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Archival and Library Resources on East Asia in the Washington, D. C. Area

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ARTICLES

Archival and Library Resources on East Asia in the Washington, D. C. Area

The above is the collective title given to three separate papers which were read at a special panel of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Association for Asian Studies, held at the George Washington University, Washington, D. C., October 28-29, 1978.

I. Historical and Contemporary East Asian Resources in the Department of Agriculture Library

Gary K. McConne National Agricultural Library

Library services of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) are carried out through the Main Library located in Beltsville, Maryland, and through a branch library in the United States Department of Agriculture Building in downtown Washington. The branch library houses social science and law materials dealing with agriculture, while the majority of the collection is in Beltsville. The National Arboretum, which is the home of the National Bonsai Collection, also contains a collection of books, among which are a number of materials on bonsai plants. As one of three national libraries, the others being the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL provides researchers, other libraries, and the general public with specialized information in the fields of agriculture and related sciences.

NAL’s core collection is centered, as might be expected, around agricultural subjects, among which are: animal science, plant science, forestry, soils, food and nutrition, agricultural economics, and rural sociology. Works on numerous other subjects are also collected to support research and program needs of the Department of Agriculture. Social scientists as well as economists, demographers, and others researching the United States’ relations in East Asia can benefit from these materials.

Publications in many languages are acquired, including a large quantity of materials in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. The collection is particularly strong in publications of agricultural experiment stations and various government agencies of East Asia. The majority of the serial publications are received through exchange agreements between U.S.D.A. and government agencies of institutions in foreign countries. Due to U.S. Department of State restrictions, NAL has not been allowed to correspond with the People’s Republic of China or the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Therefore the library’s publications from these two countries are limited to those purchased by book dealers in Hong Kong and Japan. NAL currently maintains exchange agreements with some 250 institutions in Japan, 75 in the Republic of China, and 50 in the Republic of Korea.
East Asian publications are not shelved separately at NAL but are integrated into the general collection. This makes it rather difficult to obtain statistics on the number and type of East Asian materials in the collection. The most recent estimates (from c. 1974) have placed the size of the East Asian collection at 25,000 volumes in Chinese, 26,000 in Japanese, and 6,000 in Korean. In addition to the serials and monographs in oriental languages, the collection also includes a substantial number of important reports, working papers, and other documents on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean subjects prepared in Western languages by various technical missions and organizations.

The variety of East Asian materials at NAL ranges from 19th century botanical monographs in oriental binding (e.g., Shintei Somoku Dzusetsu (Monograph on the plants of Japan) by Inouma Yokusai, published in 20 volumes in 1874), to currently published serials from Taiwan (e.g., Journal of the Horticultural Society of China (中國園藝), volume 1, 1954, to the present). A large number of the publications are in East Asian languages (e.g., Choson nong-gomnon (Rural economy in Korea) by Yi Hun-gu). A great many, however, are in English even though they are published in an East Asian country (e.g., The following English language serial has been received since 1887, even though undergoing two changes of title: Bulletin of the College of Agriculture, Tokyo Imperial University, vol. 1-8, 1887-1909; Journal of the College of Agriculture, Tokyo Imperial University, vol. 1-15, 1909-1941; Records of Researches in the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tokyo, vol. 1-13, 1950-1963).

Bibliographic tools available which provide access to the East Asian resources at the National Agricultural Library include:

1. The public card catalog at the library.
2. The Dictionary Catalog of the National Agricultural Library, which is published monthly and contains entries by title, author, and subject for all books and journals added to the NAL collection since 1862.
3. The Bibliography of Agriculture, which has been published monthly since 1942 with several cumulations. The B of A is an index to the serial literature pertaining to all aspects of agriculture.
4. AGRICOLA, which is a family of data bases consisting of indexes to general agriculture, food and nutrition, and agricultural economics. Approximately 5,000 journals are currently indexed for inclusion in AGRICOLA which presently contains more than one million books and journal articles, representing all items cataloged and indexed by NAL since 1970. There are currently about 3,000 Chinese-language items, 24,000 Japanese-language items, and 800 Korean-language items in this data base, which is available for on-line searching through several commercial services.

