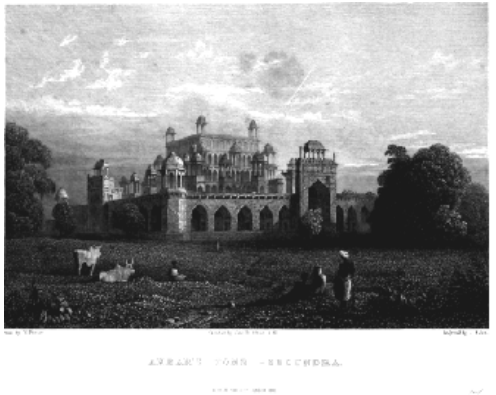
Digital Humanities in Asia:
Global Technologies and Local Knowledge
May 19-22, 2009
City University of Hong Kong



Global Access to Hidden Treasures

Peter Sidorko
Deputy University Librarian
The University of Hong Kong

20 May 2009

The University of Hong Kong Libraries
Caring Collaborative Creative
Your partner in intellectual excellence

The University of Hong Kong's Strategic Directions

- Enhancing Academic Excellence
- ***Raising Global Presence and Visibility***
- ***Partnering with Society and Serving the Community***
- Developing and Supporting "The University Family"

Knowledge Transfer and Knowledge Exchange

- Within a modern, knowledge driven economy, knowledge transfer is about transferring good ideas, research results and skills between universities, other research organisations, business and the wider community to enable innovative new products and services to be developed. (www.ost.gov.uk)
    - www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/redeflib/glossary/index.html
- The British Library described as a “Cathedral for Knowledge Transfer”.
    - http://www.bl.uk/knowledgetransfer/morenews.html

The HKU Libraries through its digitization projects, has opened up online access to local collections originally in print format only. The first HKUL Digital Initiative, ExamBase, was launched in 1996 and other projects of scholarly interests were subsequently introduced. More digital projects are being developed to provide continuous access to digital content and services.

HKUL Digital Initiatives

Google™ Custom Search Search

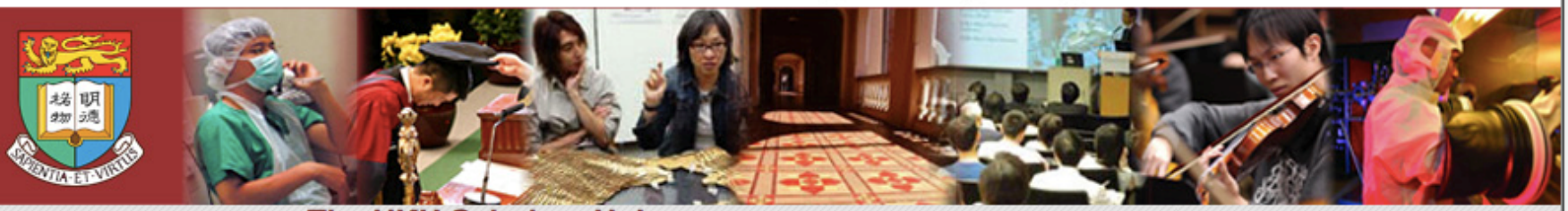
- Basic Law Drafting History Online
- Beijing Historical Geography Database 北京歷史地理數據庫 HKU ONLY
- China Through Western Eyes
- Chinese Collectanea in Japanese Libraries 日本見藏中國叢書目錄
- Community Health Projects
- e-Video HKU ONLY
- Electronic Gallery of HKU
- ExamBase HKU ONLY
- Fung Ping Shan Library Rare Book Catalogue
- Historical Laws of Hong Kong Online
- HKU Press Digital Editions HKU ONLY
- HKU Scholars Hub
- Hong Kong and the West until 1860
- Hong Kong Government Reports Online (1842-1941)
- Hong Kong Journals Online
- Hong Kong Listed Company Papers Online
- Hong Kong Newspaper Clippings Online HKU ONLY
- Hong Kong Oral History Archives
- Hong Kong Stock Market Archives and Artifacts Collection
- Hong Kong Tourism Board Collection
- Hong Kong Table of Contents Database
- Hong Kong University Theses Online
- Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance (PRDLA) Archive NEW
- The Last Governor Online HKU ONLY
- Sun Yat-sen in Hong Kong 孫中山在香港
- Translations from Chinese
- Union Catalogue of Overseas Chinese Collection in HKU and JU 華僑華人研究書目庫

Open Access and the Institutional Repository

- Open access (OA) is free, immediate, permanent, full-text, online access, for any user, web-wide, to digital scientific and scholarly material
    - en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access
- An Institutional Repository is an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating -- in digital form -- the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution.
    - en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional_repository

