Messrs. Garbett and Boulton* appear in the margin.

It is proper I should apprise you that Lord Macartney intends to sail about the middle of the month of August, so that as little time as possible should be lost in making and transmitting this collection.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) Steph. Cottrell

[*Edited transcript.*]

75. "A General List of Goods Manufactured at Birmingham and its Neighbourhood." c. 22 Jul. 1792.
(*A copy of this list was enclosed in Matthew Boulton's letter to Robert Wissett, 22 Jul. Cf. 86.*)

76. Copy letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to Lord Macartney [London]. 25 Jul. 1792. (2 pcs.)
(*Press-copy.*)

Soho, near Birmingham, July 25, 1792.

My Lord,

I have been daily looking out for your Lordship's return from Ireland in hopes of availing my self of your advice in regard to some of the articles I am collecting for the purpose of establishing a trade to China; and tho' I am disapointed of that advantage, yet it is with pleasure I see by the publick papers that your Lordship is safe and well arived in London.

Mr. Garbett and my self receiv'd orders from the Treasury on Saturday last to make a collection of patterns of the Birmingham manufactures, which we instantly proceeded to do, there being not a moment to loose. I wrote on Sunday to Mr. R. Wissett, Secretary to the East India Company, to inform him thereof, and requested he would inform me what tonage or bulk could be allow'd us, as a knowledge of that point will in some degree regulate our choise of articles, as well as the extent and value of the collection.

From an estimate of what I have already collected, it appears that a compleat set of patterns will not cost less than 1000£. I presume many of the things may be given away as presents, and therefore it will be necessary in some articles to take duplicates, in order that a compleat set of patterns may be retain'd, and with them to discover the tast of the Chinese, their wants, their fashions, and the articles the most likely to find a vent in that country and to establish a future trade with.

Agreeable to your Lordship's request, I lost no time in looking round me for a young man that understands the Birmingham trade and that is qualify'd to manage the patterns to the best advantage, but I can find none that is so likely or so willing as one of the persons I before mention'd¹⁰, and whose only objection to going was that of quitting a salary of 100£ a year for a plate of greater risk and no salary at all: but upon my informing him that he would have 100£ a year he readily consented, and is now employ'd in preparing and collecting the patterns and equiping himself for the voyage, unless your Lordship should disapprove of him or the salary. I have known him from his birth, and will be answerable for the goodness, the justness, and faithfullness of his moral character. He is about 24 years of age. He has been bred in the mercantile part of my business, but has been much

¹⁰ Probably Zaccheus Walker Jr., born 1768.

amongst manufactures and is acquainted with the various prizes of Birmingham goods. I am willing to guarantee his integrity in any sum, and that he will never betray any confidence which may be reposed in him. What ever depends upon sincerity, truth, faithfulness, and punctuality, he will be found valuable in.

He hath seen assaying of metals, but he is no chymist; neither will your Lordship stand in need of one so long as you have Dr. Gillan.

In hopes of receiving your further instructions, I remain, with the highest respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most faithfull and obedient humble servant,
Mattw. Boulton

[Edited transcript.]

Draft letters:

Matthew Boulton [Soho] to Robert Wissett [London]. 22 Jul. 1792.

Matthew Boulton [Soho] to Lord Macartney (—). 24 Jul. 1792.

(Drafts of two letters on one sheet.)

77. Letter. James Cobb (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 24 Jul. 1792.
(Dated at East India House.)

78. Copy letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Cobb (London). 26 Jul. 1792. 3 ff.
(Directed to East India House.)

Draft letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Cobb (London). 26 Jul. 1792.

79. Letter. James Cobb (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 27 Jul. 1792.
(Dated at East India House.)

80. Letter. James Cobb (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 28 Jul. 1792.
(Dated at East India House.)

81. Letter. Lord Macartney (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 30 Jul. 1792.
(Dated at Curzon Street.)

82. Draft letters:

Matthew Boulton [Soho] to James Cobb [London]. 3 Aug. 1792.

Matthew Boulton [Soho] to Mr. Gill [Birmingham]. c. 3 Aug. 1792.

(Drafts of two letters on one sheet.)

Copy letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Cobb (London). 3 Aug. 1792.
(Draft or transcript in Boulton's hand.)

