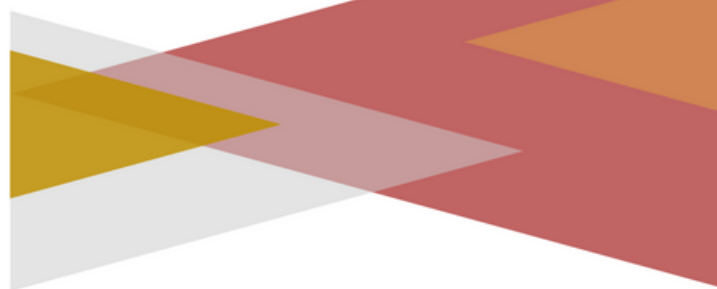




THE GAZETEER

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

NUM 04 | FALL 2022



CHCD LIVE AND ONLINE!

The first iteration of the China Historical Christian Database is now online (chcdatabase.com). Not long ago, it was just an idea—a crazy idea—and nothing more than talk. “What would happen if we mapped every Christian church, school, and hospital in China? And what could we learn if we recorded who worked in those institutions between 1550 and 1950?” The ambitions were laughable, except people did not laugh; they gave money! The National Endowment for the Humanities gave a grant, and personal donations even exceeded the government’s support. The message was obvious: people wanted to see this done.

On July 27, 2022 we made the CHCD public. It was an important milestone in the work, but it was not the finish line. We have already been working on the CHCD 2.0, which will include a comprehensive list of Dominican and Society of Divine Word (SVD) missionaries, a massive expansion of Christian schools, and an extensive list of Chinese Christian leaders from the twentieth century. This is possible, as you will see in this issue, because of a gifted Project Manager, international collaborations, ongoing financial support, and the hard work and creativity of student-scholars.

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SUMMER UPDATE

The CHCD exists because of collaboration. Dozens of institutions are working together to enrich our understanding of Christianity in China. The synergy between L’Orientale University of Naples (UNIOR) and Boston University is one example.

In May, Boston University Professors, Eugenio Menegon and Daryl Ireland, went to Naples and explored the Collegio de’ Cinesi—the first school in Europe to teach Chinese. The archives, which now belong to UNIOR, were especially rich. For much of the eighteenth century, Christianity was prohibited in China. Christians, therefore, came to Italy to be trained as priests and then returned home. Their letters back to their professors are an extraordinary window into what was happening in China at a time when Westerners were almost entirely absent. They also provide an amazingly rich description of the family, social, and economic networks that sustained fugitive priests.

One of the urgent issues that the UNIOR faculty were concerned about was the state of that archive. It is unorganized and poorly preserved. One of the reasons for the visit was for the administration to hear from scholars outside the university that their collection was rare and valuable. We managed to meet with the Rector of the university and explain why the materials are so important for understanding early modern Sino-Western relations. Happily UNIOR has now set aside €40,000 to begin digitizing the archive.

Meanwhile, UNIOR’s role in developing the CHCD has been strengthened. Last year, BU had five UNIOR students as interns. They added rare and important data on Italian missionaries to China. This visit produced ten more student interns for 2022, as well as lots of energy and excitement for the database itself.

This kind of relationship is emblematic of the CHCD at its best. It strengthens everyone involved. In this case, UNIOR will have a newly digitized archive, and BU will receive a massive trove of new data from 1,500 internship hours. The CHCD is creating global partnerships that provide a deeper understanding and greater access to the history of Christianity in China.

THE CHCD'S FIRST GUEST LECTURE

On Oct 25, Dr. Robert E. Carbonneau, adjunct faculty at the History Department at the University of Scranton, gave our students and scholars an online lecture which both unfolded the real

human stories behind the data points based from the Passionist China Collection, and highlighted the significance of data collection for future scholarship. As one of our current student reflected:

"Father Rob's personal connections to some of the people he spoke of further brought to life these missionaries' stories, making them even more compelling to me. His suggestion to keep similar connections in mind when entering names was excellent advice, as it makes the process more meaningful. Similarly, switching between thinking about data entry from its large and small scale significance—that is, from the individual's perspective as well as from the perspective of Chinese missionary history as a whole—has helped me to keep entries in perspective." - Naomi Grusby

Yiyi Zhang became the Project Manager for the CHCD in August 2022. She holds a BA in Philosophy from Brandeis University, two MAs from Columbia University (the first in Philosophy and the second in Oral History), and a MTS from Boston College. Her research interests range from comparative philosophy to systematic theology; from abstract theoretical concepts to embodied human experiences. Most recently, her independent research focuses on how philosophical hermeneutics can shed light on the diverse attempts of Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox believers to translate Christian tenets into Chinese by way of Confucian and Daoist terms.

New Hire!

Yiyi Zhang



CHCD STUDENTS AT BU SYMPOSIUM

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) is a competitive program for funded research internships at Boston University. Three of our CHCD students received this grant and presented the fruits of their researches during the annual Research Symposium. We are proud of them! Please find two students' reflections below.

"This summer was my second summer spent working with the CHCD, and this summer I was occupied with data entry on Christian schools. For my Symposium project, I decided to use one source's unusual level of geographical specificity (providing street addresses within large cities) to create a map of Christian schools in Shanghai in 1920, indicating interesting trends in location. This year with the CHCD helped me hone my skills in research with primary sources, reconstructing geographical locations, and even navigating the Chinese-language internet as someone who doesn't speak the language. The Database project has been a great fit for me as someone who is majoring in history, plans to have a career in the field, and is particularly interested in Asian history, and I hope to continue to work on it next summer."