Open access: The HKU Scholars Hub

The HKU Scholars Hub The University of Hong Kong

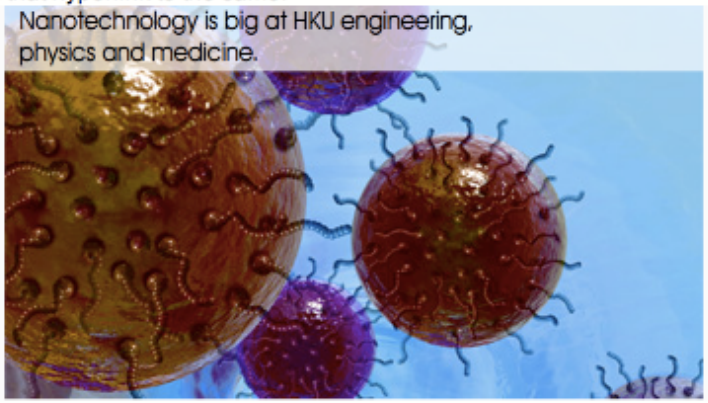


The HKU Scholars Hub

The Hub

- Advanced Search
- Fulltext Search SCIrUS
- Browse by Author
- Browse by Title
- Browse by Community
- Publisher Policies
- About the Hub
- Help
- To submit to the Hub? Please contact us

The HKU Scholars Hub is the institutional repository of The University of Hong Kong. It seeks to collect the intellectual output of HKU and make it available to the widest possible audience. Records are made in the Hub for items that are fulltext open access, or for URLs that hyperlink to the same.



Quick search of The Hub

Search the author, title, abstract and series fields.

Search

Search

For phrase search, please use quotation marks, for example, "Wann, John", or "Behavior Therapy".

Relevant Links

- HKU most cited articles in Scopus
- HKU research on the Web of Science
- HKU research & Scholarship
- Open access news

Featured Scholar

An interview on Open Access publishing with HKU Scholar Dr Brad McPherson, Speech and Hearing, Faculty of Education.

The HKU Scholars Hub The University of Hong Kong

Author Page for "Bacon-Shone, J.H."

The Hub Online

Search

- Advanced Search
- Serius Full Txt
- Collection

Browse

- Title
- Author
- Date

Statistics

HKU Author Pages

Publishers Policies

About the Hub

Submission

Prof. Bacon-Shone, John Hugh

白景崇

Variants: Bacon-Shone, J.H.
Baconshone, J.
Bacon-shone, John

Social Sciences Research Centre

Tel.: (852) 3921 2600

Email: johnbs@hku.hk

Personal web page Hide details

Biography

John Bacon-Shone is Associate Dean of Social Sciences, Director of the Social Sciences Research Centre and Professor at The University of Hong Kong. Previously, he served two terms as elected Dean of Social Sciences and was a member of the Statistics Department in The University of Hong Kong. John was educated at the University of Birmingham (PhD), University College London (MSc) and the University of Durham (BSc). He was headhunted to be a full-time Member of the Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong SAR Government from 1998 to 2001. His current research interests encompass a wide range of topics including compositional data, gambling, immigration and population policy, privacy policy and telephone survey methodology.

Citations

Scopus
Paper Count: 23
Citation Count: 45
Find "Bacon-Shone, J.H." on Scopus
Find "Baconshone, J." on Scopus
Find "Bacon-shone, John" on Scopus

ISI Web of Science
Paper Count: 17
Citation Count: 12
Find "Bacon-Shone, J.H." on ISI

Content Type & Number of items

- All Items 24,904
- Thesis & Diss 14,998
- Article 3,675
- Conference Paper 2,162
- Thesis Abstract 1,345
- Thesis TOC 542
- U/G Thesis 455
- Postprint 432
- Abstract 197
- Moving Image 188
- Student Project 169
- Learning Object 165
- Book 164
- Presentation 115
- Image 101
- Patent 88
- Newspaper Article 56
- Journal 11
- Preprint 5
- Book Chapter 4
- Finding Aid 1

Output

- Global access to HKU scholarly content
- Increased visibility of the work of HKU and its scholars
- Increased citation counts for HKU scholarly works
- Greater global impact of HKU scholarship.