NAL also maintains another on-line data base--USERLINE; it contains records for all serial titles which have been received at NAL since 1971. The data base currently contains some 35,000 records of which 880 are from Japan, 242 are from the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China, and 158 are from the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The library also has a number of manuscripts and travel diaries in English relating to East Asia that are of obvious interest to people doing work on the history of American-East Asian relations. Chief among these are the typewritten memoirs of Horace Capron (1804-1885), who served as a general during the United States Civil War, was the second head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and subsequently did much to help develop the island of Hokkaido in the north of Japan. General Capron was sent to Japan by President Grant in response to a request from the Emperor of Japan.
Japan in 1871. Upon arriving in Japan, Capron and the 75 experts who worked with him set about modernizing Hokkaido, which at that time was mostly inhabited by the Ainu living in fishing villages along the coast. They established the first meteorological observatory in Japan, built a 40-foot-wide road from Hakodate to Sapporo, constructed bridges and a railroad, and built a 14-mile canal from Tokachi to Sapporo. They introduced many types of vegetables to Japan and had a great amount of success with experimental plantings of apples. A saw mill and a flour mill, both using hydro-electric power, which was new to Japan, were built in Sapporo. Capron also established a horse breeding farm and founded both an agricultural school in Sapporo and the first women's normal school in Japan. General Capron, who was the first foreigner to receive the decoration of the Second Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan, included many detailed descriptions of his four years of experiences in Japan in his two-volume typewritten manuscript.

The National Agricultural Library also has a seven-volume manuscript written by Palemon Howard Dorsett, which includes many photographs of the United States' agricultural expedition to the Orient between 1929 and 1930 as well as handwritten descriptions of the subjects. Among the topics focused on are bamboo, farms, landscapes, ornamentals, parks and gardens, temples and shrines.

Another manuscript, entitled Reminiscences of Nearly Half a Century in Japan, was written by Edwin Dun, who went to Japan as an agricultural expert with General Capron in 1871 and stayed until his death in Tokyo in 1931. During his stay in Japan, Dun served as United States minister to Japan and in other official capacities.

The rare book collection at NAL also contains volumes of works in Japanese and Chinese dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Many are botanical in nature and contain detailed drawings of plants; others are multi-volume rhyming dictionaries. There are also Western-language reports of agricultural and botanical expeditions to East Asia.

The National Agricultural Library has a large quantity of materials which would be of value to anyone doing research on agriculture-related subjects; it also has a great number of unique works which could be extremely useful for research on any subject relating to East Asia. The library honors interlibrary loan requests from all libraries, and will send either the work itself or a photocopy, depending on length and copyright laws.

A limited number of the following publications, relating to the East Asian Collection, are available free of charge. When requesting any of these titles, please send a self-addressed mailing label to: Reference Division, Technical Information Systems, National Agricultural Library Building, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.


II. The "Segregated Chinese Files"
of the Immigration and Naturalization Service
at the National Archives

Robert L. Worden
Library of Congress

A collection of China-related materials known informally as the "Segregated Chinese Files" is located in the National Archives. These files constitute a small subgroup (99 linear feet) of the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Record Group 85, which currently totals 956 cubic feet of materials dated between 1787 and 1954. The Guide to the National Archives of the United States (Washington, 1974, p. 346) calls this subgroup "Chinese Immigration Records, 1882-1925." Since this subgroup does not include all records relating to Chinese immigration and because at one time Chinese-related records were maintained separately from other immigration files, the designation "Segregated Chinese Files" (hereinafter SCF) persists.

Various archival guides provide information on the SCF since the time when they were active records of the former Bureau of Immigration. In 1904, Claude Halstead Van Tyne and Waldo Gifford Leland, in their Guide to the Archives of the Government of the United States in Washington (Washington: Carnegie Institution, 1904, p. 175), said that records of the Bureau extended from 1891 "to date" and were arranged in two classes: those relative to Chinese exclusion and those relative to other immigration. They added that "[t]he files are admirably arranged; all the papers relating to a case are filed together, and each case receives a number which enables it to be readily found." The second edition of Van Tyne and Leland (1907, p.236) gave further indications of the comprehensive nature of the records and the ease of their retrieval. At that time a card index system, providing subject, name, and file number data on each case file, was available.
By 1940, when the National Archives* published the first description of its holdings, Guide to the Materials in the National Archives (Washington, 1940, p. 168), the whereabouts of the vast majority of the records now available in the SCF "[had] not been determined." Only the bound volumes described in the paragraphs below were in the National Archives in 1940. During the fiscal year 1946, however, 82 linear feet of case files relating to Chinese immigration and residence were located and accessioned by the National Archives (see Twelfth Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States, 1945-1946, Washington, 1947, p. 78). The second guide to National Archives materials, Guide to the Records in the National Archives (Washington, 1948, pp. 335-336), explained that the once-segregated Chinese files had been interspersed among the central files of the INS but had been reassembled by the Service "as a separate body of materials that would show the administration of regulations covering the immigration of Chinese and their residence in this country." A similar description of the SCF was provided in the 1974 edition of the Guide to the National Archives. These guides provide an accurate and general description and are satisfactory, perhaps, from the INS perspective. However, a more complete description of their content and value to East Asian specialists is needed.

