HOLDINGS OF ‘YONGLE DADIAN’ IN EUROPEAN LIBRARIES

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There are currently 59 volumes of Yongle dadian 永樂大典 in Europe, 51 being in United Kingdom libraries, 5 in Germany, and 3 in the Republic of Ireland. They are distributed as follows: British Library (24), Bodleian Library (19), School of Oriental and African Studies Library (5),2 Ethnologisches Museum (4), Chester Beatty Library (3), Cambridge University Library (2), University of Aberdeen Historic Collections (1), and Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (1). There used to be two further volumes in United Kingdom libraries: the first was in the London Library, but this was sold to a New York dealer in 1971 and its present whereabouts is unknown;3 the second was in the library of Aberdeen Grammar School, and presumably perished in the fire of 1986 which destroyed the library and its contents.4

Aside from these volumes, details of which are given in the Table below, there is a slight possibility that a few more may either be in private hands or lie unidentified in other libraries. Also, volumes that were once in Europe have from time to time found their way elsewhere. For example, Herbert A. Giles once had five volumes, but only two were given to United Kingdom libraries (the British Museum and Cambridge), the other three went to the Library of Congress.5 Liang Qichao 梁啟超 bought seven

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1 I am grateful to following colleagues for their help in gathering detailed information, especially on provenance: Frances Wood and Graham Hutt (British Library), Charles Aylmer (Cambridge University Library), Myrtle Anderson-Smith (University of Aberdeen Historic Collections), and Laura Muldowney (Chester Beatty Library). This account is a modification of a paper presented at the international conference held at the National Library of China in April 2002 to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the compilation of Yongle dadian, and was originally entitled Holdings of ‘Yongle dadian’ in United Kingdom libraries. This was published the following year in the conference proceedings (《永樂大典》編纂600周年國際研討會論文集, see Bibliography). It was subsequently expanded to include extant volumes in the whole of Europe, and has appeared in the booklets accompanying the National Library of China’s facsimiles of the European holdings of Yongle dadian.

2 One of the five volumes is in the Percival David Foundation collection, which is administered by the School of Oriental and African Studies.

3 The volume contained juan 11368-11369, and had 44ff. It had been given to the Library in May or June, 1914 by Wilfred Merton Esq., whose address at the time was Highfield, Slindon Common, Nr Arundel, Sussex. It was put up for auction at Sotheby’s on 27 April 1971 (lot 273) and was purchased by the late New York dealer Martin Breslauer for £700. It appears in the listings of both Yuan and Zhang, and was included in the 1960 Zhonghua Shuju reprint. Earlier in 1914, Merton had lent another volume to the London Library for exhibition which he kept, and gave to Chester Beatty in 1954 (see Table, juan 19865-19866).

4 Dr Alan Knox has drawn my attention to this volume and the circumstances of its acquisition and loss. The School’s magazine notes that in 1905 the volume had recently come into its possession “through the kindness of Mr R.S. [recte R.R.] Hynd, late of Peking, now of Shanghai.” Its presence in the School’s museum is again noted in 1922 in a piece recording the donation of another volume to Aberdeen University by James Russell Brazier (Table, juan 11907). Both gentlemen had been pupils of the school, Brazier from 1878 to 1880, and both had been present at the Siege, Brazier in the employ of the Inspectorate of the Imperial Maritime Customs, Hynd of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. See Aberdeen Grammar School magazine, 8:2 (March 1905), 41; 25:2 (March 1922), 82.

5 Giles, H.A. Juán 19789-19790 went to the British Museum library (now the British Library), and juán 16343-16344 went to Cambridge University Library. The three volumes that went to the Library of Congress are juán 13344-13345, 19742-19743, and 19792. Only in the case of juán 13344-13345 is
volumes from the London booksellers Luzac & Co. during his visit to England in the summer of 1919. All were taken abroad: three found their way back to China, where they are now in the National Library of China, two went to Cornell, one is in the National Central Library in Taiwan, and the seventh seems to be lost.

It is only possible to construct a detailed provenance for a relatively small number of these volumes, but where known, the provenance indicates that their removal from China can be traced to the events of Saturday 23 June, 1900, when the Hanlin Library was destroyed. Although many thousands of volumes had been removed from the Library before that time, particularly during the period after the compilation of *Siku quanshu* 四庫全書, there is nothing to suggest that any of the volumes currently in Europe can be traced to this earlier period of loss. It is therefore appropriate to examine briefly the events of that day.

Threatened by the eruption of anti-foreign sentiment that reached its peak in the spring of 1900 under the Yihequan 義和拳 (“Boxer”) movement, the foreign residents of Peking sought safety in the Legation Quarter, a large area near the south-east corner of the Imperial City. The largest legation was the British, whose northern boundary was formed by the southern wall of the Hanlin Academy. Into its compound were gathered members of the Consular Service, the Imperial Maritime Customs, local missionaries and other workers, together with a limited number of troops that had been brought from British ships anchored at Taku in order to defend them. The period between mid-June, when the foreigners began to retreat into their compound, and 14 August, when allied troops entered Peking and relieved them, is known as the “Siege of the Legations”.