Rare Book Digitisation Project

A HKUL-iGroup Collaboration

Project Scope: Phase 1

- Digitization, i.e. scanning of images and production of 4,000 e-books (about 1,200,000 images) in 12 months
- Rare, out-of-copyright books on China and Asia written in English
- Project started in July 2008

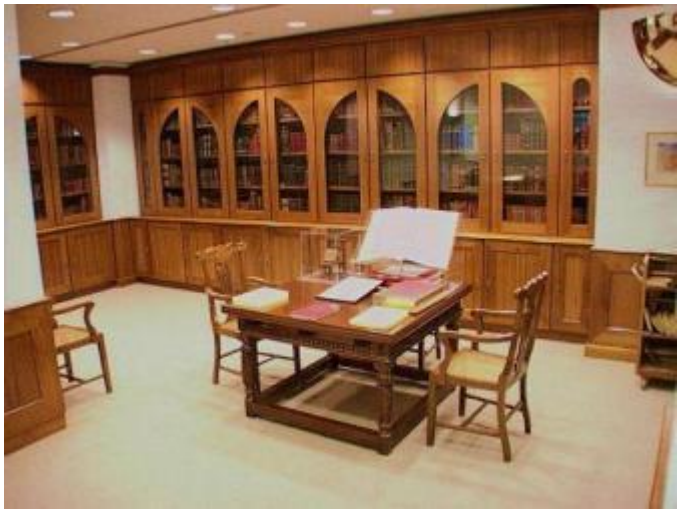
Motivators

- Preservation
- Access
- Improving searching capabilities
- Supporting teaching and research
- Strengthening the role of HKU Libraries as a digital content provider.

Books to be digitized

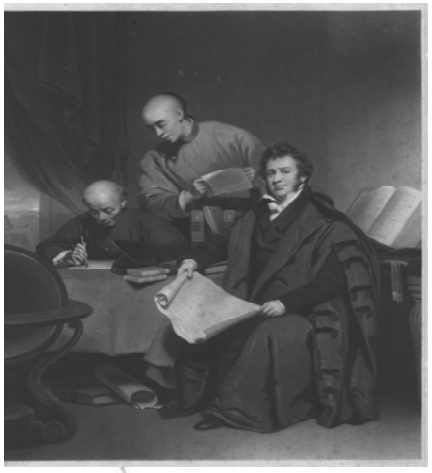
Western Rare books about Asia, including:

A. Morrison Collection
B. Hankow Collection
C. Chater Collection …



A. Morrison Collection

- Formerly Library of the Morrison Education Society, an educational institution set up in 1836 to further the work of Rev Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary in China
- Opened in Old English Factory, Guangzhou, in early 1838

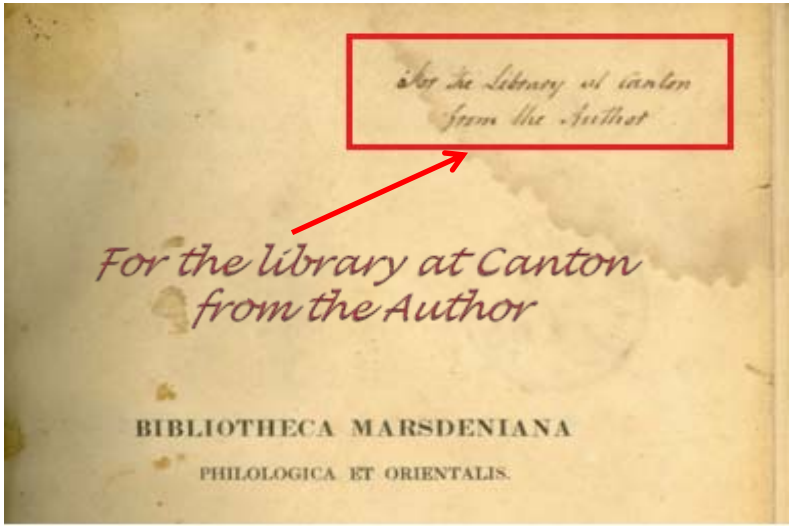


Books from:

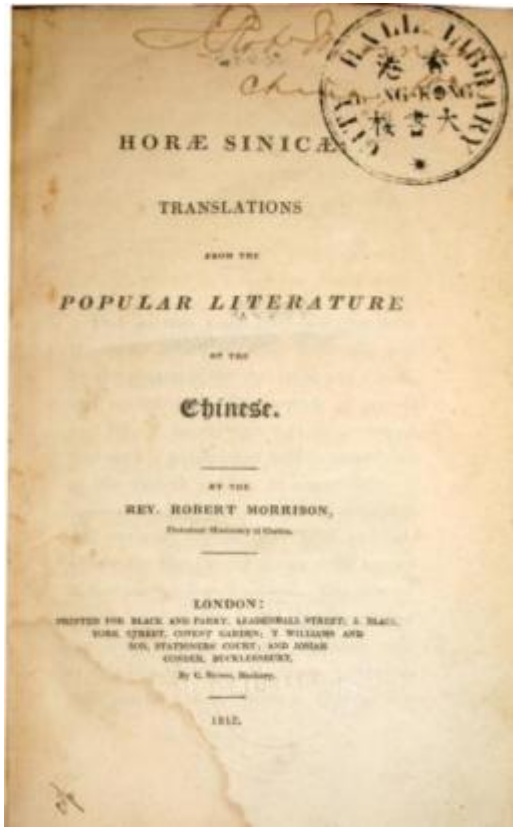
- Library at the English Factory (1806-1834)

