

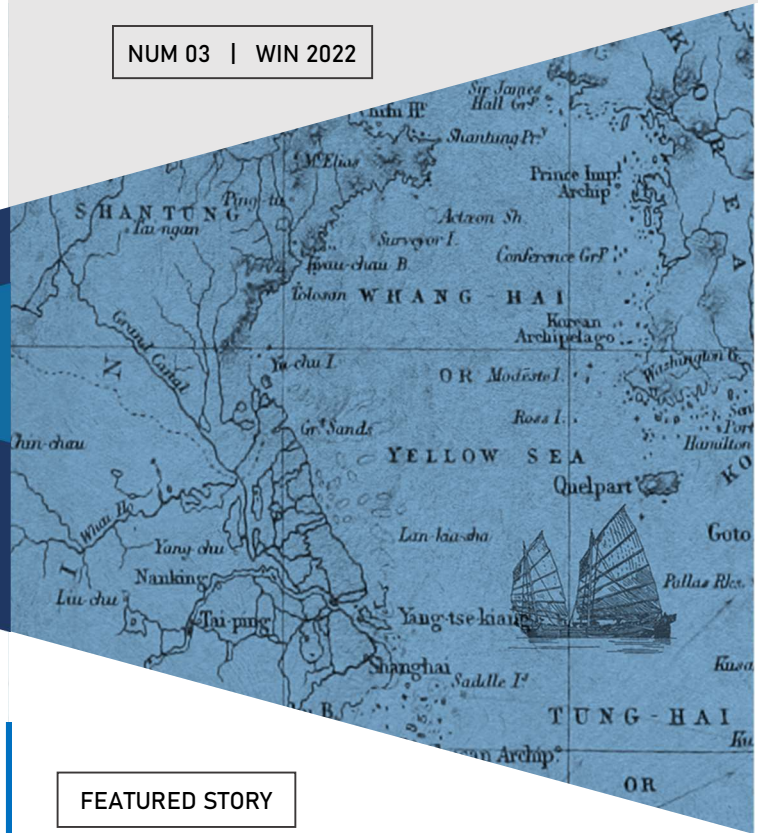


CHINA HISTORICAL
CHRISTIAN DATABASE

THE GAZETEER

Your source for the latest news and
information related to the China
Historical Christian Database.

NUM 03 | WIN 2022



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Gets its Wings



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The CHCD Team Grows as Project Enters Data Cleaning Phase

Sometimes, working with historical data on China can remind one of the famous Chinese saying 人山人海 (*ren shan ren hai*). Directly translated as “people mountain, people sea,” the phrase is used to vividly describe the crowded state of a place. There are just *too* many people in *too* small of a space!

As of late, the CHCD team has known this feeling all too well as it has poured through its data. There are just so many people, places, and institutions to check! With a vast majority of its first-round
(continued on next page)

The China Historical Christian Database is a project hosted by the
Center for Global Christianity and Mission at Boston University.



Cleaning History

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data collected, the team's efforts have become focused on correcting, cleaning, and integrating the large amount of data collected over the past three years. Progress can be slow as questions abound. Are J. Olafson, J Olafsen, J. Ollafson, and J. E. Olafsen one person or four? Are Fayen, Fayen Luk, and Fayen Lukhang three places or one? And where are any of them? As you can imagine, this sort of data cleaning can be a grueling process, especially with historical data which comes from different sources and often requires correcting. Variations in the spelling and abbreviation of people's names need to be noted, historical places need to be found, and specialized datasets need to be integrated into the project's overarching structure.

Thanks to the generous support of our Angel Donors and everyone who contributed to the Challenge Grant, the project team was able to bring on a new team member to assist in the process of data collection, cleaning, and historical verification. Since late last fall, Dr. Aleksandrs Dmitrenko has been working to clean name data on Protestant missions in China. In addition, he has brought his expertise to complete our data collection on Russian Orthodoxy in China. Dr. Dmitrenko comes to the team from his previous position as a postdoctoral researcher at Heidelberg University where he was a member of the German-Russian project on Chinese Perceptions of Russia and the West during the twentieth century.

Over the next months, Drs. Dmitrenko and Mayfield will lead the effort to clean the data which will constitute the initial release of the China Historical Christian Database.

*Dr. Aleksandrs Dmitrenko
has joined the team!*



Student Research 2021 by the Numbers

The CHCD would be impossible without the students who dedicate their time to collect data, perform research, and develop infrastructure. Here is a quick look at the small “army” that has helped the CHCD advance in the last year.