By that time, the Chinese government had legitimised the Boxer assault on foreign interests and assumed command of their forces, and in the morning of Saturday 23 June, some 250 soldiers of General Dong Fuxiang 董福詳 occupied the Hanlin Academy and set fire to some of its buildings in the hope that the wind, which was in

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6 Giles, Lionel (1920), 144. In their heyday, Luzac’s handled quite a few volumes of *Yongle dadian*. Their special catalogue of “a Chinese library formed by a gentleman of literary tastes and considerable expert knowledge during a residence in Peking extending over several years” contains juan 11887-11888 and 13876-13878 which were acquired by the British Museum (Luzac, 1908, 19-20). This gentleman was Sir Edmund Trelawney Backhouse. The bulk of his collection, including the contents of most of the Luzac catalogue and a further 11 volumes of *Yongle dadian*, was subsequently given to the Bodleian Library, but not before some other items had also been sold elsewhere. Two further volumes were advertised in 1912: juan 15950-15951, now in the Library of Congress, and juan 15957-15958, now in New York Public Library (Luzac, 1912). Three more juan were advertised the following year, but the juan numbers are not specified (Luzac, 1913). In 1919, five volumes were advertised: juan 13494-13495, 13506-13507, and 20648-20649, now in the National Library of China; juan 13991, formerly in the possession of Ye Gongchuo 番禺葉恭綽, its present whereabouts unknown; and juan 20478-20479, also formerly in the possession of Ye Gongchuo and now in the National Central Library in Taiwan (Luzac, 1919). These five volumes were among the seven acquired by Liang, the other two being juan 19781-19782 and 19783-19784, neither of these appears in a Luzac catalogue, and both are now in Cornell University. Finally, a volume appears in their “short list” of 1926, juan 19737-19739 (Luzac, 1926). This is the Allen volume (see table below) that was subsequently acquired by Cambridge University Library. The provenance of none of the Luzac volumes can be established from company archives, as these are said to have been disposed of and presumably destroyed some twenty years ago.
the north, would blow the flames towards the Legation quarter and set fire to it. Previously, foreigners had been forbidden to enter the Academy, and they were well aware of the awe in which it was held by the Chinese. But on this occasion, it was thought necessary not only to extinguish the flames that threatened to engulf the Legation, but also to flush out the forces that were endangering it from close quarters. Accordingly, permission was sought from Captain B.M. Strouts, commandant of the British marine guard at the Legation\(^\text{7}\), for a small detachment to enter the Academy. The wall was breached, and a party of 10 British marines, 5 American marines, 5 Customs volunteers, Dr George Ernest Morrison (Peking correspondent of The Times), and L.H.R. Barr (a “Student Interpreter” at the British Legation) was led into the Academy by Captain Francis Poole, a British army officer who was studying Chinese in Peking at the time, and who had been given command of the volunteers during the Siege and made responsible for the defence of the northern boundary of the Legation. They expelled the Chinese forces, and brought the fires under control.\(^\text{8}\)

Later, they helped themselves to the remnants of Yongle dadian, after many of the volumes, according to one report, had been used by both sides to strengthen their barricades.\(^\text{9}\)

A photograph taken in the aftermath of these events shows Poole sitting in the Academy, with what appear to be volumes of the Yongle dadian on the floor. He obtained a single volume, which his widow sold to the British Library in 1960.\(^\text{10}\) Thomas Biggin (of the London Missionary Society) “found” a volume in the Hanlin ruins which he gave to the Bodleian Library in 1907.\(^\text{11}\) It seems that two of the volumes currently in the School of Oriental and African Studies were taken by Morrison.\(^\text{12}\) In his memoirs, Lancelot Giles says:

> “The Library was almost entirely destroyed; an attempt was made to save the famous Yung lu [sic] ta tien, but heaps of volumes had been destroyed, so the attempt was given up. I secured volume 13,345 (!!) for myself, merely as a specimen.”

But he also secured others, and presented a different one to Cambridge University Library.\(^\text{13}\) At least three volumes were obtained by James Russell Brazier, who at the time of the Siege was Chief Secretary of the Inspectorate of the Imperial Maritime

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\(^7\) Strouts was in charge of the defence of the Legation, but was wounded in the abdomen and died of his injuries on Monday 16 July at the age of 30. His grave can be seen in one of the glass negatives taken by Lancelot Giles at the time of the siege, and now kept in Cambridge University Library. His initials are mistakenly given as R.M. in Giles, Lancelot, 184 (note 48).

\(^8\) Grinstead, 31-32, quoting Poole’s unpublished diary; Giles, Lancelot, 186; Allen, 125-127; Oliphant, 38-39; &c.

\(^9\) Arlington & Lewisohn, 16. I do not know the contemporary source of this information.

\(^10\) Grinstead, plate XV. Table, juan 6933-6934.

\(^11\) Table, juan 14607-14609.

\(^12\) Table, juan 3944-3945, 13629. However, these two volumes are not among the ten seen by Léonard Aurousseau (80, 82-86) in Morrison’s outstanding personal collection in Peking. This collection consisted mostly of books in western languages, and was sold to Baron Hisaya Iwasaki in August 1917 (Enoki, 30). It was not until after his death in 1920 that Baron Iwasaki acquired seven of Morrison’s ten volumes of Yongle dadian (Enoki, 36, n.3). These seven volumes passed into the Toyo Bunko following its foundation by Baron Iwasaki in 1924. Of the remaining three, two went to Cornell, and one to the British Museum (Table, juan 15955-15956).

\(^13\) Giles, Lancelot, 126; Table juan 16343-16344.
Customs. He gave one to his alma mater, the University of Aberdeen in 1922, and his son sold another two to Chester Beatty in 1954.14 Three of the four volumes in the Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin were obtained by E.A.W von Strauch, who at the time of the Siege was in the employ of the Imperial Maritime Customs.15

The other volumes in European libraries whose provenance can be traced either from inscriptions on the books themselves or from secondary sources all point, like these, to those present in the Legation at the time of the Siege or the period immediately following it.