Thomas R. Colledge

No. 10. Canton Factories. c. 1815. Oil. Chinese Artist.



Robert Morrison's books from his son, John R. Morrison, when he passed away in 1843



HORÆ SINICÆ

TRANSLATIONS

FROM THE

POPULAR LITERATURE

OF THE

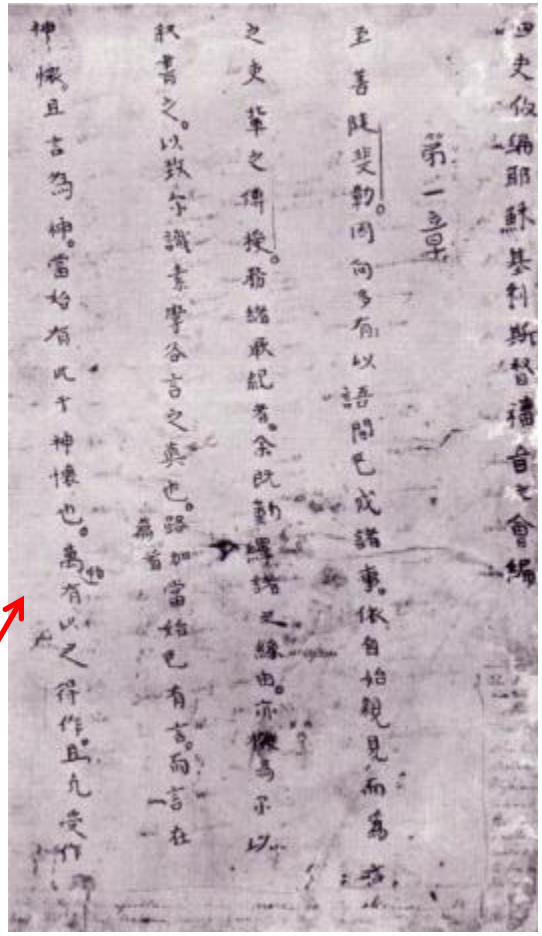
Chinese.

BY THE

REV. ROBERT MORRISON,

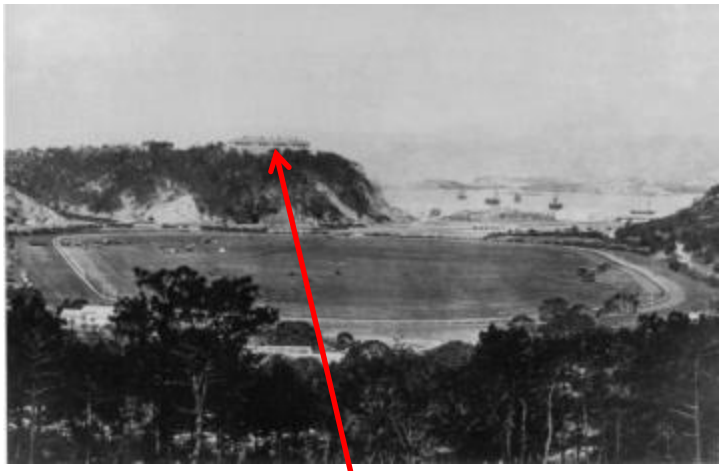
LONDON:

1812.