The following descriptive outline gives the potential user an appreciation of the scope of the SCF and problems which may be encountered in using the records. It is based upon an as yet unpublished and only recently compiled preliminary inventory (available in draft form for inspection at the National Archives) and upon my own use of the files. Fifteen series (rather than the 13 enumerated in the preliminary inventory) are listed here in the order in which they have been inventoried:

1. Register to Chinese Letters Received (1898-1903), seven bound volumes. A register of letters relating to Chinese immigration and exclusion matters received by the Secretary of the Treasury. Each entry gives a file number, place or person from whom the letter was received, date received, summary of contents, and action taken. Some volumes include notations of the imprint book and the page number on which responses may be found (See No. 2 below). Additionally, some volumes contain a name index which can be a very useful finding aid; other volumes are in chronological order only. The letters registered are generally contained in materials described in No. 4 below.

2. Chinese Letters Sent (1900-1908), 62 bound volumes. Letter-press (imprint) copies of responses sent by the Bureau of Immigration pertaining to Chinese exclusion laws, deportations, arrests, certificates of residence, letters concerning salaries of Bureau employees, expense items, instructions, and assignments of jurisdiction of Bureau employees handling Chinese cases. All but two of the volumes have name indexes and all contain file numbers keyed to materials described in No. 4 below.

3. Index to General Files (1898-1908), one 3" x 5" card box labeled "x ref to '50000' files." The cards, arranged numerically by Chinese file number (series 1 through 15000's), provide the cross-reference number for files forwarded from the SCF to the General Immigration Records after the Chinese General Correspondence files were closed in 1908. The General Immigration

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* The National Archives opened in 1937.
Records, a separate subgroup from the SCF, carry 50000-series numbers, are well-indexed by subject and name, contain a substantial amount of Chinese-related materials, but are beyond the scope of the SCF and this paper. Each of the approximately 1,000 cards in this index provides the name of the Chinese person or organization on whom the file was maintained. The index is incomplete in that it does not list all files forwarded from the SCF to the 50000-series. Its main value seems to be in the names it contains.

4. Chinese General Correspondence (1898-1908, with some pre-1898 materials included), 215 document boxes—the most numerous in terms of materials and the most important part of the SCF. This series contains 15,584 file numbers which actually represent fewer individual files. Some earlier files were incorporated into larger folders with later file numbers. Additionally, as explained in No. 3 above, many files from this series have been transferred to the General Immigration Records. The series is divided into two subseries: 118 green boxes (files 1 through 14025) containing materials from 1898 to 1905 which were stored folded, and 97 red boxes (files 14026 through 15484) containing materials from 1905 to 1908 which were filed flat. Some of the older folded files had been forwarded to the newer filing system and were then unfolded. The nature of this series will be described in greater detail at the end of this outline.

5. Customs Case File No. 3358d Related to Chinese Immigration (1877-1891), 6 document boxes containing 69 disarranged files relating to Chinese entry requirements, illegal entries, smuggling, arrests, deportations, inter-office memoranda, inquiries concerning the interpretation of the Chinese exclusion laws, and Chinese infractions of the contract labor laws. These files predate the Bureau of Immigration and were originally part of the Customs Case Files contained in Bureau of Customs Records, Record Group 36.

6. Chinese Smuggling File (1914-1921), 6 document boxes containing 61 files mostly dating from 1914 and 1915. The files contain both original and carbon copies of reports submitted by field offices relating to the smuggling of Chinese into the U.S. The letters are generally grouped by immigration district although some files are mixed. For instance, a file marked "Buffalo" contains reports from Baltimore, New York, and other ports of entry. Some of the reports have 50000-series reference numbers.

7. Chinese Division File (1924-1925), one document box. The series consists of unnumbered files of no particular arrangement but which appear to be items which should have been included in the General Immigration Records. Files include materials on court opinions, certificates of residence, references to visas, and questions on immigration procedures and laws.

8. Application for Duplicate Certificate of Residence (1898-1920), 28 document boxes containing applications from Chinese residents for duplicate certificates of residence to replace ones that were lost, stolen or destroyed. Included with the applications, which cover a span of over 20,000 certificate numbers, are affidavits on the circumstances of the loss of the original, sworn depositions of the applicant, related correspondence, reports of Chinese inspectors, and photographs of applicants.