Far from regarding themselves as thieves, they later congratulated themselves on being the saviours of these precious fragments. One of the first to publish an account of the Siege was the Rev. Roland Allen, who was chaplain to the British Legation and himself obtained a volume:

“It is interesting, almost amusing, to consider the action of the British in regard to the literary treasures of the Hanlin. At that moment of peril the volunteers not only considered their own salvation, they actually took steps to preserve some of the beautiful and priceless manuscripts stored in the halls ... “16

And the well-known sinologist Herbert A. Giles (father of Lancelot, quoted above) said in a popular magazine of the time:

“ ... the only hands stretched forward to save [Yongle dadian] from destruction were those of the foreigners from whom it had been so jealously withheld.”17

They, and others who recorded their experiences at the time, all either knew – or learned – that with the destruction of the Hanlin library, China had lost one of its most precious literary treasures.18

Both the British Museum and the Bodleian Library were given the opportunity of acquiring three further volumes in 1922, when a British army officer stationed in Cologne offered them for sale. Details of this episode are contained in a letter, together with photographs of the first page of each volume, tipped into the first volume that the Bodleian Library acquired, the one given by Thomas Biggin in 1907.19 According to the letter, these three volumes had been “salved by a German officer”. In the event, they subsequently went to Leipzig University and were returned to China by the government of the Deutsche Demokratische Republik in December

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14 Table, juan 11907, 803-806, 10110-10112.
15 Table, juan 903-904, 1033, 13189-13190.
16 Allen, 127-128.
17 Giles, H.A. 665.
18 Allen (loc. cit.) refers to the report that Sir Claude MacDonald (Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain in China) sent a message to the Tsungli Yamen informing them of the destruction of archives that was taking place in the Hanlin Academy, but the message was ignored. Arlington & Lewisohn (18) also confirm this “undisputed fact”. Oliphant (39) observed that “most of the present dynasty’s records were saved, as we saw much being taken away from there some ten days ago”, and expresses the view that the Chinese did this with the intention of enabling the Hanlin buildings to be burned “with little damage to themselves”.
19 Table, juan 14607-14609.
1955.\textsuperscript{20} There used to be two volumes in Hamburg University, but these were returned to China by Wolfgang Franke in exchange for other books.\textsuperscript{21} Sixty-four volumes had been “looted by the Tsarists and the Japanese invaders” and were formerly held in the Soviet Union, but “under the leadership of Comrade Stalin” these were returned to China in three stages in the early 1950s.\textsuperscript{22}

Such is the totality of European holdings of \textit{Yongle dadian} at the present time, so far as can be told. The question arises, are more volumes awaiting discovery? It is possible that some volumes are still owned by private individuals, such as that acquired as recently as 1989 by the British Library\textsuperscript{23}, or even by the families or other legatees of those involved in the Siege; we shall only know that if they are offered to libraries or come on to the market. But it is also possible that volumes are lying unrecognised for what they are in libraries that do not, in general, hold Chinese books, such as that recently identified in Aberdeen.\textsuperscript{24} The most likely institutions would be university libraries, the libraries of country houses, of religious foundations, or even of the more prestigious schools.

This is the mystery of European holdings of \textit{Yongle dadian} at the present time.
The volumes of *Yongle dadian* in European libraries are not only valued and stored in conditions that are both secure and environmentally sound, but are also in an excellent state of repair. A higher proportion than usual in collections of old Chinese books have suffered from the effects of damp in the past, almost certainly as a result of their treatment during the Siege. Unfortunately, two of the very earliest acquisitions, one in the British Library and the other in the Bodleian, were given entirely inappropriate western bindings. It is to the credit of Herbert A. Giles that he observed at a time when attitudes to conservation were less enlightened:

“A son of mine, Mr Lancelot Giles, ... sent me five volumes [of *Yongle dadian*] which he had rescued at the time; and of these I gave, on his behalf, one to the Cambridge University Library, and one to the British Museum. The latter was a wasted gift. Measuring 20 x 12 inches, and wrapped in a characteristic yellow cover, Sir R. Douglas, who was then in charge of the Chinese Department, caused this beautiful book to be cut down and bound in buckram!”

Only in two cases has major repair work been necessary – to a volume in the British Library and the volume at Aberdeen – and in both cases it was conducted in accordance with the highest modern standards and in full respect to the form of the original.

During the 1920s and 30s, Yuan Tongli 袁同禮 made great efforts to discover the whereabouts of all extant volumes of *Yongle dadian*, and to obtain photoreproductions of them for what was then known as the “National Library of Peiping”. In exchange for these he gave manuscript facsimiles of other volumes which preserve all aspects of the original, including not only size and binding, but even any repairs to the binding and *Siku quanshu* forms where present. These facsimiles are not without interest, and are listed in the appendix to the Table below, along with some high-quality printed facsimiles that have also been produced from time to time.

All the volumes of *Yongle dadian* in European libraries are reproduced either in the Zhonghua Shuju reprint of 1960 or its supplement of 1984, with the exception of two volumes in the British Library, two volumes in the Chester Beatty Library, and the recently discovered volume in Aberdeen. One of the two British Library volumes is particularly valuable as it forms a consecutive sequence with other extant *juan* on the subject of geomancy, and contains some interesting illustrations. This, together with the other British Library volume and the two volumes in the Chester Beatty Library was reproduced by Shanghai Cishu Chubanshe in 2003, so that the only volume in Europe not currently available in print is the one in Aberdeen.

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25 Aylmer, 42; Table, *juan* 16343-16344, 19789-19790.
26 Table, *juan* 13201-13203, 11907; Megaw & Sterlini.
27 In a letter dated 28 December 1929 to Professor W.E. Soothill (Oxford), T.L. Yuan (Yuan Tongli), Acting Director of the National Library of Peiping [sic] seeks Soothill’s assistance in obtaining photostat copies of the Bodleian holdings of *Yongle dadian* at that time, and continues: “I must say that the British Museum has already consented to supply us with photostat prints of its Yung Lo Ta Tien, in original size, in exchange for facsimile MS. copies from us.”
28 Table, *juan* 11907, 13201-13203, 14219-14220.
29 Table, *juan* 14219-14220.
30 In 海外新發現永樂大典十七卷, see Bibliography.
Despite its exceptional interest, the autograph by the Qianlong emperor in the Percival David Foundation’s volume is not included in the Zhonghua Shuju reprint as it is not strictly part of *Yongle dadian*.\(^\text{31}\)

\(^{31}\) Table, *juan* 11312-11313.
### TABLE

**Legend**

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>BL</td>
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<td>SOAS</td>
<td>School of Oriental and African Studies Library, London</td>
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Y In Yuan Tongli’s list (see Bibliography)

Z In Zhang Chenshi’s list (see Bibliography)

R, R* Reproduced in the 1960/1984* Zhonghua Shuju reprint


Inscriptions are given in quotation marks. All volumes are in original binding and bear no Siku quanshu forms unless otherwise stated.