83. Copy letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to Lord Macartney [London]. 5 Aug. 1792.
84. Letter. James Cobb (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 6 Aug. 1792.
(Dated at the East India House.)
85. Copy letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Cobb (London). 8 Aug. 1792. 4 ff.
(Press-copy of an original in Zaccheus Walker's hand, signed by Boulton, and directed to the East India House.)
- Draft letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Cobb (London). 8 Aug. 1792. 2 ff.
86. Letter. Zaccheus Walker Jr. (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 9 Aug. 1792.
87. Letter. Lord Macartney (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 11 Aug. 1792.

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MS 4000/3/11/2 Charles Parker Archive.

Large number of Chinese pamphlets and booklets, especially political and artistic ones, and ones written by Mao Tse Tung; newspaper cuttings from English newspapers. 1965-1975. (3 boxes) *

China Now: Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding, 1971-1979 [incomplete set]
China Reconstructs, 1967-1972 [incomplete set]; including a supplement on Peking (1972)
Eastern Horizon Vol. VII, 2 and Vol. XIII, 4; 1968-1974
China Policy Study Group broadsheets, 1969-1979 [incomplete set] (1 file)
S.A.C.U. (Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding) Birmingham Branch newsletters and information, 1972-1979 (1 file)
Newscuttings and notes for a programme called 'Diplomat's Delight', 1967 [not made] (1 file)
Various articles and newscuttings including Hsinhua newsagency pieces (1 file)
Chinese disc covers and notes (1 file)
Script of BBC Asian programme 'Narrang', about a visit to China, 1977
Script of BBC programme 'Music from Bhutan', 1972
Peking Review, 1970-1976 [incomplete set]
Field newscuttings and articles, 1966-1972

52 booklets by/about Mao Tse-Tung

Statement calling on the people of the world to unite to oppose racial discrimination by U.S. Imperialism and support the American negroes in their struggle against racial discrimination, 1964
Be Concerned with the Well Being of the Masses, Pay Attention to Method of Work, 1965
Get Organized!, 1967
Five Documents on Literature and Art 1967
People of the world, Unite and defeat the U.S. aggressors and all their lackeys, 1967
Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art, 1967
Talk with the American correspondent Anna Louise Strong, 1967
Serve the People/In memory of Norman Bethune/ The Foolish Old Man who removed the Mountains, 1972

Foreign Languages Press, Peking:

Raise Higher the Banner of Mao Tse-Tung's Thought on Art and Literature by Lin Mo-Han, 1961
Joint statement of the Communist Party of China and the Communist Party of New Zealand, 1963
Education must be combined with productive labour, by Lu Tung-Yi, 1964
The Constitution of the Communist Party, 1965
Political work; the lifeline of all work, 1966
Decision of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party concerning the great proletarian cultural revolution, 1966
The Great Socialist Cultural Revolution in China, 1, 5, 7, 1966-67
Circular of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party: A Great Historic Document, 1967
The working class must exercise leadership in everything, by Yao Wen-Yvan, 1968
On the Revolution of Peking opera by Chiang Ching, 1968
China's Renminbi: one of the few most stable currencies in the world, 1969
On Stanislarsky's 'System', 1969
Take the Road of integrating workers, peasants and soldiers, 1970
To find men truly great and noble we must look here in the present, 1971
Geography of China, 1972
Tachai: Standard bearer in China's agriculture, 1972
Taching: Red banner on China's industrial front, 1972
Philosophy is no mystery, peasants put their study to work, 1972
Unite to win still greater victories, 1972
Outstanding proletarian fighters, 1972
Exploring the secrets of treating deaf-mutes, 1972
The story of the modern Peking opera 'Shachiapang', 1972
China's continuing revolution, by William Hinton, 1969
Unite the many, defeat the few: China's revolutionary line in foreign affairs, by Jack A. Smith, 1973
The People's Republic of China: hints to businessmen, by the British Overseas Trade Board, 1973.
Is there democracy in China? Freedom? Is there a Mao Cult?, by Janet Goldwasser and Stuart Dowty, 1975.