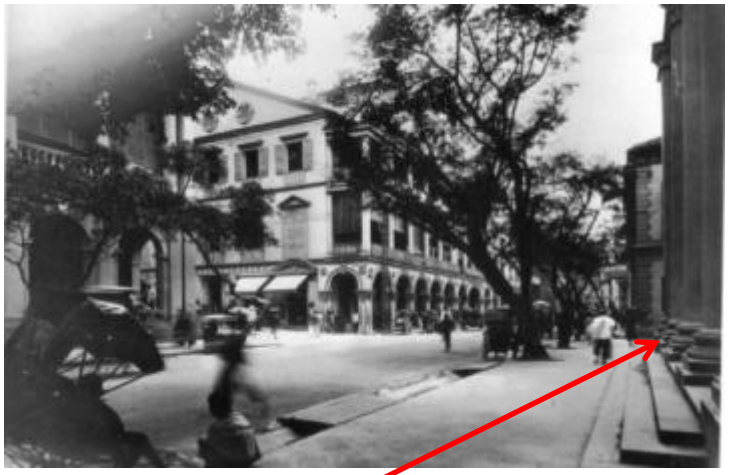


Bible Manuscript

From Guangzhou to HKU



1842 Morrison Hill



???? Old Court House

1869 City Hall

1913 HKU

The Collection

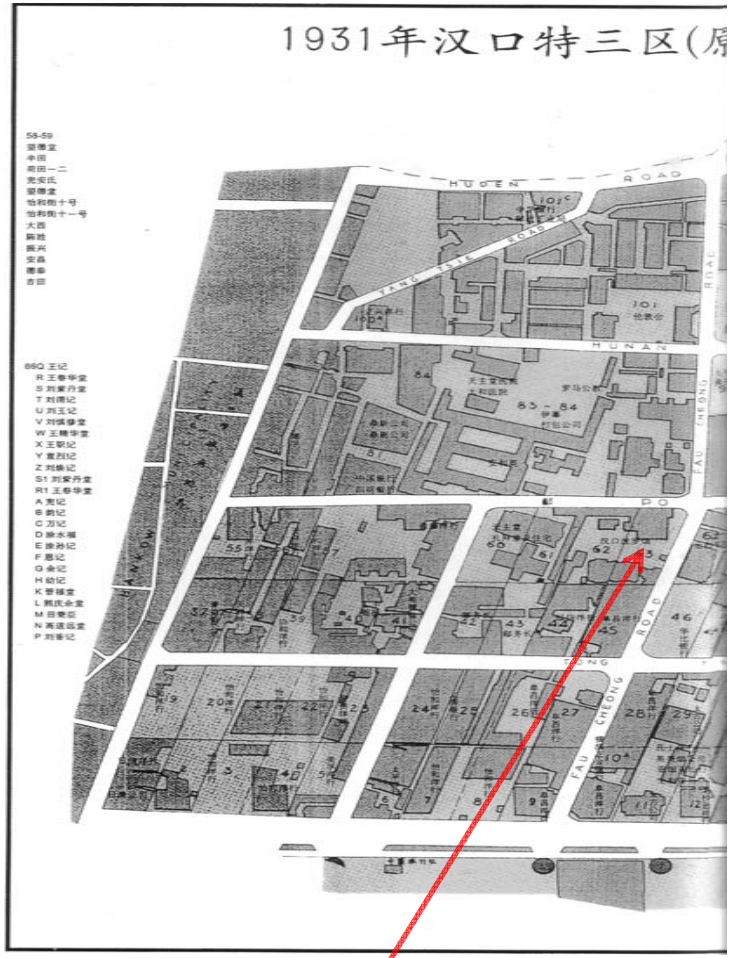
- No new additions since 1869
- Representative of the period
- Bible in different languages
- Some books on China
- 1,284 titles in 2,726 volumes

B. Hankow Collection

- The British founded the Hankow Club in 1878 to provide amenities for the foreign communities in Hankow
- A place for fun and social gatherings
- In Chinese the Club was called 「大波樓」 and 「波羅館」(Chinese translation of pool?)

Where was it?

Hankow



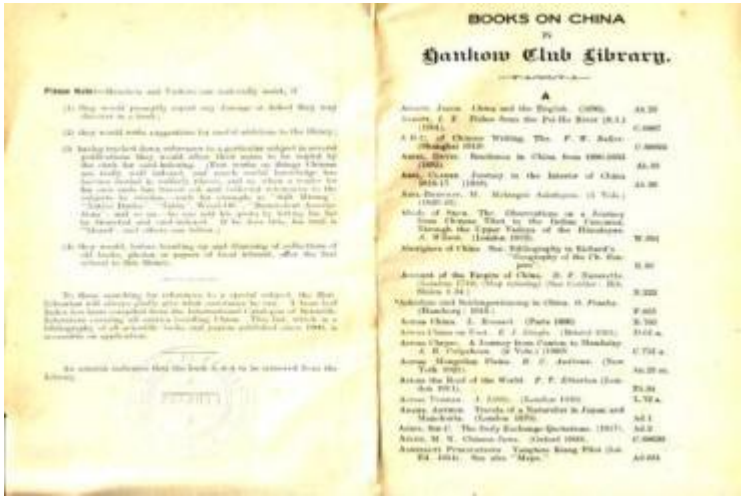
Hankow Club

The first library in the foreign concessions in Hankow

- Honorary Librarian – Dr A.H. Skinner, a British physician who lived in Hankow for 30 years
- The Library came to accumulate one of the best Far Eastern Collections in any library in China in the early twentieth century

About the Library

- Card catalogue
- Book catalogue
- Book selection policy
- Library regulations



BOOKS ON CHINA

IN

Hankow Club Library.