9. Record of Chinese Deportations (1902-1903), one bound volume (probably part of a no longer extant larger series) kept by the Washington headquarters of
the Bureau. The volume consists of information handwritten on preprinted pages which called for listings of date; names of the U.S. marshal involved, the immigration officer in charge, and the deportee; the immigration district; the port of departure; name of ship; date of departure; and expenses incurred.

10. Record of Chinese Census for the Districts of Montana and Idaho (1894-1896), one bound volume. An anomaly in the SCF and possibly part of a no longer extant larger series once kept by the Bureau. Records of the Census Bureau (Record Group 29) might contain similar records.

11. Actions in Cases of Chinese Arrested Because in U.S. in Violation of Law (1905-1907), one bound volume containing summary statistics on Chinese illegal residents, arranged by states and judicial districts. The volume consists of mostly blank pages.

12. Chronological Records Relating to Chinese Certificates of Residence (1892-1903), 8 bound volumes. Ledgers, journals, and record books with references to residence certificates issued to Chinese persons, blocks of certificates issued to various officials, and duplicate certificates compared with originals for authenticity.


14. Miscellaneous Records Relating to Chinese Certificates of Residence (no date), 3 bound volumes of blank (unissued) certificates for departure and return to the U.S. of Chinese laborers, and one volume with listing of "Certificates of Residence in Steel Boxes and Cabinets According to Districts," a no longer extant filing system.

15. Chinese Immigration Records (1891-1924), one looseleaf folder. Materials generally relating to exempted classes of Chinese, which, for an undetermined reason, were not included in the general files. Contains a group of records on Chinese theatrical performers, businessmen, and students, mostly dating from the 1910's and the 1920's.

As can be seen from this outline, the most important segment of the SCF is the series containing the 215 document boxes (No. 4); other series serve as supplements or cross-referencing aids or are of marginal utility. The materials found in these boxes can be categorized into three general groupings:

1. Materials relating to the general administration of Chinese-related laws, immigration facilities, Bureau personnel, Chinese inspectors, interpreters, expense accounts, fiscal year financial reports, and so forth.

2. Materials relating to individual Chinese laborers and their families, such as court testimonies, requests for certificates or duplicate certificates of residence, arrest reports, and background investigations (which are numerous and provide detailed information on the subject's native village, parentage, circumstances of immigration, occupation and life in the U.S., physical characteristics, age, and so forth.)
3. Materials relating to Chinese persons of the exempt classes such as late-Ch'ing and early-Republic of China officials, imperial family travellers, businessmen, gentry-class tourists and students, and exiles of the reformist and revolutionary groups. In this latter regard, copious materials on such notables as Sun Yat-sen, K'ang Yu-wei, Liang Ch'i-ch'ao, and Huang Hsing can be found or are cross-referenced in these files.

My own use of these files has been demonstrated in three works. The first is my article "K'ang Yu-wei, Sun Yat-sen, et al. and the Bureau of Immigration" (Ch'ing-shih wen-t'i, June, 1971, pp. 1-10) which drew upon immigration materials on K'ang and his followers and Sun and his followers to show the problems they had encountered in entering the U.S. The materials on K'ang were part of the SCF while the Sun Yat-sen materials were cross-referenced in the SCF and were obtained by petition to the INS.*

The second work is my doctoral dissertation, "A Chinese Reformer in Exile: The North American Phase of the Travels of K'ang Yu-wei, 1899-1909" (Georgetown University, 1972, DAI No. 7234191), which made use of approximately 50 letters, memoranda, notes, telegrams, and affidavits relating to K'ang which are located in the SCF. They were used in conjunction with about 150 similar documents from three other record groups in the National Archives. One of the SCF items (located in File No. 12264-78, Green Box 86) is a 26-page typewritten letter sent by K'ang to President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. This letter was the subject of my third work, "Letter from K'ang Yu-wei to Theodore Roosevelt" (Bridge: An Asian American Perspective, Fall, 1977, pp. 18-21).

Delber L. McKee, in his book, Chinese Exclusion Versus the Open Door Policy, 1900-1906, (Wayne State University Press, 1977), has used a substantial amount of SCF and other national Archive materials. Writers of two unpublished works have also used the SCF: Frederic Chapin, "Homer Lea and the Chinese Revolution" (Senior Thesis, Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library, 1950), and Eve Armentrout-Ma, "Chinese Politics in the Western Hemisphere, 1893-1911: Rivalry Between Reformers and Revolutionaries in the Americas" (Doctoral Dissertation, University of California, Davis, 1977, DAI No. 7809210). However, according to a long-time archivist at the National Archives, the SCF have seldom been consulted in the 30 or more years they have been there.