43

Student
Researchers

9

Universities
Represented

4

Continents with
Active Students

36

Data Sources
Worked On

3

Student
Developers

Challenge Met

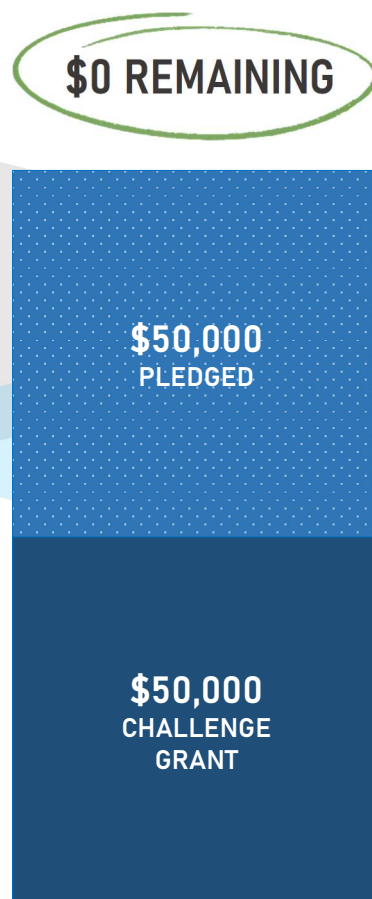
Angel Donor's \$50,000 Challenge a Success!

At the beginning of 2021, the Center for Global Christianity and Mission received a challenge from an anonymous donor. The donor agreed that they would match every gift given to the CHCD up to \$50,000.

Over the course of 2021, the project team reached out to partners and potential donors around the world. In all the phone calls, Zoom calls, and personal visits, we were amazed by the generous support of our donors and partners. Thanks to them, we are happy to announce that the challenge has been met!

We cannot begin to express how vital this matching grant campaign has been for the project's future. As the first major monetary investment into the CHCD, these funds have propelled the project beyond its initial stage and into full-scale implementation. Critical personnel and research specialists are now in place to bring the project to completion.

Thank you to everyone who chose to support the CHCD's mission of advancing the study of Christian history in China! This project would have been impossible without your generosity and commitment to advancing scholarship.



Student Spotlight

Victoria Cheng



Victoria is an International Relations major at Boston University ('23) who got connected to the project through last summer's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). Victoria elected to stay on and help finish data collection on key sources. During her short time with the project, Victoria has been responsible for collecting tens of thousands of data points from Protestant directories and archives. Our resident "finisher," there are entire years of historical Protestant data which she collected single-handedly!

The CHCD is entering the final phase of data cleaning and preparation before it releases its first iteration of the data. The first release this spring will pull from a variety of sources to highlight the missionary presence in China.

While each data point holds potential for historical work, this data release is notable for its coverage of Jesuits, Russian Orthodoxy, and the complete run of the *Directory of Protestant Missions in China*. The table below details sources, organizations, and dates covered in the upcoming release.

While data cleaning is still in progress, the collection is estimated to include at least 38,000 individuals, 3,600 institutions, 550 organizations, 114,000 location records, and 16,000 personal relationships. Upon release, detailed documentation on data properties and sources will be made available to the public.

Release Preview

CHCD's First Data Release Takes Shape

TRADITION	GROUP	DATES	SOURCE
PROTESTANT	General	1807-1901	Boynnton, Charles Luther. "Revised Chronological List of Missionaries" Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary – Columbia University Archives
		1874-1950	<i>The Directory of Protestant Missions in China</i> . Various Publishers, 1874-1950.
CATHOLIC	Jesuits	1552-1800	Dehergne, Joseph. <i>Répertoire des Jésuites de Chine de 1552 à 1800</i> . Rome: Institutum Historicum S.I., 1973.
		1842-1955	Lardinois, et al. <i>Directory of the Jesuits in China from 1842 to 1955</i> . Taipei: Taipei Ricci Institute, 2018.
	MEP	1661-1948	"Fiches individuelles," Institut de Recherche France-Asie (IRAS). https://www.irfa.paris/fr/fiches-individuelles .
	Maryknoll	1910-1950	"Deceased Fathers, Brothers, & Sisters." Maryknoll Missionary Archives. https://maryknollmissionarchives.org/ .
	Passionists	1932-1950	"Passionists in Hunan, China." Passionist Historical Archives
	PIME	1852-1950	"Pontificio Istituto Missioni Estere - PIME" Archives.
	Lazarists	1697-1935	Van Den Brandt, J. <i>Les Lazaristes en Chine, 1697-1935</i> . Beijing: Imprimerie des Lazaristes, 1936.
	General	1552-1950	Cheney, David M. "The Hierarchy of the Catholic Church," https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/ .
ORTHODOX	Russian	1716-1956	Golovin, Sergei. <i>Russian Spiritual Mission in China: A Historical Sketch</i> . Blagoveshchensk: BSPU Publishing House, 2013.
GENERAL	Medical Institutions	1800-1950	Schneider, William and Zhang Daqing. "The History of Western Medicine in China." https://old.ulib.iupui.edu/wmicproject/ .