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<th>Juan</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Provenance and Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>803</td>
<td>CBL C 1756</td>
<td>Together with juan 10110-10112, this volume was purchased by Chester Beatty through H.C. Lowe (Department of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts, British Museum, and an advisor to Chester Beatty), on 21 September 1954. The extraordinary story of the purchase is told in a letter written on that day to James Vere Stewart Wilkinson (formerly an assistant keeper in the same department, but poached by Chester Beatty as his librarian in mid-1946). The letter confirms the content of a telephone call made earlier in the day: “Col. Brazier walked into the Dept. this morning when by luck I was in Mac’s [presumably Henry McAleavy’s] room; he was just on his way to K. &amp; P., to sell those two vols of the Chinese Encyclopedia for £100. I said I could offer him a better price at £110, he said he would feel happier at £120, so at this price we closed; he was happy, and SO WAS I.” A second letter written the following day (22 September 1954) records that John Wooderson, Chester Beatty’s secretary, had collected the volumes from the British Museum at 12 noon. The two letters are kept in the Chester Beatty Library Archives (Chester Beatty Papers 474). Both juan 803-806 and 10110-10112 are contained in silk-covered tao, whose construction and labels suggest that they were made in Peking. “Col. Brazier” is William Russell Brazier, born in Aberdeen in 1897, the son of James Russell Brazier who had given a single volume to the University of Aberdeen in 1922 (see juan 11907 below). The provenance of all three volumes can thus be traced to the Siege. H.</td>
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The seven volumes MS.Chin.a.17-23 were purchased by A.F.L. (“Freddie”) Beeston, Keeper of Oriental Books, from Mr James Cleugh for £100 in November 1950 (Bodleian Library, unreferenced correspondence in a box marked “Chinese” in the New Library, Room 127) and “are said to have been in the possession of Mr. H.B. Bristow, a member of the British Consulate in Tientsin in the eighteen-seventies” (Beeston, 199).

Bristow, the son of an inn keeper in South Lynn, Norfolk, entered the consular service in 1867 at the age of 18, and subsequently became consul at Chefoo and Tientsin. He retired on grounds of ill health in 1897, and does not appear to have been present during the Siege. There was however a “Student Interpreter” H.H. Bristow present at the Siege (Giles, Lancelot, 180) who was actually H.B. Bristow’s son, and it must have been he who acquired the volumes. None of them bears any inscriptions. Z. R.

Purchased from Frau und Herr von Strauch, Berlin (Pankow), on 29 September 1928, along with juan 1033 and 13189-13190. There is no sign of provenance on these three volumes. E.A.W von Strauch was present at the Siege, and was praised highly for the part he played in the defence of the legations by G.E. Morrison, who knew him well. At the time of the Siege he was in the service of the Imperial Maritime Customs. He is the subject of a lengthy footnote in Lo Hui-Min’s Correspondence of G.E. Morrison. (Lo, 545). All four volumes of Yongle dadian in the Ethnologisches Museum were rebound in the 1970s or 80s, and only the front covers were preserved, separately. There is water damage at the head and tail edges. Z.R.

Presented by Mr Cecil Kirke, C.B.E. in 1943 along with five other volumes: juan 3002, 6850-6851, 7389-7390, 8089-8090 and 20181-20182 (McAleavy, 36). His letter to the British Museum dated 14 November 1943 says: “Six volumes of the Yung Lo Ta Tien from the Han Lin Yüan in Peking came into my possession after the siege of the foreign Legations in that city in 1900. If they would be of any use to the Museum, I shall be glad to send them to you” (BL archives). Kirke is probably the C.C.A. Kirke who was a “Student Interpreter” and present at the Siege (Giles, Lancelot, 180). Date stamp 1944. Has a fine Siku quanshu form. Y (has 914 only owned by 「長興王氏」). Z. R*.

See juan 903-904 above. Has traces of a Siku quanshu form. There is water damage at the head and tail edges. Z. R.

See juan 807-808 above. Has a rather scrappy ms. Siku quanshu form. Z. R.

See juan 913-914 above. Date stamp 1944. Z. R*.

Accessioned and catalogued as one of a two volume set with juan 13629, 25 February 1946, from ‘Dr. Morrison’. Presumably, this is The Times Peking correspondent George Ernest Morrison (see above). Cover has been badly repaired and re-attached upside down. Y. Z. R.

Purchased from Leslie Sandercock, London Office of the Inspectorate General of the Imperial Maritime Customs, July 1910. The original front cover (see juan 903-904) is very dirty, with damp staining at head and tail edges. Z. R.
BOD MS.Chin.a.19
See juan 807-808 above. The cover labels are not present. Has a printed/ms. Siku quanshu form. Z. R.

BOD MS.Backhouse 1a
The eleven volumes MS.Backhouse 1a-k are part of the large Backhouse Collection that was received in stages between 1913 and 1922. Although Backhouse held himself aloof from other foreigners in Peking, he was present in the Legation during the Siege. As with almost all the other works in the Collection, there are no inscriptions or other indications of ownership on any of the Backhouse volumes. The cover labels are not present, nor is the half-leaf with the editors’ names. Has traces of a Siku quanshu form. Y. Z. R.