Future users of the SCF should keep in mind that the files do not include all Chinese-related immigration materials. The SCF, however, do contain a vast amount of multiple-use documents which can best be located and used if three factors affecting the files are kept in mind: numerous bureaucratic reorganizations, changes in the immigration laws, and the condition of the materials.

Briefly, prior to 1882, there was no Federal agency charged with the supervision of immigration other than the Department of State for a brief period, 1864-1868. Additionally, prior to 1882 there were no general immigration or Federal Chinese exclusion laws. In that year, however, the Secretary of the Treasury was

* The Sun materials were once housed in the National Archives but circa 1956 the Department of Justice removed Record Group 85 files on persons and organizations then still considered "sensitive"; other files are still in various INS district offices and are also available by petition.
given the responsibility of enforcing the administration of the first general immigration law, and the first Chinese exclusion act, based on an 1881 treaty between the U.S. and China, was enacted. In 1891, an Office of Immigration was provided for, marking the birth of what is now known as the INS. In 1895 the Office was redesignated as the Bureau of Immigration, and in 1900 the administration of the Chinese exclusion laws was added to the Bureau's responsibilities by the Treasury Department. This new responsibility necessitated the creation of a separate Chinese Certificate Section under the new Immigration and Chinese Division. In 1903 the Bureau was transferred to the new Department of Commerce and Labor. Gaining functions relating to naturalization in 1906, the Bureau changed its name to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. The Bureau was transferred in 1913 to the new Department of Labor and was divided into two separate organizations—the Bureau of Immigration and the Bureau of Naturalization—a situation which persisted until 1933 when the two were reunited into the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). In 1940 the INS was transferred to the Department of Justice, its current parent organization. These various bureaucratic developments at the departmental and bureau levels, in addition to administrative changes within the Bureau and its divisions, resulted, in part, in the uneven organization of SCF materials.

Secondly, major legislative evolutions in the Chinese exclusion acts and general immigration laws between 1882 and 1943 (when the 1882 exclusion law was belatedly repealed) also contributed to the manner in which Chinese-related materials were accumulated and maintained. Basically, the exclusion acts forbade the immigration to and residence or citizenship in the U.S. of laboring class Chinese. The enforcement of laws centered on illegal entrants and those pre-1882 legal entrants and their descendants. Section 6 of the 1882 law also provided for important entry exemptions for certified non-laboring classes such as diplomatic personnel, government officials, businessmen, cultural personnel, and others, all of whom had to be scrutinized by the Bureau. These laws necessitated the keeping of copious and segregated files at least until 1908, when new records began to be merged with the general records of the Bureau. The Immigration Act of 1924, which established a permanent quota system for immigration, largely negated the necessity for maintaining such a comprehensive investigative and filing system.

Thirdly, a few comments on the physical condition of the records will be of interest to the user. Judging from the condition of certain records and the apparent absence of others, it is obvious that, as INS records were retired and stored in the pre-National Archives days, maintenance was far from ideal. One bound volume actually has what appear to be burn marks or scorching on its pages; other volumes' bindings have disintegrated. Many letter-press copies have faded almost into obscurity. On the positive side, however, the vast majority of records, whether bound or loose, are in legible and useful condition considering their age and former lack of preservation. The majority of documents are unbound and small amounts of them can be easily reproduced in the Central Research Room. More comprehensive reproduction services are also available on the premises. An additional benefit is that the entire collection is still in its original paper form, that is, none of the documents have been microfilmed. Furthermore, all documents were either written in English originally or were translated from Chinese at the time of their initiation.

One last comment of encouragement to users of the SCF or any other records is that the staff of the National Archives is extremely courteous and helpful to
researchers of every kind. Serious researchers working extensively in one group
or subgroup of records will usually find an interest taken in their project by
the archivist in charge of those records. This professional interest can
frequently result in discoveries of new materials, unexpected leads, and many
other tangible benefits.

National Archives and Records Service
Pennsylvania and 8th Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20408
Central Reference Staff (Room 200B)
telephone (202) 523-2318

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III. North Korean Captured Records
at the Washington National Records Center,
Suitland, Maryland

Thomas Hosuck Kang Library of Congress

Introduction. The purpose of this paper is to explore and evaluate the so-called
"Records Seized by the U.S. Military Forces in Korea," which are included in the
"Record Group 242, National Archive's Collection of Foreign Records Seized, 1941-
"and specified as "Records Seized by the U.S. Military Forces in Korea,
1921-1952" in the fourth edition of the Guide to the National Archives of the
United States. The paper will, first, describe briefly the historical back­
ground of the records; second, contrast their significance and extensiveness
with other source materials on North Korea presently available outside that
country; third, analyze their content by category and subject matter; fourth,
discuss means of access to the materials; and finally, conclude with some
suggestions regarding their preservation.

