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The partnership of the British and Cantonese Transnational Merchant Diaspora in Modern East Asia and its rivalry with Japanese capital

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Topic

- What?
- → The formation and expansion of the Western merchant network and the Cantonese merchant network
- → the change of their partnership before and after the rise of Japanese capitalism.
- How?
- → Methodological access : transnational merchant diaspora groups.
- → Case study: *Taikoo*, B&S, a British merchant and *Tongshuntai*, a Cantonese merchant in Chosŏn Korea.

- Western Company in China 洋行: imperialist capital → scot in China
- Western young and adventurous people in Asia, with searching for the opportunity to make fortune and raise social status

- Cantonese capital: comprador capital, the agency of imperialism, the agency of *Yangwu* clique in the late Qing, National capital during the early republican era
 - → transnational merchant diaspora
- Overseas Chinese 華僑
- Western Overseas 歐僑?

- The successful win-win policy under the treaty-port system in East Asian trade
- The challenge of Japanese industrial capitalism and *Shōsha*商社 capital
- → dissolution of the long-lasted partnership
- → a reshuffle of Cantonese capital both in China and the rest of East Asia.

•The Tongshuntai firm(同顺泰號)

: a representative Chinese company in Korea(1885?-1937)

: Tongshuntai Loan(同順泰借款) in 1892

: the head office(本號, Seoul) - branches(分號, Incheon, Jeonju and Gunsan)

Correspondent partners(聯號) in Shanghai, Canton, Hong Kong, Nagasaki, Kobe and Yokohama.

: Tan Jiesheng譚傑生, ranked as No. 1 in taxpayer lists in Seoul in 1923

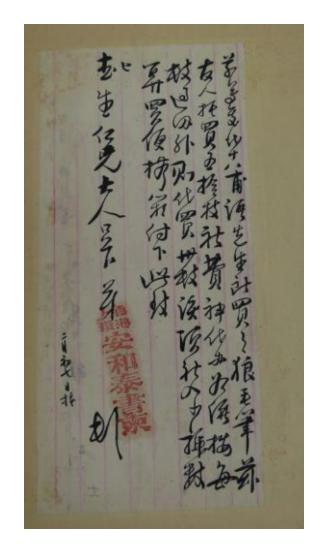
Photo of Tan Jiesheng offered by his grand-grand son, Mr. Frank Tan working in Google, San Jose

Table 1 Purchase Date and Present Circumstances of the Tongshuntai Collection at Seoul National University

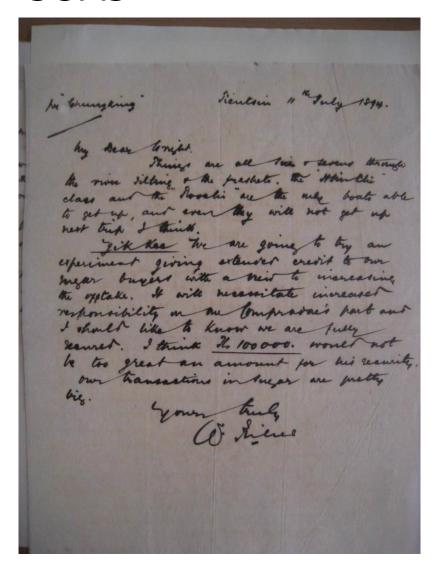
Purchase Date	Book- dealer	Commercial Designation	Number of volumes	Price	Registered Title (by the Library)	Number of volumes	Location
December 20th, 1933	Park Bongsu 朴鳳秀	Tongshuntai wangfu wenshu	1 vol.	10 Yen	Tongshuntai wangfu wenshu	35 vols.	SNU, Rare Books & Archival Collections
December 22nd, 1933	Park Bongsu	Tongshuntai wenshu	4 vols.	40 Yen			
December 22nd, 1933	Park Bongsu	Tongshuntai wenshu (Delivery Correspondence)	30 vols.	100 Yen			
August 1934	Park Bongsu	Tongshuntai huowu mulu	11 vols.	26 Yen	Jinkou ge huocang koudan	8 vols.	Kyujanggak Archives
					Jiawunian gebu laihuo zhibendan	2 vols.	
					Yiwei laihuo zhiben	1 vol.	
		Lunchuan gongsi gupiao	1 vol.	6 Yen	Lunchuan gongsi gupiao	lvol.	SNU, Rare Books & Archival Collections
August 13th, 1934	Park Bongsu	Tongshuntai shoushuhan	19 vols.	30 Yen	Tongshuntai laixin	19 vols.	Kyujanggak Archives
July 8th, 1937	Lee Seong'ui 李聖儀	Tongshuntai baohaoji in 7 Collections	1 vol.	3 Yen		1 vol.	SNU, Rare Books & Archival Collections

