

The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

## China Information Committee Records, 1937 - 1939



Image Credit: Masthead from 1939 China Information Committee News Release, Periodicals, Burke Library, Columbia University Libraries.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, August 2010

Reviewed and Updated by Brigette C. Kamsler, April 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

### Summary Information

Creator: Missionary Research Library  
Title: China Information Committee  
Dates: 1937-1939  
Abstract: A series of propaganda news releases in English produced during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945) by the China Information Committee; Reports on the wartime Chinese economy, war crimes, refugees, and the gradual retreat and relocation of industries and offices to Chongqing in West China.  
Size: 3 boxes, 1.25 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** These records were part of the independent Missionary Research Library prior to its closure in 1976, when the records were accessioned to the Burke Library. In 2014, an additional set of records was located and added to the collection, which are housed in box 3.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 6: China Information Committee Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

The China Information Committee 中國情報委員會 was established in late 1937 as part of the newly-formed Chinese Ministry of Information, an organ of the Chinese Nationalist Party (*guomindang* 國民黨). Its purpose was to produce propaganda for a foreign audience regarding the ongoing hostilities between China and Japan. The organization was directly controlled by Jiang Jieshi 蔣介石 (Chiang Kai-shek), the chairman of the Nationalist government. The main offices of the CIC were initially located in Shanghai, but with the outbreak of war with Japan they were moved first to Nanjing, then followed the government to Hankou 漢口, Changsha 長沙, and finally to Chongqing 重慶 in late 1938.<sup>1</sup> It also had branch offices in Hong Kong, and in several foreign countries.

The CIC was first supervised by Zeng Xubai 曾虛白 (Tseng Hsu-pai), 1895 - 1994, a graduate of St. John's University 聖約翰大學 in Shanghai 上海. From 1937 to 1945, the CIC published numerous pamphlets and books in English to publicize China's war with Japan and to attract the support of foreign nations. For a short time they operated a radio station, XTJ, in Hankou.

Note that this committee is not to be confused with the New China Information Committee, which was a propaganda organ of the Chinese Communist Party (*gongchandang* 共產黨).

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of typescript news releases in English that were produced by the CIC from 1938. As the CIC was a propaganda office, the reports unerringly paint China's economic and military situations in a favorable light, while criticizing and undermining the Japanese war effort. Reports of Japanese war crimes and the plight of Chinese refugees dominate the pages, interspersed with addresses from Jiang Jieshi and Song Meiling (Madame Chiang Kai-shek). Stories involving missionaries and foreign countries also figure prominently.

<sup>1</sup> See the editor's note to issue 279 in box 2, folder 3 of this collection.

Several individual issues are lacking in the series, though the only wide gap in coverage appears at the very end of the collection, between nos. 309 and 359. The Burke Library periodicals collection has nos. 305 (Jan. 3, 1939) through 415 (May 13, 1939), also with a few individual issues lacking [[CLIO entry](#)]. The MRL Pamphlets collection at The Burke Library contains a few additional publications that were produced by the CIC. These can be traced through the [Columbia University Libraries catalog](#).

The addition of box three is organized by topic; however within each folder are materials such as reports, original and copied correspondence, pamphlets, newspaper clippings and bulletins. The papers are intermixed between CIC information and thus were kept together. The information contained also deals with Japanese war crimes, missionaries, China Information Service, and other efforts during the time frame. The titles of the folders are original.

### **Processing**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. As the contents were very fragile and acidic, the entire collection was photocopied on to acid-free paper.

In 2014, the collection was updated as part of a grant funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. At this time, a number of records were added to the collection. As they were not included in the original collection, these records have been kept separate and are available in box 3.

### **Further Sources**

The Burke Library contains a number of other collections related to mission work in China and Japan. For more information, please see:

<http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives/mrl.html>.

Hope College owns the Harry P. Boot Collection, a series of photographs which also include some from the China Information Committee. More information is available online at:

[http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1134&context=collection\\_registers](http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1134&context=collection_registers).

Yale Divinity Library houses a one-folder collection for the China Information Committee. Please see: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/bibid/3252923>.

**Contents list**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1	1-14	News Release Nos. 146-240, June 4-September 22, 1938
2	1-2	News Release Nos. 241-262, September 23-October 21, 1938
2	3-4	News Release Nos. 265-288, October 25-December 13, 1938
2	5-6	News Release Nos. 290-300, December 15-December 27, 1938
2	7	News Release Nos. 301-309, December 28, 1938-January 7, 1939 News Release No. 359, March 7, 1939
3	1	Chinese Children, 1938-1939
3	2	Chinese Boy Scouts, 1938-1939
3	3	South China, 1937-1939
3	4	East China, 1937-1938
3	5	Hankow, 1938
3	6-7	American and Far Eastern Conflict, 1937-1939
3	8	Suchow, 1938
3	9	Hangchow, 1938
3	10	Soochow, 1937-1938
3	11	Reports and Correspondence, 1937-1939
3	12-13	Newspaper Clippings, 1937-1939