BL Or. 11757
See juan 913-914 above. Date stamp 1944. Has traces of a Siku quanshu form. Z. R*.

BL Or. 12674
Purchased for the sum of £52-10 on 21 November 1961 from Mrs. M. Poole of Bath, whose late husband, Capt. Francis Garden Poole, had been in charge of the boundary of the British Legation adjoining the Hanlin wall (see above). The acquisition of this volume is the subject of an article by Grinstead which quotes extracts from Poole’s unpublished diary and reproduces a photograph of him in the partially ruined Hanlin Library. It is a rich source of information on the exact details surrounding the Library’s destruction. R*.

SB Rara OA 2° 891338
Purchased for the sum of DM20,000 in the 1980s from Wolfgang Franke. It is not clear where he obtained it. Zhang lists it as being in the possession of “Kelong Jimo” 科隆基莫, whatever this may mean. It was reproduced from microfilm in the 1984 supplement. It is in good condition, the binding having been repaired before its purchase by the Staatsbibliothek, but there is water staining at the head and tail edges. Z. R.

BL Or. 11758
See juan 913-914 above. Date stamp 1944. Z. R*.

BOD MS.Backhouse 1b
Has traces of a Siku quanshu form. The volume bears the label of that containing juan 18203-18206, which is not included in the 1960/1984 Zhonghua Shuju reprint, and whose current whereabouts is unknown. The mis-labelling almost certainly took place before the volume reached the west. Y. Z. R.

BOD MS.Backhouse 1c
The cover labels are not present. Has traces of a Siku quanshu form. Y. Z. R.

BOD MS.Backhouse 1d
The cover labels are not present. Has traces of a Siku quanshu form. Y. Z. R.

BL Or. 12019

BL Or. 11759
See juan 913-914 above. Date stamp 1944. Has a printed/ms. Siku quanshu form. R*.
“Presented by C.H. Brewitt-Taylor, Esq. 14 February 1931.” The acquisition of this and the two other Brewitt-Taylor volumes (juan 8275 and 18244-18245) is recorded by Giles, Lionel (1931). Charles Henry Brewitt-Taylor (1857-1938) was Assistant Chinese Secretary at the Inspectorate General of the Imperial Maritime Customs, and was present at the Siege. Cannon (61) is of the view that his three volumes “were almost certainly picked up during the looting and probably bought (rather than directly looted) by B-T.” In a letter to Giles dated 30 January 1930 (BL archives) Brewitt-Taylor first loaned the volumes to the British Museum, asking for a receipt so that he could reclaim them; in a letter dated 18 December 1930 he says he has mislaid the receipt, but now wishes to donate them; and in a letter dated 4 January 1931, he says he has found the receipt, which he encloses, and adds: “Now you can destroy this receipt and therewith all the evidence that the three volumes of Yunglo ever belonged to me”, which Cannon interprets as sensitivity to “the evidence connecting him with the volumes and the post-Boxer looting.” Has a printed/ms. *Siku quanshu* form. Y. Z. R.

“Presented by C.H. Brewitt-Taylor, Esq. 14 February 1931.” See also juan 8268-8269 above. In bad condition. Restoration has not been attempted. Has a printed/ms. *Siku quanshu* form. Y. Z. R.

See juan 803-806 above. There is water damage and mould which spreads from the spine to the foredge, suggesting that the volume might have been standing on its foredge when doused with water. The yellow silk covers appear to be original, but the boards are rather limp. A red Chinese name slip kept with the volume bears the characters *bai lai xi* 白萊喜, presumably the Chinese name of James Russell Brazier. H.

Accessioned 6 July 1955, bequeathed by Professor E. Edwards. Evangeline Dora Edwards (b.1888) left for China as a missionary in 1913. After two years’ language study in Peking, in 1915 she became Principal of the Women’s Normal College in Mukden, where she met C.H. Brewitt-Taylor. She left Mukden in 1919, and returned to Britain. She was appointed lecturer at the School of Oriental Studies (SOAS) in 1921, and subsequently took the chair (Cannon, 90-91). How she acquired her volume of *Yongle dadian*, whether in Peking, from Brewitt-Taylor, or otherwise is not known. Although Brewitt-Taylor bequeathed all his Chinese materials to Edwards, he had already taken pains to dispossess himself of his volumes of *Yongle dadian* (see juan 8268-8269 above). Has traces of a *Siku quanshu* form. The volume has been rather damaged, and the cover repaired. Y. Z. R.

The cover labels are not present. Has traces of a *Siku quanshu* form. There are signs of old water damage. Y. Z. R.