From Hankow to HKU

- China's Recovery of the British Concession in Hankow in 1927
- Exodus of foreigners from Hankow
- The Hankow Club decided to sell books
- HKU bought the 'China' section of the library collection in 1932 for HK$25,000
- Three thousand (3,000) volumes of books and journals with an emphasis on the Far East

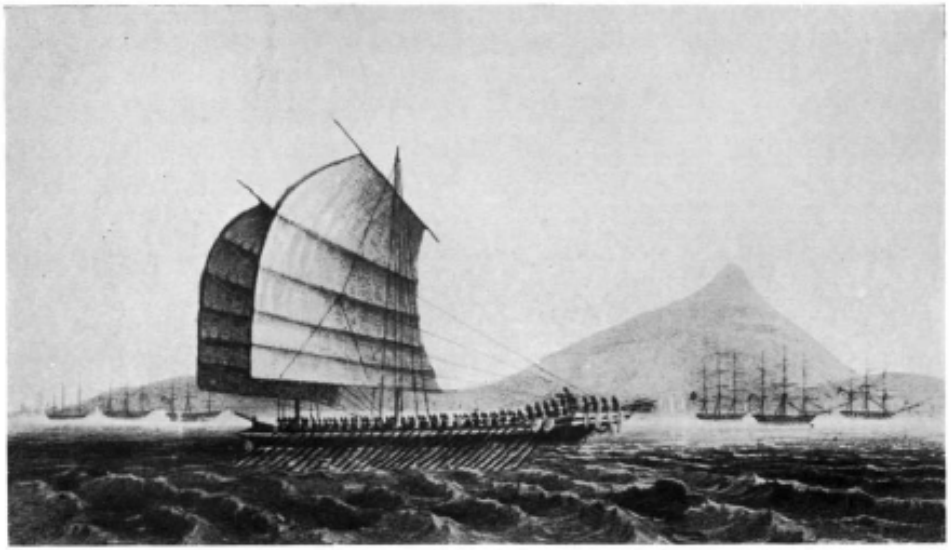
C. Chater Collection

- Sir Paul Chater built up a fine collection of oil paintings, print sketches, books and photographs on China.
- He passed away in 1926 and bequeathed his collection to Hong Kong.

The Collection

- Sir Cecil Clementi, Governor of Hong Kong from 1925 to 1930, presented the 54 rare Chater *books* to the University in 1927
- Book list available at *The Chater collection: pictures relating to China, Hongkong, Macao, 1655-1860* by James Orange (1924)
- Mainly 19th century imprints
- Some with excellent illustrations

No. 1. Peking. c. 1700. Engraving. Auriquès.



No. 1. Opium Fleet and Smuggler's Boat, Lintin. *c.* 1830. Lithograph. L. Haghe.

THE CHATER COLLECTION

PICTURES relating to CHINA, HONGKONG, MACAO, 1655-1860; with HISTORICAL and DESCRIPTIVE LETTERPRESS by JAMES ORANGE AUTHOR OF 'JAPANESE LACQUER,' 'BIZENWARE,' Etc.