This source is not yet widely known to the public or to the scholarly community
because it had been classified as 'Confidential' until declassified on February
16, 1977. Since that time, these records have been noted briefly, and without
evaluation, in factual reports published in professional newsletters and
bibliographic guides. Perhaps the best summary to date, despite a few inaccur­
cacies, appears in a paper by Jack Saunders entitled "Lost in the Labyrinth:
Records in the National Archives Relating to Korea, 1945-1950:"

Probably the most valuable collection of records anywhere in the world
outside of North Korea itself concerning the political, economic, and
military activities of North Korea during the 1945-1950 period is con­
tained in approximately 1,000 archive boxes in the General Archives
Division. The research potential of these records for anyone interested
in the study of almost any aspect of North Korean history is boundless.
These records include correspondence, office files, personnel files,
printed materials (both North and South Korean periodicals and newspapers),
bulletins, and photographs relating to the government, the courts, and the
army of North Korea. Most of the collection appears to have been captured
when the United Nations Forces occupied Pyongyang during the Korean
War. Annotated shipping lists that briefly describe each document in the
series provide an almost ideal index. These shipping lists have been
microfilmed and may be purchased from the General Archives Division.
The records are not classified and do not need to be screened. The
only possible problem that this body of material presents to the researcher is the absence of any translations. The annotated shipping lists are in English, but the seized records are in Korean.3

I. Historical background for the seized records (1945-1951). It is not easy to trace completely the history of the seized North Korean records. Many have assumed, incorrectly, that all of the records were seized at one spot, perhaps in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. Within the first months of the war, the North Korean armed forces occupied large parts of South Korea, leaving only the so-called "arc circle defense line" of South Korea, the last line of defense around the periphery of Pusan. As soon as the war situation was reversed in September, 1950, the U.N. Armed Forces began to advance northward, subsequently capturing North Korean documents left behind by the retreating Communists at various places in South Korea which they had once occupied. Therefore, the materials captured on earlier dates were all from such South Korean sites as Taejon, Hyopchon, Woegwan, Kosong, and Andong. There were about 700 different locations where the documents were seized, about 600 of which are known, while about 100 are unidentified. Some locations are known by exact place name, but others are identified merely by the locations of the military forces' units involved. The major portions of the North Korean materials were captured in Pyongyang, Hamhung, and Wonsan.

These captured materials, whether seized in South or North Korea, were all transported to the General Headquarters, Far East Command, Translator and Interpreter Service, 8236th Army Unit, in Tokyo. Before the materials were shipped from General Headquarters to the United States, ten comprehensive shipping lists were made in English, painstakingly describing and annotating each and every item. These documents, which were classified as "Confidential," were shipped on November 6, 1951, to the Chief, Departmental Records Branch, Adjutant General's Office, Federal Records Center, King and Union Streets, Alexandria, Virginia. The shipping advice memorandum specified: Inquiries for the loan or translation of any of the listed items desired for local exploitation may be addressed to Commanding Officer Translator and Interpreter Service.

In 1957, when the Departmental Records Branch of the Adjutant General's Office was terminated, its facilities, most of its staff, and the records in its custody became part of the National Archives and Records Service. Thus, at this time, the seized North Korean documents were transferred to the jurisdiction of the General Archives Division. On February 16, 1977, Mr. William Lewis, an archivist and document security officer, was authorized by the Army authorities to examine these records and declassify them. Most of the records have now been declassified, although there are still restrictions on certain records.

II. Significance and extensiveness of the materials. The Communist regime in North Korea has been extremely reluctant to release official documents, or to exchange materials or information with the outside world. Indeed, security with respect to the dissemination of documentary materials has been tighter in North Korea than in almost any country in the world. Thus, the seized North Korean documents in the National Archives constitute a research resource of exceptional rarity, which includes materials, such as unique manuscript, diary, and notebook items, that are now unavailable even in North Korea. However, despite their obvious research potential, little has been done to date to exploit these records for research purposes, or even to assess their research value. Major bibliographic sources on North Korea4 have seldom mentioned the seized

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documents, and to our knowledge, only one serious study, a recent doctoral dissertation, has made extensive use of these materials.  