MS 2141 **Papers of the Indian Workers Association****MS 2141/A/7/21**

File containing press cuttings and printed material relating to Chinese Politics. 1966-1975. *

The papers consist of:

/1 typescript press release issued by the Press Department of the Office of the Chargé d' Affaires of the People's Republic of China 1969 reporting on the ninth national congress of the Communist Party of China

/2 typescript paper entitled: 'A critical analysis of some aspects of cultural life and working methods in the arts, in the Peoples Republic of China; based on experience and conversations during the three week S.A.C.U educationalists tour from 3rd April to 25th April 1972', by Charles Parker.

/3 typescript press release issued by the Press Department of the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China 1975 comprising a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China about the end of Portuguese colonial rule in Angola

/4 copies of *Peking Review*, printed in China 1974-1975, consisting of issues 17.32, 17.47, 18.12, 18.16, and 18.30

/5 typescript copy of *News from Hsinhua News Agency, China*, special issue 1: New Leap in China's National Economy, January 1972.

Various press cuttings about events in China, and Britain (especially London), particularly about disturbances by pro-Maoists; focus on China and the Cultural Revolution; the domestic and foreign policies of Mao; advertisement in the *New York Times International edition*, 1965, issued by Overseas Chinese, opposing the admission of the Peiping regime into the United Nations; the Chinese population expansion; interview with Mao; Russian apprehension about Chinese missiles.

*** MS 2142** **Papers of Avtar Jouhl****MS 2142/A/3/7**

File of writings and printed material on China, Communist groups, photographs of the Shanghai Industrial Exhibition, c.1978

This file contains a variety of handwritten and printed material largely relating to Chinese politics and culture, produced or collected by Avtar Jouhl.

The handwritten material is largely contained in exercise books and notebooks, and may have been composed during a study tour or visit to China, and consists of a red notebook containing pages interspersed with reproductions of photographs of Chinese landscapes and buildings, in which Avtar Jouhl has made notes about various Communist groups; and two lined exercise books in which Avtar Jouhl has made notes in English and Punjabi on various topics concerning Communist politics and the international situation during the 1970s. There is also a handwritten article in Punjabi about the Cultural Revolution in China and some of the mistakes made during the Communist revolution

Printed material includes an article on the history, geography, economy and society of Shanghai; a booklet of photographs produced for the Shanghai Industrial Exhibition; a set of Chinese postcards, one produced by the Central Institute for Nationalities, another as a souvenir of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China, depicting learning activities and aspects of daily life in China.

The file also contains a set of computer print outs of Chinese characters; a business card for Lo Chia-Huan, First Secretary, Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

*** MS 1623 Records of the Birmingham Mint**

MS 1623/1/10/75

File: '1887 on - Chinese Coinage (general)'. *

Includes:

Correspondence (December 1975-November 1988) between Mr. R.N.J. Wright (researcher) and Mr. Colin H. Perry (Managing Director of The Birmingham Mint) regarding chinese coins, historical records held by The Birmingham Mint and the chinese mints built and supplied by Ralph Heaton & Sons. [closed until 01 December 2069]

Correspondence (January 1980) between J.F. Ford (researcher) and Colin H. Perry regarding chinese coinage, the establishment by Ralph Heaton & Sons of the Imperial Mint in Canton in the early 1890s and a Mint in Nanking in 1896-7, and the supply of machinery and dies by Ralph Heaton & Sons for several Chinese provincial mints. [closed until 01 February 2060]

Photocopies of articles on Chinese coinage by Richard Wright and others, 1974-1989

Photographs (12) of:

A Silver Medal of the Order of the Double Dragon and Blue Button conferred on the late Mr. Edward Wyon by the Empress of China

A Gold Badge presented to the late Mr. Edward Wyon for his services in supervising the erection of the Imperial Mint at Canton 1892

A translation of a letter from The Imperial Mint (23 October 1893) requesting that the Mint accept the above Gold Badge through Edward Wyon (2 photos)

3 images on same photograph – a portrait of Mr. Ralph Heaton J.P., the Imperial Mint Canton, employees of the Imperial Mint

Chinese document

Cantonese coins 1887

Shen si province coins 1898

Hunan province coins 1898

Hong Kong coins 1865, 1880, 1892

Nanking province coins 1896

Cantonese coins 1889

MS 1623 Records of Birmingham Mint

MS 1623 [Alt. ref. no. 40.5] File: 'Canton 1888', 1887 - 1963

Contains papers relating to the supply of machinery and the erection of the Imperial Mint , Canton, by Ralph Heaton & Sons, 1887-1893, including:

Canton Mint Contract 1887 (2 copies, one in Cantonese or Mandarin ? and one in English)

Testimonial (in Cantonese/Mandarin?) from the Minster for China for the execution by Ralph Heaton and Son of an order for machinery for the Canton Mint. With accompanying letters and a translation (November 1888).