Has traces of a *Siku quanshu* form. The volume bears the label of that containing juan 20428, which is included in the 1960/1984 Zhonghua Shuju reprint. Yuan notes that this volume is in Peiping Library, but it is not in the current catalogue of the National Library of China. Y. Z. R.
| PDF (no shelfmark, but kept in cupboard G’) | Of unknown provenance (but see below), like much else in the PDF. “31.7.51”. This volume is of outstanding interest, as it contains an autograph of Qianlong on a doubled sheet of paper the size of a full folio of the volume. All but the first of the ten folios of *juan* 11312 quote the text of (Song) Ni Si’s *Zhongmingjieguan banyulu* 重明節館伴語錄, and the autograph is Qianlong’s note on this, together with three of his seals. In the Chester Beatty Library there is a letter from Lady Beatrice Brownrigg to Chester Beatty (both in London) dated May 1939, asking whether he is interested in a volume of the encyclopaedia that was given to her in Peking in 1901 by the Dr G.E. Morrison. Beatty is not interested, and Lady Brownrigg writes back in June to say that she had been advised by someone at the British Museum to take it to S.C. Coles at Kegan Paul to sell. She mentions to Beatty that there ‘is an added interest to this volume from some writing & signature of the Emperor Chien Lung…’. (Chester Beatty Library Archives, Chester Beatty Papers 320). Clearly this is the same volume, but its whereabouts between 1939 and 1951 are not yet known. Z. R. |
| BL Or. 6814/1 | “Bought from Messrs. Luzac & Co. April 1907”. Cf. *juan* 11376-11378 below. Luzac (1908), 19-20 (item 168). Part of a large lot of 899 volumes, total cost £159-10 (BL archives). “36ff. 20/10/23, E.G.S.” Has suffered from damp in the past, and there are traces of mould. Y. Z. R. |
| BL Or. 7616 | “Presented by M.H. Playfair, Esq. November 11, 1911.” Playfair writes on 25 October 1911: “When the Hanlin Academy at Peking was burnt, portions of the Thesaurus of the Emperor Yung-lê were salved by residents in the British Legation. One fascicule of this monumental work has come into my hands and I beg to present it to the Oriental Books Department of the British Museum” (BL archives). G.M.H. Playfair (1850-1917) entered H.M. Consular Service in 1872 and retired in 1910. He was a sinologist and published a number of important books on China in the last three decades of the 19th century. Indifferent early western repairs. *Siku quanshu* annotations are on separate ms. slips pasted on to the front endpaper, which is modern. Y. Z. R. |
| A MS 1143 | Donated to the University together with other Chinese materials in 1922, as recorded in *Aberdeen University review*, 9 (March 1922), 163-164. The collection had belonged to James Russell Brazier (born 10 March 1859 at Old Machar, Aberdeen, died 7 March 1926 at Bournemouth), an Aberdeen alumnus who was Chief Secretary of the Inspectorate of the Imperial Maritime Customs. Damaged in the past by water and mould. Recently restored, when the opportunity was taken of producing digital images. Missing lower central portion of f.1, and lesser portions of ff.2-6 in the equivalent location. Complete text has 39ff. Has traces of *Siku quanshu* form. Newly discovered volume, not included in any reprint to date. Not noted by Yuan. Zhang notes that the ms. of *juan* 11905-11907 in Peking Library is a copy made in the Guangxu period for the family of Wen Tingshi 文廷式, and also that the original volume division is not known (the Aberdeen volume partly supplies the answer); he gives no location for the original ms. The Zhonghua Shuju reprint is of the Guangxu copy. |
| EM I.D. 34056c | See *juan* 903-904 above. There is water damage at the head and tail edges. Z. R. |
13193  SOAS MS. 128052  Transferred from the Courtauld Institute, 5 August 1959. Complete, but rather dog-eared and the covers are detached. Has a printed/ms. *Siku quanshu* form. Y (when owned by the unidentified 「英國某氏」. Z. R.

13201  BL Or. 13292  “November 1970”. Purchased from Colletts (acting for Mr. C.D. Houston) for the sum of £45 in November 1970 (BL archives). The pages appears to have been put together from a very defective volume. The original paper screws have been used, but there are no endpapers and the covers are completely new. The following ff. are preserved: 13201:19 only (the last); 13202:1-12, 15 (13 and 14 missing); 13203:1-4, 6-18 (5 missing). H.


13496  BL Or. 11658  Two letters are tipped inside the front cover, both from “Herbert A. Gyles, Fleet Paymaster R.N.” on paper headed “H.M.S. Actaeon, Sheerness”. The first is dated 22 December 1916, notes the similarity in the names of the sender and the recipient (Herbert A. Giles the sinologist), and offers the volume to the British Museum, referring to the *juan* number. The second is dated 29 December 1916, and confirms its acceptance. The ms. inscription on the back cover “Purchased from the Rev. Professor A.C. Moule 22 Nov. 1938” therefore appears to be wrong. Compounding the confusion, the entry from Luzac’s 1926 catalogue for *juan* 19737-19739 is pasted on to the back cover; this is the volume that the Rev. Roland Allen sold to Cambridge University Library (see below). Has traces of a *Siku quanshu* form. Y (but his 「翟理斯教授」 is actually misleading; it was not Professor H.A. Giles that owned this volume, but the similarly named naval officer H.A. Gyles, see above). Z. R.

13498  BL Or. 11172  “… saved from the Hanlin Library Peking during the siege of the legations June 4th to August 14th 1900, by B.G. Tours Esq. of H.M. Consular Service, who gave it to A.J. Sundius Esq. of the same service, by whom it was presented to me. April 29. 1908. G.E. Moule.” “Presented by the Rev. A.C. Moule, M.A. 14 Dec.1929.” Tours (1863-1946), possibly of Dutch origin, entered H.M. Consular Service in 1894 and was present at the Siege, being Legation accountant at the time. Hoe makes extensive use of Tours family mss. and also has a photograph of him. Sundius (1863-1933), believed to be of Swedish origin, entered H.M. Consular Service in 1884 but was actually in Nanking in 1900. G.E. Moule was A.C. Moule’s father. Indifferent early western repairs. Y. Z. R.

13629  SOAS MS. 48364 [2]  See *juan* 3944-3945 above. Cover has been badly repaired and re-attached upside down. Y. Z. R.