Some indication of the extensiveness of the seized North Korean documents may be gained from reference to the "Index," that is, the Shipping Advice Lists. Each of the ten lists summarizes, as shown below, the contents of the shipping boxes in which the documents were transferred from Korea to the United States:

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<th>Shipping Boxes</th>
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<td><strong>77</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,270</strong></td>
<td><strong>746</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,608,899</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Originally packed in 77 large shipping boxes, the documents were later placed into 1,214 federal record boxes and 29 oversized packages. The actual number of these boxes is not known, but is an approximation based on a recent estimate. The number of pages given in the table above (1,608,899) is also only an approximation, since it involved the counting of many different types and formats of materials, such as photographs and separated pages of newspapers and books. If the duplicated materials were also taken into account, the total number of pages would probably be several times greater. But whatever the actual numbers, the collection in itself is undeniably the size of a small special archive or library.

III. Categories and Subjects of the Collection. Our primary concern in this paper is the kinds of documents that are contained in the seized North Korean materials. At first glance, no system of organizing the materials is apparent. However, if the "index" (originally the Shipping Advice Lists) is examined carefully, we see that the materials which were captured in the same area or are in the same foreign language all appear on the same list, with only a few exceptions. One list concentrates almost exclusively on newspapers and magazines, while another list contains more references to books than to other materials. Nevertheless, the materials in general are disorganized and difficult to use. Therefore, for purposes of this presentation, we shall simply categorize them by language, format, and subject.

(1) By language: the records can be classified according to the language in which they are written; the volume of the materials in each language can also be estimated. The major parts of the collection are, of course, in the Korean language, but there are also portions in Japanese, Russian, Chinese, and English. After Korea was liberated from Japanese rule in 1945, North Korean leaders tried to wipe out completely any trace of Japanese culture which reflected Japanese colonial rule, but they apparently spared certain valuable studies,
records, and statistical surveys on Korea written by Japanese and in the Japanese language. Such items are not numerous (perhaps there are only 500), but they are exceedingly voluminous, totaling about 300,000 pages.

In contrast, the captured documents include no large amount or variety of Russian materials. There are only about 100 items, consisting of fewer than 10,000 pages. It is probable that since the Russian occupation period after World War II was comparatively short, not many Koreans had had time to master the Russian language and to read the original Russian texts. North Korea was, rather, under urgent pressure from the Soviet Union to construct a Communist state in accordance with the Soviet model. However, in order to restrict unnecessary Soviet influence from penetrating Korean society, North Korean leaders purposely discouraged ordinary Korean people from learning the Russian language, so as to prevent them from developing personal relationships with the Soviet occupying forces.

The main themes in the Russian materials are the thought of Lenin and Stalin, history of the Russian revolution, commune development, and education of the people. It seems that these materials were intended for translation into the Korean language for nation-wide consumption. It is worthwhile to mention that while the seized North Korean materials were all classified as "Confidential" under the U.S. military authority, some of the Russian materials were labelled as "Otherwise Restricted Information," while other Russian materials were more strictly classified as "Security-Classified Information." Reference to these items (2011-8: 106-120) was completely deleted from the index.

As for the Chinese materials, even though the Chinese Volunteer Army assisted the North Koreans in the war, the one-year-old Communist Chinese regime could not at that time have had much influence on the building of a Communist North Korean state. Perhaps for this reason only about 80 items of Chinese materials, totaling little more than 3,000 pages, are to be found in the collection. Finally, the English-language materials captured in North Korea are extremely rare, amounting to fewer than 100 pages. The paucity of such material may be a reflection of North Korean anti-American and anti-Western sentiment, and was probably a way to limit communication between North Koreans and the enemy.

By format: the seized documents include books, newspapers, magazines, mimeographed texts, reports and records, handwritten diaries, notebooks, lecture texts, government documents, photographs, lists or rosters of personal histories, and Russian educational slides. With the exception of the books, all these materials are invaluable to scholars outside of North Korea in one way or another, especially as sources for objective research on the history of North Korean society during the period from 1945 to 1950. Some of the records are not only unique outside of North Korea, but are probably no longer available in North Korea itself. It should be stressed that among these formats, South and North Korean newspapers and magazines, covering the period 1946-1951, are of particular value in filling the gap in the field of Korean news and periodical publications created by the Korean War.

By Subject: to describe this collection by subject categories would be an endless task. Briefly, however, the major subjects are enumerated as follows:
A. Politics: government organizations, functions, operations, activities; constitutional records; laws, regulations, cabinet meetings, ministries records; Supreme People's Assembly; court trial cases and records; police reports, records, and activities; political parties, central and local organizations, membership, cell organization and activities.

B. Foreign Affairs: Russian-Korean relations organizations and activities, international diaries on major powers; analyses of the international situation in chronological form; developments of the peace treaties after World War II; anti-South Korean plots; anti-American activities.