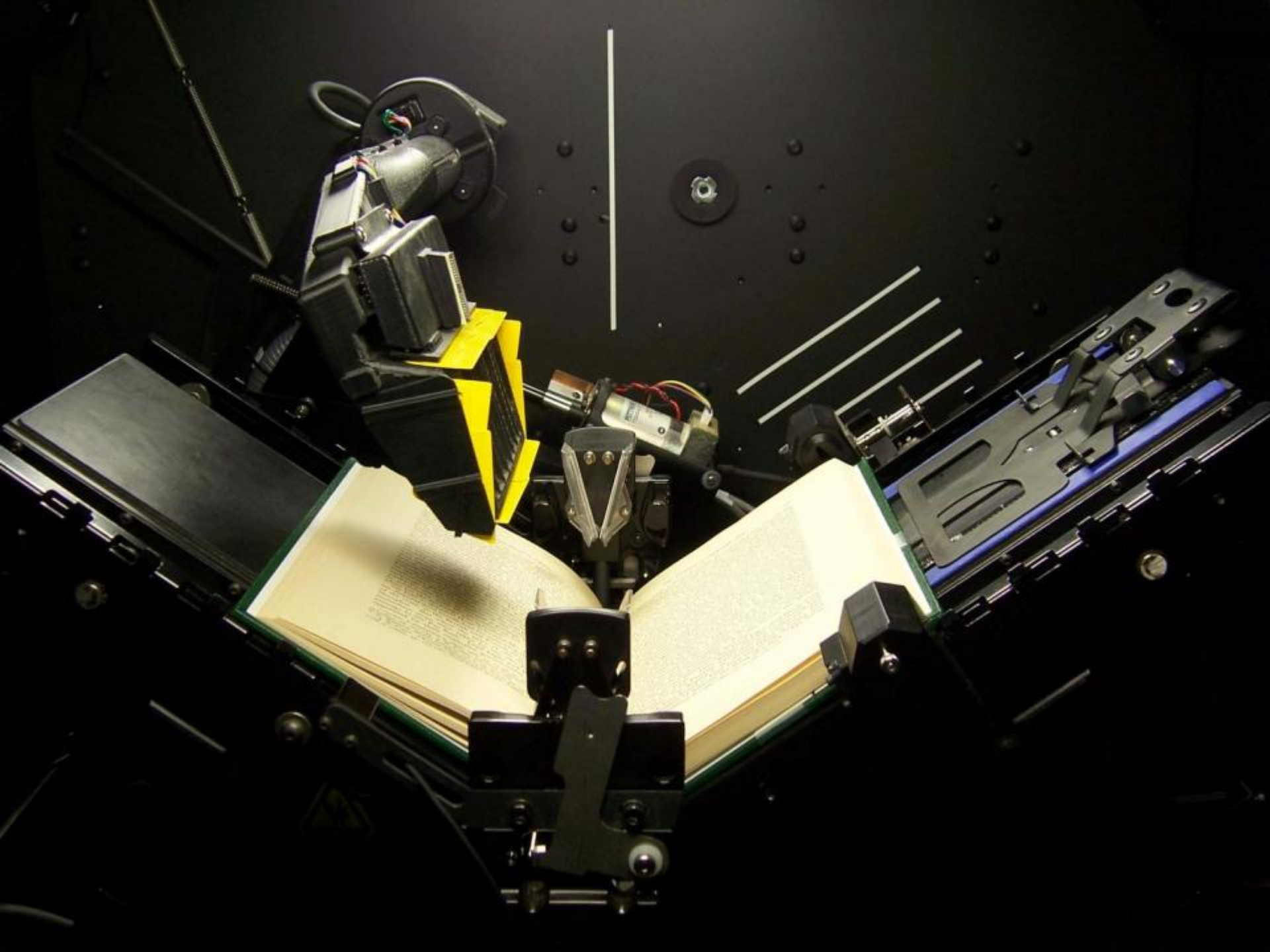
THORNTON BUTTERWORTH LIMITED
15 BEDFORD STREET, LONDON, W.C.2

Scanners

- Kirtas APT 2400 - an automatic book digitization device that features an integrated automatic page-turning robot

The Kirtas APT 2400

- 2400 images per hour
- Two 16.6 megapixel cameras – simultaneous L/R capture
- Auto adjusting cradle (as pages decrease/increase)
- Adjustable, robotic vacuum arm changes pages
- “Page fluffers”



ATIZ BookDrive DIY

- Book scanning platform with a v-shaped, auto-adjusting book cradle and platen to capture images with no page curvature and is easy on book bindings
- 700 pages per hour

A manual Kirtas!

Regional Workflow

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations or ReliefWeb. These maps may be freely distributed. If more current information is available, please update the maps and return them to ReliefWeb for posting.

Regional Workflow

HKU (Hong Kong)

1. Inspect and select books (HKU)
2. Scanning at HKU Main Library (iGroup)

iGroup (Thailand)

3. Editing and cleaning
   - Quality control of every image
4. OCR for text and metadata

Regional Workflow

iGroup (Singapore)