- Nicholas Speranza

"During the summer, I collected information on more than 1000 Christian leaders who joined the Three-Self Movement in 1950. By using the digital method, I found the organizational and geographical characteristics of the people who joined the movement. I cultivated the ability to collect data from primary sources, convert information into digital form and digitally analyze historical documents. In the future, I would like to research the logic and story behind the Three-Self Movement by combining digital scholarships and other forms of history."

-Haoyu Liu



From Left to Right: Yiyi Zhang, Haoyu Liu, Dr. Eugenio Menegon, Nickolas Speranza, Zupei Li



Happy Holidays!

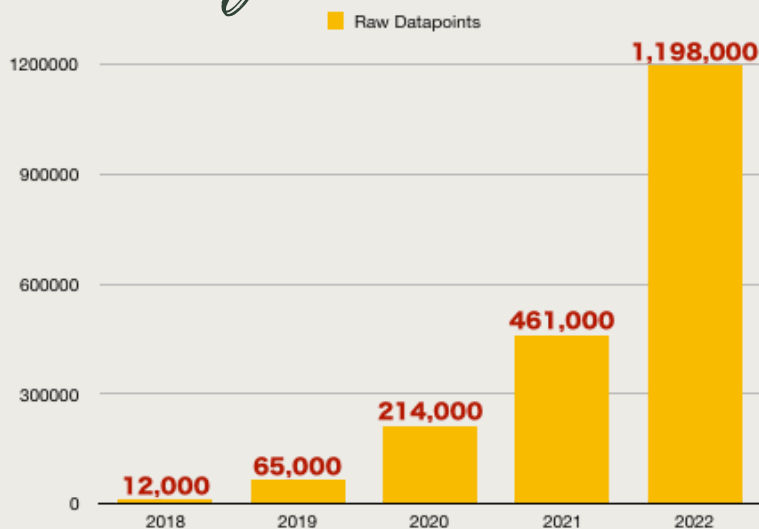
The CHCD team wishes you happy holidays! We are deeply grateful for your support in 2022. We honestly could not have done it without you. Thank you!

The most exciting holiday gift we can give to you is an update on our progress. After our first release of data, which was the largest and most complete compilation of foreign missionaries in China ever assembled, the CHCD set its new goal: add Chinese Christian leaders to the map!

Currently, students are actively converting massive Chinese-language texts into data points. This Fall, alone, they amassed roughly 350,000 new pieces of information, detailing where Chinese Christian leaders were located and with whom they were connected.

This speed is an enormous leap over the few thousand data points we collected per semester when we started. Three things account for the dramatic rise. First, we have a more refined input system. Second, we have many more scholars and students working with us. Third, we have a Project Manager orchestrating the international effort.

We do not need to sustain this speed indefinitely, but to get a baseline of Chinese Christians into the database in 2023, we will need to maintain this sprint a little longer. \$25,000 will allow the CHCD to more than double in size this next year.



Your gift will accelerate the work, and provide the materials so you, and other users, can begin a thorough re-evaluation of Christianity's role in China between 1550 and 1950.

You can donate on our [website](#) by clicking "**DONATE**" on the top right corner. You can mail a check payable to "The Trustees of Boston University", with "CHCD Fund" in the subject line, to the address below:

Boston University
 Gift Processing
 c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co.
 PO Box 22605
 New York, NY 10087-2605

\$450 Current Budget	\$2500 Recent Gift	\$22,050 To Go
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\$25,000 Total Goal



State of the Data by Major Categories

21,246

Relationships

120,224

Location Records

7624

Institutions

46,114

Individuals

5595

Corporations

A SHORT REFLECTION FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Working with the CHCD has been as rewarding as it is challenging. Back in September, Dr. Ireland drew me a map of the current data continents of the CHCD, from collections on 17th Century Chinese Christian Literati to 20th Century Orthodox priests in China. Multiple excel sheets with thousands of units are behind each of the continents waiting to be finished or cleaned. The first month was indeed a rough learning curve, especially given our limited budget which only supports project management part-time. Yet, the joy of working with Dr. Ireland and Dr. Menegon, and dedication from students on the project have been ones of the many hidden treasures of the CHCD. Going to the BU UROP Symposium further solidified the familial atmosphere among us.

Four months into my job, we are close to wrap up 3 of the 7 continents of data collection. It was made possible by many students and scholars who volunteer their time to help us, and it is also because of your indis-

pensable support that I am on the job. Personally, this project has helped me understand the developing field of digital humanities, and more deeply grasp the vast landscape of missions in China.

I imagine this may be the 50th letter you have received asking for donations. While I hate to add another one on your pile, I still urge you to consider giving to our database. Your donation will make significant impacts:

- \$25 can be leveraged through work-study and other programs to hire one student for 4 hours
- \$250 invested in project management (10 hours) can save up-to 100 hours in data cleaning
- \$2500 can cover costs of operation for a month

Please also consider sharing our work with any interested persons or institutions. I can be reached via chcdmanager@gmail.com for inquiries.

Thank you again and I hope you will have a joyful season with friends and family!

"The uniqueness of the CHCD lies in the fact that it is not a lifeless database about one person and that person's relevant stories, but a new world encased in a huge database It is just like an organic entity full of life. On that day, when I entered the name of Dr. Marian Manly, who is a little-known medical missionary in China, into the platform, I witnessed a miracle: those names and places that I had been familiar with showed up one after another on the screen. It was truly unbelievable."

*Professor Min Ma
Institute of Modern Chinese History, Central China Normal University, Wuhan*