13872  BOD MS.Chin.a.20  (= Arch.O.a.6/4)  See *juan* 807-808 above. Has traces of a *Siku quanshu* form. Z. R.

13874  BOD MS.Chin.a.21  (= Arch.O.a.6/5)  See *juan* 807-808 above. Has traces of a *Siku quanshu* form. Z. R.

13876  BL Or. 6814/2  “Purchased from Messrs. Luzac & Co. April 1907.” See *juan* 11887-11888 above. Has *Siku quanshu* forms, both printed and ms. Y. Z. R.
<table>
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<td>13992</td>
<td>BL Or. 11346</td>
<td>“Presented by Sir James W. Jamieson, K.C.M.G.” A note tipped on to the front endpaper reads: “In the event of my death this book is not to be sold or otherwise disposed of. It is to be sent to the British Museum. J.W. Jamieson. Canton, February 10 1914.” The date stamp 1932 has been applied to this note, not the volume itself. Jamieson’s letter to Giles offering the volume is dated 18 December 1931 (BL archives). Jamieson (1867-1946) joined the consular service in 1886, was Commercial Attaché to H.M.’s Legation in China 1899-1909 (but seconded to work in the Transvaal 1905-1908), Consul-General in Canton 1909-1926, when transferred to Tientsin, and retired in 1930. The acquisition of this volume is recorded by Giles, Lionel (1932). Western binding. Y. Z. R.</td>
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<td>13993</td>
<td>BL Or. 11346</td>
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<tr>
<td>14219</td>
<td>BL Or. 14446</td>
<td>Offered to the Library by John Lovell (of the Ministry of Defence) in July, 1988 on behalf of Mrs Caroline Moore, from whom it was subsequently purchased in February, 1989. According to Lovell, it had been removed from the Hanlin Academy by a Private Tickner in 1901. Only the text block survives, and the outer leaves are slightly damaged and soiled. Restoration has not been attempted. Has exceptionally interesting geomantic diagrams. H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14220</td>
<td>BL Or. 14446</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14385</td>
<td>BOD MS. Backhouse 1g (= Arch.O.a.6/14)</td>
<td>Has traces of a <em>Siku quanshu</em> form. Y. Z. R.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Peking 1900. One volume from a Chinese Encyclopaedia found in the ruins of the Hanlin Library during the Boxer rising, 1900... which the Chinese burnt in the expectation that its flames would set fire to adjacent British Legation buildings. T. Biggin.”

Thomas Biggin (1871-1960, Chinese name 金修真) was a graduate of Corpus Christi College in Oxford, and had arrived in Peking in 1899 as a member of the London Missionary Society. He was present at the Siege. A letter from him dated 20 February 1907 and tipped into the volume reads: “You will no doubt have received before this a volume from the Manchester Exhibition. It is part of a Chinese Encyclopaedia ... I have two vols of it, one has been forwarded to you as above mentioned ... in the belief that it is a book not altogether without interest for such an institution as the Bodleian.” According to the letter, having asked if the Bodleian wanted it, Biggin had first sent it to “two Exhibitions”. There is no indication of what the second of these was, nor of what happened to the second of his two volumes. The Bodleian volume is no.33981 in Madan’s **Summary catalogue of western manuscripts in the Bodleian Library**, which confirms its receipt by the Library in 1907, but supplies no additional information. Also tipped into the volume is a letter from Lt. Col. J.G. Birch in Cologne dated 5 November 1922, together with three photographs. The letter reads: “A few volumes were salvaged at the fire of the Han Lin College, Pekin in 1900; most of these were handed back to the Chinese Govt., but a very few were taken away by Europeans. One of these was presented by Giles to the Cambridge University Library. These three volumes of which I send photos were salvaged by a German officer & are now for sale. I am naturally desirous that they should come into English hands. The Brit. Mus. say they would like them but have no money. If you are interested I should be pleased to act as an intermediary”. The photographs are of the first pages of **juan** 920, 5343 and 13450. In the event, these three volumes were acquired by Leipzig University, and were returned to China by the government of the D.D.R. in December 1955. All three volumes are now in the National Library of China. Western binding, original covers missing. Y. Z. R.

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14607 BOD MS.Chin.b.9 (= Arch.O.a.6/20)
14608 BOD MS.Chin.b.9 (= Arch.O.a.6/20)
14609 BOD MS.Chin.b.9 (= Arch.O.a.6/20)

14622 BOD MS.Backhouse 1h (= Arch.O.a.6/15)
The cover labels are not present. Y. Z. R.

14627 BOD MS.Backhouse 1i (= Arch.O.a.6/16)
The cover labels are not present. Y. Z. R.

15073 BOD MS.Chin.a.22 (= Arch.O.a.6/6)
See **juan** 807-808 above. Has a printed/ms. **Siku quanshu** form. There are large areas of old water damage and mould in the upper part of the volume. Z. R.

15075 BOD MS.Chin.a.22 (= Arch.O.a.6/6)

15955 BL Or. 11543
15956 BL Or. 11543

“Presented by Mrs. Couling. 9 Feb.1935.” This volume was originally in the possession of Morrison in Peking (Aurousseau, 80, 86). A letter from Mrs (C.E.) Couling to Giles dated 20 January 1935 says: “That packet containing what I possess of the **Yung Loh Ta Tien** has come to hand. I have not tampered with it, & would like to hand it over to you so that we might open it together. Could you fix a time?” (BL archives). Y. Z. R.

16217 BOD MS.Chin.a.23 (= Arch.O.a.6/7)
16218 BOD MS.Chin.a.23 (= Arch.O.a.6/7)

See **juan** 807-808 above. Has a printed/ms. **Siku quanshu** form. There are areas of old water damage and mould in the upper part of the volume. The text includes a large plan of a ritual formation. Z. R*.
16343  CUL FH.20.71  “Presented to The University Library, Cambridge, by Lancelot Giles, Esq., of H.B.M. Consular Service, formerly of Christ’s College. 16 April 1901.” See also juan 19789-19790 below. Has traces of Siku quanshu form. There is water staining around the top, bottom and shukou edges of the volume. Y. Z. R.

16344

18244  BL Or. 11274  “Presented by C.H. Brewitt-Taylor, Esq. 14 February 1931.” See also juan 8268-8269 above. Has excellent illustrations reproduced from Yingzao fashi 營造法式. Y. Z. R.

