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Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University

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ANNE S. K. BROWN MILITARY COLLECTION, BROWN UNIVERSITY

Wen-kai Kung

Brown University Library

The Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection of Brown University perhaps is not well known to many East Asian librarians and scholars. It might be worthwhile to draw the attention of interested persons to the existence of this Collection. The Anne S. K. Military Collection was formed over a period of forty or more years by the late Mrs. John Nicholas Brown (1906-1985), wife of a direct descendant of the founder of Brown University. The Collection is still growing; presently it contains approximately 30,000 volumes and 60,000 prints, drawings, and watercolors as well as a number of oil paintings and over 5,000 miniature model soldiers. Formerly kept in the Brown residence on Benefit Street in Providence, Rhode Island, the entire collection (probably the largest private military library in the world) with its card catalog and subject index was presented to Brown University in 1982.

Since its beginning, the emphasis of this Collection has been on the history --and the accurate contemporary illustration--of military and naval uniforms of all nations from the early seventeenth century to the present. In the course of time, however, the Collection has come to include a vast amount of related material on the military and naval history, military and naval arts and tactics, wars, campaigns, ceremonies, biographies, portraits and caricatures of this and earlier periods. It contains many original manuscripts and much graphic documentation which is unique. It has been useful to numerous scholars, editors, film makers, and publishers for research and as illustrative material and has also contributed to many museum exhibitions both at Brown University itself and by loan to museums at other institutions.

In addition to the material on Europe and North America, the Collection has extensive holdings on Asia, Africa, and South America. China, Japan, and India are well represented in the Asiatic section with many original drawings, watercolors, and gouaches from India depicting a variety of subjects ranging from battles and processional scenes and uniforms to views of the British in India. The military history of India from 1600 to the present day is well covered by military and regimental histories and biographical accounts.

In the East Asian section, China, Japan, and Korea all have much material worthy of notice. There are over two hundred titles of books, manuals, encyclopedias, and graphics in this section. More than half are eighteenth- and nineteenth-century works. Many graphics illustrate war scenes, military training, military officers and men, warriors, fortresses, uniforms, and ceremonial costumes. One notable feature in the Japanese section is a scroll with twelve watercolor panels depicting events of the Perry Expedition to Japan, painted around 1854. The late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century military history of Japan is well represented by numerous colored woodblock prints showing scenes of wars. Despite the advent of photography, these prints with their color and detail remain the best source of Japanese military costume in that period. Many published histories and photographic accounts complement these prints.

The nineteenth- and twentieth-century military history of China and Korea are also well covered. Some highlights of these materials include George Staunton's *An Embassy from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China*, published in 1798, and twelve watercolor drawings of costumes of mandarins and warriors which were painted around 1820. Other noteworthy items are the many albums containing clippings from newspapers and magazines on events spanning the centuries from 1644 to 1967. These clippings were assembled by Frederick Todd, former Curator of the West Point Museum, United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

The Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection is located in the John Hay Library, Brown University, and it may be visited Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Persons with special questions or needing some specific research requirement are advised to make an appointment with the Curator, Mr. Richard Harrington, or

the Assistant Curator, Mr. Peter Harrington. As has happened in the past, a great many questions and requests are taken care of by telephone or through the mail. The Collection's telephone numbers are: (401) 863-1521, 863-2414, 863-2146.