Letter 'To the Editor of the Times' regarding 'A Mint for China' (October 1888)

Letter to Ralph Heaton and Sons from the Chinese Legation requesting that members of the Chinese Imperial Commission be allowed to visit the Mint (20 October 1888)

Envelope: 'Chinese Cash' containing samples of three chinese coins made at the Paris Mint 1887

One volume: '1890 Canton Mint – E. Wyon's Code for cabling'. containing explanations of code words used by Edward Wyon whilst working at the Imperial Mint, Canton

Papers relating to the presentation to Ralph Heaton & Sons through Edward Wyon of a gold badge from the Imperial Mint, Canton, including copies of the accompanying letters 1892-3, a replica of one side of the badge, letters regarding the valuation and translation of the symbols on the badge 1963

Transcript of an agreement regarding the employment of Edward Wyon at the Canton Mint, 3 October 1887

Newscuttings regarding the new Imperial Mint of Canton, 1887 and 1937

Printed sources:

Citizens' Committee of Protest against the Chinese Labour Ordinance, Birmingham. *Some facts as to the proposed importation of forced Chinese labour into the Transvaal Colony.* (1904). 7pp.[
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Notice in Chinese advertising the opening of a Chinese branch of the Workers' Union in Birmingham for foundry workers etc.

The Worker's Union Record, December 1917 [F 61.51]

Newspaper cuttings:

Birmingham Journal 18 August, 1827

Two Chinese women 'exhibiting' at the stork Hotel, New Street, 'the only two females of the Chinese Empire ever seen in Europe'. Mention is made of their small feet (3 inches). Entrance to see them was 1 shilling.

Birmingham Biographies, vol. 14, 1927-1928 **WHO??**

Birmingham Post 07/07/1927.

Birmingham Mail. 09/07/1927.

Birmingham Weekly Post. 08/10/1927

Birmingham Jewry. 1794 - 1914. ed. Zoe Josephs. Vol. I. pp. 110 - 128.

[LF 19.8]

Jacob Phillips, born in 1803, in Birmingham, was the first Western Jewish merchant to set up in Hong Kong, c. 1843/4, in partnership with Benjamin Phineas Moore, another Birmingham merchant. They also opened a branch in Shanghai.

S. Baxter, The Chinese and Vietnamese in Birmingham (1986)

Birmingham City Council Race Relations Unit, the Chinese in Birmingham: A Community Profile (n.d)

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*Birmingham City Council, The Chinese in Birmingham: A Community Profile (n.d)

*Birmingham City Council, The Vietnamese in Birmingham: A Community Profile (n.d)

Carl Chinn, Birmingham: The Great Working City (1994), p.100

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Birmingham Committee West China Appeal. Material sent by Prof. Servellin, China.
(1947).
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Robbins, Helen H. Our first Ambassador to China, an account of the life of George, Earl of Macartney, with extracts from his letters, and the narrative of his experiences in China, as told by himself, 1737-1806.
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Photographs:

Chinese Special Mission to the Metro Cammell Works, Saltley (Sir JB Stone), 1906. **WK/S2/14, WK/S2/15, WK/S2/16**

Chinese Restaurant, Snow Hill, Birmingham, 1959, **WK FOL B11 PRINT 6428**

Chinese New Year Celebrations, Birmingham, February 1994. **WK/B11/77330**

Records held by Business Insight, Central Library

Material relating to the economies of China and Hong Kong. Various directories refer to Birmingham firms, which have trading links with China.

Records at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: The City Sound Archive

Various oral history recordings.

Records at the Police Museum, Sparkhill

Registers of Aliens (c. 1919)