19735  BOD MS. Backhouse 1j (= Arch.O.a.6/17)  Y. Z. R.

19737  CUL FH.20.72  Date stamp 28 November 1926. “Rev. R. Allen”, “£50” in pencil inside the front cover (it was the former practice of CUL to note details of purchases in this way). The volume had, however, been advertised in Luzac’s catalogue of that year (item 70) for £35. A note by A.C. Moule kept with the volume reads: “This volume was in the possession of the Rev. Roland Allen, Chaplain to the British Legation in Peking in 1900.” Allen was an Oxford M.A., and was among the first to publish a diary of the Siege. The cover has been repaired and re-attached the wrong way round, probably subsequent to its acquisition by the library. Y. Z. R.

19738

19739

19740  BL Or. 12021  “ff.36. M. Lunan 18.6.1952”. Z. R*.

19741

19789  BL Or. 5982  “Presented by Professor Herbert A. Giles. April 13. 1901.” However, the letter from Giles (BL archives) which accompanied the present is dated 1 April, and his letter makes it clear that the volume is being offered “On behalf of my son, Mr. Lancelot Giles of H.B.M. China Consular Service”. Giles writes in his memoirs: “A son of mine, Mr Lancelot Giles, ... sent me five volumes [of Yongle dadian] which he had rescued at the time; and of these I gave, on his behalf, one to the Cambridge University Library [juan 16343-16344, see above], and one to the British Museum. The latter was a wasted gift. Measuring 20 x 12 inches, and wrapped in a characteristic yellow cover, Sir R. Douglas, who was then in charge of the Chinese Department, caused this beautiful book to be cut down and bound in buckram!” Aylmer, 42. In his diary, however, Lancelot Giles says that in the aftermath of the Hanlin fire he rescued not five, but one volume: “I secured volume 13,345 (!) for myself, merely as a specimen”, but this volume (actually juan 13344-13345) is now in the Library of Congress, as are the remaining two of the five volumes that were once in the possession of H.A. Giles: juan 19742-19743, and juan 19792. Western binding, with the original covers pasted on to the insides of the boards. Y. Z. R.
“Han Lin Yuan July 1900” is faintly pencilled on the first folio. The volume lacks its original covers, and the text block is contained in a western leather-bound wrap-around folder and slipcase. The last dozen folios show evidence of water damage. A cutting from *The Times*, 6 January 1914, is pasted inside the wrap-around folder and reads: “Mr. Wilfred Merton is lending to the London Library for a few weeks from to-day a volume containing two sections of the famous Chinese Encyclopedia, which he was fortunate enough to pick up for a small sum in the shop of a London firm of booksellers. The volume, which has been carefully bound by Miss Katherine Adams, of the Eadburgha Bindery, Broadway, Worcestershire, comprises sections 19,865 and 19,866, and chiefly deals with the subject of bamboos.” The CBL archives preserve two letters from Yuan Tongli to Merton, dated 21 November 1929 and 6 March 1931 (Chester Beatty Papers 1367). The first refers to Yuan’s “census” of extant volumes completed in spring, 1928 (an early version of the list cited in the Bibliography below) in which he had noted that Merton possessed one volume, namely *juan* 19865-19866. He asks for either manuscript or photostat copies of this and any other volumes in his possession, and in return offers to supply an equivalent number of manuscript or photostat copies in the National Library collection, to be selected from his census. The second letter refers to Yuan’s visit to Merton’s house in Richmond Hill in the winter of 1923, when he first saw *juan* 19865-19866. He again asks for a photostat, to be produced and sent to him by Lionel Giles at the British Museum. Wilfred Merton (1888-1957) was a friend and advisor to Chester Beatty, and presented this volume to him on 19 August 1954. Y. Z. R*. H (*juan* 19866 only, supplying leaf 8a which is lacking in R*, perhaps because it was accidentally omitted when the photostats were being made in 1931).

Both covers appear to have been replaced, but closely match the original: the cover labels are not only not present, but there is no sign that they were ever there. Y. Z. R.

See *juan* 913-914 above. Date stamp 1944. Z. R*.

“Presented to the British Museum by E. Gordon Lowder, Commissioner of Chinese Customs. January 1917.” His letter of 16 January 1917 says that the volume “was rescued from destruction at the Hanlin Academy in Peking shortly after the relief of that city” (BL archives). Indifferent early western repairs. Y. Z. R.

Appendix: FACSIMILES

**Manuscript**

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“Presented by the National Library, Peiping. 11 Oct. 1930.” Also reproduces *Siku quanshu* form (printed/ms.) in facsimile.

“Presented by the National Library, Peiping. 14 June, 1930.” Also reproduces *Siku quanshu* form (printed/ms.) in facsimile.

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<td>665</td>
<td>BL Or. 13995A</td>
<td>Date stamp 1974. Facsimile of original in Kyoto Daigaku Jimbun Kagagu Kenkyujo. Published by the same in 1973.</td>
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<td>2610</td>
<td>BOD MS.Backhouse 11 (= Arch.O.a.6/19)</td>
<td>A particularly convincing facsimile, reproducing even the repairs to the original binding. Published by Fu Zengxiang 傅增湘 in 1926. Although this volume bears an MS.Backhouse shelfmark, it is neither a manuscript nor part of the Backhouse donation, which was received between 1913 and 1922. Its provenance is unknown.</td>
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<td>BL Or. 13995B</td>
<td>Date stamp 1984. Facsimile of a fragmentary and hitherto unknown copy found in Yexian 掖縣, Shandong province and subsequently given to the Chinese nation. Published by Shumu Wenxian Chubanshe in 1983.</td>
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<td>Facsimile of a volume given to Shanghai Library in October 1983 by an American Chinese, Sun Yizhuang 孫以莊.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BIBLIOGRAPHY


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Oliphant, N: A diary of the siege of the legations in Peking during the summer of 1900. London: Longmans, 1901.


This corrects and expands several earlier versions of the list published by Yuan throughout the previous decade.