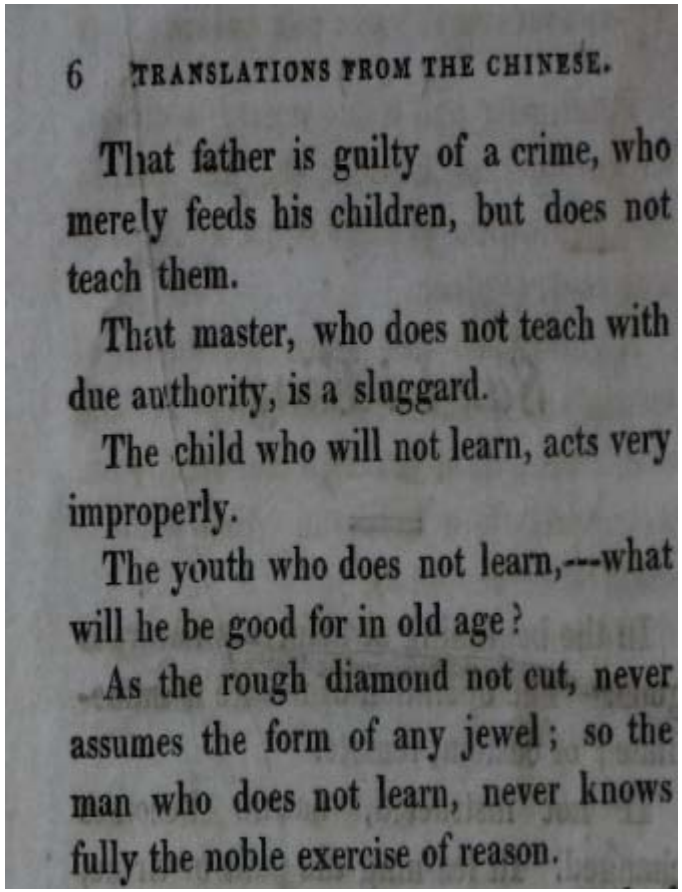
- Publishing as an ebook on iGroup platform
- E-distribution, or,

iGroup (Taiwan)

- Print on demand

Some examples

Raw image from camera



6 TRANSLATIONS FROM THE CHINESE.

That father is guilty of a crime, who merely feeds his children, but does not teach them.

That master, who does not teach with due authority, is a sluggard.

The child who will not learn, acts very improperly.

The youth who does not learn,---what will he be good for in old age?

As the rough diamond not cut, never assumes the form of any jewel; so the man who does not learn, never knows fully the noble exercise of reason.

Cleaned image

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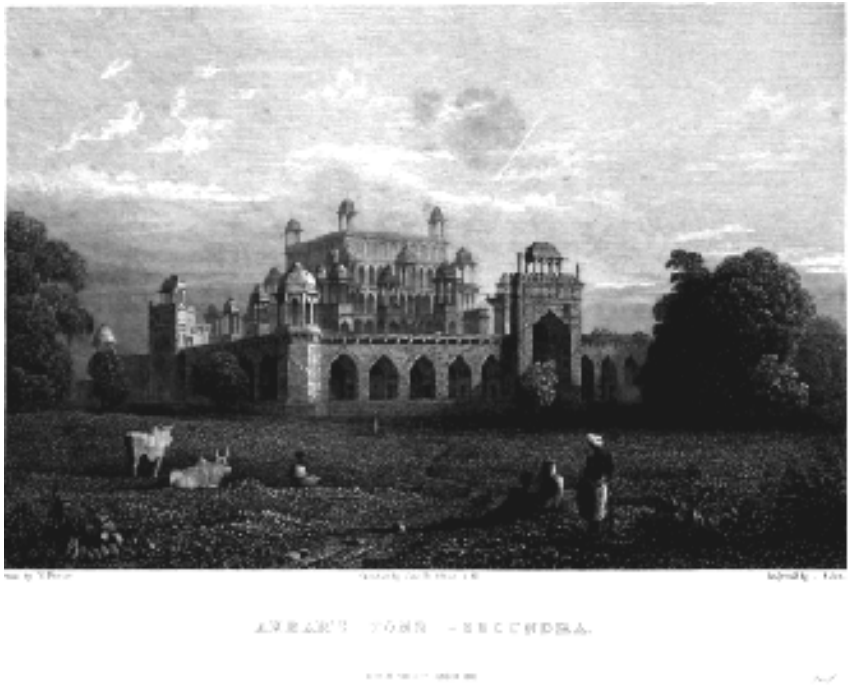
Some examples

Raw image from camera

Cleaned image



Challenges

- Lighting and setup/layout of book
- Removing book stains and OCR accuracy
- Tightly bound books/thick books
- Uneven surfaces from humidity etc
- Aligning pages and opposite pages
- Odd sized books
- Folded maps & plans
- Old fonts difficult to OCR
- Human intervention required most of the time.

Output

- A Database of e-books of Western language material, many humanities based, many rare, many about China and South East Asia
- A Print on Demand (PoD) service to print a copy of any of the books and have it delivered.

Thank you!

The University of Hong Kong
Libraries
Caring Collaborative Creative
Your partner in intellectual excellence