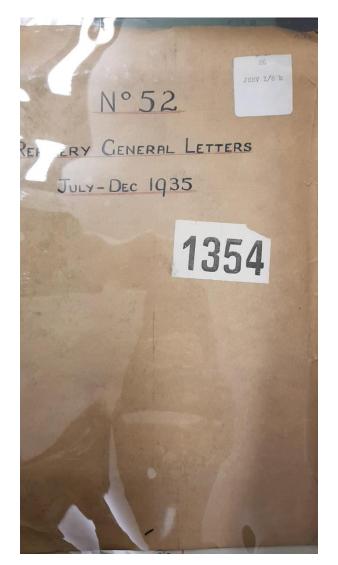
Tongshuntai correspondences



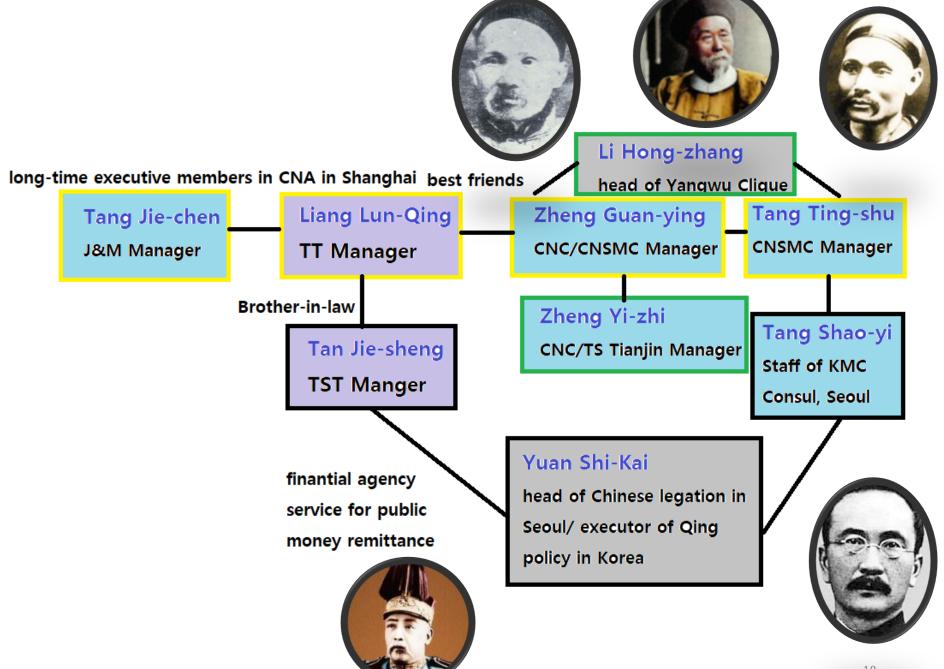


The Archives of John Swire & Sons, Ltd in SOAS

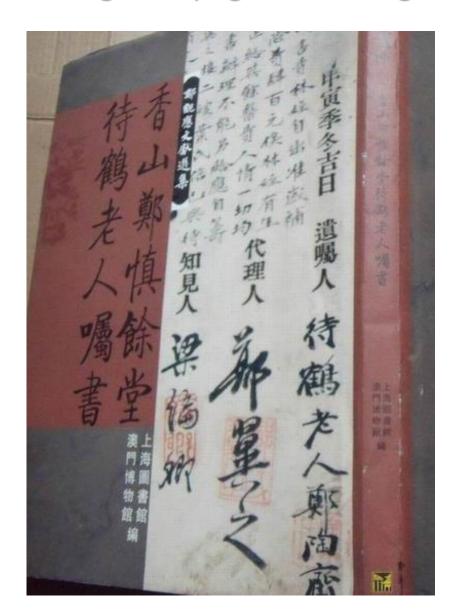




Human networks of Tongshuntai and Taikoo



Liang Lunqing and Zheng Yizhi on Zheng Guangying's will



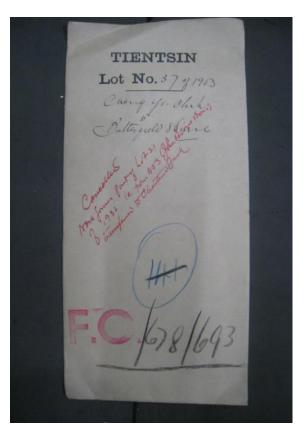


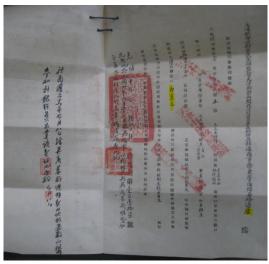


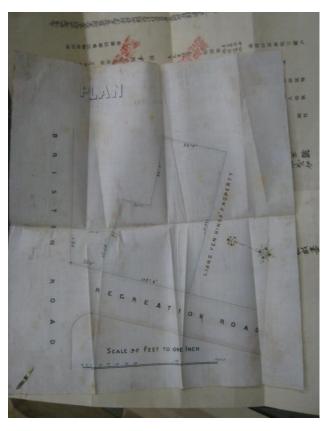
Zheng Yizhi in the Swire papers called as Yikkee Tientsin E. F. Mackay. Esqu, → Shanghai, Wright 1901.11.27.. JSS BOX A31 JSS 2 1 15 j

29.9. you will observe I insisted on the sail being deposites to paise an area 140 feet from the frontage, in view of the possibility of our building godowns there Dol already have their godown, an you will note proveide Mat they get Their quis prosus at the other hand should the godown suffer on the piwer Side Therwise they naturally want to level only it theis security Jikker has no connecti of any Kind with Collins of, and holds hat al poor opinion of www. Dichuson Latter is hanging find about signing deed, but with the sitte deeds and last letter to us wer are in a fairly forms por Mer deeds have been rused by the Consul ight by who cortifies their validity of that we

Zheng Yizhi property in Tianjin Fo 678/693 (National Archives, London) Lot No.37 Title Deed 鄭翼之→ Butterfield & Swire.1903, Butterfield & Swire→ John. Swire Ltd. 1917, John. Swire Ltd.→ Chartered Bank, 1932







Tang Shaoyi & Liang Ruhao 唐紹儀 & 梁如浩

- * Xiangshan native(Canton)
- * the third party of **CEM**,1874(MA, USA)
- * Chinese staff of Korean Maritime Customs(Incheon)
- * diplomat recruited by Yuan Shikai(Seoul)
- * official promotion during New Policy period of Qing(Tianjin)
- * survived in the Republican Government(Peking)



Dresses worn by students before departure for the States.

Liang Yu Ho

TONG Shao Yi