C. Economy: land reform, development of industries, manpower statistics, production, ration problems.

D. Education: lists of teachers and students, party organizations in schools, lists of professors' personal histories; investigation of teachers and students; Russian studies, Russian education (slides); school textbooks, lecture notebooks; training of teachers.

E. Construction: Roads, railroads, and bridges; construction projects (by days, weeks, months, years).

F. Military: Recruitment and registration; investigation of elements (social status) of soldiers; military training of the people; road construction, aircraft, people's army, use of ammunition and arms; restriction lists (on qualification by social status of soldiers).

G. The Korean War: Kim Il Sung speeches; victory news and propaganda; handling of surrendered South Koreans; liberated areas; and land reform.

H. Foreigners in North Korea: lists of Japanese names in North Korea; lists of Chinese residents, their names, and locations.

IV. Means of Access to the Seized Records. For access to the captured records, the "Index," comprising the original ten shipping Advice Lists, is indispensable. The Index has been microfilmed, and in this form it is provided to researchers in the General Archives Division. However, it is also possible to purchase a photoreproduction of the Index, consisting in all of 746 pages.

Each item on the lists shows the original shipping box number, item number, where captured (place name, military unit code, or geographic locations number), date of capture, original language, and description of the record with bibliographic data. Descriptions are all in English, in a concise, uniform format, making it easy to scan the records. Descriptions contain the following data: the number of copies, the format of the record, the translated or caption title, short annotation of the contents, and publishing data. Provided in addition are the translator's name, if any, related person or government agency, and finally, the pagination. A few typical examples are shown below:

As indicated in the preceding illustrations, it is necessary to know three types of information in order to request certain records: the shipping advice number, the shipping box number and the item number.

The Index also indicates special instructions for certain important items:
1) Some items were stamped, "Withdrawn for local exploitation," which means that they were withdrawn for the investigation of the facts described in the documents.
2) Some items were stamped, "Withdrawn by FECOM., Rec date," which means that they were withdrawn for some reason but were returned on a certain date.
3) Some items were stamped, "Withdrawn by FECOM.," which means that they were withdrawn for reasons unknown and were never returned.
4) Other items have been withdrawn, as indicated by an "Access Restricted" note sheet; the reason for withdrawal is noted as, "Otherwise Restricted Information." For such items, the descriptive information has been completely deleted, and there is no way of knowing what they contained. Still other items have been withdrawn for the same reason, but the descriptive information has been only partially deleted. The following are some of the more obscure examples which stimulate readers' curiosity:

Handwritten and typewritten file of personal history of civilian living in Pusan, SK, dated August 1950, written by ______________________. 45pp.

Handwritten sheet, titled "Roster of Informants" containing personal history of ______________ born on 4 Aug 31 and dwelling at Mansu-dong, Inchon City, dated 14 Sept 50, belonging to Nam-dong Police Substation. 1p.
It is clear that these two documents have been withdrawn for the protection of individual privacy, an action undoubtedly motivated by American legalist and humanistic concepts.

Conclusion. This paper concludes with a summation and some suggestions regarding the problem of preserving these captured records. First, the materials in question cover a rich and comprehensive variety of subjects relating to every aspect of the total organization of North Korea and its operations and activities from the top to the bottom. Second, these materials are the best available source for studying North Korean behavior and the history of a Communist state and its society in the process of development. Third, the index to the records, which consists of the original shipping lists, even though not organized for use as a research device, is still an "ideal tool" for retrieving records. Thus, as the largest collection of such materials existing outside North Korea, the Seized North Korean Records constitute a unique and invaluable research resource for study of the period 1945-1951.

Concerning the problems of custody and preservation, careful consideration should be given to the following points. First, the paper on which the records are printed or written has begun to deteriorate. The paper is of low quality, being entirely produced in North Korea in accordance with a policy of strict economic self-reliance. Over the past 30 to 35 years, the materials have aged, and are in immediate need of preservation. Second, there is the possibility that some records might be accidentally misplaced, e.g., a highly valuable record, consisting of a single sheet, could easily be lost forever. Third, with the present system governing public access to these records, it is quite possible that certain documents might be lost or stolen, for example, a single sheet, or a page of a record, or an important photograph. Fourth, in the event of a peace treaty concluded between the governments of the belligerent parties, North Korea might insist upon the return of these materials. With these considerations in mind, it is here suggested that this still largely untapped treasury of information be microfilmed, not only to ensure the physical preservation of these records, but also to make them more easily accessible to libraries and research institutes with interest in Korean and Asian affairs.

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Notes:


2. AAS Newsletter; and CEAL Bulletin