- personal network of Tongshuntai was interwoven with Xiangshan compradore group.
- Tongshuntai's marriage relationship has the same feature.
- Human resource: Cantonese in native places, English skill, Compradore career, experience of studying abroad, affiliation with Qing's officialdom in modernization movement

Relationship of Tongshuntai and Taikoo in Business

Main import goods during the treaty port era in East Aisa

- British Cotton clothes
- Sugar: Chinese and Indian traditional sugar
 - → Hong Kong sugar(Yihe and Taikoo)
- How to circulate and distribute those in East Asian Market?
 - → via Shanghai, by Cantonese merchants
- Trade: British industrial product, British navigation companies(Yihe and Taikoo), British Banking system(HSBC)

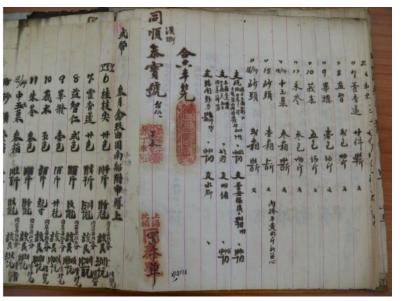
The rise of Japanese industrial capital and Shosha capital

- The 1st Sino-Japanese war (1894-1895)
- Domestic market(import substitution industrialization)
 1880s
 - → Winning Korean market (1895 -)
 - → Advance to Chinese market (1900s)
 - → growing share in Chinese and Indian market (1910s, The 1st world war)
 - → Counterattack of Yanghang and challenge of Chinese and Indian national capital(Minzuziben, Cantonese investments in Shanghai)(1920s)

Shipping of 1907 from Shanghai in *Tongshuntai Baohaoji*

- Taikoo shipping for consignment toward Korea as many as 11 times out of 20 times in total.
- a lot of cases that Tongshuntai and Tongtai paid fees to Taikoo Ship compradore(賬房) for carrying goods personally.
 - → tax evasion and smuggling.





Trade during 1883-1907

- Tongshuntai documents : account books and business correspondences
- Two kind of cotton clothes: British cotton洋布 and Chinese traditional cotton clothes土布
- two kind of sugar-related goods, Chetang(車糖, Kuruma-to in Japanese) and Tangjiang[糖姜, sugared ginger slices, the traditional local products of Chaozhou(潮州)].





Observing overall trend in Tongshuntai's import business

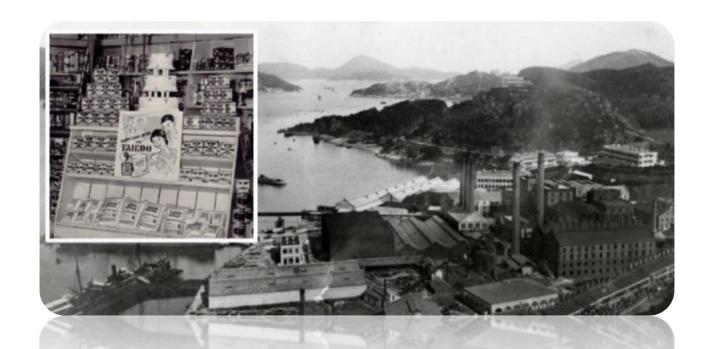
sugar

- the decline of sugar import with peak of 1895.
- larger share of refined sugar in the earlier stage and disappearance in 1907.
- economic factors of fundamental change in East Asia sugar production since 1895.

1880-1890



- Java raw sugar and Hong Kong refined sugar to dominate East Asia market
- The wholesale agents and retailers in treaty ports of East Asia: local Cantonese compradore and Chinese merchants.



Japanese sugar refinery business After the obtain of Taiwan in 1895

- After the obtain of Taiwan in 1895, Meiji government designed the plan to produce raw sugar in Taiwan and refine it in Japan.
- a large amount of subsidy(2.67 million yen during 1902-1911) + heavy protective tariff to imported sugar.

 replace Hong Kong sugar in domestic market and in overseas market, mainly Korea and China.

- Refined sugar imported by Tongshuntai and Cantonse merchants in Korea probably was Hong Kong sugar, mainly Taikoo sugar.
- In short, the cause of disappearance of refined sugar, maybe Taikoo sugar in 1907 import invoices was not in distribution but in production.

Tongshuntai-Baogaoji in 1907 cotton cloth & sugar

- cotton cloth: no more than about 250(257.495) silver *liang*, less than 1% of total import value of Tongshuntai. All was Chinese hand-crafted cotton cloth(土布)
- British cotton cloth disappeared.
- = sugar's case



After the collapse of Sino-British partnership

- British merchants and Cantonese merchants: division of roles between production and distribution
- the growth of Japanese industrial capital and Shosha(商社, Japanese styled trading company) capital → the collapse of Sino-British partnership

Change of main items

- main trade items: British modern commodities ->
 traditional Chinese products, as like silk, linen, Chinese
 cotton cloth and Tangjiang
- welcomed Chinese traditional products in Korean market until 1920s
- even after 1910, Sino-Korean trade continued to increase more than before.

Hero of National Goods?

- Chinese overseas, in Korea, were praised in Chinese medias as heroes of National Goods(國貨)
- Chinese in home country and Chinese overseas assumed the respective role of production and distribution, even though the items were not so modern and fancy.



New moves of Some Cantonese overseas: Overseas Cantonese investments as Manufacturers

- to return to China and to build the modern industry by themselves like cotton textile factory.
- assume the role of British merchants
- one aspect of the birth of National Capital.
- Guangdong provincial government's Sugar Refinery project since 1933 : *Fengrui* and *Mo* family in Hong Kong (Taikoo sugar compradore) against Japanese sugar

• "The development of sugar mills in Kwangtung and Kwangsi may incommode us eventually, but we scarcely think their output is likely to be a serious menace for some time to come. In the meantime we are glad you have been in touch with Dr. Feng Rui, as it clearly behoves us to come to terms with the Monopoly, although we shall be surprised if they succeed in eliminating the independent smugglers altogether."

Messrs. John Swire & Sons, Ltd. London.→B&S Hong Kong, 1934. 6.15. JSS BOX 25B JSS 5-1-9. Sugar Refinery letters

 Taikoo sold totally 19,000 picul in September, 1935 in China and Manchuria, out of which 8,100 picul was sold to Guangdong provincial government though the mediation of Mo family and Feng Rui.

B&S Hong Kong→Messrs. John Swire & Sons, Ltd. London, 1935.10.11. JSS BOX 26A(2) From Hong Kong, JSS 5-1-10. Sugar Refinery letters

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Epilogue

Cantonese: the Tongshuntai

- the general trend with growth of import trade between Korea and China
- Tongshuntai reduced the share of trading business and concentrated investments on real estate and communications.
- Silk and Linen importers and traders was mostly Shandongese merchants.

Cantonese in Korea

 After breaking the Sino-British partnership, rewritten by me as British-Cantonse partnership, Cantonese merchants could not benefit as much as before from compradore status and networks with Hong Kong and Shanghai.
 Shandong traders' geographically merit that Shandong is close both to Korea and to Japan became more effective.

Thanks for listening! 鸣谢! 감사합니다!